



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

An Exact Marble Casting of Michelangelo's Pietà will be placed at the Shrine of Padre Pio of Pietrelcina

San Antonio, Texas (October 15, 2016) – The Shrine of St. Padre Pio and Arte Divine, in conjunction with the Archdiocese of San Antonio, today announced that a life-size marble casting of Michelangelo's 'Pietà' will be placed at the Shrine of St. Padre Pio on October 21, 2016.

This famous work of art depicts the body of Jesus on the lap of his mother Mary after the crucifixion. The Vatican Observatory Foundation has authorized and licensed the creation of only 100 Pietà marble castings from a mold derived from the original Pietà. While some have been acquired by private collectors, most of these castings are being acquired by generous private or corporate benefactors and then donated to Catholic cathedrals, churches, hospitals, and academic settings as legacy gifts.

Perhaps the most beautiful sculpture ever created, the Pietà is the only piece of art Michelangelo ever signed. He considered it to be the consummate expression of both his personal talent and the Divine inspiration that he believed to be the guiding hand behind his work.

Under an exclusive license with the Vatican Observatory Foundation, Arte Divine has created this magnificent sculpture in cast Carrara marble from moldings derived from the original Pietà. The result is a precise, exact casting that is faithful to the original Pietà in every detail.

“We are so grateful to have the Shrine of St. Padre Pio selected for an exact replica of one of the greatest works of religious art ever created,” said Monsignor Patrick J. Ragsdale, Pastor of St. Padre Pio. “To be able to share this truly moving sculpture with our parishioners, the Archdiocese of San Antonio and faithful visitors coming from all parts of Texas is an extraordinary opportunity.”

Monsignor Ragsdale also announced that Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller, M.Sp.S. will celebrate the placement with an official unveiling and ceremony on October 21, 2016

“We are honored to place Michelangelo’s masterpiece, the Pieta, at the Shrine of St. Padre Pio said Pat Kerivan of Arte Divine. “It is Arte Divine’s mission to place Michelangelo’s Pietà in 100 sacred and secular settings around the world. In so doing we hope to elevate the hearts and minds of millions of the faithful who may not have the opportunity to travel to Saint Peter’s Basilica in Vatican City, Rome and personally experience the transcendent beauty of this divinely inspired work that is Michelangelo’s Pietà.”

For information regarding the upcoming events please contact Patty Mendoza @ 210-497-6101

About the Shrine of Padre Pio of Pietrelcina: 3843 Bulverde Parkway, San Antonio, TX.

The Shrine of St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina was officially and canonically established on August 15, 2001, on the Feast of the Assumption of Mary. Our first Mass was held on September 23, 2001, in a local public school cafeteria and after moving to two other cafeterias, we finally dedicated our current worship space and six religious education classrooms in 2008. In 2014, we added six more classrooms and a professional kitchen to accommodate our growth.

Today, because of the steady growth of our faith community and surrounding area, Archbishop Garcia-Siller has asked that we build a new worship space that will be the largest in the Archdiocese of San Antonio. The vision for this project is not just for use by our parish, but larger archdiocesan celebrations that other church/facilities are currently unable to accommodate, and as a holy site of prayer and worship for thousands who will make a pilgrimage in devotion to St. Padre Pio.

About Arte Divine/Vatican Observatory Foundation

Arte Divine is a worldwide distributor of the Vatican Observatory Foundation’s licensed reproduction of Michelangelo Buonarroti’s Pietà and his many other sculptures. For information on how your church can participate in this limited opportunity contact Pat Kerivan @ 602-952-9210, patkerivan@artedivine.com or artedivine.com.

The Vatican Observatory Foundation (VOF) generates revenue in support of the Vatican Observatory to foster its mission of scientific education, research and discovery. VOF brings together scientists, philanthropists and the Catholic Church to facilitate and promote scientific research of the heavens through support of the Vatican Advanced Technology Telescope and educational initiatives around the world.

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