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**ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO'S FIRST "GREEN" CERTIFIED BUILDING COMPLETED
New Chapels and Administration Complex Achieves LEED-NC Gold Certification*****Even the Archdiocese of Chicago Has Gone "Green"***

The newly completed Chapels and Administration Building Complex at All Saints Cemetery in Des Plaines, IL resulted from a design competition held by the Archdiocese of Chicago. The winning design was submitted by Mekus Tanager, Inc., a Chicago-based architecture, planning and interior design firm. The new Complex will be the Archdiocese's first LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Certified building. It received LEED-NC Gold Certification status for new construction on February 2, 2010 from the USGBC (US Green Building Council). It is the first cemetery industry buildings in the country to achieve a level of LEED- Gold Certification.

Pope Benedict XVI at World Youth Day 2008 reminded Catholics that the care of the environment is "of vital importance for humanity". This new design reinforces the Archdiocese's formal commitment to LEED defined sustainable standards, although the Archdiocese of Chicago already had a long history of sustainable land planning and building design. The goal accomplished with this new complex is the consolidation of cemetery operations including administration offices, chapels, and maintenance work rooms into a single, sustainable building, reducing within the cemetery.

The sustainable features of the Complex include a vegetated "green" roof, electrical and water efficiencies that minimize the use of nonrenewable resources, natural light to reduce reliance on interior lighting, a storm water detention system to ease the impact on the natural environment and the local municipal system, recycling, green maintenance and educational programs, and a reduction in the footprint size of the building to conserve land. Construction waste was also recycled and diverted from landfills.

The complex was consecrated by Cardinal Francis George on September 29, 2009.

Mekus Tanager performed architectural and interior design services for the project; Chicago-based Pepper Construction is the general contractor for the project. Additional Green Team members can be found on www.mekustanager.com.

About Mekus Tanager, Inc.

Mekus Tanager, Inc. is a Chicago-based architectural and interior design firm. Founded in 1984, the firm is known for its distinctive designs, innovative planning solutions and client service in the corporate, education, healthcare, cemetery/funeral home, religious, government/municipal and residential sectors. For more information call 312-661-0778 or visit www.mekustanager.com.