



Inspiring commitment to the Cathedral as a world-class treasure in our community

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 12, 2016

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6th Annual Gala fundraiser raising funds to illuminate Cathedral of Saint Paul with green energy

(Saint Paul, Minn) The Cathedral Heritage Foundation (CHF) will host its **Sixth Annual *Cathedral Festival of Lights*, 5 to 9 p.m. Friday, September 23, 2016 at the Intercontinental Saint Paul Riverfront** (formerly the Crowne Plaza) 11 East Kellogg Boulevard, in downtown Saint Paul. The gala evening features cocktails, dinner, live and silent auctions and celebrity emcee, KSTP TV's Chief Political Reporter, Tom Hauser. Tickets are \$150 per person, a portion of which is tax deductible. Register online at www.cathedralheritagefoundation.org.

This year's *Cathedral Festival of Lights* fundraising appeal will focus on energy conservation efforts to transition all of the Cathedral's lighting to LED lights. This project will be completed in three phases. The first phase will focus on brightening an interior which fills 1.5 acres. Many of the Cathedral's side chapels are only dimly lit, and dozens of ceiling and cornice lights are burnt out and have not been replaced due to the time and expense required. Approximately 800 new LED lights are needed to upgrade and replace the existing interior lighting. "With grant funding from the CHF, we were able to get started on this process over the winter and already the energy savings have been substantial and far outweigh the investment in LED lights. Plus, the new LED lights have a 'life span' measured in years. Once the transition has been completed, this could save us as much as 20 hours in maintenance per month and reduce our energy bills by 30 percent or more," said Fr. John Ubel, rector of the Cathedral of Saint Paul.

Completion of the first phase is targeted for Christmas. Worshippers who come to the Cathedral for Christmas Midnight Mass should notice the significantly improved interior lighting, including enhanced, energy-efficient lighting for the east "Resurrection" rose window (front) that will be visible from both the interior and the exterior.

The second phase will add energy efficient exterior lights to the Cathedral's courtyard surrounding the sacristy, the octagonal structure—crowned by the elegant "angel in prayer"—at the back of the Cathedral. The third phase will be completed over the next 12 months, and includes developing an overall lighting design that incorporates new, energy-efficient lighting technology for the Cathedral's exterior to enhance particularly its façade and bell towers. "The energy conservation resulting from our initial grants to the parish made it obvious that our project for this year's Festival of Lights needed to focus on illuminating this historic century-old church with the best that modern technology has to offer," said Mary Schaffner, CHF Board Chair.

It may be surprising to learn the Saint Paul Chamber of Commerce proposed and paid \$55,000 in 1967 for the current outdoor lighting system, saying “the nocturnal illumination not only would honor one of the State’s great monuments of faith, but also would add to the beauty and safety of the surrounding area.” Adding the planned up-to-date lighting will not only yield significant energy savings for the parish, but the CHF believes the new lights will magnify the Cathedral’s presence as a beacon on the hill.

For more information about the lighting and other current restoration projects, register for the Cathedral Festival of Lights gala, or contribute to the on-going restoration effort, please visit **cathedralheritagefoundaton.org**.

The Cathedral of Saint Paul not only serves the approximately 825,000 Catholics residing in the 12-county metro area as the mother church for the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, but also opens its doors to school children on field trips and tens of thousands of tourists from around the United States and internationally. It is open to visitors daily from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. (www.cathedralsaintpaul.org). As a venue for artistic, community, and educational events, the Cathedral annually hosts a variety of lectures, concerts, and other community events. Since 2015, the Cathedral has been the venue for sold-out concerts by King’s College Choir, Cambridge and the Saint Paul Cathedral Choir, London, and the Minnesota Oratorio Society’s 2016 presentation of Richard Einhorn’s “Voices of Light,” and welcomed 240,000 spectators, based on Red Bull’s own estimates over the past two years, to the Red Bull Crashed Ice competitions held on the Cathedral steps.

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