



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 22, 2011

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(Saint Paul, Minn) The East Rose Window over the front door of the Cathedral of Saint Paul will be lit **Friday night, Sept. 23**, for the inaugural “Festival of Lights” event. The East Rose Window measures 32 feet in diameter, including the 20 small rosette windows, was designed by the world’s finest contemporary craftsman in stained glass, Charles Connick, and installed in 1932. The window depicts the Resurrection. **The public will see the window illuminated for this one night only from dusk until 10 p.m.** Best viewing will be in front of the Cathedral, at the intersection of John Ireland Boulevard and Selby Ave., Saint Paul.

“Festival of Lights” is a fundraising event hosted by the Cathedral Heritage Foundation to generate funds for the restoration and preservation of the national landmark. The idea for lighting the window came from John Dowdle, M.D., of Saint Paul, and CHF volunteer, who has had a passion for illuminating the landmark on the hill. “I have been driving down to the hospital at night for years and I always wanted to see the Cathedral lit as brightly as the Capitol,” said Dowdle.

On June 1, 2007, Dowdle hired Musco Sports Lighting of Iowa to light the front façade of the Cathedral on the eve of the Cathedral Cornerstone Centennial. The one-time event attracted thousands of visitors. For this year’s Festival event, Dowdle enlisted a collaborative partnership with LVX Minnesota to help light the large blue, stained-glass window over the front doors. “The illumination behind the stained glass window which the public sees Friday night will equal approximately half that of average sunlight,” said John Pederson, CEO and inventor for LVX Minnesota. The St. Cloud lighting company has been making headlines for its unique patented light technology which is both highly efficient and also transmits information data. “We won’t be sending out data signals Friday, just light,” said Pederson. “We would like to keep working on the project to improve the energy efficiency by using specific colors, such as blue, red, green, on certain parts of the window. We could reduce the energy needed to illuminate the window and perhaps enhance the level of brightness.” The lights generate 108,000 lumens and consume 1,582 watts of energy – a little more than half the energy consumed by an average hair dryer.

The Cathedral Heritage Foundation is raising funds to pay off the remaining \$6 million debt on the \$35 million copper dome restoration undertaken from 2000-2002, in addition to addressing millions of dollars of interior restoration needs. A separate lighting fund has also been established to raise support for more permanent exterior lighting. More information at www.cathedralheritagefoundation.org. Doors are open daily to the public from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. except on Saturday when it’s open until 9 p.m.

** A description of the East Rose Window from the designer, Connick:

“An eastern rose window has a special appeal of its own. Its response to the first light of the morning – gray, then rosy, and finally a full burst of sunlight, symbolizes a spiritual awakening day after day. So I delighted in the opportunity of designing and making the eastern rose window for the Cathedral of Saint Paul. I saw it at once in reds, golds, blues and whites alight with the morning sun – the colors jostling each other in joyful rout like notes in music.” (excerpt from *The Cathedral of Saint Paul, an Architectural Biography*)