



File photos | CLARION HERALD

Pope John Paul II celebrated the Eucharist at an outdoor altar erected on the campus of the University of New Orleans. A heavy downpour blew through the lakefront in the hour before the pope's arrival, stopping when he arrived in the Popemobile. A survey taken a year after his 1987 visit indicated wide spiritual benefits.

Sainted memories, and more to come; St. John Paul II statue will grace front entrance of St. Louis Cathedral

Sculptor Franco Alessandrini, a native of Italy who has lived in New Orleans for the last 50 years, stands next to his Carrara marble statue of St. John Paul II before it was blessed by Pope Francis in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican on Nov. 15. The statue is a gift of the American Italian Renaissance Foundation to the Archdiocese of New Orleans, and the archdiocese is in turn offering it as a gift to the City of New Orleans for its tricentennial celebration in honor of the 1987 papal visit by Pope John Paul II. The statue will be placed near the front doors of St. Louis Cathedral so that it is visible 24 hours a day by visitors to the city. The American Italian Renaissance Foundation is accepting tax-deductible contributions for the statue project. For more information, go to AmericanItalianCulturalCenter.com. Alessandrini also has sculpted the Monument to the Immigrants in Woldenberg Park on the Mississippi River and statues of religious figures for the Old Ursuline Convent.



Photo | COURTESY FRANK MASELLI



Pope John Paul II never forgot the personal touch, shaking hands with the police officers who were part of his security detail at Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport.

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