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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration for Christ of the Ozarks: October 29**

The Great Passion Play is excited to announce the 50<sup>th</sup> year anniversary celebration for the Christ of the Ozarks memorial statue on Saturday, October 29, 2016 at 5:00pm.

The hour-long celebration will take place at the scenic overlook at the foot of the Christ of the Ozarks. The Great Passion Play will also conclude its 2016 season later that night with a performance at 7:30pm with free tickets available for military (active and vets), law enforcement, police, firefighter, EMT, first responders and their immediate families.

The seven-story Christ of the Ozarks Statue continues to be one of the most visited attractions in the Ozarks. Standing sixty-seven feet high, the statue overlooks the picturesque Victorian village of Eureka Springs, Arkansas. More than 250,000 people come to view the Christ of the Ozarks Statue each year. The Christ of the Ozarks was designed by Emmet Sullivan, an apprentice to Gutzon Borglum, sculptor of the Mount Rushmore National Monument in South Dakota. It is open to the public without charge every day.

"The Christ of the Ozarks turns 50 this year -- 17 years longer than Jesus walked the earth," said Kent Butler, a spokesperson for the Great Passion Play. "We are in the final

process of the restoration effort for the memorial statue -- kind of a face-lift if you will -- in celebration of 50 years."

"The restoration has been a slow and tedious process," said Randall Christy, President/CEO of the Passion Play. "The statue had several blemishes that amounted to deteriorated concrete, which needed to be removed, ground out, refilled with concrete, textured and painted," he said.

Interesting facts about the statue include:

- Every inch and ounce of the statue was built by hand; no segment was poured.
- The foundation of the statue required 340 tons of concrete interlaced with steel virtually welded into the rock of Magnetic Mountain.
- The statue is made of 24 layers of white mortar on a steel frame. It was necessary to build an elevator up the side of the framework, which was completely surrounded by scaffolding during construction.
- The face is approximately 15 feet in height.
- The hands from wrist to fingertip measure approximately 7 feet.
- The total weight of the statue is over two million pounds.
- The arm spread from fingertip to fingertip is 65 feet.
- The statue is located on Magnetic Mountain at an altitude of 1,500 feet.

"We want everyone to come and celebrate the Christ with us on Saturday, October 29, 2016 at 5:00PM," Christy said. "We don't worship the Statue, but it is a great reminder of how big God is."

Christy also shared that on October 29, the Play will be honoring all Police, Firefighter, EMT, First Responders, and Military (active and vets) with free tickets for them as well as their immediate families.

The last Passion Play performance of the 2016 season is also on Saturday, October 29, 2016. The Bible Museum, Art Museum, History Museum, and Holy Land Tour is also

happening during that day. Ticket reservations, performance schedules and special event information are available online at [GreatPassionPlay.org](http://GreatPassionPlay.org) or call toll free 800-882-7529.



For high resolution pictures of the Statue:  
<http://www.greatpassionplay.org/high-resolution-photos.html>

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