2015

Seven Days of Illumination—The Mission of Pope Francis and The Saint John’s Bible

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In an era where “cultured despisers of religion”—a term used by Friedrich Schleiermacher two centuries ago, critiquing the prevailing ethos of Europe during his day—fail to note the power and feeling of authentic faith and practice, the mission of Pope Francis to America comes at a pivotal moment in world history. As the first Pope of the Americas, his mission to Cuba and the United States calls for justice, reconciliation, and grace. And, his “Mission of Love” promises to embrace the poor, prisoners, and even members of Congress and the White House. As media cover these events, perhaps a new day of appreciation for what it means to embrace the way of Jesus might yet again find its way into the hearts and conscience of the nation. Only time will tell. In celebrating this historic week, the Saint John’s community of Collegeville, Minnesota has organized seven days of focusing on illuminated texts and images from The Saint John’s Bible, ranging from Creation to Pentecost. These will be featured on over forty campuses around the nation, including several websites.

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