



CATHEDRAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION

A GREAT STATE! A GREAT CITY! A GREAT CATHEDRAL!

This slogan, as part of the 1904 public relations effort established by Archbishop John Ireland and his Executive Building Committee for the new cathedral, represented the sweeping spirit of big ideas and progressive advances that pervaded the American landscape in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Minnesota, and particularly Saint Paul, experienced a dynamic growth of businesses especially in lumber, mining, banking, merchandising, insurance, railroads, and brewing. Small businesses and the trades flourished as people were encouraged by the seemingly endless flow of immigrants to the area as the railroad hub became the gateway to the wild Northwest.

Archbishop Ireland embraced this vision of the greatness of America and sought to assist the large, mostly poor immigrant population in realizing their hope-filled dreams of prosperity in their newly adopted land. As the shepherd of the large Catholic population, he saw the need for a monument of faith that reflected all they had accomplished and would serve as a visible sign of the importance of religion in the formation of moral citizens. It was a time of constructing monuments in light of the rapid development of Saint Paul with the building of large office buildings, the Federal Courthouse and Post Office, Union Depot, and the splendid Capitol building designed by Cass Gilbert.

The decision to build was not easy, and one Ireland thought of leaving to his successors. However, he had the assistance of Charles H. F. S. Smith, a wealthy Catholic layman and investment banker, who became his financial advisor and the largest individual donor to the effort. Smith completed the purchase of the picturesque site for the grand Cathedral with its panoramic view of the city and the great river. Ireland formed a large committee of Catholic men from the parishes of



Executive Building Committee Top, left to right: Jeremiah C. Kennedy, Father F. X. Bajec, Francis M. Erling, Father Patrick R. Heffron, Father John M. Solnce. Middle, left to right: George N. Gerlach, Father John J. Lawler, Peter M. Kerst, John S. Grode, Father Thomas J. Gibbons. Bottom, left to right: Judge Edward W. Bazille, Charles H. F. Smith, Archbishop John Ireland, Timothy Foley, H. C. McNair, Christopher D. O'Brien.

the diocese to promote the idea. From that group the Archbishop selected 18 members, both lay and clergy, who became the Executive Building Committee to guide the project. Ireland served as the president, while Louis W. Hill was chosen as treasurer, John B. Meagher as secretary, and Smith as head of the Finance Committee.

In typical fundraising fashion, publicity was extremely important as they announced the effort and set up a program to reach all the diocesan parishes to explain the importance of their participation. Raising the eventual \$1.6 million for its construction would not be an easy task, but the priests and laity rose to the occasion by their faith and the pride they held in the progress of Minnesota. The efforts included establishing a monthly newspaper for Ireland's updates, setting up a card system for solicitation and collection of subscriptions, parish picnics, children's banks, and confirmation



*Inspiring commitment to the
Cathedral of Saint Paul
as a world class treasure
in our community.*

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Cathedral Heritage Foundation
239 Selby Ave.
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silver dollar gifts. No gifts were considered too small as Ireland expressed, "There should be no one who, entering the Cathedral, is not able to say—it is mine. I have put into the making of this great monument a stone that is mine."

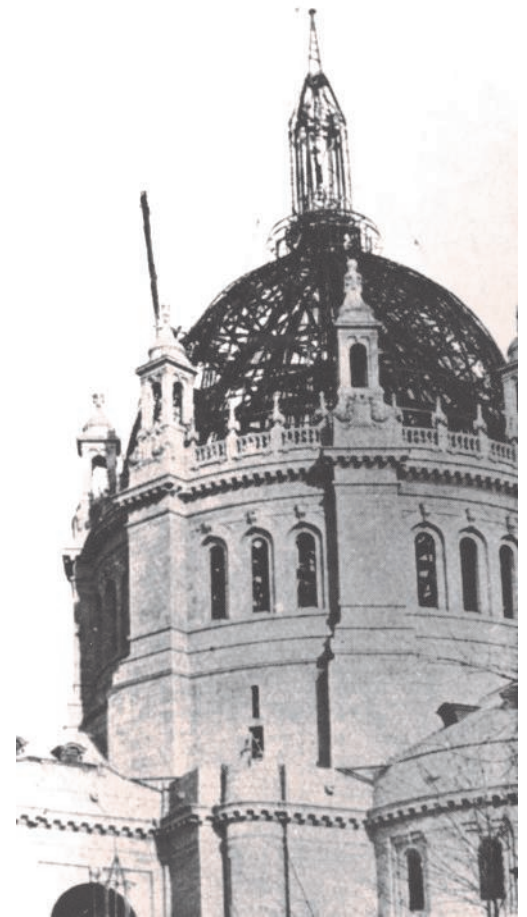
At the same time, the large and small businesses of Saint Paul were enthusiastically supportive as the Cathedral would reflect their great civic pride and be an economic benefit to the city and region by the architectural masterpiece's prominent location. Many of these business leaders were members of various protestant churches and synagogues, but they realized the importance of the Cathedral as a sign of a cultured community to the many tourists of the future who would gaze upon its spectacular grandeur. Business women, widows, heiresses, and the average homemaker also contributed to its completion with their own funds and through the benefit of their social and organizational skills in the long campaign.

