



For Immediate Release  
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***Fr. John Murphy's, OFM intimate sketches  
to be featured at downtown Hartford's Clare Gallery***

*Hartford* — A celebration of life is on display from September 28<sup>th</sup> through December 10<sup>th</sup> at downtown Hartford's Clare Gallery. "Fr. John Murphy, OFM: The Beginnings of an Artist" will feature twelve small drawings and sketches in pencil or charcoal. An opening reception will be held at 8:00 p.m. on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. This opening reception is in conjunction with the Transitus of St. Francis being held earlier at St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Fr. John Murphy was an artist, a pastor, a teacher, and a mentor to many. This exhibition celebrates his life through his personal drawings and sketches made while traveling with his family and contemplating art and architecture surprisingly during his later high school years. After choosing a different path from his father and two brothers, all architects in the family business, Fr. Murphy chose to direct his creativity toward the study of art and religion—receiving a BA from St. Bonaventure University and a Doctorate in Medieval Studies from the University of Notre Dame.

The drawings and sketches are intimate in scale and content. Many are cottages, buildings, parts of buildings, animals and nature. Though some buildings might be grandiose in stature, all the artwork has an intimate quality—as though the viewer were able to understand Fr. Murphy's concern for human dignity within the scope of nature and the man-made world. The drawings and sketches were taken directly from Fr. Murphy's personal sketchbook and give you a peek into his creative world. Many of them were drawn from his travels in Europe during the 1940s.

From 1992 to his death in 2005, Fr. John Murphy was Parochial Vicar at Saint Patrick-Saint Anthony Church in downtown Hartford, Connecticut. He previously served as Pastor of Saint Stephen of Hungary Church in New York City. Prior to serving as Pastor, Fr. Murphy spent thirty years at Sienna College and was a professor of history, Dean of the Art Department, and in his final years, Vice President Emeritus for Academic Affairs.

The Clare Gallery primarily features exhibitions that emphasize world religious or interfaith themes, and social justice themes, either on a global or local level. It 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 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. The facility is handicapped accessible. More information may be found on the church's website at [stpatrick-stanthony.org](http://stpatrick-stanthony.org) or by calling 860-756-4034.

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