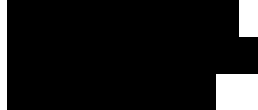


NEWSRELEASE PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

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For Immediate Release

BASILICA OF SAINT MARY HOSTS WORLD AIDS DAY EVENT

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn.-- The Basilica of Saint Mary will host an evening prayer and music event on Friday, December 1, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. to remember those who have died and those who continue to be touched by HIV/AIDS, especially the increasing numbers of affected children. The theme is Children Still Living in a World with AIDS.

Unfortunately, children throughout much of the world feel the greatest impact. More than 15 million children have lost parents to AIDS. Of those, 12 million live in Africa. Many of these children are at risk themselves because they lack the proper healthcare.

In an effort to put a “face” on this tragic epidemic, a dramatic portrait display of children and adults affected by this disease will be unveiled. Hanging from the church ceiling will be 1,000 paper cranes, the Japanese symbol of hope, as a sign of our faith in a future free from this deadly disease.

“People of faith must work together to call attention to the children that need our help,” says Johan van Parys, Director of Liturgy. “We are working with Westminster Presbyterian Church, Kwanzaa Community Church, Wesley United Methodist and the The First Unitarian Society to bring greater awareness to this important cause.”

Music from around the world will be provided by singers from Kwanzaa, the Minnesota BoyChoir, and choirs from the Basilica of Saint Mary. All are welcome to join in this evening filled with hope, prayer, and music.

About the Basilica of Saint Mary

The Basilica of Saint Mary is a community rooted in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Our mission is to provide quality liturgy, religious education, pastoral care, and hospitality.

We are committed to seeking the well being of those in need. We provide emergency relief to the poor, pursue interfaith relationships, and contribute to the cultural life of our community.

Located near the heart of downtown Minneapolis, the Basilica of Saint Mary helps provides shoes, food, shelter, and employment assistance to over 6,000 people each month. The Basilica was completed in 1915 and designated the first Basilica in the United States by Pope Pius XI in 1926. Named to the National Register of Historic Places, the Basilica has been a prominent feature of the Twin cities skyline for nearly 100 years. For more information about the Basilica, call 612.317.3520 or visit www.mary.org.

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