

St. John Neumann Catholic Church Austin, TX



OVERVIEW

For nearly a decade, Liturgical Design Consultant Rolf Rohn of Rohn & Associates Design, Inc., worked faithfully with Pastor Fr. Bud Roland and his parish Art & Environs Committee to advance a liturgically correct sacred plan for St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Austin, Texas. The scope of this plan included liturgical, devotional and iconographic requirements that would inspire a faith-based community dedicated to serving those in need and emphasize the liturgical characteristics of the exquisite “modern” Renaissance-inspired artwork.

In addition, Rolf faced the challenging and complex process of designing, coordinating and implementing the crown jewel of the project—a record-breaking 76’ diameter dome mosaic overlooking the sanctuary and assembly, promoting the church’s theme, “Trinity through the Cross”, conceived and developed with the church’s A&E Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Rohn team developed and executed the complete liturgical design and installation of all marble furniture, flooring, mosaics, statuary, interior decoration, and appointments.

PROJECT EXECUTION

Rolf guided the design process through the A&E Committee and various parishioners so he could align everyone’s ideas and create a fluid liturgical design vision for the entire church and related support spaces.

- Rolf’s preliminary drawings modified the style of the church to better suit the city and property limitations. The vaulted design provides ideal liturgical harmony that inspires the faithful. Once the style was finalized, his team focused on amplifying the relationship between the people of God in the past, present and future through the meticulous use of space and art.
- In addition to interior architectural and liturgical harmony within the sanctuary, Rolf introduced congregation friendly seating and intricately patterned stone mosaic-tiled aisles to provide an enhanced sense of community gathering around the altar, which promotes deeper participation in the liturgy.
- An elaborate dome with powerful imagery and the Lord’s Prayer in mosaic is the focal point of the main theme, which ties in with the new hand-carved 9’ crucifix, massive marble altar table, and reserved Eucharist tabernacle.
- The dome itself is the result of twenty-four months of meticulous planning and design development of its theological characteristics, which feature the heavenly kingdom of God, the victorious Lamb, four Evangelists, four Eucharistic scenes, the Lord’s Prayer and four archangels pendentives. Rolf, along with Rohn Custom Studio Artist Renate Rohn (who originally conceptualized the dome with the A & E Committee), Liturgical Interior Designer Kathy Maglicco and Designer Maria Hubbard, directed the dome project from concept into a full-blown theological drama of the St. John Neumann church history. Rolf then selected master Italian artisans to develop the full-size drawings and ultimately the final mosaic fabrication and installation.



COMPLETED PROJECT

The completed project delivered a liturgically correct environment in which the marble furniture, flooring, mosaics, statuary, interior decoration and appointments worked in harmony to create an incredible sacred space. The awe-inspiring, seventy-two foot round mosaic dome (comprised of over 30,000,000 intricate pieces) is the crown jewel of this renovated 37,000 square-foot sacred space promoting the theme, "Trinity through the Cross." The installed dome now features the largest mosaic in Texas and one of the ten largest mosaics in the United States.

RECOGNITION FROM LEADERSHIP

Pastoral Associate Joanne Senn, who worked on the project from fabrication to completion, emphasized the tremendous impact of the dome installation to her parish, calling it "a historic moment in our history as we bring to fruition a decade-long project that has been touched by priests, bishops, parishioners and designers...under the direction of liturgical designers Rohn and Associates." *[The Austin Statesman]*





COMPLETED PROJECT

