



SACRED ART, CRUX GEMMATA, AND MARBLE ALTAR AND FURNISHINGS



SACRED ART

Sacred art in the Christ Cathedral features new work by prominent artists inspired by the life of Jesus Christ, who depict Him using modern iconography.

The sacred art, by many internationally recognized artists, is designed to welcome worshippers into the presence of the Lord, introduce the communion of saints and the glory of Our Lady, the Blessed Mother, as well as to accompany us on our journey of faith inspired by the Holy Spirit.

"The art in Christ Cathedral is both evocative and provocative, and evokes commentary. That's when art is successful," says Brother William Woeger, a member of the Sacred Art Commission. Brother Woeger is consulting on the art commissions and is one of the artists responsible for creating the Crux Gemmata (crucifix over the altar), altar candles, Paschal Candle, sanctuary lamps, reliquary (container for relics at the altar), and Dedication Candles.



Pablo Eduardo, a Bolivian-born sculptor known for marrying his Spanish-American heritage with his art, designed the Narthex wall art, 14 Stations of the Cross, and the Festal Doors.

Eduardo's sculptures, rendered in bronze, are recognized for capturing a snapshot of artistic metamorphosis while celebrating rhythm, emotion, texture and tension. He is known for developing close relationships with his clients. Prior to the beginning of the project, he met with the Most Rev. Kevin W. Vann, Bishop of Orange, and Fr. Christopher Smith, Episcopal Vicar of Christ Cathedral, to understand their vision and to capture the intended spirit of the art.

Other artists commissioned to create sacred art for Christ Cathedral include: the Ferdinand Stuflesser Studio in Ortisei, Italy, which created the corpus for the Crux Gemmata; the Valerio Lendaruzzi Studio in Fontanafredda, Italy, which created the Our Lady of Guadalupe mosaic, and the coats of arms mosaics in the Narthex (an architectural element consisting of the entrance or lobby area, located at the west end of the nave, opposite the church's main altar); Mia Tavontatti, an award-winning artist and painter, who created the baptismary mosaic; and ceramicist Brother Martin Erspamer, a monk of Saint Meinrad Archabbey, who created the tapestry of the Pantocrator, or Christ Seated in Glory as the Lord of Creation.

The Sacred Art Commission includes Bishop Vann, Mission Basilica Rector Emeritus Monsignor Art Holquin, consultant to the Architecture and Renovation Committee; Father Smith; Brother Woeger, a member of the De La Salle Brothers, based in Omaha, Nebraska; Lesa Truxaw, director of the Office for Worship for the Diocese of Orange; Monsignor Mike Heher, pastor, St. Anne Catholic Church in Seal Beach; and Tony Jennison, vice president for philanthropy for the Orange Catholic Foundation.

More than 30 sacred art and cathedral campus items have been reserved by generous donors.



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CRUX GEMMATA AND STONE ALTAR

Crafted in Omaha, Nebraska, from blackened steel and transported to Orange County in four separate pieces, the Crux Gemmata (cross with Jesus's body) weighs 1,000 pounds, rises 18 feet above the cathedral's altar and hangs from the baldachin. The Crux Gemmata is a cross typical of early medieval art, affixed with gems and the corpus of Christ.

The stone altar sits under the Crux Gemmata, which was gifted by a family in the diocese. One of the most important parts of the cathedral, the altar was commemorated by the priests of the Diocese of Orange.

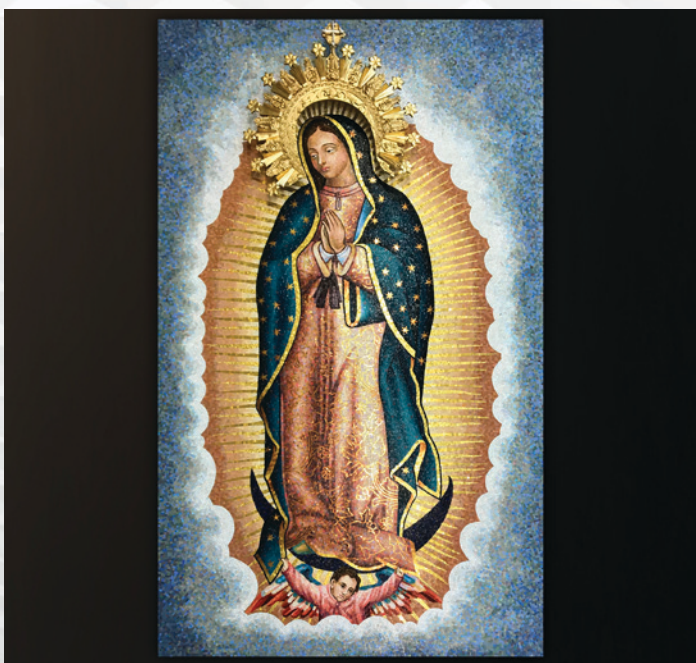


Bishop Vann traveled to Verona, Italy, where he visited the stone and marble factory where the altar, cathedra, ambo, and baptismal font were crafted for Christ Cathedral. Bishop Vann also toured Grassi family stone/marble works, which supplied the stone for the flooring of Christ Cathedral.

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE MOSAIC

A large tile mosaic of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the patroness of the Diocese of Orange and California, is located at the cathedral's south interior wall. The mosaic is 10 feet high by 7 feet wide and is made of more than 55,000 tiles of gold and opaque glass.

A portable 22-inch by 20-inch crown, made of gold leaf rather than mosaic, was designed to adorn Our Lady's head, giving the image added prominence.



The commissioned art, depicting the traditional image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, was created by internationally renowned art mosaic artist Valerio Lenarduzzi and his studio, Lenarduzzi Mosaics of Italy. A couple in the diocese provided a generous gift to fund the work.

Two floor mosaics flank Our Lady in the Narthex, or entry area, depicting the coats of arms for Pope Francis and Bishop Kevin Vann, denoting leadership during the time period in which Christ Cathedral was acquired and transformed. There is a seating area near the mosaic to enable parishioners to either commune with Our Lady of Guadalupe or face the altar.