

No 3898

Place New Orleans, Louisiana.

Building Saint Rita's Church. 2729 Lowerline S^T. Date of Completion November 1, 1957.
New Orleans 25, Illinois.

Persons Interested..... Price: \$11,000 (\$43.00).

Profit .25-1/2 \$ 617.00

Minister Right Rev. Monsignor William J. Castel. Denomination Roman Catholic.

Architect.....
All 4 of the lower panels open, both upper and lower halves, and also the 2 central
Vents..... bottom sections of the main window above. 3/15/57.

Position Large transept window Epistle side

Height from floor 4 feet
Protection Glass Rough pebbly plate with wire screen in place.*
Groove Rabbet Metal Stone Wood

Exposure East Footage 256 feet

Inscription None

Design wanted soon as possible. Staging.....

Templates from Lips. Blueprints.....

General Information To symbolize The Queenship of Mary. **
Monsignor Castel doesn't think this should be a single figure, but rather
her central figure with a couple of angels above and to the sides, and a
group of saints below - probably saints who were especially dedicated to her
and her cult.

Sent this rough sketch with a list of the estimated cost for the windows,
much as we have planned them.

Interior woodwork is all golden oak. The columns and arches are white, and
the walls are just off white - eggshell color. The ceiling is somewhat
yellow.

*We think we can leave this glass, although it may cast a slightly mottled
effect on the stained glass.

**Monsignor Castel's notes: LARGE TRANSEPT WINDOW: Queenship of Mary.
Inscription: "~~Queen of the Universe~~" "Queen assumed into
Lower four sections: (from left): Heaven; "Queen of the
1. Apparition at Guadalupe. Universe."
Inscription: "Queen of the Americas".

2. Prompt Succor Statue with Ursuline Convent and Battle of New Orleans in Background.
Inscription: "Hasten to help us."
3. Apparition at Lourdes.
Inscription: "Queen conceived without original sin."/
4. Apparition at Fatima.
Inscription: "Queen of Peace."

Note: There are photographs of the interior and exterior in the folder.

See large roll containing colored picture of the St. Louis Cathedral and the Ursuline Convent, New Orleans, which were saved through the intercession of Our Lady of Prompt Succor from the great fire of 1912 which destroyed a great part of the city. In the picture the fire is raging. There is also a picture of the Battle of New Orleans in which the American troops defeated the British again through the intercession of Our Lady of Prompt Succor. These two events are recorded in the office of the feast.
Also see black and white picture of the Statue of Our Lady of Prompt Succor.

As planned, it is devoted to the Queenship of Mary. Her figure, crowned and radiant in an attitude of blessing, dominates the great upper panel.

Twelve stars, symbolising the Twelve Fruit of the Holy Ghost, enrich the surrounding vesica shape, with suggestions of her lily of purity.

Adoring angels at either side hover above a group of attendant saints especially dedicated to her. These represent Saint Catherine Labourer with the Miraculous Medal; Saint John the Evangelist, into whose care the Blessed Virgin was given, with his symbol the chalice and serpent; Saint Thomas to whom she appeared at her Assumption, with his traditional spear; Saint Anne; Saint Joseph with his flowering staff; Saint Joachim with the shepherd's staff; Saint Elizabeth with whom she rejoiced; Saint Dominic with the Rosary. Pius X. (White Garment)

IMPORTANT: THEY WOULD RATHER NOT HAVE THE BLESSED VIRGIN'S PINK GARMENT GATHERED IN AT THE BOTTOM.

St. Alphonsus
Saint Bernard of Clairvaux, (White garment).
ST. JOSEPH'S SQUARE SHOULD BE INCLUDED AT HIS FEET.

Below, members of the Angelic Choir bear the trumpet of praise and the censer of prayer, with the inscription, "Queen ~~of the Universe~~ assumed into Heaven, - Queen of the Universe."

The narrow ruby borders are enriched with heavenly crowns; while the wide foliated borders, flowering in the white fleur-de-lys of purity, bear symbols from the Litany of the Blessed Virgin: the enclosed Garden, Tower of David, the Pierced Heart (Queen of Martyrs), Gate of Heaven, the Ark of the Covenant, the Spiritual Vessel, and the Mirror of Justice; while the crowned monogram, AR, appears at the top. (Get 7 more symbols, so as not to repeat across)
(see list)

the panels below are devoted to the Apparition at Guadalupe, with the inscription: "Queen of the Americas"; Our Lady of Prompt Succor, with the burning Ursuline Convent in the field at one side, and the Battle of New Orleans below. The inscription: "Hasten to help us". The Apparition at Lourdes, with the inscription: "Queen conceived without original sin"; and the Apparition at Fatima, with the text: "Queen of Peace"

The palette is kept luminous, but with abundant areas of primary tones.

