



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

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Contact: Carolyn Will  
612-414-9661  
[cwill@cathedralsaintpaul.org](mailto:cwill@cathedralsaintpaul.org)

## **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala fundraiser set to benefit Historic Cathedral of Saint Paul's Rose Windows**

(Saint Paul, Minn) As the Cathedral of Saint Paul's centennial year draws to a close, restoration needs for the next century take center stage. The Cathedral Heritage Foundation (CHF) will host its **Fifth Annual Cathedral Festival of Lights, 5 to 9 p.m. Friday, September 25, 2015 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 Tom Hauser. Entertainment will be provided by one of the Twin Cities' most popular singers, soprano Maria Jette, accompanied by the ever popular Dan Chouinard on the piano. Tickets are \$150 per person, a portion of which is tax deductible. Register online at [www.cathedralheritagefoundation.org](http://www.cathedralheritagefoundation.org).

This year's Festival of Lights fundraising appeal will focus on the urgent need to restore the Cathedral's magnificent, but fragile and failing rose windows. Although all three windows require restoration, the north and south rose windows most critically need complete re-leading and repair before winter to maintain their structural integrity, as well as a thorough cleaning to remove almost 100 years of soot and grime. The CHF has received a generous \$25,000 foundation grant from the Hubbard Broadcasting Foundation towards the approximate \$200,000 cost to restore both windows. Raising the additional funds for the first phase of the rose window restoration project will be the focus of the fund-a-need appeal on the evening of the event itself. The CHF plans to continue its fundraising efforts post-event for any remaining balance of the \$200,000 rose window restoration cost. Support from the broader community for this project will be sought and most appreciated. A gift in any amount to help restore these beautiful windows will be an investment in the Cathedral's next 100 years.

The CHF will also recognize at the Festival of Lights the family of C.H.F. Smith, a man with a special connection to the Cathedral.

Charles Henry Smith sits to the right of Archbishop John Ireland in the picture of the Executive Building Committee.



C.H.F. Smith sits to left of Archbishop John Ireland 1904

And in reality, Smith, a bank president well known for his business acumen, did serve as Ireland's right-hand man. Smith not only secured the hilltop property on which the fourth and current Cathedral stands, but also, as the aging archbishop's health began to fade, assumed at Ireland's request many of the business roles in the Cathedral's development.

The Smith family's connections with, and contributions to the Cathedral continued throughout the next 100 years. Smith family grandchildren and great-grandchildren will be present, and their family's legacy honored at the gala.

For more information about current restoration projects or to register for the Cathedral Festival of Lights, please visit **[cathedralheritagefoundaton.org](http://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. As a venue for artistic, community, and educational events, the Cathedral hosts each year a variety of lectures, concerts, and other community events. In 2015, the Cathedral was the venue for sold-out concerts by the internationally acclaimed King's College Choir of Cambridge and the Saint Paul Cathedral Choir of London, and welcomed more than 100,000 spectators to the Red Bull Crashed Ice competition held on the Cathedral steps. In early 2016, the Minnesota Oratorio Society will present at the Cathedral Richard Einhorn's composition "Voices of Light," a work merging solo voices, chorus and orchestra with a presentation of Carl Dreyer's 1928 silent film masterpiece "The Passion of Joan of Arc." The Cathedral of Saint Paul is open to visitors daily from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. ([www.cathedralsaintpaul.org](http://www.cathedralsaintpaul.org)).

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