

CHARLES J. CONNICK : DESIGNER AND WORKER IN STAINED AND
LEADED GLASS : NINE HARCOURT STREET, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

1939
Feb 3

City or Town West Newton, State Mass. No. 2058
Church Saint Bernard's Church, Parish House. Date of Installation about Aug 1.
Donor and Address..... Completion June 15, 1939.

Architect..... Quality of \$350.00.
Glass.....
Denomination Roman Catholic.
and Minister Father Crane, John J. Tel: West Newton 0608
About 17 square feet in all. (Panels are 8 1/4 x 11 7/8 full size)
Footage..... Sizes, full.....

Ventilators..... Set by.....

Position in Church On stair landing at rear.

Height from floor..... Protec- Groove Stonex Mintins.
tion Glass..... Rabbet..... Wood sash
Points of compass Gets afternoon sun at 2 P.M.
Quality of light Northwest.

Inscription.....

Design wanted..... Staging.....

Shipping address..... Blue-prints
Received.....

Bill to..... Templets Harry Kelley.

Photos of Cartoons Mailed.....

General Information C.J.C.'s report of December 29, 1937: "I think just the
panes there should be enriched. The only thing that he would like to have,
casements, and I think the best way is to just enrich those panes of
glass, because the view out in the back is very beautiful. Think it
over. There is no hurry about it. Let him know about how much it would
cost. I think we could do the whole thing in a small scale, and have
little figures of Saint Bernard and others, and around the edge have
little symbols of lilies and roses, and that sort of thing."

September 3, 1938. See the sketch layout on which Mr. Connick made some
sketch suggestions after his visit to Father Crane, : "I suggested a little
scheme here on the sketch layout, using the mullions that are in place, and
he says that when the time comes we can take the window right out. What I
want to do is to make little inserts in the panes - little spots of color,

For addresses of those to be notified as window progresses, see other side.

and since Saint Bernard is white, - he wore white, - I want to have little flicks of color around him. And I have suggested a figure of Saint Bernard with a chained devil in the pane beneath. St. Bernard holds a book and an acorn - or scroll and acorn - probably a book. That is at the top. In the opposite pane at the top the beautiful little story told in the Golden Legend about the appearance of the Christ Child at the hour of his birth to the boy Saint Bernard. Then beneath in two panes the Vision of the Blessed Virgin that appears to Saint Bernard as he works at his desk. A border of floral - probably lilies and roses - and I gave a price of \$350.

Bl
Stair Landing Window in Rectory of
Saint Bernard's Church, West Newton.

The decoration of this window is devoted to Saint Bernard of Clairvaux, through significant symbols related to his life and work.

In the dominant upper panels are symbolized two aspects of the Saint. First (at the right), his childhood vision of the infant Christ, so beautifully recorded in the Golden Legend, and the mature Saint with his symbols, the book and the beehive - suggesting his inspired eloquence.

At his feet is a symbol of the chained devil, the attribute symbolizing his zealous suppression of heresy. Above are kneeling angels of prayer and praise - with censer and trumpet.

In the lower panels, Saint Bernard is visited and comforted by the Vision of the Blessed Virgin, and nearby is the white dog with red back, symbol of the Cistercian Order.

A conventional growing vine, symbolizing the rose of the Blessed Virgin to whom Saint Bernard was devoted, forms the border enrichment of gold and white.

The entire design is conceived in tones of silvery white enriched with glowing jewel-like passages of pure color - ruby, blue and gold, traditional symbols of Divine Love, Wisdom, and Heavenly Achievement.

April 25, 1939. Father Crane brought back his sketch. He was afraid he was getting something too pretentious. It is to be beautiful but simple. It wants to be a gentle thing - white Marine bubbly glass might be a good thing, or perhaps just white with an occasional slab. He was afraid he was getting something too pretentious.

February 15, 1939.

Mr. Connick went to see Father Crane of West Newton with the sketch and contract. The following is his report:

There is one thing I forgot; that is that that window of Father Crane's is now covered with curtains and hangings, etc. He wants to discard all those, and it gets an afternoon sun. And so we want to make provision for more obscurity in that window - possibly use a bubbly white glass - maybe even some tints - the idea being that while the window wants to give plenty of light, it doesn't want to let that afternoon sun explode right through it.

I should even think of having a little stencilled pattern put right over it - say in a light tone - maybe a bubbly white or maybe another glass would obscure the light a little bit more.

I left the sketch with him. He is going to bring it in. Here is the contract.

CJC/rmh.
Window should be more obscure - say bubbly white. Now has hangings and curtains which are to be discarded.
(Note made on back of sketch when Father Crane brought in design.)