



## CHRIST CATHEDRAL'S TRANSFORMATION

- ◆ The Diocese of Orange purchased the 88,000-square-foot cathedral in 2011 and the initial design concept was unveiled in late 2015.
- ◆ Built four decades ago as the Crystal Cathedral, the glass landmark on Chapman Avenue in Garden Grove underwent a \$77-million transformation into Christ Cathedral.
  - Converting a Protestant church to a Roman Catholic cathedral involved adding such elements as a "Bishop's Door." Two 20-foot-tall bronze doors replace the Crystal Cathedral's glass doors. Catholic cathedrals also feature baldachins, centerpieces designed to draw attention to the altar. At Christ Cathedral, a metallic baldachin will hover 30 feet above the altar.
  - Another common sight is a large cross called a Crux Gemata.
- ◆ The first part of the cathedral grounds' transformation began in fall 2012 with seismic retrofitting and installation of air conditioning in the Arboretum and Tower of Hope, and fountain repairs, and other improvements. In 2017, work began to add elements to make the existing church into a cathedral, including the installation of Bishop's Doors and a Bishop's Chair, called a cathedra.
- ◆ New LED lighting and a new fire sprinkler system were installed.

## THE ALTAR AND CRUCIFIX

- ◆ Most. Rev. Kevin W. Vann, Bishop of Orange, traveled to Verona, Italy, to personally select the stone and marble for the altar, cathedra, ambo, and baptismal font.
- ◆ The items are constructed from Carrara marble. Carrara is a town along the Carrione River in Tuscany, famous for the white and blue-grey marble quarried there.
- ◆ Bishop Vann also selected Grassi family stone/marble works to supplying the stone for the flooring.
- ◆ The "rood screen" serves as a backdrop for the altar and houses audio/visual equipment, including speakers.

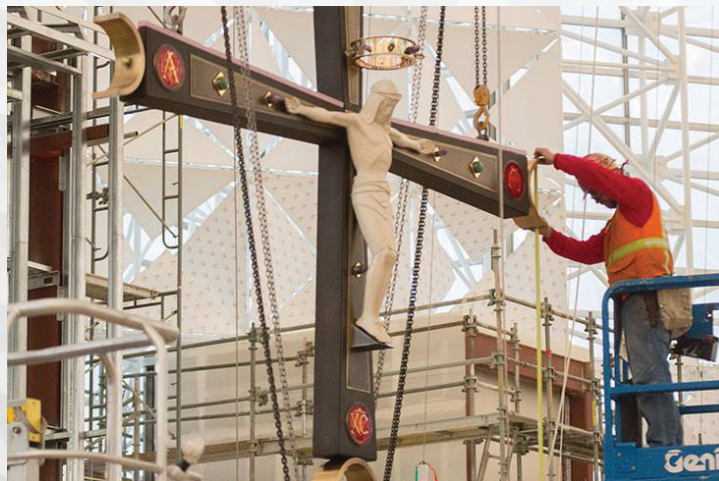
## SACRED RELICS

- ◆ Holy Relics are the remains of religious figures canonized as saints. Bones, blood and clothing are counted among the sacred remnants.
  - Christ Cathedral's first relic is from Andrew Dung-Lac— a Vietnamese priest beheaded in 1839 because of his faith. As his last official act before retiring, Hanoi's Cardinal Nguyen Van Nhon bequeathed the relic to his sister diocese, the Diocese of Orange.
- ◆ A second relic comes from South Korea. Additional relics are from Father Junípero Serra, three North American saints, and three Mexican saints.

- ◆ The relics reflect Orange County's multicultural population and roots.

## CONSTRUCTION

- ◆ Once work on the cathedral began, about 110 construction crewmembers were on site daily.
- ◆ Crews logged approximately 100,000 total work hours from June 2017 to September 2018.
- ◆ Irvine-based firm Snyder Langston is overseeing the work as general contractor.
- ◆ 11 million parts of scaffolding, like an erector set, were required to paint the nine-story space frame that supports the glass panes of the cathedral, hoist frames, support ladders, trusses, planks and plywood.
- ◆ In his 40-year construction career, Snyder Langston's construction manager Greg McClure says, he had never seen anything like the elaborate scaffolding required for the project.







## QUATREFOILS

- ◆ Restoration experts reconditioned the cathedral's more than 11,000 panes of glass.
- ◆ Many of the panes required resurfacing and resealing to protect the interior. Each individual pane was painstakingly cleaned and sealed.
- ◆ The 11,000-steel powder-coated plastic-and-fabric "quatrefoils" are window shades specially designed by the Johnson Fain architects and installed on the ceilings and walls.
- ◆ The quatrefoils cost \$6 million and are designed to deflect UV rays and heat from the more than 11,000 panes of glass.
- ◆ The quatrefoils are a critical part of the cathedral's unique climate-and sound-enhancing system.
- ◆ Each quatrefoil is composed of four triangles, permanently situated at varying angles. The triangular pieces hovering over each pane open at different degrees, from zero to 45, minimizing heat and glare.
- ◆ Installation of the quatrefoils required one million pounds of scaffolding.

## CHRIST CATHEDRAL PARISH

- ◆ The cathedral's new name was designated by Bishop Emeritus, Tod D. Brown D.D. while suggestions were also taken from the diocese and its members.
- ◆ St. Callistus Catholic school moved into the former Crystal Cathedral Academy facility, and changed its name to Christ Cathedral Academy in September 2013.
- ◆ Christ Cathedral Parish offers Masses in four languages every Sunday.
- ◆ What makes the cathedral Catholic is the installation of the cathedra, or Bishop's Chair, located in the center of the predella, which supports the altar.

## ORIGINAL CONSTRUCTION AND HISTORY

- ◆ The Crystal Cathedral was neither made of crystal nor intended to be a true cathedral. (Technically, a cathedral is a church that houses a bishop's official seat (called the cathedra)).
- ◆ The Crystal Cathedral was touted as "the largest glass building in the world" when it was completed in 1980.
- ◆ The signature rectangular panes of glass comprising the building are not bolted to the structure; they are glued to it using a silicone-based glue. This is intended to allow the building to withstand up to an 8.0 earthquake.
- ◆ The Garden Grove Community Church was founded in 1955 by Robert H. Schuller and his wife Arvella.
  - An affiliate of the Reformed Church in America, the church first held services in space rented from the Orange Drive-In Theatre.
- ◆ Rev. Schuller envisioned his Crystal Cathedral as having walls made of glass; he commissioned postmodern architect Philip Johnson.
  - Philip Johnson based his design on a reexamination of German expressionist architect Hermann Finsterlin.

## SALE TO DIOCESE OF ORANGE

- ◆ A federal judge approved selling the Crystal Cathedral to the Diocese of Orange for \$57.5 million. The sale was finalized on February 3, 2012.
- ◆ Crystal Cathedral Ministries held its final worship service at the Crystal Cathedral on June 30, 2013.

## AN INVITATION TO VISIT CHRIST CATHEDRAL

- ◆ Christ Cathedral will be open to the public on all Sundays following the July 17 Dedication. The Cathedral will be open daily for all visitors in early 2020 after the installation of the Hazel Wright Organ. Also, the Cathedral will be open for Sunday mass after the Dedication in July.