A. B. Stickney, President of the Chicago Great Western Railway Company in an address to the Saint Paul Builders Exchange on January 18, 1906 said in part:

"Most of this class of buildings in the infancy of a community and a community like this, which is only fifty years old, must be regarded in its infancy, must of necessity be built with reference to utility only. But occasionally an opportunity offers to add to the utility a monument of beauty and dignity, which will conduce to the material as well as the moral and esthetic prosperity of the market town. Such is the occasion which is now presented to the city of St. Paul in the building of the Catholic Cathedral on the magnificent site overlooking the city.

"Towards the cost of its construction the members of the Catholic Church, not only in this city, but in the whole state, and even beyond the limits of the state, will contribute the major part. But, in my judgment, it is a work to which every citizen of St. Paul, regardless of creed, can afford, as a business investment, if for no other reason, to contribute liberally.

"Personally, although not a Catholic, I shall esteem it a privilege to be allowed to contribute. With this great monument of beautiful architecture set upon a hill in juxtaposition to the most beautiful building in the United States, the state capitol, to be connected, in the no distant future, by a magnificent avenue, these two buildings alone will add thousands to the population, and millions to the wealth, and unmeasurable importance, beauty and dignity to the city."



Unfinished Dome 1912

Those inspiring words were put into action in 1912 when 25 prominent citizens met to establish a non-sectarian citizens' committee to raise \$100,000 for the dome project in honor of Archbishop Ireland. Citizens were encouraged to contribute through public awareness and private individual solicitations. Paul Doty of the Saint Paul Gas Light Company served as chair of the Citizens' Testimonial Fund.

In 1914 a debt of \$137,000 for the construction remained unpaid. Bishop John Lawler held a dinner for 150 guests at the Saint Paul Hotel at which he made a passionate appeal for funds. Enthusiasm and cheers united the people in the room, followed by a tallying of their pledges. A speaker gratefully acknowledged the community participation, "There never has been a secular undertaking in the Northwest the equal of that which has been performed in the past ten years by those directly interested in the Cathedral project."

Influential businessmen of the period such as Frederick Weyerhaeuser, Otto Bremer, Mannheimer Bros., Oliver Crosby, William O'Brien, Frank J. Ottis, and the Hamm family were among those who realized the importance of the Cathedral to the community and contributed generously to the great project. Archbishop Ireland, a man highly respected and considered a distinguished citizen, stood with this community, and with them lived to see a great cathedral rise in this great city.

THE LEGACY OF GIVING LIVES ON . . .

Father Joseph Johnson visits with Barbara Bentson whose grandfather, Ben Baer of American National Bank, was a prominent member of the local Jewish community who contributed funds to finish the Cathedral dome. Barbara continues the family tradition with her own support through the Cathedral Heritage Foundation.



Charles H. F. S. Smith, banker and financial advisor to Archbishop John Ireland was a role model in philanthropy for his family that has continued by Constance Keefe Smith and her daughters Constance Northrup, Carolyn Horttor, and Christin Smith. Their legacy of giving to the restoration and preservation of the Cathedral will ensure the grand Cathedral on the hill remains pristine in the future.

CATHEDRAL WELCOMES NEW DIRECTOR OF MUSIC



Robert P. Ridgell, one of America's highly acclaimed church musicians and the current organist of historic Trinity Wall Street in New York City, has accepted the position of Director of Music at the Cathedral of Saint Paul. Prior to his appointment at Trinity Wall Street, Ridgell held positions in cathedrals and churches throughout the United States including the

Cathedral of the Madeleine, Salt Lake City and the Cathedral Church of the Savior, Philadelphia. He will bring to us many musical and administrative talents and a special bonus with regard to his particular expertise in children's choirs.

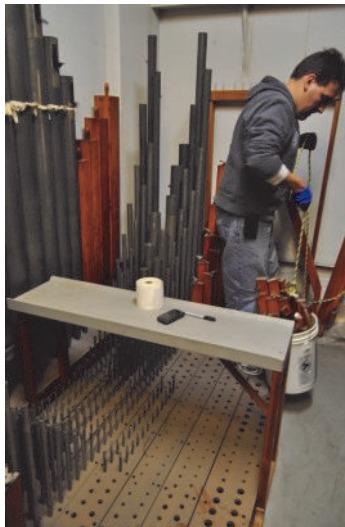
A native of Charlotte, North Carolina, Ridgell began his organ study with David M. Lowry, then attended Indiana University School of Music (Bloomington) where he studied with Marilyn Keiser, graduating with a Bachelor of Music degree. He graduated from Westminster Choir College in Princeton where he studied with Stefan Engels in 2004, and studied organ improvisation in Germany during which time he was a finalist in the American Guild of Organists National Competition in Organ Improvisation. Ridgell is currently a candidate for the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Rutgers University.

