



For Immediate Release: August 18, 2016

*** * * MEDIA ADVISORY * * ***

**“VATICAN SPLENDORS” EXHIBIT EXTENDED
AT THE REAGAN LIBRARY THROUGH SEPT 11, 2016**

**EXTENDED HOURS ON WEEKENDS ALSO ADDED TO ACCOMMODATE
HIGHEST VISITED SPECIAL EXHIBIT IN REAGAN LIBRARY HISTORY**

WHAT:

Vatican Splendors: A Journey Through Faith and Art has brought in record crowds to the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum. Since its opening on March 13, 2016, museum attendance has been up 42% from the same time period last year. **With just over one week left until the exhibit closes, the Reagan Library is thrilled to announce that the exhibit has been extended through September 11, 2016. Due to the large crowds, the public is encouraged to book their tickets in advance at www.reaganlibrary.com/tickets.** This fascinating and extraordinary exhibit is not one to be missed!

In addition to extending the exhibit through September 11th, the Reagan Library will now be open all **Saturdays and Sundays until the exhibit closes from 9:30 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.** On weekdays the museum will remain open at its regular hours of 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

“President Reagan’s relationship with the Vatican was very strong and we wanted to share his appreciation for their art, history and culture with the American public,” said John Heubusch, executive director for the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation. “We’re honored that the Vatican has allowed us to extend this exhibit an additional two weeks. It is our hope that this will allow everyone who wanted to see the exhibit the opportunity to do so.”

With items on display that are not ever on display in Rome, **Vatican Splendors** truly is an once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for people of all ages. The exhibit has broad appeal. Of the over 232,000 people that have toured through it since it opened on March 13th, guests have come from all 50 states as well as Washington, D.C.

For more information about the exhibit, please visit www.reaganlibrary.com/vaticansplendors.

ABOUT THE EXHIBIT:

The Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum is the exclusive West Coast destination of *Vatican Splendors: A Journey Through Faith and Art*. This 10,000 square foot exhibition, comprising one of the largest

Editor’s Note: Photos available upon request.

Vatican collections ever to tour the United States, includes an extraordinary collection of historical and religious objects, some of which date to the first century, as well as works of art by Michelangelo, Bernini, Guercino and others.

“The potential to educate and spread the good news of the Catholic Church and faith through the educational content of this exhibition is unprecedented,” said Most Reverend José H. Gomez, Archbishop of Los Angeles. “To have this exhibit in the Los Angeles area is an honor.”

From the opening theater experience, where visitors become immersed in the grandeur of the Vatican, to the closing object of a cast of Saint John Paul II’s hand (which guests may grasp), visitors encounter the art, history and culture of the Vatican with unprecedented access and insight. This special presentation of art and objects includes many never before on display in North America, and some not on view to the general public, even in Rome. **Pre-sale tickets for the exhibit, which include admission into the main Reagan Library Museum and Air Force One Pavilion, are available at www.ReaganFoundation.org/VaticanSplendors.**

Following its time at the Reagan Library, the items will return to the Vatican, from which they cannot be absent for more than one year. The exhibit includes one of Michelangelo’s signed documents and a rarely seen bas relief sculpture created towards the end of his career. Other objects include venerated remains (bone fragments) of Saints Peter and Paul, artifacts discovered at the tombs of Saints Peter and Paul, and historical objects from the modern and ancient basilicas of Saint Peter’s in Rome. The objects are presented in galleries and recreated environments designed to enhance the understanding of their historical and artistic significance. Visitors feel transported to the Vatican, from the underground catacombs where the remains of Saint Peter were discovered to the magnificent papal chambers found above ground. From the sights and sounds of the grand Basilica to a touchable cast of Saint John Paul II’s hand, the exhibition is a multi-sensory experience. It’s a true “insiders” view of the Vatican, including its spiritual, artistic and ceremonial treasures.

Vatican Splendors is organized and circulated in conjunction with the Congregazione per l’Evangelizzazione dei Popoli of the Vatican City State. Items in the collection—which include mosaics, frescoes, paintings by Renaissance masters, works by well-known sculptors, intricately embroidered silk vestments, precious objects from the Papal Mass, uniforms of the Papal Swiss Guard, historical maps and documents and relics are on loan from The Reverenda Fabbrica of Saint Peter, the Basilica of Saint Paul Outside-the-Walls, the Basilica of Saint Mary Major, the Vatican Library, the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, the Apostolic Floreria, the Papal Swiss Guard, the Vatican Museums, Pontifical Urbaniana University, Private Papal Storehouse and private collections. The exhibition is produced by Evergreen Exhibitions.

WHERE:

The Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum, 40 Presidential Drive, Simi Valley, CA

THE REAGAN LIBRARY:

The Reagan Library is located at 40 Presidential Drive in Simi Valley, California. Public hours are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. The Museum is only closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year’s Day. For Museum Admission fees, please visit www.reaganlibrary.com. Museum exhibit tickets may be pre-purchased at www.reaganlibrary.com/tickets. For more information, call (800) 410.8354 or visit www.reaganlibrary.com/vaticansplendors.

EVERGREEN EXHIBITIONS:

Editor’s Note: Photos available upon request.

Evergreen Exhibitions is a world leader in providing high quality, state-of-the-art exhibitions in collaboration with more than 200 leading museums and research institutions in the United States and internationally.

###

Media Contacts: Melissa Giller; mgiller@reaganfoundation.org; (805) 522-2977