



## OVERVIEW

One of Liturgical Designer Rolf Rohn's latest projects was to transform the vision of a harmonious liturgically correct environment for Houston-based St. John Vianney's main church and its chapel into a reality in time for its fiftieth anniversary. Coming to the realization that most designers and architects lack the liturgical expertise essential to address the liturgical requirements of a sacred space, Father Troy Gately and the building committee contacted Rolf, who Father Gately had worked with on the extraordinary Houston Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart. Father Gately knew that there was only one designer who could adequately honor the Patron Saint of Priests and the St. John Vianney theme of Deo Optimo Maximo: To God, The Best, The Greatest!

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The Rohn team introduced an all-inclusive master plan for the interior and exterior of the church, chapel and adoration chapel. Areas of focus included space formation, sanctuary renovation, flooring, interior decoration and finishes, devotional spaces, new liturgical furniture, new statuary, crucifix and restoration of existing statuary.

## PROJECT EXECUTION

- **Fundraising** was supported by drawings created by Rolf, who worked closely with Father Troy Gately to conceptualize individual devotional statues of saints to appeal to the local community for financial support. Graphic Designer Maria Hubbard provided 3D interior views that helped parish leadership communicate the vision of the completed project to the faith community and help raise funds.
- Liturgical Interior Designer Kathy Maglicco directed the interior design efforts that included complementary interior finishes and materials with help from Rohn's specialty suppliers.
- Rolf and his team designed an impressive Romanesque serpentine mosaic floor that pulled the chapel, narthex and church together beneath a stunning heavenly dome mural installation, reflecting the Christian theme of journey from Baptism to Eucharist. The flooring also accents the Christian virtues.
- The Rohn team meticulously executed a restoration of treasured statuary, which has served

## **PROJECT EXECUTION: continued**



as a source of devotion to parishioners for years. In addition, new devotional statues were introduced along with support spaces for both, including the Immaculate Conception, Patroness of the Diocese of Galveston-Houston, St. John the Baptist, St. Joseph, St. Therese of Lisieux, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Monica, St. Anthony, St. Anne with Blessed Mother and Child, St. Judas, St. Peter and St. Paul. Rohn's staff artists created intricately detailed preliminary sketches and designs that served as an inspiration to Rolf's handpicked master craftsman, who handcrafted each statue.

- The original wooden crucifix was restored and relocated to the chapel, while a new massive and awe-inspiring crucifix, hand-carved in Italy, is now prominent and in proportion to the sanctuary—and serves as the focal point of the church's sanctuary and interior.
- New Stations of the Cross were cast and redesigned to produce a contemporary representation of each of the 14 Stations. Rolf, who owns molds of these exquisite Stations, was able to customize each one to seamlessly fit into and complement the newly renovated environment. The final touches to the Stations came in the form of the application of gold highlights and shadows to enhance the presentation of the Passion of our Lord. Properly executed Stations of the Cross inspire the faithful and convey the love Jesus has for each of us enduring his Passion to save us.
- A state-of-the art green LED lighting system—also designed and executed by Rolf and his team—perfectly illuminates the interior with calculated focus on its sacred art and the actions of the liturgy. This well-thought-out lighting plan also perfectly illuminates each Station.



## COMPLETED PROJECT

Upon completion, this treasured church shines as a brighter beacon of faith and devotion to honor God. This renovated space, with proper illumination and liturgically correct interior, encourages worship and a sense of community that exceeded everyone's expectations. The new altar provides the perfect sign of Christ for the entire St. John Vianney community: the center of Thanksgiving perfected in the Eucharist serving as the focal point around which the church's other rites are performed and the breathtaking three-dimensional awe-inspiring Stations that set a new standard for the entire Diocese.



## **RECOGNITION FROM CATHEDRAL LEADERSHIP**

*Rolf received special recognition from church leadership during the dedication for his work as those in attendance witnessed the extraordinary illumination of the sanctuary and nave of the church—especially the sacred art. Father Gately also acknowledged Rohn's Liturgical Interior Designer Kathy Maglicco and Designer Maria Hubbard for their collaboration on the design with Rolf.*



## ARTISTIC VISION