He will assume his position at the Cathedral of Saint Paul as of July 1, 2011. His family, wife Soo-Jin and young sons John and Joseph, are looking forward to joining the Cathedral family and the Twin Cities community.

ORGAN RESTORATION BEGINS WITH SANCTUARY ORGAN

Many people are not aware that there are two historic pipe organs in the Cathedral of Saint Paul. It is a unique combination of instruments in that each can be played alone or they can be played together from either the console in the sanctuary or in the gallery. The Cathedral's dome blends the sound beautifully and people often do not notice that music is coming from both the front and the back—surround sound long before Dolby came along! Organs require a lot of maintenance, and extensive repairs are necessary on these sensitive musical instruments.

In November of 2009 the decorative wooden screen of the sanctuary organ in the ambulatory was removed to allow access for restoration work to begin. Most people have walked by this many times when the screen was in place and never realized that there was a pipe organ hiding there—the original E. M. Skinner pipe organ (Opus 518) from the 1920s. All 2,041 pipes were removed and transported to Quimby Pipe Organ's workshop in Warrensburg, Missouri, where they were meticulously restored.



We are excited to report that the restored pipes arrived and were reinstalled just in time for Holy Week. The new console will not arrive until later in this process while the decorative wooden screen will be refurbished and put back in place in the coming months, so be sure to walk through the Shrine of Nations soon and see the pipes while they are still visible.

With the sanctuary organ largely complete, it now sounds as beautiful as on the day it was first installed. This now allows us to proceed with the even more involved restoration of the Aeolian-Skinner pipe organ in the gallery. We hope to begin work this summer with dismantling and shipping it offsite for restoration. Once the pipe organ is safely removed, the major mechanical and electrical upgrade of the gallery can begin so that the restored organ

will have a proper home upon its return.

We are happy that we are able to make progress now on ensuring their preservation and guaranteeing the musical needs of the Cathedral can be met. Please support this project with a gift if you can!

FAMILY & COMMUNITY DAY ATTRACTS FIRST TIMERS

Pioneer Press reporter Maja Beckstrom called our annual event, “A Best Entertainment Bet,” in the weekend newspapers leading up to this year’s Family & Community Day on Sunday, March 6. “The Cathedral of Saint Paul is more than a house of worship. It’s also a cultural and historical landmark,” wrote Beckstrom. The accompanying photo of young children climbing onto the organ bench for a closer look at the con-



sole in the gallery gave an apt preview. It is a day to explore the expansive landmark on the hill when it feels a little less daunting. Cathedral Family & Community Day started four years ago as a community open house where the neighbors and anyone with curiosity about the monument would feel welcome.

The balloons and banner outside beckoned a few of the neighbors. One woman walked in the doors on the Dayton Avenue side and asked if she could come in and

“look around” as she had never been inside despite living down the street. Another visitor from the Como Avenue neighborhood brought her two children and her neighbors to the afternoon event. Despite being lifelong Saint Paul residents, the mother had never been inside the Cathedral, she said, “because we’re not Catholic.” And long-time parishioner, Al Paulson, said he learned more about the building he already thought he knew so well. It was an opportunity to share the beauty and history of this great monument and our volunteers made a good first impression.

In addition to tours highlighting history, art, sculpture, stained glass, and restoration projects, musician Jim Callahan, Ph.D., gave five organ demonstrations to crowds in the Gallery. A new exhibit featured this year came from the College of Visual Arts. Students displayed their “line perspective” drawings of the Cathedral’s interior. First year CVA students have been sketching the Cathedral every semester for ten years and it was wonderful to see some of their finished work.

On the lower level, Saint Joseph’s School of Music students and faculty performed live music in the Ryan Room. A mixture of piano, violin, and guitar drew a large crowd all afternoon. An introduction by a member of the Sisters of Carondelet of Saint Joseph recounted the order’s start in music education and their long interlinking history with the Cathedral.

Activities in Hayden Hall drew young and old. The Minnesota

Science Museum exhibit featured mummification and ancient rituals of burying the dead, a stained glass activity with the Minnesota Children’s Museum sent home over 350 framed original art pieces, and the final take-home souvenir was a photograph of “master painters.”

The event prompted the Pioneer Press reporter to bring two of her children on a full one-hour tour.



Her full review was featured in the Sunday, March 27 edition. If you missed the article, you can read it on the Cathedral website located at: www.cathedralsaintpaul.org/media-archives

A big thank you to everyone who volunteered on Cathedral Family & Community Day - mark your calendars for next year, Sunday, March 4.

