



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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POPE FRANCIS TO VISIT HISTORIC 9/11 MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM

Pope to Pay Tribute to 9/11 Victims and Lead Interfaith Peace Gathering in Museum

(New York) June 30, 2015 – Pope Francis will visit the National September 11 Memorial & Museum as part of the pontiff’s first trip to America, becoming the fourth leader of the Roman Catholic Church to visit the United States, the Vatican confirmed today.

On Sept. 25, Pope Francis will visit the 9/11 Memorial and, amid a grove of oak trees, pay his respects to the nearly 3,000 victims of the September 11, 2001 terror attacks and the February 26, 1993 bombing at the World Trade Center.

After seeing the Memorial, the Pope will lead a Multireligious Meeting for Peace inside the 9/11 Memorial Museum, where he will gather with local representatives of the world religions to give a common witness to peace. The program will include an address by the Pope, prayers and meditations from various religious traditions.

“Pope Francis’ visit to the Memorial and Museum will be a special moment for our city,” 9/11 Memorial Chairman Michael R. Bloomberg said. “The Memorial and Museum are on track to welcome more than 6.5 million visitors this year, and we’re deeply honored that Pope Francis will be among them. His visit will also serve as a marker for how far the World Trade Center has come since Pope Benedict XVI visited the site seven years ago, when it was still an open hole in the ground and closed off to the public. Now, it is a beautiful and inspiring place, a symbol of our rebirth and resilience that is full of life, and that honors the victims of the attacks and tells their stories to the world.”

“We are deeply honored to welcome one of the world’s most respected figures to the Memorial and Museum. This visit is another powerful example of the significance global leaders are placing on coming to this sacred ground,” 9/11 Memorial President Joe Daniels said. “Pope Francis has expressed the importance of preserving the living memory of others. For many around the world, including those who experienced 9/11, there is no more important a place for that kind of reflection than the Memorial and Museum.”

“During the darkest days after the 9/11 attacks, the remarkable triumph of the human spirit – demonstrated through acts of courage, determination, and generosity as we came together and buttressed our grief with faith in the possibility of renewal – inspired not only our country but people around the world,” 9/11 Memorial Museum Director Alice Greenwald said. “Pope Francis’ messages of the power of love and

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peace over hate and violence echo the very principles that inspired the commitment to remember and rebuild. His historic visit reminds us that when we come together in peace, nothing is impossible.”

The Archdiocese of New York will invite guests to the interfaith meeting, which will be inside Foundation Hall, where President Obama led the dedication of the Museum on May 15, 2014.

A lottery will be held to offer an opportunity for a select number of guests from the 9/11 community to join the Pope on the Memorial during his time at the site, as well as for an extremely limited number to attend the event hosted by the New York Archdiocese in the Museum. More information about the lottery for 9/11 victims’ families, survivors, rescuers and recovery workers, first responders and members of the lower Manhattan community will be provided soon. Space for guests will be very limited for capacity and security reasons.

Francis will become the first pope to visit the Memorial and Museum. His predecessor, Pope Benedict XVI, knelt and prayed during a ceremony in April 2008 at the World Trade Center site before the Memorial and Museum were opened. Other pontiffs who have visited New York include Pope John Paul II and Pope Paul VI between the 1960s and the 1990s.

The Memorial opened on the 10-year anniversary of the attacks. The Museum publicly opened May 21, 2014.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL SEPTEMBER 11 MEMORIAL & MUSEUM

The National September 11 Memorial & Museum is the not-for-profit corporation created to oversee the design, fundraising, programming and operations of the Memorial and Museum. The Memorial and Museum are located on eight of the 16 acres of the World Trade Center site.

The Memorial remembers and honors the 2,983 people who were killed in the horrific attacks of September 11, 2001 and February 26, 1993. The design, created by Michael Arad and Peter Walker, consists of two reflecting pools formed in the footprints of the original Twin Towers and a plaza of trees. The Museum displays monumental artifacts linked to the events of 9/11, while presenting intimate stories of loss, compassion, reckoning and recovery that are central to telling the story of the 2001 and 1993 attacks and the aftermath. It also explores the global impact of 9/11 and its continuing significance. Davis Brody Bond are the architects of the belowground Museum and Snøhetta designed its entry pavilion. The Museum’s exhibition designers include Thinc, Local Projects and Layman Design.

For more information or to reserve a ticket to the 9/11 Memorial Museum, go to 911memorial.org.

MEDIA INQUIRIES

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