No. 3918

Place: Houston, Texas.

Building: Saint Anne's Church.


Date of Completion: Circle, $800 ($66.66)

Price: Lower: $1,000 ($43.46)

Minister: St. Anne's Rectory, 2140 Westheimer Avenue
Denomination: R.C.


Vents:

Position in Church: Window in Chapel of Extreme Unction, and circle above the 1st Chapel

Height from floor: Protection

Groove

Metal

Stone

Wood

Exposure: North

Footage: Lower window 23'

Circle 12'

For Chapel of Extreme Unction:

Inscription: "IN MEMORY OF JOHN AND MARY HUNSAKER" Changed February 5, 1958, to

Note: There is to be no inscription on the circular window above.

"IN MEMORY OF MY PARENTS, JOHN AND MARY HUNSAKER BY ELEANORA HUNSAKER".

Design wanted: Soon

Staging:

Templates:

Blueprints

General Information: Subject to be "Something taken from the ceremony of consecration of oils." (10/22/56)

7/18/45: Wrote Mr. Sullivan: "...we recently designed this theme in a window for Saint Michael's Cathedral in Springfield, Mass., and are enclosing a photograph of it, together with descriptive notes. Would not a dominant theme, something like the 'lower medallion,' be appropriate, with the 'upper symbol of the hour glass and three oil stocks below, in a composition much like that in your north transept windows. I do not believe we have ever had a subject for the circle above the Chapel, but I recall that the Death of St. Joseph is represented in the wall decoration. There is a fine medallion devoted to the Death of the Blessed Virgin at Chartres. What would you think of that theme for the circle, - or the Assumption?"
Consecration of Oils

One of the sacred functions reserved to the Bishop which has his Cathedral for its setting each year is the consecration of the Holy Oils. The Oil of the Sick is represented by the hourglass, flanked by lighted candles. The flowing sand of the hourglass reminds us of the fleeting nature of life and of the consolations brought by the Oil of the Sick in the Sacrament of Extreme Unction. The three oil stocks below symbolize the three sacred oils: Holy Chrism, the Oil of Catechumens, and the Oil of the Sick.

The large medallion tells the story of Pope Saint Fabian who ruled the Church in the third century. It was he who established the custom of burning the remaining Holy Chrism every year, and consecrating a new supply each Holy Thursday. Today it is the duty of a Bishop to renew the three Holy Oils each year in the ceremonies of Holy Thursday.

In the lower medallion a contemporary Bishop is seen consecrating an urn of Holy Chrism in his cathedral on Holy Thursday. The vases containing the Oil of the Sick and the Oil of Catechumens stands to his left. Two vested priests, assistants in the ceremony, stand in the background.

The legend identifying the theme of this window, "Hail Holy Oil" is the chant by which the Bishop and priests venerate the Holy Oil after its consecration.

Designs for the window in the Chapel of Extreme Unction and the circle in the nave above the Chapel...As planned, the Chapel window is devoted to the consecration of the Holy Oils. The symbol of the hourglass flanked by lighted candles represents the Oil of the Sick. The flowing sand of the hourglass is a reminder of the fleeting nature of life and the benefits of the Sacrament of Extreme Unction. The three oil stocks symbolize the three sacred oils.

The field is kept light and luminous in harmony with the nave and transept windows.

The circle symbolizes the death of the Blessed Virgin Mary with the apostles gathered around He5.

(Mr. Sullivan wrote these criticisms of the sketch)...the Fathers and myself feel that the medallion is so entirely absent as to the group of Apostles...medallion at Chartres is pleasing...they want the 12 Apostles as in the Chartres window, and they are especially disturbed about the dark area you show between the two groups of Apostles; fearing the window might be too dark"...We wrote that we should keep the group of apostles as simple and direct as possible in order to have the window read well at its height...must avoid detail...best way to show this will be to send a good size photograph of the full size working drawing, or even the drawing itself...We are confident that when carefully designed the theme will read very well from the floor. We intended to include 12 apostles, and our thought was to arrange them in 2 groups for better composition. At Chartres the tendency is toward 3 groups of unequal numbers. The additional figure would lessen the area between the groups and we would see to it that this space was not too dark...."