MASQUERAY DRAWINGS GO TO UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Father Joseph Johnson and archivists Celeste Raspanti and Carl Simmons, transferred to the University of Minnesota archive staff, 100 large original drawings of the Cathedral, ink on linen, by architect Emmanuel L. Masquery.

Kris Kiesling, Director of Archives and Special Collections, Arvid Nelsen, Curator of Northwest Architectural Archives, and Barb Bezat, Assistant Curator were excited to be able to include the drawings in their state-of-the-art, temperature controlled archive in order to preserve them for future reference and study. The Cathedral will have access to them as well as the students who are studying the history of architecture at the school. Electronic copies of the drawings are available in the Cathedral archives for viewing.



THE LEGACY GRANT SUPPORTS ESSENTIAL WORK



The Legacy Grant of \$4,341 received by the Cathedral Heritage Foundation from the Minnesota Historical Society to preserve the Cathedral of Saint Paul archives is already in action. Archival quality filing equipment is helping to preserve letters, documents, and historic objects: Archbishop Ireland's miter is safely preserved in acid-free tissue in an archival box; his letters to the Executive Committee and to Masquery carefully interleaved with acid free paper. The records of the artists, artisans, and workers who constructed and embellished the cathedral will also be safe from the destruction of time. Records of the 170 year-old history of the Cathedral parish, its rectory and clergy, its parishioners, parish societies and organizations, the Cathedral school—all will be appropriately preserved when tem-

perature and humidity controls are installed in the archives and the museum. The Legacy Grant has been an important stimulus to all these improvements.

Shortly after the New Year a new computer and color printer/scanner/copier arrived as a first step in creating a permanent accessible collection. For that purpose, the Legacy Grant has funded the installation of and instruction in PastPerfect, the most widely used museum collection management software used by thousands of organizations. When PastPerfect is complete and ready for input, an essential phase of archives work will begin.

Descriptions of every letter, object, painting, drawing, and photograph in the archives will be entered into PastPerfect. The process will take the time and effort of many volunteers, but when it is finished, the collections in the archives will be accessible to the Cathedral administration and staff, parishioners, the general public—anyone interested in the rich history of the Cathedral of Saint Paul and the role it has played in Minnesota history.

Volunteers are needed to help with the monumental task of entering archive information and descriptions into the computer. To volunteer, please contact Celeste Raspanti at archives@cathedralsaintpaul.org.

VISITORS TO THE CATHEDRAL

The Cathedral is host to over 200,000 people each year as they come to experience its architectural and artistic wonders, seek personal solace in its many chapels, or to join in the public worship services. Many of these guests come in tour groups from across the U. S. and from foreign countries.

While the warmer months attract the majority of visitors, hardy guests often arrive in the snowy weather to visit the beautiful Cathedral on the hill. A group of mostly French Canadians, dressed in their traditional historic costumes and guests of the 2011 Saint Paul Winter Carnival, were delighted to

learn about the historical connections of their ancestors to the Cathedral of Saint Paul and the region. Other guests of the Carnival included people from the city's sister cities in Germany, Spain, and Mexico. They were awestruck by the Cathedral's vast space and remarked that they were not expecting, as one of them said, "so European a Cathedral" in Minnesota. The tour guides are proud to share with visitors their knowledge and love for the Cathedral.

To find out more about becoming a tour guide, please call 651.228.1766.

SAVE THE DATES

College Choir Week—Two Great Concerts

Monday, May 9, 7:30 p.m.

Bemidji State Choir
Open to the public

Brad Logan, Director. Over the years the choir has been recognized with performances at national, division, and state conventions of the American Choral Directors Association and Music Educators National Conference.

Sunday, May 15, 2:30 p.m.

Marietta College Concert Choir
Open to the public

Daniel Monek, Director. In 2006, the choir became the first American college or university choir to perform for the Chinese Choral Directors Seminar held at Beijing Conservatory and in 2002 was honored to sing for Masses at Saint Mark Cathedral in Venice and the Basilica of Saint Peter in Rome.

Speaker Event

September 22, 7 p.m.

Eric Hansen, Ph.D. University of California, Santa Barbara, author of *The Cathedral of Saint Paul, An Architectural Biography*.

For an updated calendar of events visit:
www.cathedralsaintpaul.org



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HERITAGE FOUNDATION
239 SELBY AVENUE
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The Cathedral Heritage Foundation is a community-based tax-deductible charitable organization dedicated to the preservation of the Cathedral of Saint Paul and the fostering of its cultural programs. Your gift, no matter the amount will be gratefully appreciated.

Make checks out to the **Cathedral Heritage Foundation** or go online to www.cathedralheritagefoundation.org/donate. For more information call 651.357.1325.

