



City of Charleston
South Carolina

JOSEPH P. RILEY, JR.
MAYOR

BARBARA W. VAUGHN
DIRECTOR
PUBLIC INFORMATION

For Release: January 13, 2010

'GROUND ZERO' PRIEST TO VISIT CHARLESTON

Charleston to be first U. S. City to receive Garden of Forgiveness

Charleston, SC. The Reverend Lyndon F. Harris was the priest in charge of the relief ministries at Ground Zero offered through Saint Paul's Chapel after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 in New York City. From September 15, 2001 to June 2, 2002, Saint Paul's Chapel was converted into a multi-faith relief center for the rescue and relief workers, and victim's family members at the World Trade Center site. Saint Paul's offered food, massage therapy, grief counseling, and chiropractic and podiatric care around the clock. By the end of the operation, over one half million meals were served.

Father Harris also currently serves Executive Director of The Garden of Forgiveness, an interfaith, educational non-profit dedicated to teaching forgiveness as a strategy for peacemaking and conflict transformation.

Father Harris will be in Charleston On January 18 and January 19 with a special mission. He will be working with Hands On Charleston, part of a national Network of volunteer groups which brings people together to strengthen communities through meaningful volunteer action. Hands On Charleston is promoting MLK Day (Monday, January 18) as a national day of service. For this day, they will be planting and working at the Philip Simmons Park at America and Columbus Streets from 8 AM until 12:00 PM. **At 10:15 AM, Father Harris and Mayor Joseph P. Riley, Jr. will lead a ceremony to commission the first city to receive a Garden of Forgiveness in the United States.** The Garden will be a part of the Philip Simmons Park in downtown Charleston and incorporate ironwork by those carrying on the legacy of Philip Simmons (Joseph Pringle and Carlton Simmons).

Additionally, Father Harris will be at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Business and Professional Breakfast at the Gaillard Auditorium on Tuesday, January 19 (starts at 7:30 AM) to bring greetings to the participants at the breakfast.

For further information about Father Harris and the Garden of Forgiveness go to www.gofnyc.org or contact Wade Thompson. To contact Hands On Charleston or how to be a part of Charleston's Garden of Forgiveness, contact Wade Thompson with Hands On Charleston (843) 303-6155, email: BeTheChange@HandsOnCharleston.org or www.HandsOnCharleston.org.

FOR MORE INFO:

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