



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

St. Louise de Marillac Catholic Church Pittsburgh, PA



OVERVIEW

When Reverend Michael Caridi, his team and architect Lou Astorino began to plan the renovation of St. Louise de Marillac Catholic Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, they immediately brought on local legends Rolf Rohn and Kathy Maglicco—Liturgical Designers at Rohn and Associates Design responsible for the transformation of countless Pittsburgh-area worship environments—to ensure a harmonious, welcoming and liturgically correct interior. The church was comprised of diverse organic forms, spaces and reflections of historic church architecture and local tradition, which presented a significant challenge for the team. The rugged fieldstone used on the exterior and interior to convey the early Church and exposed steel columns, girders and trusses that modernized it with a uniquely Pittsburgh feel led to an interior that was quite dark and lacking in warmth. Rolf and Kathy's goal was to emphasize the new open floor plan and provide an inspirational space that is both welcoming and harmonious.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Rohn team custom designed the liturgical furniture, appointments and finishes to ensure that they convey the environment's integrity, hospitable nature and spiritual uplift, all in the service of the community's worship of Almighty God.

PROJECT EXECUTION

- The vision for the liturgical furniture came from an existing Old World-style stone column outside the door of the sanctuary. All elements were designed to be in harmony with the rest of the space while still emphasizing the altar as the focal point of Christocentric worship. The original baptismal font also provided inspiration with its intricate grapevine pattern that was repeated on the new wood furniture and appointments.
- The Italian-crafted and patinaed bronze tabernacle door and bronze-finished carved Oak ambry door, marble altar and ambo, Deacon's Chair and subtly adorned red and gold Presider's Chair are invitations to meditate on the Paschal Mystery with their weighty earthy materials and design.
- The baptismal font was also refinished—its octagonal lid gilded with 23-karat gold leaf and the stone base done in a bronze tone to complement the rest of the furnishings.
- The Rohn team also custom designed all-new brushed bronze appointments with the same grapevine detailing carved in wood to match the furniture, including a gold-leafed processional cross that holds a silver crucifix, an altar cross, processional torches, altar candles and sanctuary lamp.



- Artist Renate Rohn restored all of the artwork and the hanging crucifix (with its newly fabricated cross) in peaceful hues and gilded detailing to emphasize the beauty of the space but also to convey an overwhelming spirituality.
- The back wall of the sanctuary featuring adoring angels was hand-carved in Italy and carefully painted and detailed with accents of 23-karat white gold on-site.
- Rohn artists also repaired and repainted the original Mary and Joseph statues that stand in the front of the church, the original Blessed Mother from the shrine, and painted the new patron saint statue in the entry, all of which now feature soft tones and gold highlights.
- The original wood Stations of the Cross that encircle the church were redone in similar colors accented with gold and bronze to harmonize with the rest of the artwork and sanctuary décor.
- The Stations also complement the newly introduced hand-carved, gold-leafed and patinaed Holy Spirit relief that hangs in the upper right corner of the church. All are meant to remind worshippers of their participation in the Heavenly Liturgy.

COMPLETED PROJECT

St. Louise de Marillac's once dark interior is now filled with beams of light that permeate the airy space to make it a bright, warm and inviting liturgically correct worship space for parishioners who seek the presence of God.

RECOGNITION FROM LEADERSHIP

"Overall, I knew from the start that the renovated church would be beautiful, but the final result far exceeds what I expected. My favorite part of the renovation is the beautiful new altar and tabernacle designed by Rohn and Associates and that the overall design seems to pull people closer together around the altar."—Father Michael A. Caridi, Pastor





