

# BASILICA OF SAINT MARY

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## **Basilica Of Saint Mary Opens New Gift Store, LUX Eterna**

**Minneapolis, MN (October 20, 2003)** – The Basilica of Saint Mary, a historic landmark and downtown parish community committed to the spiritual growth and social well being of the city, announced today the opening of LUX Eterna - The Basilica Store, on its premises at Hennepin Avenue. Items available at the gift store will parallel the mission of the Basilica in its commitment to contribute to the celebration of the sacred arts in the community. Offerings will include sacred art and artifacts, religious images and spiritual readings, sacred music and seasonal items inspired by the devotional and liturgical life of the church.

“With the Twin Cities area home to one of the most vibrant and significant art communities in the country, we are pleased that LUX Eterna will be yet another component of the Basilica of Saint Mary’s commitment to the sacred arts,” said Rev. Michael J. O’Connell, rector of the Basilica of Saint Mary. “It is dedicated to providing diverse and high quality items to parishioners and to everyone who visits in order to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ into people’s lives.”

The Basilica has dedicated 642 square feet of the recently renovated Undercroft to LUX Eterna. Items for sale at the LUX Eterna opening will include:

- Christmas crèches<sup>1</sup> from around the world
- Art gifts for children such as serigraphs<sup>2</sup>, carved animal collections, puzzles and little arks
- Unique jewelry
- First Communion and Confirmation gifts
- Artistic crosses and crucifixes
- Icons<sup>3</sup> by Twin Cities, Russian and Ukraine artists
- Mouth blown glass replicas of Basilica stained glass
- Basilica mementos such as postcards, sweatshirts, bookmarks, key chains, mugs and magnets
- Wide assortment of candles
- Holiday and special occasion cards
- Books and CDs

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<sup>1</sup> A crèche is a representation of the Nativity scene.

<sup>2</sup> A serigraph is a print made by the silk-screen process.

<sup>3</sup> An Icon is a representation or picture of a sacred Christian personage, itself regarded as sacred, especially in the tradition of the Eastern Churches.

The Basilica store will also feature items from existing exhibits in its Pope John XXIII Gallery. Current and upcoming exhibits include:

- "Saint Francis Festival – The Holiness of all Creation" (now till October 29)  
*This exhibit features thematic abstract and abstract landscape monoprints<sup>4</sup> by Edina artist Melissa Stephens.*
- "Annual Icon Festival – Through the Eyes of the Saints" (November 1 –26)  
*This annual collaboration with the Twin Cities Orthodox community features Icons from the 17<sup>th</sup> century.*
- "The Incarnation Festival – Joy to the World" (November 29 – January 30)  
*Nativity sets from throughout the world will help express the incarnation narrative by different global communities.*

LUX Eterna – The Basilica Store is located in the Basilica, on the ground level of the undercroft on Hennepin and 17<sup>th</sup> Street. It will be open Saturdays from 10am to 8pm, Sundays from 8am to 8pm and during selected Basilica events. LUX Eterna is committed to offering only items from traders that follow fair trade guidelines.

### **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](http://www.mary.org)

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<sup>4</sup> A monoprint is the mirror image of a still-wet drawing, which has been made onto a glass, plastic or metal plate. The ink drawing is transferred to paper creating a single impression, and possibly a second fainter impression ("a ghost").