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It is with great pleasure that I share with you our inaugural edition of *Cathedra*, a publication that will highlight the busy life and goings on of one of America’s most celebrated churches.

When I was a boy my grandmother would take me and my brothers from our home up in the Bronx to visit St. Patrick’s—I did not dream I would one day have the joy of being its rector!

As the rector of St. Patrick’s under our pastor and archbishop, Timothy Cardinal Dolan, it is my privilege to oversee the day to day life of this great Cathedral.

Right now, our edifice is covered in scaffolding and when we remove the scaffolding the Cathedral will look just as it did when it was “new.” Built by the pennies, nickels, and dimes of immigrant New Yorkers at the end of the 19th century, St. Patrick’s, though a famous New York icon, is truly a church for everyone.

During a typical day at St. Patrick’s you will see people from all walks of life: CEOs, tourists from all over the world, the young and old, the down-on-their-luck, volunteers, visiting clergy, business men and women— anyone who stops in the heart of a buzzing metropolis for a moment of prayer or contemplation or, even, just to escape the cold this winter. We welcome them all for they are the Body of Christ.

St. Patrick’s, in the more than hundred years it has graced mid-town (before mid-town was mid-town!) has been the spiritual home of many. It is our hope that *Cathedra*, will serve the needs of St. Patrick’s parishioners and visitors for many years to come.

With best wishes for a peaceful and happy Christmas and New Year,

Msgr. Robert T. Ritchie, Rector
CARDINAL’S MESSAGE

A CARDINAL’S COAT OF ARMS

By Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan

You may be wondering why a cardinal-archbishop would have a coat of arms—surely that is something reserved for knights from centuries ago? As with many aspects of our ancient faith, this tradition has deep roots. We began using coats of arms primarily for identification. Now we continue to use them to mark documents. I’d like to share with you an explanation of my coat of arms as cardinal-archbishop of New York.

Looking at the coat of arms, which you can see anchored on the back of the archbishop’s chair—called a cathedra—on the altar at St. Patrick’s Cathedral, you’ll see a red hat (called a galero) traditionally given to new cardinals by the pope (since 1969 His Holiness does not issue these hats anymore, though we continue to use them as a symbol.) Flowing from the galero are two sets of tassels—every cardinal’s galero is red, with red cords, and 15 tassels.

Now look in between the tassels, you can see a cross at the top of a crosier (bishop’s staff), and the shield in the center.

On the shield on the left you can see what resembles an “X,” four crosses, and the arms of a windmill. The windmill arms, which are also on the NYPD patch, are symbols of the Dutch influence on New York City. You may also find more windmill symbols around the city—now you know why!

The “X” is known as the Cross of St. Patrick, who is the patron saint of our Cathedral. The four small crosses represent the four Gospels, by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. This representation of the Gospels also signifies the Church’s mission to bring the Gospel to all the world.

On the right-hand side in the very center you can see a small red crown. This signifies my beloved home archdiocese, St. Louis (I was thinking of a Cardinal’s cap but reconsidered.) St. Louis, MO is named after St. Louis IX, King of France in the 13th century and devoted minister to the poor.

On either side of the red crown you’ll see a scroll—these two scrolls represent the two letters from St. Paul received by St. Timothy (my namesake!) in the New Testament.

There are three crescents also on this side. The silver one (it looks white) represents Our Blessed Mother (taken from the coat of arms at the North American College in Rome where I happily studied for the priesthood, and then was rector for seven years) and the two gold ones represent my mom and dad.

At the bottom you will read a scroll with the following words, “AD QUEM IBIMUS,” these are the words of St. Peter to Jesus when he asks, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.” (John 6:68) This scroll is my episcopal motto as a bishop.

Finally, next time you walk into St. Patrick’s look straight up at the ceiling and you will see four galeros hanging from the top—these were given to the four cardinal-archbishops before 1969. If you want to see one up close, at the left of the Pieta near the Lady Chapel is a glass case with a symbolic one. And as you walk around the Cathedral, stopping at the chapels and admiring its beauty, look down and you’ll see many more coats of arms from archbishops past. Most of the mottos are in Latin so you may want find translator…

Timothy Cardinal Dolan is the Archbishop of New York and president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.
For more than 130 years, St. Patrick’s Cathedral has graced the City of New York, signaling welcome to all who seek tranquility and renewal in this turbulent and fast-paced world.

