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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Cardinal Tauran to Speak at Sacred Heart Major Seminary American Friends of the Vatican Library Celebrates 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

The American Friends of the Vatican Library, a fund-raising organization begun in Detroit, will celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Sunday, October 8, with a Mass, reception and dinner at Sacred Heart Major Seminary, 2701 Chicago Boulevard, Detroit. The keynote speaker will be Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, librarian-archivist of the Roman Catholic Church and former foreign minister of the Holy See.

The Mass will be at 4 p.m., the reception at 5 p.m., and the dinner at 6 p.m. Cardinal Tauran will speak on "Contributions of the Vatican Apostolic Library to Christian, Jewish and Islamic Studies: A Mission of Peace." Tickets to the event are \$125 per person. For more information, call 248-683-0311.

The Vatican Apostolic Library was begun by Pope Nicholas V in 1451 and formally established by Pope Sixtus IV in 1471. The library has a very diverse collection that includes the humanities and scientific disciplines. Manuscripts can be found in various languages, including Latin, Greek, Hebrew and Arabic. There is a full-time staff of over 85 people. Scholars of various ethnic and religious backgrounds from countries all over the world use the library every year.

The American Friends of the Vatican Library was founded by two Detroit librarians, Msgr. Francis X. Canfield and Sr. Claudia Carlen, IHM. The organization received approval from Pope John Paul II through a letter written on October 9, 1981 by the Secretary of State. The American Friends, like many library friends groups, raises funds for special projects that fall outside the operational budget. Many American Cardinals, including Cardinal Adam Maida, are honorary board members. The current president is Msgr. Charles Kosanke, rector of SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary, Orchard Lake.

Special projects supported by the American Friends of the Vatican Library have included renovation of the lighting in the Manuscript Reading Room, a Manuscript Depository, manuscript preservation, computers, the Incunabula Catalog project, the Prefect's Archives, and the annual publication of several scholarly studies. The organization also has played a role in the retrospective conversion of the library's card catalog.

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**\*\*\*Note to Media Representatives: You are invited to cover this event. Cardinal Tauran will be available for interviews. For more information, contact Msgr. Kosanke at 248-683-0311.**