

BASILICA OF SAINT MARY

For Immediate Release

For More Information Contact:

Mae Desaire, Basilica of Saint Mary
(612) 317-9429, mdesaire@mary.org

Basilica of Saint Mary Launches High Tech Website

A Traditional Church with a Modern Message in a Modern Medium

Minneapolis, MN (Nov. 14, 2003) – The Basilica of Saint Mary, a historic landmark and downtown Minneapolis parish, today announced the launch of its updated Web site, www.mary.org, providing community members with easy access to information about Basilica programs and events.

The web site is designed to be both informational and inspirational. Its organization reflects the mission of the Basilica – providing information about spirituality and religious education, charity and social justice, support groups for all walks of life, and a commitment to sacred art in the community. For example, web site visitors can register for a Bible study group, donate to a holiday care basket, join a mother's support group, or buy tickets for an upcoming Messiah concert.

The Basilica Web committee worked for six months to create a user-friendly site, keeping the demographics of the parish in mind. The church has a thriving congregation of over 5,000 households – 60 percent of which are young adults. "For young adults in their 20's and 30's, if it's not on the web, it doesn't exist," says Eddie Hofmeister of Hofmeister Design and volunteer chair of the Web committee. www.mary.org provides all of our parishioners with Internet access to classes, events and spiritual growth.

The web site provides an advanced search feature, allowing community members to quickly find information, such as the schedule for liturgy services, a contact for grief support, or an upcoming Christmas concert. The web site also provides a new email feature that lets members send a favorite page to a friend.

The new web site is database-driven with a custom developed content management system, allowing members of the Basilica web team to update copy dynamically. This helps the Web team provide timely information to the community. It also provides a new security feature, with support for the industry-standard, Secure Sockets Layer, for data encryption. With this new support, community members are ensured that their privacy is protected whether they are registering for a class, purchasing a ticket, or donating to the building campaign.

To learn more about The Basilica of Saint Mary and its liturgy, religious education, pastoral care, social action, or events, visit www.mary.org.

About The Basilica of Saint Mary

The Basilica of Saint Mary is a centrally located, downtown Catholic parish in Minneapolis, whose mission is four-fold: to provide quality liturgy, religious education, pastoral care, and hospitality; to preach justice and provide emergency relief to the poor; to pursue interfaith relationships; and to contribute to the sacred arts in the community. The parish is marked by hospitality and a rich diversity of age, ethnic, racial, social and economic backgrounds.

The Basilica of Saint Mary 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 more than 85 years. Following decades of severe weather and highway pollution, the Basilica underwent extensive restoration on its roof and dome in 1989. For more information, please visit the Basilica's Web site at www.mary.org

#