



THE ROOM OF THE DELUGE

The name of this room refers to the Universal Deluge, one of the biblical scenes painted in the 1616 frieze decorating the walls. Of all the friezes in the apartment adjacent to the Pauline Chapel, this one stands out for its excellent quality and state of conservation. It was painted by Antonio Carracci, nephew of the more famous Annibale, along with an unidentified but highly accomplished Caravaggesque painter.

In the mid-1800s, this and the adjoining rooms underwent renovations commissioned by Pope Pius IX. This is when the sides of the vaulted ceiling were painted and the walls decorated with refined plasterwork reproducing a polychrome marble coating.

The 18th Century tapestry of the Washing of the Feet is part of the magnificent New Testament series mentioned in the Room of the Virtues. This precious series comprising eight tapestries was donated by Napoleon Bonaparte to Pope Pius VII in 1805, when relations between the emperor and the pontiff had not definitively broken off yet. Four years later Pius VII was arrested by French functionaries here in the Quirinale Palace.