

**VATICAN LIBRARY TO LOAN RARE
MAIMONIDES MANUSCRIPTS TO ISRAEL MUSEUM**

**Pave The Way Foundation Announces Loan
Following Audience With Pope John Paul II**

ROME, ITALY, January 18, 2005 – Pave the Way founder and President Gary Krupp announced today that the Vatican Library has agreed to lend the rare Moses Maimonides Manuscripts, the work of one of Judaism’s most celebrated rabbis and sages, to the Israel Museum in Jerusalem in September to coincide with the Museum’s 40th anniversary.

Mr. Krupp made the announcement at the end of a special private audience January 18 with His Holiness Pope John Paul II, which was attended by some 160 Jewish leaders, rabbis and cantors from throughout the United States, Europe and Israel. The special audience – attended by the largest group of Jewish leaders to ever meet with a sitting pope -- was held to recognize the Pope’s efforts during his 26-year pontificate in bringing down the walls of hate, and his contribution towards religious reconciliation with the Jewish people and the State of Israel.

Pave the Way, whose mission is to bring together men of good will, no matter what religious background, has devoted much time and effort towards working with the officials of the Israeli Government and the representatives of the Holy See in Israel to move for the finalization of fundamental agreements for establishing full diplomatic relations between Israel and the Vatican.

“Our mission calls for many projects of inter-religious action and it is this mission that led to approval for the manuscript loan from the Vatican to Israel for the first time in history. The Vatican has the largest repository of ancient Hebrew manuscripts in the world,” said Mr. Krupp, one of three living Jews to be knighted by a Pope to the Order of St Gregory the Great. Mr. Krupp contacted the Israel Museum to solicit their interest in applying to the Vatican Library in order to initiate a loan of the four rare Hebrew manuscripts, including an illuminated manuscript of Rabbi Moses Ben Maimon Maimonides. Mr. Krupp then met with the curators of the Museum and officials of the Vatican Library in Vatican City in 2003.

“Through the good offices of the Nuncio, Archbishop Pietro Sambi and the Franciscan custody in Israel and specifically Fr. David Jaeger’s advice and help, the Holy See approved the loan for these manuscripts.” Farther Jaeger, a spokesman, legal advisor to the Franciscan Custody in Israel and canon law professor said, “The parties are committed to cultural cooperation.”

“The work by Maimonides, a 12th century doctor and sage in Egypt, was written by a scribe in the 1400s, 200 years after his death, and is cherished as a one-of-a-kind record that covers the rules of life, such as marriage and other codes of behavior.” Mr. Krupp explained. “Cooperation to resolve other political and social issues look promising for the future.” Mr. Krupp concluded.

About Pave the Way Foundation

Pave the Way has a simple yet monumental goal – to enable all world religions to achieve their goals by embracing their similarities and savoring their differences. In today’s world, some try to achieve their goals through violence, in the name of religion. To silently allow this to happen defames every faith. Our vision is that the unified voice of the world’s great religious leaders condemning violence and promoting trust will pay the way to peace.

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