



William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

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**SECRETARY GALVIN PRESENTS 2016 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD TO
ALL SAINTS CHURCH IN BOSTON (DORCHESTER)**

Secretary of the Commonwealth William F. Galvin, Chairman of the Massachusetts Historical Commission, announces the selection of All Saints Church, Boston (Dorchester), to receive a 2016 Massachusetts Historical Commission Historic Preservation Award.

Secretary Galvin presented the award at a recent ceremony in the Massachusetts Archives Building, Dorchester. All Saints Church is one of 12 projects, individuals, and organizations to be honored.

“The Massachusetts Historical Commission is proud to recognize the extraordinary accomplishments of this year’s awardees,” said Secretary Galvin. “The projects the Commission is recognizing this year are particularly diverse and represent the many creative ways that significant historic resources are being preserved across the Commonwealth. The comprehensive restoration of All Saints Church will ensure that this prominent building continues to serve the community for years to come.”

All Saints Church is located near Ashmont in Boston’s Dorchester neighborhood. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, it is a nationally significant work by architect Ralph Adams Cram, who designed the church in 1892. Cram’s influential book, *Church Building*, published in 1906, uses All Saints to illustrate his architectural philosophy. Through his writing and design work, Cram altered the course of religious architecture in the United States, and All Saints Church served as the prototype for Late Gothic Revival-style ecclesiastic architecture nationally.

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State House, Room 337, Boston, Massachusetts 02133

While the Parish of All Saints has been a careful steward of its property, by the early 21st century, much of its original fabric required major repair. In 2013, the parish launched an extensive campaign, based on a Historic Structure Report, to restore the church and adjacent parish house, to update building systems and improve accessibility, and to preserve the buildings for future generations. On the church, slate and copper roofs, flashing, and gutters were replaced in-kind, while the slate roof and copper work of the parish house were repaired.

The project also included extensive masonry conservation and cleaning, and the restoration of stained glass, leaded glass, and other windows in both buildings. The church's wooden window tracery, which suffered from hidden rot, was repaired and restored. Extensive preservation was completed on all interior finishes. The team carefully stripped layers of paint from interior stone arches, while conducting historic paint analysis to restore the color palette that existed at the time of Cram's last addition in 1929. Lighting in the nave was restored to Cram's 1923 design, based on historic photographs and a surviving drawing.

The parish rescued a 1929 E. M. Skinner pipe organ, Opus 708, from a closed church in western Massachusetts. Although the church kept its nave gallery organ, they installed the restored Skinner organ above the chancel. Additionally, the parish created a new, two-million-dollar permanent endowment to support ongoing preservation work, and entered into a preservation restriction agreement with Historic New England to protect and preserve All Saints for future generations.

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L to R: Fr. Michael Godderz, Jeffrey Gonyeau, Sec. Galvin, Andrew St. John, Clay Palazzo

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