



Friends of John Paul II Foundation, Inc.
Washington, DC Chapter

Press Release

Contact:

Cecilia Glembocki, Vice President, Media Relations

Friends of John Paul II Foundation, Inc.

Washington, DC Chapter

virginiaegg@icloud.com

Press Release: Installation of the John Paul II Bust at the Ronald Reagan National Library

Simi Valley, CA – August 29, 2024. A delegation from the Friends of John Paul II Foundation's Washington, D.C. Chapter attended a special reception at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library, in Simi Valley, CA, featuring the installation of a bronze bust of Pope John Paul II. This remarkable sculpture, created by renowned artist Gordon S. Kray, was generously donated by the Friends of John Paul II Foundation.

The bust is prominently displayed in the library-curated exhibit titled "The Pope and The President: Bringing Hope to the World." This exhibit showcases gifts exchanged between Pope John Paul II and President Ronald Reagan, as well as memorabilia on loan from the Knights of Columbus and Father Richard Kunst, a noted collector of papal items. Visitors have a unique opportunity to explore items that symbolize the profound bond between these two influential figures.

Thomas Payne, Vice President of Friends of John Paul II Foundation, described the relationship between the two statesmen as "Ronald Reagan and John Paul II - a transcendent spiritual bond and partnership which brought down the Iron Curtain."

Melissa Giller, Chief Marketing Officer of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute emphasized the importance of remembering and celebrating the contributions of both leaders to the world today. She credited the Friends of John Paul II Foundation for inspiring the exhibit through the commissioning of the bust, highlighting how this collaboration allows the museum to effectively convey the remarkable relationship between Pope John Paul II and President Reagan.

The Friends of John Paul II Foundation delegation, Washington DC chapter, led by President Roza Pace, received a warm welcome from prominent attendees, including President Reagan's son,

Michael Reagan, and enjoyed generous hospitality from the library staff and the local Friends of John Paul II chapter in Southern California. Notable guests gracing this historical event included Bishop Sz kredka, Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, Polish Consul General in L.A., Paulina Kapuscinska, and Cecilia Larkin, President of the American Council of Polish Culture. The Friends of John Paul II Foundation continues to promote the legacy, ideals, and teachings of Saint John Paul II through various programs and events. This exhibit marks a successful culmination of a year-long effort to honor his legacy, ensuring that his message of hope and unity will reach future generations.

For more information about the exhibit “The Pope and The President: Bringing Hope to the World,” visit the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library website at reaganlibrary.gov.

For information about the John Paul II Foundation, visit jp2friends.org.

End of Release