



**TORMENTED BY DEMONS:** Saint Anthony is tormented in this oil painting, believed to be the first by Michelangelo. The painting goes on display today at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. MINGGUO SUN/THE EPOCH TIMES

# Michelangelo's First Painting at the Met

By **EVAN MANTYK**  
*Epoch Times Staff*

NEW YORK—Revered Renaissance artist Michelangelo's first painting will be on display in a special exhibition beginning today at The Metropolitan Museum of Art (Met). The oil painting, which looks like it could be the cover art for a Da Vinci Code sequel, is called "The Torment of Saint Anthony." It is believed to have been created when the master painter was only 12 or 13 years old.

St. Anthony is known as one of the early Christian hermits. Born into a well-to-do family, he retired to the desert as a monk, where demons assailed him with temptations.

Recently acquired by the Kimbell Art Museum, in Texas, the painting has undergone conservation and technical examination at the Met. The exhibition, "Michelangelo's

First Painting," will run through September 7, then the panel will return to the Kimbell Art Museum for display as part of its permanent collection.

"Today, many people think of Michelangelo as a sculptor, but he received his early training as a painter, in the workshop of Domenico Ghirlandaio (1449-1494), a leading master in Florence," according to a Met press release. "It was only in about 1490, following this apprenticeship, that he learned to carve marble."

According to Michelangelo's 16th century biographers, his first work was a painted copy after a well-known engraving showing Saint Anthony tormented by demons. To give his monsters greater detail, Michelangelo went to the fish market to study the colors and scales of the fish.

Made about 1487-88 under the

guidance of his friend and fellow pupil Francesco Granacci, Michelangelo's painting was much admired.

In addition to "The Torment of Saint Anthony," the small, focused exhibition includes "Portrait of Michelangelo" by Daniele da Voltterra, a faithful follower of the master, and a facsimile of the aforementioned engraving, "Saint Anthony Tormented by Demons," both from the Metropolitan Museum's collection.

"The Torment of Saint Anthony" is the first painting by Michelangelo to enter an American collection, and one of only four known easel paintings generally believed to be by him. The others are the "Doni Tondo" in Florence's Uffizi Gallery and two unfinished paintings in London's National Gallery, "The Manchester Madonna" and "The Entombment."

# Immigrant Leaders Urge Albany to Focus on Real Issues

By **ERIC MEDWAY**  
*Epoch Times Staff*

NEW YORK—A small group of immigrant community leaders gathered at City Hall Monday to urge Albany politicians to stop monkeying around and focus on issues.

"At a moment when so much is at stake for the people of our state, the political power plays that have ground the State Senate to a halt are jeopardizing crucial reforms needed to improve the lives of immigrant families and all New Yorkers," said Ms. Chung-Wah Hong, executive director of the New York Immigration Coalition. "Too much is on the line to allow raw politics to derail these long-overdue policy reforms."

The group said the political upsets in Albany recently have left several bills hanging and the impact on the immigrant community is huge. The legislation includes improvements to conditions for farm workers and domestic workers, preservation of rent-regulated housing, and improvement of New York City's school governance system.

Richard Lee, advocacy associate for Asian Americans for Equality (AAFE) was at the press conference Monday. He said he hoped the officials would get legislation back on track that will help numerous low-income families and individuals.



**IMMIGRANT CONCERNS:** Immigrants speak about their plight at City Hall on Monday. SALLY SUN/THE EPOCH TIMES

"One piece of legislation AAFE is especially concerned with is vacancy decontrol," Lee said. "New York City is facing the rapid loss of affordable housing."

"Having strong rent regulation laws slows gentrification and the displacement of our long-time community members."

Lee said immigrants and limited English speakers have been particularly vulnerable because landlords take advantage of cultural and linguistic barriers.

"Tenants are refused lease renewals, essential structural problems go unrepaired, and heat and hot water are turned off in the coldest winter

days," Lee said.

Leticia Alanis, co-director of La Union, a community group based in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, said the State Senate must put together a meaningful school governance package.

She said the state legislature has only two weeks left to create "a real plan for reversing the dropout crisis facing immigrant students learning English, and take an innovative and comprehensive approach to engaging parents and youth as partners in our schools—the first step of which should be to create an independent center for parent and student training."

# Residents March on Perilous Ninth Ave.

By **JULIA KANTOR**  
*Epoch Times Staff*

NEW YORK—Over fifty local residents gathered together on Saturday for a funeral march to mourn the loss of six pedestrians killed by drivers between the 45th and 36th Streets on Ninth Avenue in Manhattan. They were joined by victims' families and community leaders, including Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer, Assembly Member Richard Gottfried and Manhattan District Attorney Candidate Richard Aborn, to rally for stronger enforcement of traffic laws and pedestrian safety.

