



TRUSTED LITURGICAL DESIGNERS,
ARTISTS AND ARTISANS FOR OVER HALF A CENTURY

Immaculate Conception Chapel at Mount St. Mary's Seminary Cincinnati, OH



OVERVIEW

A new chapel reaches into the vision of faith, retelling in forms, shapes and colors the story of our people and Our Savior. Rohn & Associates Design had the privilege of working closely with Archbishop Schnurr and Father Anthony Brausch to help them plan and execute an extensive redesign of the Immaculate Conception Chapel at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Cincinnati, Ohio, so that this sacred space bears appropriate witness to the preparation of the seminarians studying for a ministry in the Church. Together, we sought to answer what would best motivate these students in their priestly formation so that they are able to face the challenges of spreading their message of faith. To help them accomplish their renovation goals, Liturgical Designer Rolf Rohn and his team developed and executed the vision of the "The Moment of Christian Witness", wishing to communicate to the seminarians an overwhelming desire to present the truth of the Gospel.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The scope of work included an all-new altar, ambo, mosaics, statuary, artwork, flooring, stained glass windows, and appointments.

PROJECT EXECUTION

- It began with a unique altar that has a reliquary at its base, crafted to have the markings of the five wounds of Christ on the mensa and surrounded by a crown of thorns to remind us of the Passion of Christ.
- The custom-designed appointments, ambo, tabernacle, wall reliquary, new flooring and updated lighting system now make this sacred space a vibrant place for prayer and meditation for the entire community.
- The prominent placement of the only three-dimensional figure, the dominant crucifix, echoes an unexpected message of enduring faith and determination through the shared agony of the dying Christ.
- A standout is a new mosaic designed by Maria Hubbard on the sanctuary wall based on the Book of Revelations, in which the elders worship the Lord God on the throne. It features the Twelve Apostles and St. Paul, who represent the multitude of nations that are saved through the Gospel. In a powerful red smalti and gold mosaic, rays of light radiate from the Triumphant Lamb in resplendent glory, setting the sanctuary ablaze and illuminating the altar and all who worship in faith.
- Mosaics on the left and the right represent St. John the Theologian, the author of the Book of Revelations, and the Immaculate Conception, the first disciple of the Church.
- The art glass speaks of the timeless stories of the moment of Christian Witness through a series of stained glass windows representing saints.



COMPLETED PROJECT

Our goal to represent the theme of witnessing the truth in the face of the powers of this world is now strongly indicated throughout the chapel, and the hope, peace, and strength one finds in the love of Christ is communicated in the renovated sanctuary. What was once a seldom-used dark space is now a true testament of our faith.

RECOGNITION FROM LEADERSHIP

“Especially here in this place, where priests are formed, the chapel’s real gift might be to instill in the hearts of those called by Christ something of the vision of the Glory of the Lord. A gift they can carry into the lives of those they serve.”—Monsignor Frank Lane, PhD, *Athenaeum Magazine*.





