



MITCHELL J. LANDRIEU
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM
OFFICE OF STATE MUSEUM

ANGÈLE DAVIS
SECRETARY

DAVID M. KAHN
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

-PRESS RELEASE-

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 2, 2006

For more information contact:

Kacey M. Hill
Office 504-568-6972
Cell 504-432-9432
khill@crt.state.la.us

OLD COURTHOUSE MUSEUM TO HOST *SPLENDORS OF FAITH* EXHIBIT

Louisiana State Museum exhibition features religious art and artifacts from all over the state, coincides with the 150th anniversary of Church of Immaculate Conception in Natchitoches

Opening October 21, 2006 at the Old Courthouse Museum in Natchitoches, *Splendors of Faith* is an exhibition of religious art and artifacts from the birth of Catholicism through its expansion in the Natchitoches diocese during the 18th and 19th century. Paintings of early religious leaders, sacred vessels, tapestries and statues will be exhibited. The earliest artifacts include small piece of robe worn by Spanish missionary Blessed Antonio Margil, artifacts excavated from the Los Adaes 1721 mission, and early ecclesiastical records of 1730. The signature of the founder of Natchitoches, Louis Juchereau de St. Denis, can be viewed in the 1730 register of baptisms, confirmations, and deaths of Natchitoches inhabitants.

Also on exhibit will be artifacts of faith found in early Natchitoches homes in the nineteenth century. The first bishop of the Natchitoches diocese was Bishop Auguste Marie Martin. Bishop Martin's vestments, cathedra (official chair for the bishop), crozier and portraits are featured artifacts. Many magnificent splendors of faith such as chalices, ciboria, and monstrances are on loan from many churches across the diocese and Louisiana. One exceptional piece to be viewed only on November 18 and 19 is the 1938 Eucharistic Congress Monstrance on loan from the Archbishop of New Orleans. This monstrance combines a magnificent collage of Louisiana history with breathtaking artistic composition.

The exhibition opens on Saturday October 21, 2006. A special reception will be held on November 18 and 19 for the exhibition of the 1938 Eucharistic Congress Monstrance and original Sacramental register book of baptisms performed in Natchitoches in the early eighteenth century. The exhibit will run until June 1, 2007. The Old Courthouse Museum is open Monday through Saturday from 9:00 am -5:00 pm. Please call 318-357-2270 for further information and reservations for group tours.

The Louisiana State Museum is part of the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, which is overseen by Lieutenant Governor Mitchell J. Landrieu. The State Museum network includes six museums in New Orleans and sites in Baton Rouge, Natchitoches, Patterson and Thibodaux. For details on sites, exhibits and events, visit <http://lsm.crt.state.la.us>.