



For Immediate Release
September 2011

Contact: Catherine Wynn
chat_cat@cox.net

A Painter's Gospel: Icons by Br. Robert Lentz, OFM

Hartford — The Clare Gallery is pleased to present *A Painter's Gospel: Icons by Br. Robert Lentz, OFM*. This exhibition is free and open to the public and extends from October 27th to December 29th, 2011. A reception and artist lecture will be held on Wednesday, November 2, 2011 from 5:00–7:30 p.m. where Br. Robert will discuss the spirituality of iconography, its history, meaning and his process of execution. Please join us for this in-depth exploration into the beauty and depth of icons.

Robert Lentz is a Franciscan friar whose innovative icons are known throughout the world. He is a member of Holy Name Province, and is stationed at Holy Name College in Silver Spring Maryland. Besides painting many hours each day, he teaches apprentices, writes, and conducts workshops on art and spirituality throughout the United States. Brother Robert is also active in promoting dialog between Muslims and Christians.

Br. Robert is committed to the indigenization of Byzantine iconography in the various cultures embraced by the Church. He was born in rural Colorado in 1946. His grandparents emigrated from tsarist Russia in the early 1900's. He studied Byzantine iconography by apprenticing himself to a master painter from the school of Photios Kontoglou in a Greek Orthodox monastery founded from Mount Athos.

Br. Robert belongs to the Byzantine Rite, but has focused his life and his work on the radical changes facing all Christians in our day. His icons reflect his experiences among the poor in this country and in the Third World, as well as his Franciscan and Russian roots. They are filled with bright colors and often depict contemporary subjects. While always striving to remain true to the essence of Byzantine iconography, he adapts traditional conventions in order to minister better to the emerging Church. His icons remain transcendent expressions of the ancient Christian Tradition, and they invite us into communion with God and the saints.

Besides the images exhibited in the Clare Gallery, more images and information can be found at www.trinitystores.com

The Clare Gallery primarily features exhibitions that emphasize world religions or interfaith themes, as well as social justice themes, on either a global or local level. The Gallery is housed in the Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry at 285 Church Street. The Center is part of St. Patrick – St. Anthony Church, a vibrant and active downtown faith community.

The Clare Gallery's hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays; 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Fridays; Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Sundays from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The Gallery and all related events are free and open to the public. Free parking is available directly across from the church, and the facility is handicapped accessible. More information may be found at www.spsact.org, click "Community Life" and then "Clare Gallery".