

Papal Visit Western Pennsylvania Connection

Pennsylvania Association of Numismatists President Thomas Uram had the idea that a quality medal should be produced to commemorate the U.S. visit of Pope Francis. It was obvious that the highlight of the Papal visit would be Philadelphia and many items would be created that would focus on this historic occasion. Nothing had been put forth to recognize the Washington D.C. visit that is the first destination of Pope Francis.



In January of 2015 Tom made an appointment to meet with Cardinal Donald Wuerl of the Catholic Diocese of Washington. The concept of creating a Papal medal was well received by Cardinal Wuerl and both men agreed that it would have to be a quality end product or nothing at all. The Cardinal easily recognized Tom's coin collecting background and experience as a member of the Citizen's Coinage Advisory Committee, which makes recommendations to the U.S. Treasury as to selecting coin designs, that the right person to tackle the job was now in front of him.

Tom contacted sculptor and engraver Don Everhart about taking on a private commission. He knew very well of Don's gifted talents from his work at the U.S. Mint and a previous medal that Don had done for Tom highlighting the 150th anniversary of our National Motto, In God We Trust.

Mr. Everhart agreed to take on this project and began preparing sketches. These were presented to the Cardinal and the final selections were decided.



Don's artistic rendition on the medal's obverse succinctly captured the Pope's warm and friendly personality. The reverse design brilliantly features three of Washington's iconic domes. The center dome is the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, the dome to the left is the seat of the Diocese, the Cathedral of Saint Matthew the Apostle, and the dome to the right is the immediately recognizable U.S. Capitol Building. The detail and time involved under a tight schedule was challenging for Don Everhart but the end product is beautiful and compelling.

Northwest Territorial Mint, a private company, was contracted to produce the medals in silver and bronze. Their experience in producing quality work is known throughout numismatic circles. The finished product exceeded all expectations and delighted the first few people that saw the end result. They are now available for sale through the Pennsylvania Association of Numismatists to the collector that appreciates the medallion beauty and to the religious that are fully engaged in this Pope's global popularity.

Cardinal Wuerl has received a number of the medals as special gifts for visiting Cardinals, Guests, and Dignitaries that will be attending the scheduled Papal Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine on September 23rd. The medals will be housed in a bi-fold sleeve that will describe this very special event. PAN has contracted with the Arc of Washington County, which promotes community involvement, independence and dignity for children and adults with intellectual and developmental challenges to assemble the many medals into the containers and sleeves. This

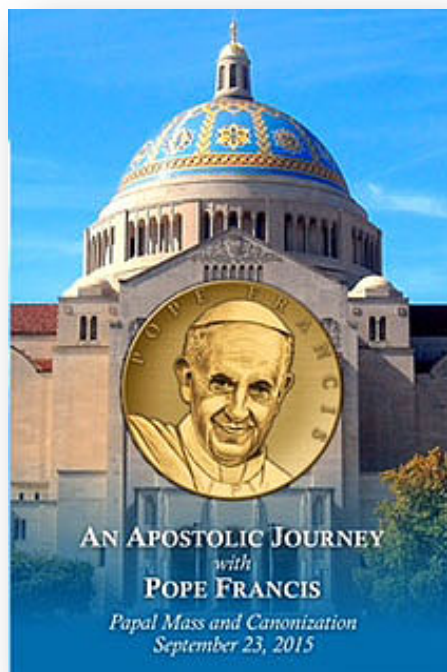
project is an opportunity to employ those that may have difficulty in the job place. Both causes are good and the collaboration is a perfect match.



Pope Francis Silver Medal

The medals are also available for purchase by the public. Information and purchase options can be found on the Pennsylvania Association of Numismatists (PAN) website at www.pancoins.org

They are priced from an affordable range to a more expensive and beautiful limited large silver edition. As coin enthusiasts, we hope that you enjoy this significant memento of history.



Bi-fold sleeve and information holder

THE BASILICA OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception is the largest Roman Catholic church in the United States and North America, and is one of the ten largest churches in the world. Designated as a National Sanctuary of Prayer and Pilgrimage, the Basilica is dedicated to the patroness of the United States—the Blessed Virgin Mary under her title of the Immaculate Conception.

BLESSED JUNIPERO SERRA
Junipero Serra, a Franciscan Friar, was born on November 24, 1713, in Mallorca, Spain. At the age of 36, he felt the call to missionary service. He crossed the Atlantic to begin his missionary career in Mexico, and later, in what is now California. Known as the Apostle of California, Serra founded 21 missions between 1769 and 1782. They were the basis for major cities, including San Diego, San Francisco, Santa Barbara and Santa Clara. Before his death in 1784, at the age of 71, Junipero Serra had baptized over 6,000 people. The cause for Serra's beatification began in the Diocese of Monterey-Fresno in 1934. He was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1988. On January 15, 2015, Pope Francis announced that he would canonize him during a Mass in Washington, D.C. September 23, 2015. This is the first-ever canonization on American soil. His feast day is July 1.

LA BASILICA DEL SANTUARIO NACIONAL DE LA INMACULADA CONCEPCION
La Basílica del Santuario Nacional de la Inmaculada Concepción es la iglesia católica más grande en los Estados Unidos y América del norte y es una de las diez iglesias más grandes del mundo. Señalado como Santuario Nacional de oración y peregrinaje, la Basílica está dedicada a la patrona de los Estados Unidos, la Santísima Virgen María bajo su título de la Inmaculada Concepción.

Pennsylvania Association of Numismatists
www.pancoins.org