



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

St. John the Evangelist Chapel at St. John's Seminary Brighton, MA



OVERVIEW

Monsignor James P. Moroney, Rector of the historic St. John's Seminary in Brighton, Massachusetts, entrusted Rohn & Associates to develop a restoration program for St. John the Evangelist Chapel. Having worked with Liturgical Designer Rolf Rohn on the USCCB Chapel in Washington, DC, and the Our Lady of Presentation Lecture Hall in Brighton, MA, Monsignor Moroney knew that Rolf and his team envisioned and delivered spectacular results to liturgical environments in need of renewal. It had been over one hundred years since the Chapel's historic mural by Italian artist Gonippo Raggi, one of the foremost Roman Church artists of the early 20th century, was painted. Rohn Custom Studio's highly skilled artists were given the privilege and challenging task of restoring the original colors and forms that had, over time and through previous bad restorations, lost much of their original brilliance and detail. In addition to being faded, this important artistic masterpiece was cloaked in the same shadows that obscured the liturgical functions of the chapel.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Rohn team developed and executed an interior renovation program that included interior decoration, altar and ambo restoration, restoration of the original crucifix, a new marble Tabernacle throne with Cosmatesque mosaic texture and a new Onyx Tabernacle. The renewal was split into two phases: The first phase was meant to awaken the original Romanesque beauty of the priceless murals. The second phase addressed lighting and lighting controls, liturgical furniture, and organ and sanctuary restoration.

PROJECT EXECUTION

- The painstaking restoration of the apse mural took place over many months as our team of professionally trained artists worked closely with church officials to ensure its excellent care while slowly revealing new life and brilliant hues embellished with gold.
- Our artists also framed the windows of the apse with new decorative paintings that enhance the art depicted on the stained glass windows.
- A historical carved crucifix was redesigned with a faux-mosaic texture and golden accents and placed in its original location.
- To honor the Blessed Sacrament, we created a new Tabernacle made of onyx and metal accents, which is now placed behind the Altar in a new Tabernacle throne with a Cosmatesque mosaic pattern.
- A careful lighting plan was designed and implemented by Rolf, which allowed the artwork and chapel environment to live in harmony. It provides for architectural, focal and functional lighting with various "scenes" that reflect the devotion and liturgical actions of the chapel.



COMPLETED PROJECT

Rolf's guidance on this historic project and the talent of his skilled artists honors the Catholic faith in New England and provides an uplifting place of worship. The work to complete the entire restoration, chancel area furnishings, appointments and choir stalls will take over ten years.

RECOGNITION FROM LEADERSHIP

"The combination of the renewal of the paintings and the installation of a state of the art lighting system in the first phase brought new life to our magnificent chapel. The creation in marble of a new Tabernacle and Ambo of great historical and artistic merit have enhanced the seminary's celebration of the Liturgy and enriched our appreciation of the Church's rich artistic and liturgical traditions."—Monsignor James P. Moroney, Rector



SAINT JOHN SEMINARY CHAPEL - BRIGHTON, MA
RESTORATION - EXTERIOR, INTERIOR, SACRED ART & LITURGICAL FURNITURE

PRESERVING OUR PATRIMONY

LITURGICAL FURNITURE

After mural restoration completed

Robt Design and Associates is now privileged to restore the original colors and forms which have, through time and previous restorations, lost much of their original brilliance and detail. The pictures here give you some idea of the work we are undertaking. As of today the restoration to the Ape mosaics has been completed. These photos show you a sample of the work done.

It has been over 103 years since this wonder of catholic liturgical art was painted. The next phases will address the Nave ceiling, the wall murals and organ. A memorial book is being prepared in order to help you to participate in this historic endeavor as we seek to preserve this miraculous work for the next hundred years, inspiring seminarians, professors and all who pray in this holy place.
Your help would be appreciated.

ROHN

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