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**BRONZE SCULPTURE BY PORTLAND ARTIST TO BE PERMANENTLY
PLACED IN AMERICA'S OLDEST CATHEDRAL**
Art buyer donates "The Blessing" in memory of her late father

Portland, Ore. (April 18, 2006) – When Boring, Oregon artist Kris Parmele completed the casting of her sculpture featuring Mother Teresa with a child entitled, "The Blessing," she had envisioned her artwork providing inspiration by gracing the interior of a local church or hospital. Far from the realm of her imagination was the sculpture's ultimate placement in such a prestigious facility as the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The neoclassical Minor Basilica, now designated a National Shrine and National Historic Landmark, is located on a hill above Baltimore Harbor in Maryland. This first great metropolitan cathedral constructed in America following the adoption of the Constitution will celebrate its 200th anniversary and grand reopening on November 4, 2006, after undergoing an extensive two-year restoration. In honor of the rededication, Maryland Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. has proclaimed 2006 "The Year of the Baltimore Basilica."

On May 29, 1996, Mother Teresa of Calcutta graced the Basilica with her presence by receiving the renewal of vows of 35 of her Missionaries of Charity. Thus, when Antoinette Amato of Tacoma, Washington spotted the sculpture at Yoshida's Fine Art Gallery (206 NW 10th, Portland, Ore.) in early April, the thought of donating the art piece to the Basilica in her late father's name seemed a perfectly fitting gesture. "The Blessing" is currently in transit to its new home, where Parmele hopes it will touch the hearts of viewers as greatly as the real-life subject, Mother Teresa, touched those of millions of people around the globe, crossing over racial and religious barriers.

To view an image of "The Blessing," visit - <http://www.yoshidasfineartgallery.com/index/artists/2/22/>

Artist Kris Parmele

Kris Parmele, an Oregon native, has been honing her artistic craft for more than 30 years. In all of her pieces Parmele strives to be technically accurate, believing attention to detail is fundamental for penetrating into and drawing out the essence of the humanity she desires to capture. Her development of facial expressions and physical movement in both clay and bronze results in delightful, contemporary personalities with stories to tell. It is Parmele's vision that individuals viewing her sculptures will be mentally stimulated and emotionally impacted. "The Blessing," a spiritual masterpiece, will undoubtedly accomplish both for future visitors of the Basilica.

Cathedral History

The Basilica's cornerstone was laid in July 1806, after which it has become a symbol of the religious freedom upon which this country was created. In a newfound nation, Bishop Carroll appealed to his parishioners and the population of all religions for their support and generosity, resulting in an outpouring of gifts from around the world.

As the country's first archdiocese, two-thirds of U.S. Catholic dioceses can trace their heritage to this location. Under its auspices also came a series of other firsts, including the first order of African-American nuns. Since 1976, the Basilica has seen visits by Pope John Paul II, Mother Teresa, and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople, as well as hosted the ordainment of Father Michael J. McGivney, founder of the Knights of Columbus.

Two Americans guided the Basilica's original design and architecture: John Carroll, the country's first bishop, later Archbishop of Baltimore, and cousin of Charles Carroll, who signed the Declaration of Independence; and Benjamin Henry Latrobe, an architect of the U.S. Capitol and father of American architecture, who was inspired by President Thomas Jefferson. Carroll, founder of Georgetown University, is buried in the Basilica crypt along with James Cardinal Gibbons and other Baltimore archbishops.

About the Gallery ...

Yoshida's Fine Art Gallery features more than 5,000 square feet of original artwork by more than 40 premier artists. Accenting the artwork are antique Chinese collectibles ranging from 80 to 300 years in age, each personally selected by Linda Yoshida, Gallery Director, during her annual visits to Shanghai. Yoshida's gallery has been named "The Best of the West" in national publication *Southwest Art Magazine* in three consecutive issues and continues to claim exclusive art décor rights to several designer homes at the annual Street of Dreams and Parade of Homes.

Yoshida's Wine Bar & Bistro

A unique feature of the Yoshida Gallery is Yoshida's Wine Bar & Bistro, offering much sought after wines, assorted beers and live jazz music. A diverse retail section includes both imported and domestic wines, and special requests are encouraged. Indoor and outdoor seating available. Call for private bookings. For more information and an updated calendar of events, visit www.yoshidawinebar.com.

Located at 206 NW 10th Avenue in Portland, Ore., Yoshida's Fine Art Gallery, Wine Bar & Bistro is part of the Yoshida Group, a conglomeration of 18 diverse companies headquartered in Portland, Ore. Products range from Jones Golf bags to Prison Blues® garments. Open 7 days a week, gallery hours are 10am-6pm Monday through Saturday and 12pm-5pm on Sunday. For more information, visit our website at www.yoshidagallery.com