

## **Saint John's Bible**

The Heritage Edition is a full-sized fine art edition of the original Saint John's Bible masterpiece -- the first handwritten illuminated Bible to be commissioned since the advent of the printing press. The original Saint John's Bible was commissioned in 1998 by the Benedictine monks of Saint John's Abbey and University in Collegeville, MN, with a mission to ignite the spiritual imagination of believers throughout the world and to illuminate the word of God for a new millennium. A team of scribes, artists and craftspeople in a scriptorium in Wales under the artistic direction of Donald Jackson -- one of the world's foremost calligraphers and The Scribe to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Crown Office at the House of Lords in London, England -- worked on The Saint John's Bible for over thirteen years.

It is through the fine art Saint John's Bible Heritage Edition that individuals and artistic, religious and cultural institutions can intimately experience and share the inspiration of The Saint John's Bible. "The Heritage Edition provides an accessible link to the original artwork for those who wish to bring its beauty, spiritual and historic significance into their lives and the lives of others," said Eric Hollas, OSB, Deputy to the President for Advancement. "It is a work of art in its own right and ignites imagination as it imparts the word of God."

Saint John's conducted a worldwide search for the finest papermakers, printing experts and binders to create a printed work worthy of the original manuscript. The best archival-quality 100 percent cotton paper, fade-resistant permanent inks and gold and silver metallic foils, have been used to closely approximate the look and feel of the original. The edition is printed with a special printing technique using ultraviolet light. Each of the seven volumes that make up The Saint John's Bible is approximately 2 feet tall by 3 feet wide when open and weighs between 13 to nearly 20 pounds.

The Saint John's Bible is truly a monumental manuscript at more than 2 feet tall and 3 feet wide when open. Its construction parallels that of its medieval predecessors, written on vellum, using quills, natural handmade inks, hand-ground pigments and gold leaf while incorporating modern themes, images and technology of the 21st century. The creation of the Bible continues the Benedictine tradition of copying and caring for sacred texts. This 1,150-page Bible was created in seven distinct volumes: Pentateuch, Historical Books, Psalms, Prophets, Wisdom Books, Gospels and Acts, Letters and Revelation. When not on exhibition at major museums, The Saint John's Bible resides at the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library on the Saint John's campus. For additional information, please visit [www.saintjohnsbible.org](http://www.saintjohnsbible.org)