



SAINT JOSEPH'S CHAPEL

Home of the Catholic Memorial at Ground Zero

FROM THE ARCHBISHOP OF NEW YORK

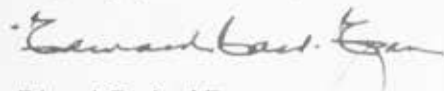
My dear friends in Christ:

There is no denying the brutality and the senselessness of the attacks our nation suffered on September 11, 2001, nor the feelings of loss and bewilderment that threatened to overwhelm us. But we also witnessed tremendous acts of bravery, generosity and support. As Saint Paul writes, "where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more (Romans 5:20)." Indeed it was the Spirit of God that quickened the hearts of so many to respond so spontaneously and unselfishly—a vivid reminder that even in our darkest hour God is with us.

As New Yorkers, and as Americans, we are all called to memorialize the events of September 11, so that the world will never forget what happened at the World Trade Center. As Catholics, we are called to share our belief in Christ's triumph of life over death, of love over hate. The Catholic Memorial will play an important role in the continued healing of our city and nation by showing how the assurances of faith can bring a measure of consolation to the families, friends and co-workers of all those who perished. I invite you to join in supporting the Catholic Memorial at Ground Zero, and once the memorial is completed, I hope you take the opportunity to visit Saint Joseph's Chapel and find comfort in prayer and reflection.

With prayerful best wishes, may I remain

Very truly yours in Christ,



Edward Cardinal Egan
Archbishop of New York



FROM RUDOLPH W. GIULIANI

I am sure that you, like me, remember all too clearly the shock and horror of the attack of September 11, 2001. Many of us lost loved ones, friends and colleagues, and we witnessed scenes of death and destruction we never imagined possible. Yet what was one of our saddest days, as a city and a nation, proved also to be one of our finest as we saw people displaying what is best and most noble in our national character.

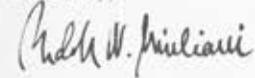
People around the world witnessed the brutality of the attacks, but also saw the bravery and heroism of our fellow citizens: the extraordinary response of police officers, firefighters and emergency medical service personnel, as well as the terrific efforts of ordinary people, all trying to provide whatever relief and assistance they could. I have never been so proud as I was that morning and in the weeks and months afterward. People were in pain: we were grieving, we were angry, we were frightened. But we stood together, united in our resolve to rebuild and renew what had been taken from us. What was intended to break our spirit only made us stronger.

St. Joseph's Chapel in Battery Park City, is creating a Catholic Memorial at Ground Zero to honor those who were lost, and to pay tribute to those who responded with such heroism and bravery in the face of mortal danger.

The memorial is sponsored by a Roman Catholic chapel, but the intention is to create a memorial for visitors of all religious traditions, a place of quiet reflection and prayer to complement the national memorial next door.

I hope you will join me in supporting the Memorial. It honors the best of New York – those whom we lost, and all who survive to remember and bear witness.

Sincerely,



Rudolph W. Giuliani



GIULIANI
PARTNERS



September 11, 2001 is a day forever etched in the memory of all Americans. But not Americans only. Millions throughout the world watched in horror as the tragedy unfolded before their eyes. Together we witnessed an assault on our shared humanity. And we, who were for so long spared the ravages of war, are now united with all those for whom terror and politically motivated violence have been part of their national experience. It will take many years to sort out how we have been affected by these attacks. But now, as people of faith, we must raise our voices in memory of all those innocent lives so tragically cut short, and testify to the power of virtue, heroism and compassion that became evident not only that day but in the weeks and months afterward.

Roman Catholics were the single religious group most represented among those who perished that day. We want to remember the good and decent men and women we lost: those of our faith, those of other faiths, and those whose faith is known to God alone. Our sacramental practice of creating images to convey a sense of the sacred will serve not only to honor their memory, but also to witness to the power of God's grace to bring good out of evil, love from hate, life from death. We hope people of all religious traditions will be inspired by these beautiful works of art to be agents of God's love in our world today.

Rev. Kevin V. Madigan

Pastor of St. Joseph's Chapel

ST. JOSEPH'S CHAPEL



The Chapel exterior

St. Joseph's Chapel is a mission of St. Peter's Church, the oldest Catholic parish in New York State. The parish includes all of Tribeca in southern Manhattan, from the Battery north to Canal Street and from Broadway west to the Hudson River. The Chapel originally sat in the area that was razed to create the World Trade Center; it is now located in the Gateway Plaza complex in Battery Park City, about 200 yards southwest of Ground Zero. Today St. Joseph's serves residents of Battery Park City, office workers, construction workers rebuilding the Trade Center site and visitors to Ground Zero.





On September 11, a cloud of dust and ash from the imploding World Trade Center towers engulfed St. Joseph's Chapel. In the wake of the disaster, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) designated the Chapel as its command station. The pulpit and pews were moved outside and destroyed in a rain-storm a few days later. FEMA erected a tent where the priests of St. Joseph's celebrated Mass for rescue and recovery workers. Then for the next several months, the Chapel was used as a sanctuary for construction workers, police officers and firefighters who came to eat, talk with spiritual counselors from a range of religious traditions and simply rest from the physically, emotionally and spiritually exhausting recovery efforts at Ground Zero.

As a result of these activities, the Chapel interior had to be completely restored. The Chapel reopened a year later on September 11, 2002.

Clockwise from top:

Father Kevin Madigan surveys the construction during the chapel renovation

Police officers take a break outside the Chapel in the first days after 9/11

The Chapel was transformed into FEMA's command station and relief center.

THE CATHOLIC MEMORIAL AT GROUND ZERO



The seeds of the idea for a Catholic Memorial were sown as the parish faced the need to renovate the Chapel space after 9/11. Initially we thought to express the journey of grief and healing we had taken as a faith community. But as we clarified our vision through discussion and prayer, we determined to create a memorial that would respond in a broader way to the event from the Catholic perspective. As people of faith, we have a sacred responsibility to affirm our belief that life is stronger than death and love is stronger than hate.

The Catholic Memorial at Ground Zero will honor those who died in the terrorist attacks, those who performed heroic and selfless acts on that day

and in the weeks afterward, and all of us who have survived to bear witness. This memorial will complement the national memorial at the site, and will give visitors an opportunity for prayer and reflection in a quiet sanctuary.

As our unifying theme we have chosen Jesus's words from St. John's Gospel, *Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat, but if it dies, it produces much fruit* (John 12:24). Renowned liturgical designer Lawrence Hoy of Renovata Studios has fashioned the Chapel's furnishings to represent this theme, including Amses Cosma Studio's design for a translucent glass wall behind the altar incorporating carved sheaves of wheat.