To many, St. Patrick’s Cathedral is a spiritual haven. Parishioners, community members and travelers from around the globe find their way to this sacred home, which may truly be called the center of Catholic life in the United States. To countless others, St. Patrick’s is an iconic New York City and national landmark. The Cathedral stands apart as a vital thread in the community and the urban space.

Today, the Cathedral is an anchor of tourism in New York, a destination for more than five and a half million visitors each year.

Due to a need for essential structural and safety repairs, the lower façade of the Cathedral has been covered with scaffolding.

The plan for the full restoration of St. Patrick’s Cathedral includes work on the exterior and interior of the Cathedral, as well as its stained glass windows. This work is not cosmetic, but a necessary repair that will ensure that the Cathedral endures for future generations.

It also includes restorative work on the entire Cathedral campus, as well as the completion of a new garden, a public greenspace that will serve as a tranquil place for reflection and meditation at St. Patrick’s. The total cost for this full restoration is approximately $175 million.

This is an enormous challenge particularly in light of the ever-increasing needs of our New York community. We are committed to restoring and preserving this magnificent treasure, one that serves to inspire us all, no matter our faith. We have secured the funds necessary to complete the first phase of work, which will ensure the restoration of the exterior of the Cathedral from the Fifth Avenue entrance through the transept.

Over the next three years, we will be leading an extraordinary effort to raise approximately $50 million to complete the restoration of the Cathedral building. Upon its completion, there will be remaining work on the Cathedral Campus. However, at this juncture, our priority is St. Patrick’s Cathedral.

Funds raised in support of this historic restoration of St. Patrick’s Cathedral will be directed to and managed by the St. Patrick’s Cathedral Landmark Foundation, a new 501(c)(3) established specifically for the purpose of preserving and maintaining St. Patrick’s Cathedral.
PRAYER OF THE MONTH

PRAYER IN A TIME OF DISASTER

This month we especially remember all of those affected by Superstorm Sandy. We pray for the deceased, those who lost their loved ones, those who lost their homes and businesses, rescue workers and all people who are in the path of a storm.

Loving and Compassionate God, you are our comfort and strength in times of sudden disaster, crisis, or chaos.

Surround us now, O Lord, with your grace and peace through storm or winds, fires or floods. By your Spirit, lift up those who have fallen, sustain those who work to rescue or rebuild, and fill us with the hope of your new creation; through Christ, our rock and redeemer. Amen.

Courtesy: Franciscan Friars of Holy Name Province

UPCOMING EVENTS

MASSES TO CELEBRATE THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

Monday, December 24

Children’s Mass at 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 25

Christmas Day Masses at 7:00, 8:00, 9:00 a.m.

Choral Mass at 10:15 a.m. 12 Noon, 1:00, and 5:30 pm

Christmas Day Mass-Spanish at 4:00 p.m.

DID YOU KNOW

• The Bronze Doors at the front of the Cathedral (currently removed for restoration) each weigh 9,000 lbs.
• There are 19 bells in the bell tower; each plays a different tone and has a unique name.
• Both Organs at St. Patrick’s consist of more than 9,000 pipes, 206 stops, 150 ranks and 10 divisions.
• There are more than 2,800 stained glass panels at St. Patrick’s Cathedral.
• Over 5 million people a year visit the Cathedral.

LIGHT

A VIRTUAL PRAYER CANDLE

We invite you to light a virtual prayer candle online. Join the community of faith at St. Patrick’s Cathedral.

REMEMBER THE CATHEDRAL IN YOUR ESTATE PLANS

If you would like to include the Cathedral in your will or living trust, create a charitable gift annuity or, if you are older than 70, make a gift through an IRA Charitable Rollover, please contact the Office of Gift Planning at (646) 794-3317 or gift.planning@archeny.org, to discuss this interesting opportunity.

