

9/11 MEMORIAL

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WORLD TRADE CENTER CROSS IS INSTALLED IN 9/11 MEMORIAL MUSEUM

Ceremony Commemorates the Intersecting Steel Found by 9/11 Recovery Workers

The National September 11 Memorial & Museum today announced that the intersecting steel beam that came to be known as the World Trade Center Cross will be lowered by crane into the 9/11 Memorial Museum. First encountered by construction worker Frank Silecchia in the vicinity of where 6 World Trade Center had stood, the 17-foot-tall Cross became an icon of hope and comfort throughout the recovery effort in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.

Prior to installation in the Museum, Father Brian Jordan gave the Cross a ceremonial blessing this morning at Zuccotti Park, near the World Trade Center site. Father Jordan, a Franciscan priest who had been ministering to workers and blessing human remains recovered at the site, comforted rescue and recovery workers after the 9/11 attacks. Throughout the recovery period, Jordan spent Sunday after Sunday holding mass and offering communion at the base of the Cross.

After the blessing at Zuccotti Park, the Cross was transported onto the WTC site and lowered into its permanent setting inside the Museum, which will open to the public in 2012.

“The World Trade Center Cross is an important part of our commitment to bring back the authentic physical reminders that tell the history of 9/11 in a way nothing else could,” 9/11 Memorial President Joe Daniels said. “Its return is a symbol of the progress on the Memorial & Museum that we feel rather than see, reminding us that commemoration is at the heart of our mission.”

“With hundreds of recovery workers and people around the world moved by the spiritual presence of the World Trade Center Cross immediately following the attacks, it will be our privilege to present the Cross in the Memorial Museum as a testament to the role of spirituality in providing comfort and strength to those who

worked with courage and selfless devotion during the nine months of recovery at ground zero,” Memorial Museum Director Alice M. Greenwald said.

“After a 10-year journey of faith, the World Trade Center Cross has finally found its home,” Father Brian Jordan said. “I am grateful to the leadership of the Memorial Museum for their sensitivity, compassion and professionalism. I urge all those who believe in the consolation and power of the Cross to visit it in its future home in the Memorial Museum.”

Immediately recognized as a cross by many who saw it in the days following the attacks, the steel fragment was moved from its original location at the site and installed at the edge of ground zero near West Street on Oct. 3, 2001, a location more visible and accessible to both workers and visiting victims’ family members. The next day, hundreds of uniformed personnel, building trade workers, and others working on the recovery attended a ceremony during which Father Jordan blessed the Cross.

The Cross was relocated to the intersection of Church and Cortlandt streets on Feb. 14, 2002, and moved again to a temporary location on the west side of St. Peter’s Church, between Vesey and Barclay streets, on Oct. 5, 2006, where it has remained until today’s ceremony.

The story of the World Trade Center Cross is featured in the upcoming National Geographic book, *A Place of Remembrance*, the official book of the 9/11 Memorial. Proceeds from its sale will support the National September 11 Memorial & Museum. The book is currently available for pre-order and will be available on Aug. 9, 2011. For more information, go to 911memorial.org.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL SEPTEMBER 11 MEMORIAL & MUSEUM

The National September 11 Memorial & Museum is the not-for-profit corporation created to oversee the design, raise the funds, and program and operate the Memorial and Museum at the World Trade Center site. The Memorial and Museum will be located on eight of the 16 acres of the site. The Memorial will be dedicated on the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks and will open to the public the following day. The Museum will open in 2012.

The Memorial will remember and honor the nearly 3,000 people who died in the horrific attacks of September 11, 2001 and February 26, 1993. The design, created by Michael Arad and Peter Walker, consists of two pools formed in the footprints of the original Twin Towers and a plaza of trees.

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The Museum will display monumental artifacts linked to the events of 9/11, while presenting intimate stories of loss, compassion, reckoning and recovery that are central to telling the story of the 2001 attacks and the aftermath. It will communicate key messages that embrace both the specificity and the universal implications of the events of 9/11; document the impact of those events on individual lives, as well as on local, national, and international communities; and explore the continuing significance of these events for our global community.

When the Memorial opens, construction will continue on the other World Trade Center projects and free visitor passes will be temporarily required. To plan a visit to the Memorial or learn how to contribute, go to 911memorial.org.

Follow the Memorial & Museum on Twitter: [@sept11memorial](https://twitter.com/sept11memorial).

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