



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 3, 2009

Media Contacts: Janine Hanson/Kim Ramsden, PR Co-Directors, (651) 221-9423
Sarah Imholte, PR Coordinator, (651) 221-9412
Peg Roessler, PR Representative, (952) 949-6550

**LANDMARK DEAD SEA SCROLLS EXHIBITION AT THE SCIENCE MUSEUM TO FEATURE
TWENTY-EIGHT FOLIOS FROM *THE SAINT JOHN'S BIBLE***

Inclusion of original pages from *The Saint John's Bible* – pages that have never been seen in the Twin Cities – allows the juxtaposition of the world's oldest and newest hand-scribed Bibles

St. Paul, Minn. – When *The Dead Sea Scrolls* exhibition makes its debut at the Science Museum of Minnesota on March 12, 2010, it will include a gallery devoted to *The Saint John's Bible*. Displaying the original folios from *The Saint John's Bible*, which is the world's *newest* hand-scribed illustrated Bible, and the first to be commissioned in 500 years, provides a compelling juxtaposition with the Dead Sea Scrolls, which are the *oldest* hand-scribed biblical manuscript by centuries.

Commissioned by Saint John's Abbey and University in Collegeville, Minnesota, *The Saint John's Bible* is a contemporary work created in the tradition of the medieval manuscripts and is the first handwritten, illuminated Bible to be commissioned by a Benedictine monastery since the advent of the printing press more than 500 years ago. Working with a team of theologians from Saint John's Abbey and University and artists from both the United Kingdom and the United States, the Bible's artistic director, Donald Jackson, has spent the last eleven years working in Wales, scribing and illustrating the manuscript. In their work on *The Saint John's Bible*, Jackson and his team have used quills fashioned from turkey, swan and goose feathers, as well as paints and inks hand-ground from minerals and stones such as lapis lazuli, malachite, and vermillion as well as 24-karat gold, silver and platinum leaf.

"We're thrilled to include *The Saint John's Bible* in our exhibition of *The Dead Sea Scrolls*," comments Mike Day, senior vice president of museum enterprises at the Science Museum of Minnesota. "Not only is it stunning in its beauty and splendor, but it also provides incredible context for our visitors. Many of the same techniques used to transcribe the Dead Sea Scrolls more than 2,000 years ago are still being used today on the *Saint John's Bible*. At the same time, though, *The Saint John's Bible* is an extremely meaningful example of a biblical manuscript for today's contemporary world."

The exhibition at the Science Museum will include original folios, or individual vellum pages, from the recently-completed volumes of *The Saint John's Bible: Prophets and Wisdom Books*. Neither of these volumes have been

-more-

**THE SAINT JOHN'S BIBLE COMING TO SCIENCE MUSEUM DEAD SEA SCROLLS EXHIBITION
PAGE 2 OF 3**

displayed in the Twin Cities before. Highlights will include *Vision of Isaiah*, *Suffering Servant*, *Valley of the Dry Bones*, Ezekiel's *Vision of the New Temple*, *Job Frontispiece*, *Seven Pillars of Wisdom* and *The Garden of Desire*. In addition, the exhibition will feature original artist tools, sketches and materials from Jackson's scriptorium.

"*The Saint John's Bible* makes a statement about faith, as well as the importance of art and imagination," says Tim Ternes, Director of *The Saint John's Bible* at Saint John's University. "We are pleased to share the work and introduce new elements of the project to Twin Cities audiences through this exhibition."

When completed in early 2011, *The Saint John's Bible* will be composed of seven volumes: Gospels and Acts; Psalms; Pentateuch; Wisdom Books; Prophets; Historical Books; and Letters and Revelation. Work on the Bible continues today, with five of the seven volumes already complete. All of the folios are unbound and will remain that way until all seven volumes are completed, at which time each volume will be bound separately. For more information about *The Saint John's Bible* please visit www.saintjohnsbible.org.

Visitor Information

The display of *The Saint John's Bible* will be included in *The Dead Sea Scrolls* exhibition, which opens Friday, March 12, 2010, at the Science Museum of Minnesota. Tickets are \$28 for adults and \$22 for kids and seniors. (Ticket price includes museum admission, *The Dead Sea Scrolls* exhibition, and a *Dead Sea Scrolls* audio tour, which features adult and family versions.) As with past exhibits, admission to *The Dead Sea Scrolls* will be timed and dated; visitors will be asked to choose a specific date for their visit when they purchase their tickets, as well as a time to enter *The Dead Sea Scrolls*.

About Saint John's Abbey

Saint John's is home to Saint John's Abbey and University, the School of Theology and Seminary and the Preparatory School. Over the years, Saint John's has become home to a number of other renowned institutions including The Liturgical Press, the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library, the Episcopal House of Prayer, the Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Research, the Jay Phillips Center for Jewish Christian Learning, Arca Artium, Saint John's Pottery, Saint John's Arboretum and Saint John's Boy Choir.

About Saint John's University

Saint John's University for men and the College of Saint Benedict for women are partners in liberal arts education, providing students the opportunity to benefit from the distinctions of not one, but two nationally recognized Catholic, Benedictine, residential undergraduate colleges. Together, the college challenge students to live balanced lives of learning, work, leadership and service in a changing world.

-more-

**THE SAINT JOHN'S BIBLE COMING TO SCIENCE MUSEUM DEAD SEA SCROLLS EXHIBITION
PAGE 3 OF 3**

About the Science Museum of Minnesota

The Science Museum of Minnesota serves more than one million visitors each year with its hands-on exhibits, breathtaking giant screen films, special events, and unparalleled education programs. It is located at 120 West Kellogg Boulevard in downtown St. Paul. For specific directions, parking information, hours, show times and ticket information, call (651) 221-9444 or visit www.smm.org.

Images from *The Saint John's Bible* are available for download from the Liturgical Press press room, online at <https://www.litpress.org/pressroom/Login.aspx?Referrer=Default.aspx>. B-roll, in DVD format, is also available for media use. Please contact Sarah Imholte at (651) 221-9412 or simholte@smm.org for access.

Find additional information and images from *The Dead Sea Scrolls* at the Science Museum of Minnesota at www.smm.org/media.

###