



## Statements and releases

### NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Archdiocese of San Francisco signs letter of intent to sell St. Brigid Church to Academy of Art University**

In one of Archbishop William J. Levada's final administrative actions before assuming full-time his duties as Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith at the Vatican, the leader of the Catholic Archdiocese of San Francisco followed through on his pledge to seek a buyer willing to preserve the Saint Brigid Church building, located at Van Ness and Broadway in San Francisco.

On August 12, representatives of the Archdiocese of San Francisco and the Academy of Art University signed a Letter of Intent, which will serve as the foundation for a more formal purchase and sale agreement. Saint Brigid Parish and Church were closed in July 1994.

In noting the selection of the Art Academy, Archbishop Levada said, "I was impressed by the Art Academy's proven track record in preserving a number of San Francisco historic buildings and using them for purposes that benefit the entire community." In addition to the preservation plan for the Saint Brigid Church building, Archbishop Levada recently arranged for the sale and preservation of the Sacred Heart Church building at Fillmore and Fell Streets in San Francisco. Well-known Bay Area philanthropist Fred Furth agreed to purchase the entire property of the former Sacred Heart Parish, which was closed in December 2004. The site will be the home of the Megan Furth Academy, a K-8 private Catholic school serving inner-city minority children. There are 90 parishes and 11 missions in the Archdiocese of San Francisco, which includes San Francisco, San Mateo and Marin Counties. The Archdiocese of San Francisco, established in 1853, is a major preservationist of historic and significant buildings. The approximately 50 Catholic churches in San Francisco include Mission Dolores, National Shrine of Saint Francis, Old Saint Mary's, Saint Patrick, Saint Boniface, Notre Dame des Victoires, and Saint Dominic. Four of the first five landmarked buildings in San Francisco are Catholic churches still in operation.