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New mobile website takes smart phone users on a *virtual* Cathedral tour

(Saint Paul, MN) A new mobile website launched today which takes smart phone users on a virtual tour of the Cathedral of Saint Paul (www.CathedralSaintPaulTour.org). This majestic landmark sits on the hill overlooking downtown Saint Paul and has been listed on the National Register of Historic Buildings since 1974. Despite its prominent location in the city, many residents have never been inside.

The virtual tour makes it easy to get a first glimpse of the treasures and history within by listening to a selection of 27 narrated chapters, one to two minutes in length. From start to finish, the tour will take about 45 minutes. The Very Reverend Joseph R. Johnson, Rector of the Cathedral of Saint Paul, narrates the video in a conversational style. Eóin Small of SeekJoy Productions and John Dowdle, M.D., a committee member of the Cathedral Heritage Foundation, and father of two Hollywood movie writer/producers known as The Brothers Dowdle, stepped forward to produce the video series. "This idea to make a video series came about because so many of my friends and colleagues have told me they have never been inside the Cathedral. It's an amazing place and I tell people they need to make a visit," said Dowdle. "Our hope is that more people will develop a connection to the Cathedral and support the CHF's preservation and restoration efforts."

The Cathedral of Saint Paul Virtual Tour Series DVD is also available for purchase for \$20 in the Gift Shop or online at <http://www.cathedralsaintpaul.org/online-store>. All the proceeds will support the Cathedral Heritage Foundation's efforts to preserve the structure, and thus the beauty of this historic monument.

(MORE)

Brochures found inside the Cathedral will have a QR code to scan, or visitors can manually type in the URL into your web browser: CathedralSaintPaulTour.org. If you are taking the tour inside the building, visitors will be required to wear headphones so as not to disturb others in the church. If you do not have your own, headsets are available for \$3 in the Gift Shop on the lower level of the Cathedral during normal business hours.

Cathedral Hours: The Cathedral doors are open daily from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Guided tours are given year round Monday through Friday at 1 p.m. except on Holy Days and civil holidays. No appointment necessary.

Cathedral Museum Hours: Noon to 3 p.m. Monday through Saturday and on the first and third Sundays, the museum will be open following the 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Masses.

To learn more about the restoration needs of the Cathedral, go to www.cathedralheritagefoundation.org. For more information on events, visit www.cathedralsaintpaul.org or call the Welcome Center at 651-228-1766. . To view photos of the Cathedral of Saint Paul's interior and exterior go to <http://www.cathedralsaintpaul.org/album>