

Turlough McConnell Communications

Ireland in America™

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A MONUMENTAL LEGACY **Archbishop John J. Hughes and The Building of St. Patrick's Cathedral** **Featuring a Selection of Paintings from the Brian P. Burns Collection of Irish Art**

Presented by

Turlough McConnell Communications
on behalf of the Archdiocese of New York

***The extraordinary story of a towering 19th century Irish immigrant
and the Famine Irish who built a New York landmark***

Opens March 7, 2014 at the Consulate General of Ireland, New York

NEW YORK, NY (3-6-14) — The Consul General of Ireland New York is pleased to host **A MONUMENTAL LEGACY Archbishop John J. Hughes and the Building of St. Patrick's Cathedral**, an original historical exhibition that will introduce visitors to the living legacy of New York City's iconic St. Patrick's Cathedral on Fifth Avenue.

The Irish immigrants who fled their famine-ravaged homeland during the 1840s made an immediate and indelible impact on their adopted country. Within a generation St. Patrick's Cathedral rose above Fifth Avenue as a living monument to their ascendance in America. The Cathedral soon became a New York City landmark. Today, "America's Parish Church" is visited by millions and known throughout the world.

Born in Ireland and educated in America, Archbishop John J. Hughes emerged as the visionary and driving force behind the Cathedral, which he considered a necessary sanctuary for his people and their faith. Focusing on his remarkable life, A MONUMENTAL LEGACY tells the story of a diaspora for whom the Cathedral he envisioned became both a spiritual home and a symbol of their success as a community.

This year, the sesquicentennial of Archbishop Hughes's death, St. Patrick's is undergoing a historic restoration. *A Monumental Legacy* tells the story of the evolution of Irish America in 19th century New York. The exhibition features extensive original research and a selection of paintings from the Brian Burns Collection, one of the most important private collections of Irish American art. Narrative panels and rare images from the Archdiocesan archives further enhance the exhibition.

Opening Reception: Thursday, March 6, 2014

The Exhibition will be formally opened by Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Archbishop of New York, and Ambassador Noel Kilkenny, Consul General of Ireland New York.

Dates: March 7 through July 31, 2014

Admission: Free; handicapped accessible, open to the public by appointment by calling 212-319-2555 ext. 0 or sending an email to info@turloughmccconnell.com. Groups are welcome by appointment. Docent-led tours also arranged upon request by calling 718-383-3000 or by email.

Venue: Consulate General of Ireland, 345 Park Avenue, 17th floor, New York

Hours: Monday through Friday, 11 am to 4 pm

**[MEDIA NOTE: Jpg/Tiff images available on request from TMCC: please call 917-371-9774
or e-mail ekm@turloughmccconnell.com.]**

For Immediate Release:
March 6, 2014

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Archbishop John J. Hughes

Born in County Tyrone, Ireland, in 1797, the man who would become the fourth Roman Catholic Bishop of New York and the city's first Archbishop famously remarked that he enjoyed all the rights and benefits of British life until the day of his baptism. A champion of religious equality, Hughes was motivated by his first-hand experience of anti-Catholic persecution in Ireland. A lifelong champion of tolerance, this dedicated educator went on to found St. John's College, now New York City's Fordham University, and animate the building of St. Patrick's Cathedral. Hughes was connected with all the major figures of the day, including Elizabeth Ann Seton, America's first Roman Catholic saint, and President Abraham Lincoln who entrusted him with a special diplomatic mission during the Civil War.

Campaign to Restore St. Patrick's Cathedral

This exhibition, ***A MONUMENTAL LEGACY Archbishop John J. Hughes and The Building of St. Patrick's Cathedral***, has been organized to raise awareness of the Campaign to Restore St. Patrick's Cathedral as a New York landmark and a focal point of the immigrant story.

"Once referred to as 'Hughes' Folly,' St. Patrick's Cathedral is now a world-renowned testimony to the immigrants who built it and a highly visible reminder that God is present in the hustle and bustle of Manhattan," said Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York. "As we repair and restore 'America's Parish Church,' this exhibition is a timely reminder of the monumental contributions of Archbishop Hughes to both New York and the nation, as embodied in his beloved house of God."

The Cathedral now faces a vital challenge. The Trustees of St. Patrick's Cathedral and the Archdiocese of New York have embarked on an essential restoration to make structural and safety repairs estimated at approximately \$175 million.

The funds necessary to complete the first two phases of work, totaling over \$75 million dollars, have been raised. These phases include the interior and exterior of the Cathedral from Fifth Avenue to the high altar. Key scopes of work in these phases are the restoration of the Gallery organ, the Cathedral's pews, stained glass windows, exterior stonework, altar niches and ceiling plasterwork. Efforts are underway to secure the additional funding for the remainder of the work on the Cathedral Campus, including high altar and Lady Chapel, a new heating and cooling system and the Cathedral garden.