JOIN

THE FRIENDS OF MUSIC

Please consider joining the Friends of Music at St. Patrick’s Cathedral. Your support keeps the Cathedral flowing with music throughout the year.

MAKE A GIFT OF STOCK

If you would like to make a gift of stock, please instruct your broker to contact:

Merrill Lynch - AC & Associates at 800.937.0639 or

UBS - Eric J. Waldman at 212.309.3000

They will provide your broker with a confirmation number. We ask that you contact Nick Salvador at the Finance office at the Cathedral at 212.753.2261 ext. 798 with the confirmation number and the amount of the donation so that we may provide you with the appropriate tax documentation.
WORKERS REMOVE DOORS AT ST. PATRICK’S CATHEDRAL FOR RESTORATION
(New York Post) — It took workers two nights and a 55-ton crane to remove the massive bronze doors at St. Patrick’s Cathedral to be worked on as part of the ongoing three-year, $175 million restoration project at the renowned Midtown church.

A CROSS TO BEAR—AND GRIN—ATOP ST. PATRICK’S CATHEDRAL
(New York Daily News) — Msgr. Robert Ritchie had a three-word answer—made famous by another adventurous soul—after he stunned the faithful by climbing scaffolding to the top of St. Patrick’s north tower on Monday.

“Because it’s there,” he said.

ST. PATRICK’S CATHEDRAL ORGAN GETS MAJOR TUNEUP
(New York Daily News) — The painstaking dismantling of St. Patrick’s largest organ began Wednesday as part of the cathedral’s massive 22-month restoration project.

Workers began removing the instrument’s 143 façade pipes and thousands more located behind the surface that resonate sound throughout the storied Fifth Avenue venue.

Every gift we receive at St. Patrick’s Cathedral helps us to support our programs and maintain this magnificent Cathedral. Thank you for considering a gift today!

LET’S ALL STAY IN TOUCH
Receive email updates about St. Patrick’s Cathedral

SIGN UP

CATHEDRA
A publication of St. Patrick’s Cathedral, America’s Parish Church

Reverend Monsignor Robert T. Ritchie, Rector
Kevin Donohue, Director of Building Operations
Reverend Andrew King, Master of Ceremonies
Jennifer Pascual, DMA, Director of Music and Organist
Loual Puliafito, Director of Development
Kate Monaghan, Director of Communications

MASS TIMES:
Monday through Friday: 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 am, 12 Noon, 12:30, 1:00, 5:30 pm
Saturday: 8:00 am (in Lady Chapel)
12 Noon, Vigil Mass: 5:30 pm (Fulfills Sunday obligation)
Sunday: 7:00, 8:00, 9:00, 10:15 am (Choir), 12 Noon, 1:00, 4:00 (Spanish), and 5:30 pm

Visit this page every Sunday for a Live Mass at 10:15 AM.

CONFESSION TIMES:
Weekdays: After morning Mass and from Noon to 1:20 PM
Saturdays: Noon to 12:45 PM and 3:30 to 5:30 PM

Reconciliation is available in languages other than English. For more information, please contact the priest on duty at:
St. Patrick’s Cathedral Parish House
14 East 51st Street
New York, NY 10022
212.753.2261

For any additional questions you may have please feel free to call the Parish House: 212.753.2261

DIRECTIONS:
St. Patrick’s Cathedral
5th Avenue between 50th/51st Streets
New York, NY

Subway:
E or 6 trains to 5th Avenue/53rd Street
4 5 6 or NQR to 5th Avenue/59th Street
BDMF to Rockefeller Center

GIFT SHOP
Visit Our Shop Online
15 East 51st Street, between 5th Avenue and Madison Avenue
Hours: 8:30 am to 8:00 pm, Monday through Friday
10:00 am to 6:00 pm, Saturday and Sunday

VIRTUAL VISIT – Click here for Google 360º Tour

St. Patrick’s Cathedral is the Mother Church of the Archdiocese of New York and the seat of its Archbishop. Built by contributions large and small, it remains emblematic of the ascendance of religious freedom in the New World.

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