Pope John Paul II Statue Adorns St. Louis Cathedral

With Mayor Landrieu in Attendance, Archdiocese Blesses Statue of Sainted Pope

by Megan Celano

The Archdiocese of New Orleans opened the New Orleans Tricentennial with a mass at Saint Louis Cathedral on Sunday, January 7. Immediately following the mass, Archbishop Gregory Aymond blessed the statue of Saint Pope John Paul II which was installed directly in front of the cathedral.

The American Italian Cultural Center coordinated the statue’s creation in Italy by local artist Franco Alessandrini and its installation at the cathedral. The mass and blessing were both beautiful and inspiring.

Mayor Mitch Landrieu, Archbishop Gregory Aymond, Alessandrini, and AICC Chairman Frank Maselli all spoke at the event. The Sansepolcro Flag Throwers performed in Jackson Square after the blessing.

We invite you to visit the statue and enjoy this gift to the citizens of New Orleans upon her Tricentennial.

Top: Archbishop Gregory Aymond blesses the statue of Saint Pope John Paul II. Above: Sculptor Franco Alessandrini stands by his statue as Mayor Mitch Landrieu and AICC Chairman Frank Maselli share the podium.

ST. JOSEPH’S DAY FESTIVITIES

For information on the St. Joseph’s Day Parade in the French Quarter, turn to page 3.

Find an extensive list of St. Joseph altars on page 4.

The Sansepolcro Flag Throwers performed in Jackson Square to celebrate the statue’s blessing. These performers keep a 500-year-old Italian tradition alive.