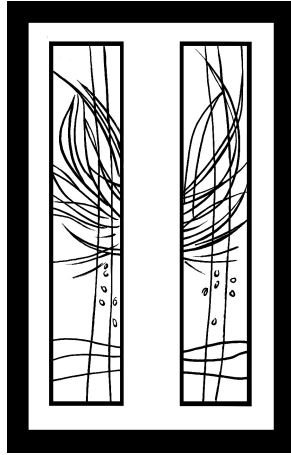


The Daily Mass Chapel window design



THE CATHOLIC CENTER CHAPEL

Archbishop Joseph P. Hurley, of the Diocese of St. Augustine, presided at the Mass of Dedication for the Catholic Student Center at the University of South Florida in Tampa on September 24, 1967. The Catholic Center's physical plant included office space, a library, a small Chapel and a social hall in which to host dances and other events for USF students.

The original Chapel for the Catholic Student Center accommodated about 35 people. As the student population grew, Sunday Mass was moved to the Social Hall. Today, the original Chapel serves as a Daily Mass Chapel, a cry room for babies on Sunday and meeting space for the Catholic Student Union, our student organization.

The Catholic Student Center buildings are typical of the modern style of design that was popular in the 1960's. The arrangement of the windows, and other architectural details, displays the "double T" motif that was common in Mid-Century Modern architecture.

The stained glass window design by Sue Obata, of Obata Studios, took into account the simple, modern character of the building. The windows were designed to integrate with the existing architecture while enhancing the character of this multi-purpose space.

THE WINDOW DESIGN

The eight windows in the Daily Mass Chapel, and the two in the Sacristy, will be fabricated of the same flashed glass that was used in the Main Chapel. Flashed antique glass is mouth blown with two or three distinct layers. For example, blue, clear and white opaque layered flashed glass

is a predominant feature in the western wall windows in the Main Chapel. While most of the glass in the Main Chapel is colored, the glass for the Small Chapel and Sacristy will be white or slightly off-white.

The east windows in the Main Chapel depict Jesus' resurrection, and the west windows depict images associated with the virtue of Hope, a spiritual consequence of the resurrection. As it seemed appropriate to continue the theme of the theological virtues, the overall design for the Small Chapel and Sacristy depicts the virtues of Faith and Love.

The design is composed of several elements. When Sue Obata was here in May of last year, for the installation of the windows in the Main Chapel, she took some photographs of the Florida landscape. She chose one of the photographs for the Small Chapel window design. The photograph depicts aquatic plants floating on the water's surface. She softened the image digitally and projected it, in segments, onto the individual window panes. The dark, mottled images form a background for the coloration and texts in each window.

The white flashed glass will allow sunlight to fill the Small Chapel, a reference to the Word of God, a light shining in the darkness (Jn 1:5). This effect is intensified by the amber coloration that will be added to the surface of the glass. The field of blue in each window is a reference to the waters of life described in John's Gospel (Jn 4:14); it is also reminiscent of a window, pointing beyond itself to the coming of God's Kingdom.

These windows will be fabricated without the lead seams that are customary for stained glass windows. Instead of lead came, the flashed antique glass will be bonded to a single sheet of clear transparent tempered glass. The overall effect will be to allow a maximum amount of light into the Chapel, and easy legibility of the text on each window.

THE TEXTS

Each window will contain a text quotation that refers either to Faith or Love. Most of the texts are taken from the Scriptures, two are quotes from Catholic theologians, one is from Mother Teresa, one is from a second century Christian writer and one is from an anonymous source. Beginning in the Sacristy, and moving from left to right, the quotes are:

“May Grace come, and may this world pass away.” This is a line from an ancient Christian writing entitled “Didache.” This quote is taken from the Didache’s paraphrase of the Lord’s Prayer.

“We hope to see one day the One in whom we place our trust.” Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologica*, IIa, IIae, 1-5, on Faith.

“Faith is the light that guides you through the darkness.”

“No one has ever seen God, but if we love one another God lives in us, and His love is made

complete in us.” 1 John 4:12

“If anyone loves me he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.” John 14:23

“But we walk in light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another.”
1 John 1:7

“If I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.”
1 Corinthians 13:2

“O God, if we truly and totally believed in You as the One who gave Himself to us, we would truly be free.” Karl Rahner - Prayers for a Lifetime

“Let us not love with words or tongue, but with actions and in truth.” 1 John 3:18

“Love begins at home, and it is not how much we do, but how much love we put in that action.”
Mother Teresa

FABRICATION AND COST

In the next few months Sue will visit the factory where this flashed glass is made. She will pick out, or have manufactured, glass for our windows. The fabrication and artistic work on the windows will probably begin in the late Spring. Unless there are unforeseen delays, the new windows will be installed by the beginning of the Fall Semester of this year.

The total cost of this project will be around \$60,000. About \$10,000 of this figure was spent last year on preparatory work. At the beginning of this year, \$25,000 of the total was spent as a down payment for the work. The remaining \$25,000 will be due in two installments as the work progresses.

If fund raising exceeds the goal, the surplus will be used to reroute the air conditioning duct in the Main Chapel that currently occludes the view of the eastern wall windows. If you would like to make a contribution to this project, please make your check out to the “Catholic Student Center,” and write “windows” on the memo line.

When these improvements to the Chapel building are finished all donors will be recognized on plaques that will permanently mounted in the entrance hallways to the Main Chapel.