Place: Bellaire, Texas.

Building: Chapel for the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament - Our Lady of Perpetual Help Convent, 4600 Richmond Road, Bellaire, Texas.

Date of Completion: August 15, 1960. Dedication: Same.

Persons Interested in Construction: Father Mary Joseph, Sup.

Minister: Rev. Fr. Sebastian, General Mother

Denomination: Roman Catholic


Position in Church: Nave Windows, 7 south, 7 north (Chancel is East).

Height: 13 feet above floor, Protection from floor: 9 feet, lower.

Exposure: 7 south, 7 north, Chancel is East.

Footage: 28 feet each (Main Wd. 12' ea pair of lower wds.
Total: 38'.

Inscription: (to be filled in later).

Design wanted: at once.

Staging:

Blueprints:

General Information: The first typical sketch to be devoted to Our Lady of Perpetual Help. (In full figure composition like those in Chapel of St. Mary's Seminary, Houston.)

They are going to try to establish the style and type of these windows to follow with others when money becomes available.

(See booklet about Our Lady of Perpetual Help and photographs of Laconia and Baton Rouge).

The panels below are to have medallion subjects - see other side.

* Sullivan writes: "Now as to light on these windows. The casement windows on the North do receive clear North light. On the south side they are enclosed under a roof somewhat similar to the windows on the South side of the Seminary, with the added obscuration of the solar-screen wall at the outside edge of the porth. This screen is the total length and the total height of the porch and is formed of 8" x 8" x 8" burnt clay blocks in the shape shown on the accompanying sheet." (3/18/64)
A certain merchant, a native of Crete, stole this picture of the Virgin, which had worked many miracles in one of the churches of that same island. Concealing the picture among his goods, he boarded ship, and set out to sea. Thereafter to great a storm broke upon them that the sailors were beginning to despair of safety, and, knowing nothing of the picture, they offered many heart-felt prayers to God and to the Virgin, to save them from the danger that threatened to engulf them momentarily. It being the will of God they reached the port which they sought.

Finally the glorious Virgin appeared again to the aforementioned girl, saying that she should tell her mother to place her picture between the Basilicas of St. Mary Major and that of St. John Lateran, in a certain church dedicated to the holy Apostle Matthew. The mother obeyed and sent for the Brothers of St. Augustine who were then in charge of the church, and the clergy and all the people being present, it was carried to that church, where on that same day that it was transferred, this first sign was seen: a certain man, whose arm was so contracted that he could not move it at all, humbly recommended himself to God and the Virgin, and having made a promise, was cured on the instant.

In this way this picture of the most glorious Virgin was placed in the aforesaid church of Blessed Matthew the Apostle on the twenty-seventh day of March, 1499, during the Pontificate of our Most Holy Father and Lord in Christ, of Our Lord Pope Alexander VI, in the seventh year of his Pontificate.

A typical bay for the Chapel of the Incarnate Word, Bellaire, and are sending you the rough color sketch herewith.

As planned, it is devoted to Our Lady of Perpetual Help. The traditional representation occupies the dominant position above. At the feet of Our Lady is the symbol of the hart, traditionally the enemy of the serpent and the victor of sin; — also an emblem of longing for salvation, — "as the hart panteth after the fountains of water — ". Of course, this may be omitted if you wish.

We have symbolized incidents in the legend of the famous painting in the panels below. At the left is the merchant of Crete stealing the picture to conceal it aboard his ship. At the right, the Blessed Virgin appears to the Roman's daughter, telling her to place the picture in the church dedicated to the holy Apostle Matthew.

As in the windows of Saint Mary's Seminary Chapel, we have kept the fields light and silvery to admit an abundance of illumination, with figures, medallions, and borders in rich color.

5/16/60 Mr. Sullivan writes: "...Mother Sebastian has some criticism to make of the figure, feeling that it should be a more authentic copy, head crown, etc., of the miraculous picture..." (Follow closely the miraculous picture in the actual window...