For more information and to donate, please go to: www.saintpatrickscathedral.org/restore. Donations may also be sent to:

St. Patrick's Cathedral Landmark Foundation
c/o Helen Lowe
Suite 1400
1011 First Avenue
New York, NY 10022

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Brian P. Burns Collection of Irish Art

The exhibition, *A MONUMENTAL LEGACY*, celebrates Archbishop John J. Hughes, St. Patrick's Cathedral, and the immigrant Irish through eight selected works from the Brian P. Burns Collection of Irish Art. The paintings, from some of Ireland's great masters, depict Ireland of the 19th century. Offering a unique insight into Irish life at the time the Cathedral was built, these paintings serve as a historical record of the culture and identity of Ireland and its artists, including Jack B. Yeats, Seán Keating, James Brenan, Erskine Nicol, Maurice MacGonigal, George William AE Russell and F. J. Davis. "Eileen and I are honored to lend our paintings to the exhibition celebrating the Ireland of Archbishop John J. Hughes's childhood, and are deeply grateful for the extraordinary support of the Consulate of Ireland New York, Cardinal Timothy Dolan, and our friends at the Archdiocese of New York. As Oscar Wilde once wrote, 'In order to enjoy the sunlight one must spend a sufficient time in the shade.' Now is the time for Ireland's art, such as the vision of Archbishop John Hughes, to come out of the shade and claim the recognition it deserves. We are proud to share these paintings, which will be on display at the Consulate over the next few months in celebration of the Restoration of Saint Patrick's Cathedral," commented Brian P. Burns.

An exhibition of the entire Brian P. Burns Irish Art Collection was first shown in 1996 at the McMullen Museum of Art, Boston College. From there, it traveled with acclaim to the Dublin City Gallery Hugh Lane in Ireland and later to the Yale Center for British Art in New Haven, CT. In May 2000, the collection inaugurated a new gallery at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC to mark the Kennedy Center's Festival, "Island: Arts from Ireland." This important collection of Irish art was last seen in 2007 at the Phoenix Art Museum in Arizona.

Turlough McConnell, Exhibition Curator

Turlough McConnell, a producer and writer with over two decades of experience as a creative program executive in the Irish-American market, is Curator, Producer and Creative Director of *A MONUMENTAL LEGACY Archbishop John J. Hughes and The Building of St. Patrick's Cathedral*. His extensive original research accessed newly available primary-source collections. His body of work includes such exhibitions as Ireland's Great Hunger at the Consulate General of Ireland in NYC, the international tours of *Fighting Irishmen* and *All Available Boats*; multimedia products and documentary films, including *The Brian P. Burns Collection of Irish Paintings: Portrait of a People*; and live events.

Turlough McConnell, Communications -- Ireland in America™

Turlough McConnell Communications-Ireland in America™ (TMCC) provides a range of services, including curatorial, production, tour management, marketing, venue location, and grant/sponsorship seeking to install exhibitions and museums in Ireland and the U.S. TMCC also produces print and digital products and offers planning, development, marketing and productions services to film, theater and live events in Irish-America. TMCC serves as the strategic advisor during the planning and construction phases of new museums, including work on developing the Ireland's Great Hunger Museum at Quinnipiac University, Hamden, CT.

Exhibition Contributors

TMCC has gathered a team of noted contributors to provide a cogent narrative. These include historians Terry Golway, PhD, Maureen Murphy, PhD, Professor Christine Kinealy, Founding Director of the Ireland's Great Hunger Institute at Quinnipiac University, novelist Peter Quinn, Dr. Éimear O'Connor, HRHA has provided new scholarship on the Brian P. Burns Collection of Irish Art, and Gregory Gromadzki, who advised on Collections issues. Restoration architect Jeffrey Murphy, AIA, LEED®, AP has provided photographs and insights into the work currently underway at the Cathedral.

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Exhibition Sponsors/Support

We are grateful to our partner CapTrust for making this Exhibition possible. Additional support is graciously provided by Eileen and Brian Burns.

CapTrust

CapTrust is a privately held, independent, investment consulting practice headquartered in Tampa, Florida. CapTrust provides a wide variety of investment consulting services for clients and creates comprehensive investment solutions for Institutional Retirement Plans, Institutional Investors and Family Office Services. Managing Principal, Stephen Schott, says of the exhibit, "We are thrilled to sponsor the telling of such an important story in an effort to support the restoration of St. Patrick's Cathedral. Archbishop John Hughes's life and accomplishments are a significant, yet often untold, part of American history. CapTrust is proud to help bring Hughes' story to life."

Consulate General of Ireland

A range of Consular Services (passport, visa, citizenship etc.) is provided to the public by the Department of Foreign Affairs and its international network of Embassies, Consulates and Honorary Consuls. Ambassador Noel Kilkenny, who currently serves as Consul General in New York, commented, "As the representative of the government and people of Ireland in New York, I am delighted and honored to host this exhibition. Archbishop Hughes's contribution to his adopted city is most evident in the wonderful structure of St. Patrick's Cathedral, which stands as a legacy of the Famine Irish who funded and built it. Archbishop Hughes's other great achievements were his focus on education. Notably, Hughes founded St. John's/Fordham, which educated generations of Irish and other New Yorkers, who moved from poverty to opportunity. Hughes also was responsible for the establishment of the Emigrant Savings Bank, which enabled so many immigrant Irish to send money home to their poor and oppressed families in Ireland."

For further information on A MONUMENTAL LEGACY Exhibition:

http://www.saintpatrickscathedral.org/about_restore_hughes_exhibit.php

--or--

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