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SAINT THOMAS ACADEMY COMMISSIONS WILLEY FOR SCULPTURE OF ARCHBISHOPS TO MARK 125TH ANNIVERSARY

MENDOTA HEIGHTS, Minn., Oct. 12, 2010 – Saint Thomas Academy announced today that it has commissioned a bronze sculpture of Archbishop John Ireland and Archbishop John Roach to commemorate the school's 125th anniversary this year. The bronze sculpture by award-winning Minneapolis artist Foster Willey Jr. will be unveiled on April 26, 2011, at the Spring Review.

"It is always an honor to commemorate individuals whose lives have had such impact," Willey said. "Archbishop Ireland and Archbishop Roach demonstrated great leadership and commitment through their service to Saint Thomas Academy and the region. Hopefully these portraits will inspire the young cadets to pursue their dreams and aspirations in service of others as well."

Saint Thomas Academy is celebrating the 125th anniversary of its founding by Ireland in 1885. Originally called Saint Thomas Aquinas Seminary, the school had a theological department that prepared young men for priesthood, and a collegiate department that prepared young men for university study and living a devout life. This early institution was the progenitor of four institutions: St. Thomas College, the St. Paul Seminary, Nazareth Hall Preparatory Seminary, and Saint Thomas Military Academy. ([Saint Thomas Academy history](#))

Roach was a professor, dean of students, and headmaster of Saint Thomas Military Academy in 1965, when it moved to its current campus in Mendota Heights and separated from the University of St. Thomas. It was at this time the school became known as Saint Thomas Academy. Roach was archbishop of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis from 1975 to 1995.

"As we celebrate our 125th anniversary, it's fitting that we acknowledge these two leaders and their legacy and continued influence on the education and development of young men still today," said Dr. Thomas Mich, headmaster. "The school proudly operates on the foundation they established – Catholic, college preparatory, leadership and all-male, which develops respectful, well-rounded young men prepared to be business, civic and philanthropic leaders."

Willey's work will be a bronze plaque, 36" wide by 30" in height, with a low-relief, bronze sculpture of the two men. Each life-size portrait will be sculpted in clay, molded, and then cast in bronze. The portraits will be a flattened rendering, with some dimensionality like the portrait on a coin.

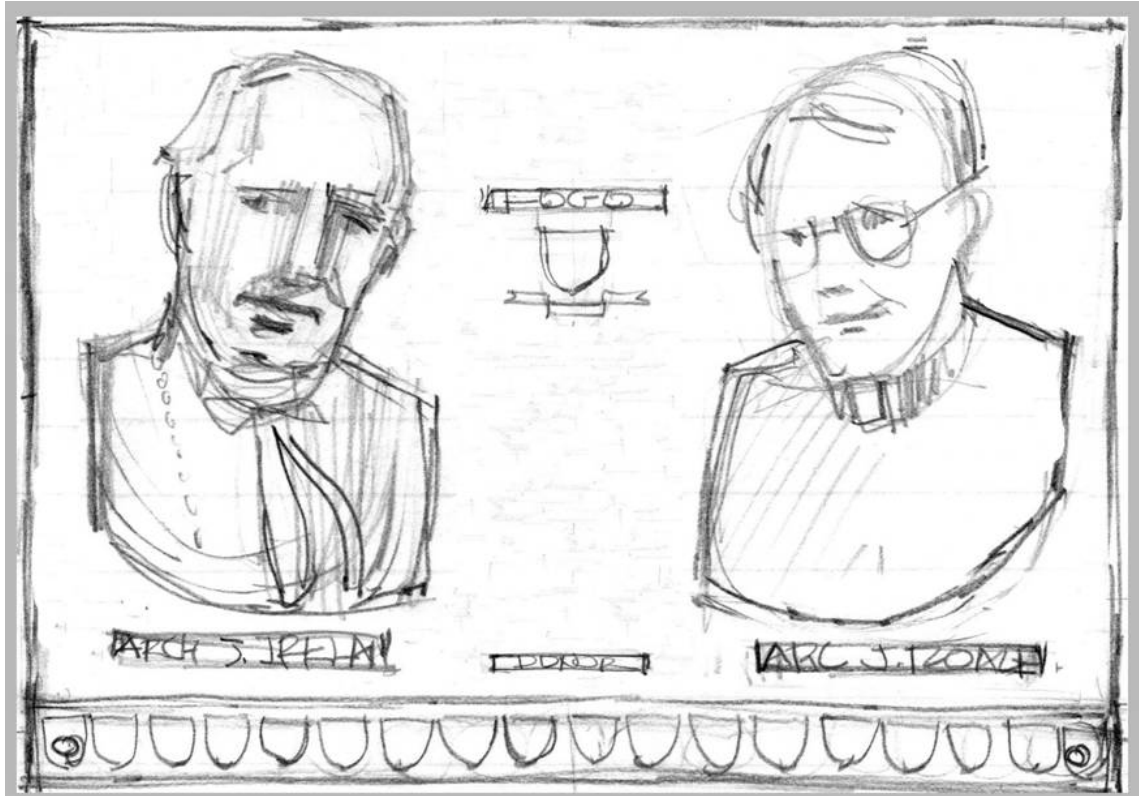
Willey said, "For me, the challenge is to capture both the likeness and the spirit of the person being represented, both of which are essential for a good portrait, and all the more difficult when the individuals portrayed are familiar and iconic."

Willey has done commissioned works for the likes of Plymouth's Millennium Garden, The West End Shoppes in St. Louis Park, Nicollet Commons Park in Burnsville and the city of Minneapolis. He has been a finalist for several local competitions including the 2007 St. Louis Park Public Art/Forecast, and the Jackson Square Park Neighborhood Project. For more information visit his [website](#).

About Saint Thomas Academy

Founded in 1885, Saint Thomas Academy is an all-male, college preparatory, Catholic, military/leadership school committed to preparing young men to succeed in college and in life. Nationally accredited by the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS), the academy challenges young men to excel academically, spiritually, morally and physically in and out of the classroom. For more information, please visit www.cadets.com.

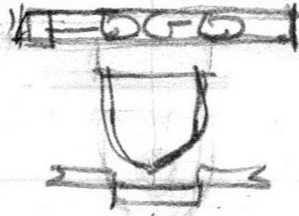
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Artist Rendering by Foster Willey Jr.



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