



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

# St. John Vianney Chapel Pontifical North American College, Rome, Italy





## OVERVIEW

Since its inception in 1971, the Institute for Continuing Theological Education at the Pontifical North American College in Rome, Italy, has provided the highest quality of sabbatical renewal to more than two thousand priests, allowing them to revitalize their theological education in fulfillment of Saint Paul's invocation: "I remind you to rekindle the gift of faith that is within you" (2 Tim 1:6). In order to continue this tradition of excellence, the NAC called upon Liturgical Designer Rolf Rohn to design the new St. John Vianney Chapel in its newly renovated home of the Casa Santa Maria villa so that the environment and all of its appointments reflect and encourage the mission of priestly formation.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The Rohn Design team's renovation plan included space formation, altar, appointments, tabernacle, tabernacle throne, Presider's chair, Deacon's chair, credence table, interior decoration, mural, statuary, Stations of the Cross, art glass, lighting program and fundraising support.

## PROJECT EXECUTION

Among the highlights of the scope of work planned and executed by Rolf and his team for the St. John Vianney Chapel are:

- New statuary and Stations of the Cross, including a hand-carved oak statue of the Mary, Mother of Priests, presenting the Christ Child for adoration
- New liturgical furniture and appointments, including a Cosmatesque masterpiece based on a medieval Tabernacle from the Church of Santa Sabina on the Aventine
- A hand-painted mural with a gold-leafed reproduction of the Mosaic of the Cross, Vine and the Branches depicted in the ancient Church of San Clemente
- State-of-the-art lighting designed to properly highlight the art and actions of the liturgy
- To help pay for the cost of this extensive renovation, Rolf and his team worked closely with the ICTE to develop a comprehensive fundraising campaign. The campaign, which was very successful, was supported by custom collateral created by the Rohn team including a compelling naming opportunity brochure that drove significant donations. Parishioners are invited to choose available sacred items to honor or memorialize individuals whose names would then be forever displayed in the chapel. Rolf was so moved he donated several items for the chapel himself.



Rolf also designed the windows for the Chapel of Reservation for the Blessed Sacrament in the new NAC tower to support the college's goal of priestly formation, closely collaborating with Monsignor James Checchio, Rector, and Reverend Monsignor Michael L. Farmer, Vice Rector for Administration and Formation Advisor. Additionally, he managed the fabrication, shipping and installation of the art glass. The Rohn team included Maria Hubbard, who illustrated the portraits for the glass and worked on design development, along with Kathy Maglicco, who collaborated on the selection of glass and colors.

- The two main windows feature the Sacred Heart of Jesus with the inscription of the college's coat of arms motto "Firmum Est Cor Meum"—"My heart is steadfast"—and the Immaculate Heart of Mary with the words "Vergine Immacolata, aiutateci".

Other windows included:

- Pope John Paul II (who attended the college in 1981), inscribed with "Pastores Dabo Vobis"
- Mother Teresa of Calcutta (who was a frequent visitor), inscribed with "I thirst"
- Venerable Bishop Fulton Sheen, with the inscription "Sacrificium nostrum, in Christo"
- Venerable Father Michael McGivney, founder of the Knights of Columbus, with the words "Tempus fugit memento mori"

## COMPLETED PROJECT

The completed chapel provides a serene and inspiring retreat for priests who are looking for renewal.









