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MEDIA RELEASE

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HISTORIC BELL STOLEN FROM ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL

(October 24, 2011) SAN FRANCISCO - A 5,300-pound church bell was stolen from St. Mary's Cathedral Sunday early morning. The bell was reported missing at 11 a.m. Sunday morning.

Before the theft, the 63-inch diameter, 5,300 pound historic artifact stood mounted on a concrete slab in front of the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption, in the garden area at the corner of the front parking lot on Gough Street.

The bell had been relocated in 1970 to its most recent location from the previous cathedral on Van Ness Street where it hung until 1962. It was ordered by Durham Carrigan as a gift for St. Mary's Cathedral in August 1889, and shipped directly from the McShane Bell Foundry of Baltimore, Maryland.

The estimated replacement value is \$75,000. The current scrap value of copper is approximately \$2.00 - \$2.50 per pound. The genuine bell metal component of the stolen item is 80% copper, 20% tin.

"We cannot replace this historic and valuable item," said George Wesolek, Director of Communications and Public Policy for the Archdiocese of San Francisco. "Hopefully, the police will recover it, and we can put it back in its rightful place as a memory of the Catholic Church of San Francisco."

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