

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

For further information contact:

Kathy Dhaemers

(612) 317-3438, mobile (612) 839-0671, kdhaemers@mary.org

Johan van Parys

mobile (612) 232-1951, jvanparys@mary.org

CELEBRATE THE PASCHAL MYSTERY AT THE BASILICA OF SAINT MARY

MINNEAPOLIS (April 12, 2006) The Basilica of Saint Mary announced its Worship schedule for Easter weekend. During the Sacred Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday) Christians celebrate the life and passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and our incorporation into that mystery. Concluding the celebration is Easter Sunday. The Basilica of Saint Mary is located on Hennepin Avenue at North Sixteenth Street in downtown Minneapolis.

HOLY THURSDAY: April 13th

8:00 P.M. Celebration of the Lord's Supper

This service commemorates the evening before Jesus' death, when he gathered with his disciples to celebrate Passover, thus instituting the celebration of the Eucharist.

8:00 P.M. Grand opening procession with all participants

8:45 P.M. Washing of the feet of all participants at 12 stations throughout the church

9:45 P.M. Procession throughout the candle-lit church with all people present.

GOOD FRIDAY: April 14th

Noon Celebration of the Biblical Stations of the Cross

This service commemorates the different moments at the end of the life of Jesus, starting with his agony in the garden; his condemnation; the crucifixion; his death on the cross; to his resurrection. Typical for this service is that the entire congregation walks from one Station to the next. Mono-prints by Lucinda Naylor are the objects of devotion for these stations.

Good Friday, continued

3:00 P.M. Celebration of the Lord's Passion *Basilica Cathedral Choir*

This service commemorates the suffering and death of Jesus for the salvation of all humanity.

3:00 P.M. Solemn entrance procession to the steady beat of timpani. The procession ends in the sanctuary with all ministers prostrating themselves on the floor.

3:15 P.M. Singing of the Passion Narrative

3:45 P.M. Solemn veneration of the large wooden cross which is passed overhead by the people.

8:00 P.M. Celebration of the Office of Tenebrae *The Basilica Schola Cantorum*

This service commemorates the death of Jesus and his descent into hell. The name *Tenebrae* is Latin for shadows/darkness. As the service unfolds, all candles and lights in the Basilica are extinguished until only one candle remains. When the last candle is carried out of the church, and complete darkness fills the Basilica, the organ and timpani begin the symbolic earthquake.

8:00 P.M. Solemn entrance procession to the steady beat of timpani. The procession ends in the sanctuary with all ministers prostrating themselves on the floor.

8:30 P.M. Solemn veneration of the large wooden cross which is passed overhead by the people.

9:00 P.M. Anointing of the people

9:30 P.M. The last remaining candle is carried out of the church. The entire church is left in darkness.

9:35 P.M. The people start pounding on the pews, pleading for the light to return.

9:45 P.M. The one candle returns to the church. All leave in silence

HOLY SATURDAY: April 15th

8:00 P.M. Easter Vigil *Basilica Cathedral Choir, Organ and Brass*

During this most sacred night, the community is invited to gather around the new Easter Light which will be taken from the bonfire built on the plaza in front of the church. The assembly listens to the story of our Salvation in word and song and celebrates the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism through immersion, Confirmation and First Eucharist).

8:00 P.M. All the people gather around a large bonfire in the plaza in front of the Basilica

8:15 P.M. Everyone processes into the dark church carrying a candle

EASTER SUNDAY: April 16th

7:30 A.M.	Eucharist at Sunrise	<i>Cantor and Organ</i>
9:30 A.M.	Solemn Eucharist	<i>Basilica Cathedral Choir, Organ and Brass</i>
Noon	Solemn Eucharist	<i>Basilica Cathedral Choir, Organ and Brass</i>
4:30 P.M.	Festival Eucharist	<i>Contemporary Ensemble</i>

These joyous and festive liturgies celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ in word and song. The services on Easter Sunday, particularly at 9:30 A.M. and Noon are of the most **visually splendid** celebrations of the whole year. They contain many processions with colorful liturgical accoutrement. The sanctuary will be beautifully adorned with banners, Easter lilies and a sea of bright spring flowers.

Please be aware that flash photography is not permitted during these services.

About the Basilica of Saint Mary

The Basilica of Saint Mary is a community rooted in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Our 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 cultural life of this community. The parish is marked by hospitality and a rich diversity of age, ethnic, racial, social, and economic backgrounds. It is the spiritual home to over 5,000 families.

Located near the heart of downtown Minneapolis, the Basilica of Saint Mary helps provide 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 more than 90 years. For more information about the Basilica, call (612) 333-1381 or visit the web site at www.mary.org.

###