



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

Our Lady of Guadalupe Adoration Chapel Fargo, ND



OVERVIEW

When Most Reverend Samuel Aquila, Father Luke Meyer and Earl Wilhelm of the Diocese of Fargo needed someone to design the free-standing Our Lady of Guadalupe Adoration Chapel that was to be nestled between their Cathedral, Rectory and Administration building in a mere three days, they knew that Liturgical Designer Rolf Rohn of Rohn & Associates Design, Inc. would not only relish this challenge, but had the experience, knowledge and creativity to design a breathtaking worship space that met Church guidelines for a perpetual adoration chapel within the strict budget of \$1M for the entire complex.

The contemporary exterior Neo-Gothic design of the chapel was intended to reach up and beyond the surrounding buildings and include parking, walkways and a connection to the Cathedral. Its interior needed to reflect Romanesque design that brings our eyes to the altar and Eucharist. The layout had to seat 45 comfortably and include a central altar table, Presider & Deacon seating, choir stalls set into art glass images of the Life of Christ and the Blessed Mother, and shrines to St. Joseph and the Blessed Mother. A gracious vestibule, restroom, balcony and stairwell to the lower storage area were also a requirement.

Rolf's design exceeded Bishop Aquila's expectations and he approved it on the third day.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Rolf carefully consulted the USCCB publication, *Thirty-One Questions on Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*, during the design process. Particular aspects of an adoration chapel differ from a parish church: like a prayer rug, every inch must be devoted to prayer and adoration. Quiet is the key word for sound guidelines, and aesthetics that draw us into Christ's presence are of utmost importance for resting the soul and mind. Rolf determined that a cruciform shape provided the necessary layout so that all finishes, lighting, acoustics, artwork and furniture focus on prayer. In addition to identifying the physical needs of the space, Rolf, Bishop Aquila, Father Luke and Liturgical Interior Designer Kathy Maglicco focused on Roman iconography to bind our history and traditions to the Romanesque design of the interior of the chapel.



PROJECT EXECUTION

- Rolf and his team detailed every inch of the chapel while working closely with a local architect and contractors.
- Two mosaics depicting the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe are in the vaulted entrance, which draw one's eyes upward and one inward.
- In the balcony overlooking the chapel is a large carved leaded glass depicting the Sacraments and the Pelicanus feeding its young with its own blood, symbolizing the sacrifice Jesus made for all of us.
- The Mural of Annunciation (as narrated by the Gospel of Luke) by renowned Spanish artist Raul Berzosa is centered above the altar table on a brilliant celestial ceiling. Archangel Gabriel kneels in front of the Virgin Mary, who is revealing the coming of the Son and the salvation he will bring to the human race. The sublime colors of the Annunciation mirror God's presence, with Archangel Gabriel representing the heavenly hosts and Mary embodying the Church. Surrounding this glowing vision, luminous gold stars part the deep blue heavens, revealing the truth that God will bring light to the darkest corners of Earth.
- Rolf and Maria Hubbard, Rohn's Director of Graphic Services, also designed custom art glass in soothing twilight tones depicting the Last Supper, nave window and side transept art glass of the New Testament, St. Joseph and Blessed Mother shrines to echo the Church's foundation stories.
- They also conceptualized custom hand-carved statuary of the Holy Rood, liturgical furniture (including the altar, ambo and presbyterium seating) and a patterned floor that emphasizes the altar and monstrance.

COMPLETED PROJECT

Rolf and his team were able to take his design and quickly turn it into an inviting and prayerful chapel while still providing the perfect setting for liturgy: the New Jerusalem!

RECOGNITION FROM LEADERSHIP

"I can enter this space and find peace. It is so very different—quiet—and one quickly gains a sense of the sacred, like in the Old Testament temple: curtains are removed and it is revealed that here is where God dwells."





