

The Pieta, After Hazards, Is in Place in St. Peter's

ROME, Nov. 13 (AP)—Michelangelo's Pieta returned safely from America to its home in St. Peter's Basilica today after last-minute unpacking troubles raised fears for its safety. But the precious statue was unharmed.

As the marble Pieta was being wheeled in its sealed steel crate across the Basilica toward its pedestal, a metal ventilation cover in the floor broke under the weight and the crate tilted.

There was apprehension that the jostling might have caused some damage to the Pieta. This fear was dispelled when the crate was opened and, after hours of painstaking work, emptied of the plastic protective packing. The Pieta emerged unharmed.

Cardinal Spellman of New York and a group of other prelates were on hand outside St. Peter's for the Pieta's arrival. They offered prayers of thanks.

The Pieta was shipped to the New York World's Fair on April 5, 1964. By order of Pope Paul VI it will never travel again.