

October 16, 1939.

Resume of Mr. Richmond's trip to Chicago - Saint Chrysostom's Children's Chapel. (Dictated over the Telephone.)

"I saw Dr. Stark Saturday morning, and went over the drawings with him, and described in detail what we had planned to do.

I first waited for his general reaction, which I was glad to find was very very favorable. He made two suggestions, however:

The first was that he wasn't quite as keen about the choir gallery idea as Mr. Connick and I had hoped he would be. Still, he didn't throw it out entirely.

His second suggestion was that he thought we could eliminate the three steps in front of the altar.

Later on in the day I saw Mr. Hall of the Dahl-Stedman Company, Contractors, and with him I climbed up into the attic space. I looked all around, and found that there is no structural difficulty in the way of doing the Chapel the way it has been designed.

Then I sat down with Mr. Hall and wrote on the drawings. I gave him notes of an outline specification, - giving materials, etc., and methods of construction, so that he can make an estimate of the work.

I asked him to make a separate estimate of the choir gallery in the event that that work is omitted. I also told Mr. Hall not to include in his estimate anything in the way of furniture for the church, such as the altar, lectern, pulpit, chairs or pews. And, of course, he will not include in his estimate anything for the stained glass, which Mr. Connick will probably make an estimate for.

Mr. Hall will send this estimate to me, probably by the latter part of this week."

1. Altar and reredos (\$1600), Pews \$1100), lanterns (\$400)	\$3100.00
2. The windows (\$950 each group) - \$300 short group)	2200.00
3. Decorations altar wall - north	\$800
4. Decorations opposite altar - south	900
5. Decorations - east wall	500
6. Decorations - west wall	<u>150</u>
	2350.00
(A Reduction of about 15% would be made if all decorations were undertaken at one time.)	
	<u>\$ 7650.00</u>
7. Lecterns - \$80 each	160.00 - 2
8. 4 Beam ends	100.00
9. Cornice moulding	<u>950.00</u>
	<u>\$ 8860.00</u>

Estimated Contract Price for Structural Changes and New Construction.
(This includes hardware, painting, plastering, rubber tile, wiring).

7380.00

Altar Service, Candlesticks and Crucifix.

300.00

\$7680.00

Entire Cost of structural changes and furnishings.

\$16,540.00

Black Book

December 22, 1939.

Reverend Dudley S. Stark, D.D.,
Saint Chrysostom's Church,
1424 Dearborn Parkway,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Brother Stark:

I think these sketches, with their overleaves will be quite clear to you without descriptions, but I will run over them hastily just for your records.

Sketch Number One, including the altar and reredos, has a second suggestion related to the altar steps on the tracing paper overleaf.

The theme of the reredos is the Boy Christ at the age when he appeared in the Temple, surrounded by a growing form which is taken up on his left with suggestions of Old Testament Children, and on his right, New Testament Children, setting forth a gracious idea that I think is not sufficiently appreciated in the annals of Christian Art; that is, the place of children in Christianity, unique, so far as I know, in all the religions of the world. I am fond of saying that Alice in Wonderland is, herself, a product of Christianity; and I have designed a window expressing this idea, which I will show you sometime.

The wall is dominated by decorations symbolizing, in simple fashion, Saint Paul's beautiful allegory - the Fruit of the Spirit: "The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance, against such there is no law." (Galatians 5:22).

The two adjustable lecterns, the cross and the candles, complete this drawing, which may be said to comprise the first requisites with the pews and the lanterns, which appear on Drawing Number Three.

The Second Drawing, is of the west wall, and includes the stained glass windows of the Parables, tiny decorative figures of natural forces from Saint Francis' Canticle to the Sun (introduced on the east wall), and suggests carving for lower beams and bosses. (The small figures are Brother Wind, Sister Water and Brother Fire.)

(The Parables are The Good Samaritan and Prodigal

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Son in the window nearest the altar; next, the Lost Sheep and the Sower; and in the window above the door, The House on the Rock and the House on the Sand.)

These designs will be drawn to larger scale at your suggestion.

The Third Drawing, which is of the east wall, shows the introduction of Saint Francis' Gesticule to the Sun in decorations arranged to balance the window openings in the west wall.

~~Sister Mother Earth~~ has the dominating position; above her are growing forms and children picking fruit; and, above them, a beautiful symbolic figure of Brother Sun himself, supported on the left by Sister Moon, and on the right, by Sister Stars, with smaller figures of Brother Wind, Sister Rain, and Brother Fire.

Then comes Drawing Number Four, which has, to my mind one of the happiest of all the ideas expressed in the scheme; that is, the Beatitudes represented as a growing form to balance the celestial forms surrounding and supporting the Fruit of the Holy Spirit above the altar.

This decoration is dominated by the figure of Christ, suggesting the Preaching of the Sermon on the Mount; His right hand raised in blessing, and His left hand holding the symbol of the Beatitudes, the eight-pointed cross.

This impressive wall space has been made possible by the abandonment of the choir gallery, which, at first, I thought was an excellent plan, but now I find that I like this one better.

It is my idea to have simple little carvings of animals and birds on the ends of the pews, and to use in the small narrow lanterns, the new florescent lights, which give a beautiful pure glow, almost like daylight, with very little heat.

We have all had a grand time with these ideas, which are the consummation of many dreams concentrated into the shape you see before you, by means of many discarded sketches, and many hours of good hard work.

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The prices, I am sure you will agree, are modest and reasonable in accordance with our conversations together and with Mr. Allen. Please tell him that this whole scheme is an enthusiastic blossoming forth of ideas expressed in my chapter called "Children and Symbolism" in ADVENTURES IN LIGHT AND COLOR.

Please share with Mr. Allen my heartiest greetings and good wishes for the holidays.

Sincerely yours,

P.S. On Drawing Number Three, you will find sketched out what looks like an afterthought, but which really has been in my mind from the beginning. It is a handsome curtain in warm neutral color, headed by a beautifully lettered label, "Handiwork Offerings". This is a place for youngsters to put their best creative efforts in various mediums, but especially in drawing and painting.

I am sure that you and Mr. Allen will agree that this is a very important recognition of one of the great dominant forces in Christianity - the creative spirit. Also it is in keeping with the most gracious traditions in Christian art, for the mightiest cathedrals have spontaneous little works of art that might very well be called amateur creations.

There are other spaces that may be devoted to the same purpose when the time comes, for I have an idea that this recognition of the youngsters themselves appeal greatly to all of them.

CJC/rmh.