Due to its numerous links to the Lincoln Tunnel, many New Yorkers regard the Ninth Avenue in Hells Kitchen as one of the most dangerous areas for pedestrian transport. In a recent survey of local residents, 70 percent stated that they fear crossing the street in this neighborhood, while only five per-

cent admitted a fear of crime.

"The Port Authority treats Ninth Avenue as a highway to the Lincoln Tunnel," observed the chair of the Hells Kitchen Neighborhood Association Kathleen Treat. "Drivers behave accordingly, as if there should

be no pedestrians there. Deliberately mixing seven entrances to a highway with a highly residential and commercial avenue creates a public hazard," she further noted.

The funeral procession, led by a six-member marching jazz band, stopped to honor the victims by placing memorials at the sites of the fatalities. The deceased honorees included a 23 year-old Fabiola Grande-Coyotl who was seven months pregnant, a 55 year-old retiree Nina Petrov, a 34 year-old professor Douglas Dibble, a 70 year-old actor Randolph Walker, and a 23 year-old nutritionist Sabina Paradi. A 61 year-old art restorer Susanne M. Schnitzer, who died as a result

of a fatal hit and run on April 9, 2009, was also honored at the event. Although authorities were able to locate the driver of the crash, no charges were ever filed.

"My heart goes to all those who have lost loved ones in pedestrian traffic incidents in this part of Manhattan. The loss of life and loss to injury of pedestrians needs to stop," said Mr. Bodo Paradi, who lost his daughter, Sabina Paradi, in a 2007 accident.

The Executive Director of Transportation Alternatives Paul Steely White called on the State of New York to pass the Hayley Ng and Diego Martinez legislation that would impose greater penalties for drivers who cause serious injuries or deaths.

"Until we treat a crash scene like a crime scene, the most dangerous drivers will continue ignoring laws requiring them to yield to pedestrians," he noted.

# Summer Camps Filling Up Fast

By **EVAN MANTYK**  
*Epoch Times Staff*

NEW YORK—The weather is getting warm and the trees and grass are calling. And it ain't Central Park.

With less than a month before the beginning of summer camp season, parents interested in getting their camps enrolled in summer camp better do some serious thinking. To help, the American Camp Association-New York (ACA-NY) has created Camp Wizard (www.campwizard.com), an online resource where families can work with placement professionals to identify and locate the summer camp that fits

their needs.

"We want to give parents the best counsel so they choose the right camp for their child," said Adam Weinstein, Executive Director of ACA-NY. "While many camps are already filled, there is still time to sign up for select camps throughout the Tri-State region, but it's important for families to first consider which camp is a good fit for their child's needs."

Typically, camp enrollment can start nearly a year in advance and camps often fill to capacity by late spring.

Summer camp remains a popular choice for children, according to ACA-NY.

"Camp plays a vital role in a child's total education by allowing a child to take healthy risks in a safe and nurturing environment," said Dr. Michael Thompson, psychologist and author with an expertise in children's emotional growth.

Camp enrollment has proved recession resistant due to the value parents place on enriching summer camp experiences. Most camps are at or close to capacity despite the current economic condition.

The American Camp Association (ACA) is a not-for-profit educational organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of summer camp experiences for children.



**RUNNING TIME:** Runners make their way down Fifth Avenue during the 2008 New York City Marathon on November 2, 2008. JARRETT BAKER/GETTY IMAGES

# NBC Sports Extends Broadcast Deal With NY Marathon

CHICAGO (Reuters)—NBC and the nonprofit running club that operates the New York City Marathon said on Monday they have agreed to a three-year extension for a broadcast deal.

Terms of the deal between General Electric Co's NBC Sports and the New York Road Runners were not disclosed, but a source familiar with the deal said it is an advertis-

ing revenue-sharing agreement. The deal begins with the race in November.

Under the deal, NBC and its New York affiliate will offer expanded coverage of the ING New York City Marathon, one of the largest organized marathons in the world.

NBC sports will double its national TV coverage of the race, which attracts more than 40,000

participants and 2.5 million spectators, to two hours. WNBC, NBC's flagship affiliate in New York, will broadcast more than five hours of race coverage.

"The ING New York City Marathon is one of the iconic sporting events in our country," Jon Miller, executive vice president of NBC Sports, said in a statement.

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