



For Immediate Release
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Eucharistic Impressions: **Almost Heaven**

Hartford — The Clare Gallery is pleased to present *Eucharistic Impressions: Almost Heaven*. This exhibition is free and open to the public and extends from August 16th to September 27th, 2012. A reception and artist lecture will be held on Saturday, September 15, 2012 from 5–7 p.m. where painter Antoine Marie Ménoret will discuss his interest in the Eucharist, its mystery, its infinite possibilities for interpretation and his three-fold blessing process while painting.

Antoine Ménoret is both scientist and artist. He is a professionally trained biochemist. His knowledge of chemicals and his curiosity lead him to experiment with a variety of media when creating his artwork. Media can include: organic solvents, spray and oil paint or melted ink. As an artist, he is self-taught and belongs to a French family with deep roots in the arts. His sister, Sophie, was trained at the Beaux Arts of Angers and Nantes, France. Another sister, Veronique, worked as a music impresario. Additionally, his mother is a master artist trained in Ikebana. Both his profession and his family's heritage inspire and inform his artistic practice.

Mr. Ménoret acknowledges he has explored various themes throughout his artistic journey, but as he states eventually he, “developed a predilection for the mystery of the Divine presence in the Eucharist.” He finds the Eucharist an interesting challenge to represent. The Eucharist is rarely seen as artistic subject matter and also, in Mr. Ménoret's opinion, it is rarely seen as an image of the living God. In each visual interpretation, Mr. Ménoret manipulates color and light creating rich and vibrant images. His intention is to capture the essence of the Eucharist differently each time. Along with the visual image, he authors a mystical writing and places it in the painting as another design element.

Mr. Ménoret was born in France and resides in Canton, Connecticut. He also belongs to the Penitent Brothers (P.B.), a delocalized community of Roman Catholic laymen living a religious life. Mr. Ménoret's paintings hang in private collections in France, Brazil and in the United States. You can find out more about his work at contemparichristi.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 7 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 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”.