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Kells to Clonmacnoise: Medieval Irish Art in Context Press Release

Bellarmino Museum of Art

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BOOK OF KELLS
TEACHER WORKSHOP, STUDENT ART COMPETITION & SHOW

The Gospel Values in our Schools

On Thursday, March 24, 2011 teachers from across the Diocese of Bridgeport will have the opportunity to attend a targeted workshop at the Bellarmine Museum of Art (www.fairfield.edu/museum), built around the latter's upcoming special exhibition: *Kells to Clonmacnoise: Medieval Irish Art in Context* (April 18 – May 23, 2011). This exciting collaborative endeavor will bring Diocesan teachers from grades 3-8, art teachers and librarians together with art historians, museum professionals and art educators from Fairfield University, the Museum's parent organization. Attendees will be provided with instructional tools designed to help them introduce their students to Medieval Celtic art and culture generally and the *Book of Kells* (an illuminated manuscript from *circa* 800 AD) in particular. Participants will be given the opportunity to return to the museum with their students to see the *Kells* exhibition (which will highlight a facsimile copy of the *Book of Kells*, on loan from Special Collections at University library, as well as four high-quality reproductions of the national treasures of Ireland, lent to the Bellarmine by the Metropolitan Museum of Art). They will so be introduced to a curriculum-based art project, designed to be carried out with their students back in the classroom and created to reinforce the Gospel Values (the Diocese's designated "theme" for the current academic year). This project will culminate in an art show in the Bellarmine Museum that will highlight approximately twenty-four modern "illuminated" pages created by participating students. Winning works, which will be on display in the Museum's Meditz Gallery from June 2-10, 2011, will not only reflect the aesthetics of the *Book of Kells* but also will celebrate the Gospel Values. These same works will then be use to create a gallery of children's art for the University's Graduate School of Education & Allied Professions from June 15 – September 15, 2011 before being returned to their creators.

"The Bellarmine Museum is dedicated to preserving, studying, and exhibiting those objects entrusted to its care, while never losing sight of its obligation to educate and inspire its many audiences, for the greater enrichment of all."

For more information please contact:

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