MORE GOLD SHOULD
IN THE VESICA OF
OF GUADALUPE.
OUR LADY OF PROMPT
SUCCOR SHOULD NOT
QUITE SO BIG.

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Extracts from Monsignor Castel's letter of January 19, 1957 -
for K.O.S. - Re: New Orleans, Louisiana. Saint Rita's Church.

"...First, as regards the symbols in the border. It does not seem necessary to match the symbols from one side to the other. Instead of having two sets of seven symbols, why couldn't there be fourteen different symbols? We don't have any particular symbols to suggest, but we feel that your artists can find fourteen fine Marion symbols. They don't have to limit themselves to the Litany. The book CHURCH SYMBOLISM by F.R. Webber, is excellent on this subject. Refer to Chapter XIII, Pgs. 173 to 184 for symbols of the Blessed Virgin.

...We would prefer the nuns and priests to be in their proper color, or as nearly so as possible...I will list the saints:

1. St. Catherine Laboure: ...Her habit should be the true shade of blue of the Sisters of Charity. Her head piece should be pointed upwards as the local group of Sisters of Charity wear them today... (See sample of actual material and illustrations attached.)
2. St. Thomas: We would prefer to replace St. Thomas with St. Bernard of Clairveaux. ~~The~~ ...St. Bernard has always been considered as one of the heralds of Marion devotion. He ought to be dressed in a white cistercian choir robe with white capuche. The capuche should not be over his head, but rather set back on his shoulders. On his head he should have the white Zuchetta of an abbot.

St. John the Evangelist is an excellent choice.

4. Sts. Anne, Joseph and Joachim are well done, except that we think that Joachim ought to be on the right hand of St. Joseph.

5. St. Elizabeth is excellent.

6. Replace St. Dominig with ...the great Dominican Pope, St. Pius V. St. Pius V. established many Rosary Confraternities, and it was he who lead the people in unceasing prayer on the day of the miraculous intervention of God in the battle of Lepanto. He instituted the feast of the Holy Rosary. He should be dressed in the white cassock of the Holy Father with zuchetta on his head, and pectoral cross and ring. A rosary in his hands would not be out of place. St. Pius V was a gaunt old man with a long sparse beard.

7. In place of St. Maria Goretti, we would have St. Alphonsus dressed in the purplish red choir habit of a bishop, with ring, pectoral cross and zuchetta. St. Alphonsus' great book, "The Glories of Mary" is still recognized as a definite work on Marian devotion. His followers, the Redemptorists, are great promoters of Marian devotion to this day.

Concerning the 4 pictures at the bottom of the window, a study should be made of the original descriptions of Mary in the various apparitions. If it would not destroy the harmony of color, she should be in the original form in each of the lower windows. Perhaps you could achieve harmony in the background of each window. You should pay particular attention to the genuineness of the Prompt Succor and of the Cathedral and Ursuline Convent in the background, as New Orleansians are familiar with these landmarks. (See group of pictures)

* Monsignor Castel thought the face of St. Alphonsus would undoubtedly need more study. 6/26/57

Notes, after seeing Monsignor Castel in New Orleans, March 15, 1957.

The two big windows will counterchange - the reds and blues; that is red outer line, blue wings, and possibly a greeny-yellow field in the Kingship of Christ window.

They would rather not have the Blessed Virgin's pink garment gathered in at the bottom.

St. Joseph's square should be included at his feet.

They would like more gold in the figure of Our Lady of Prompt Succor, but not the yellow of the statue. Our Lady of Prompt Succor should not be quite so big.

In general, the figures should be looking toward the chancel in all the windows throughout. This does not apply to the groupings under the main figures in the transept windows, or any further to the present sketch.

More gold should be used in the vesica of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

They feel that the lower panels can be considered as separate and individual units.

We should not give the blank space at the base of the main groups of figures quite so much predominance. Hold it down so it doesn't stick out like bare pieces. z

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10/29/56."...If we could have Our Lady of Fatima in white rather than in blue, they might like it better; and there is some question about the color of S. Dominic's costume. Also mentioned 12 stars as being in the vesica rather than in the halo in Our Lady...."

Deepen the blue background between the two white figures.

Material received from Monsignor Castel, re: Saint Rita's Church, New Orleans. Given to Svendsen.

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