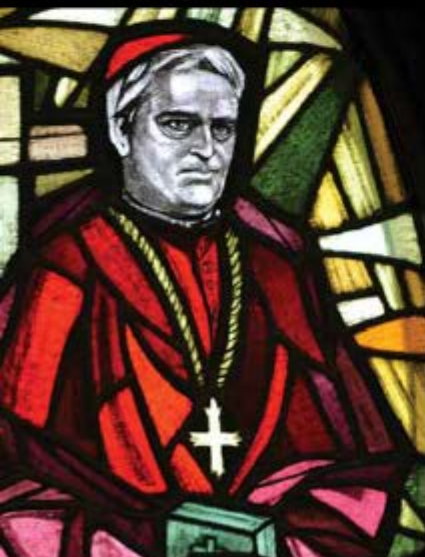


Surrounded

By The Spirit

Our windows and walls reflect the faith and aspirations of our alumni and students



Ask a student to name the centerpiece of our campus and the answer will be Christ the Teacher chapel. Yes, the Knowledge Center is sleek and functional, and the Student Community Center is often where the action is, but it's the chapel that not only draws together our current students, but also ties our present campus to the past.

The instantly recognizable steeple and signature stained glass windows of Christ the Teacher chapel were transported from "Manogue on the Hill," the Valley Road campus that was the school's home for nearly half a century—1957 to 2004. Those elements, plus a few others, were skillfully incorporated into the new worship space, and without question, the new chapel evokes the original—most especially through the arched, brick-lined, and vividly colored stained glass windows.

In 1957, a 17-year-old Hungarian girl named Isabel Piczek crafted those first, soaring, and riotously colored windows behind the altar, and then, with her sister Edith's help, the smaller side windows that flank them. Undoubtedly, those windows have in some way made an impression on each of the more than 5,500 students who attended Manogue between 1957 and now, not to mention countless visitors. The Piczek sisters' work is at once beautiful and startling—and remarkably timeless. Visitors find it hard to believe that the bold images were created some 50 years ago. Tell

them they were fashioned by a Hungarian teenager who later went on to become a particle physicist (it's true) and they are even more transfixed.

It could have been a problem that the new chapel's dimensions called for four additional side windows, but perhaps by divine providence, Isabel and Edith Piczek (who has since passed away) were willing and able to create the stained glass that would fill them. When the four new windows were formally blessed by Bishop Calvo in the fall of 2008, Isabel Piczek herself was present and had these words to say:

"The opportunity very seldom presents itself in the life of an artist to continue an assignment started as a teenager and finishing it decades later. The place... becomes for the artist... a place of judgment and revelation. I face my earlier self, that seventeen-year-old girl, who stood in front of the empty openings of the tall windows at old Manogue, wondering if she is capable to do all this. At the time, however, I have already painted a large mural in one of the Vatican buildings in Rome, won the International Grand Award for painting also in Rome and painted the big mural in your Cathedral here. But the tall windows at Manogue were my first, large stained glass windows..."

The beauty of those windows is one reason they still resonate, but there are other reasons as well. Each window tells

The Marvelous Windows of Christ the Teacher Chapel



a bit of the Manogue story, some obviously, as in the looming figure of Christ the Teach that anchors the space, and some more quietly, as in the window of Joseph the Worker, donated by the class of 1964 in memory of John Fitzgerald Kennedy. (See sidebar)

Art has long been used to teach and inspire, as well as beautify, and beyond our fabulous windows, examples abound throughout our campus. There are several icons, a traditional stylized form of art, throughout the building that serve as reminder of what makes Bishop Manogue tick. For instance:

- Jesus, the Divine Mercy, hanging over the central corridor reminds us that Jesus is the reason for our school.
- Christ the Teacher appropriately hangs in the academic wing.
- The Holy Family reminds us that our families are called to imitate them.
- The icons of St. Catherine of Siena and St. Thomas More near the Knowledge Center remind us of their principled courage and dedication to scholarship.
- St. John Baptist de la Salle, patron saint of teachers, hangs outside the teacher's lounge.
- St. Cecilia, the patroness of music, is outside the music room.

Additional icons around the school include St. Maximilian Kolbe, St. Kateri Tekawitha, the Immaculate Conception, the Good Samaritan, St. Martin de Porres, St. Vincent de Paul, St. Ignatius of Loyola, St. Brigid, and a Guardian angel icon. The majority were purchased for the school by generous donors.

Other meaningful art on campus includes "Seeking the One," a large painting outside the main gym, of a youthful and athletic Christ; and "Hosanna" portraying the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Our gymnasiums are graced with reminders of our faith as well with large and beautiful handcrafted crosses, constructed and donated by an alumni parent.

But perhaps the most straightforward messages of faith for our students, staff, families, and visitors are two simple scripture passages over the doors separating the main corridor from the Knowledge Center. These passages remind us simply, "You are the light of the world..." and "You are the salt of the earth..."

You can see, then, how not only our curriculum and clubs, but also our windows and walls instruct our students with lessons of faith, compassion, prayerfulness, and action. Those students become alumni, and those alumni become citizens of the world, who color it with their love and brighten it with their many gifts. ■



Left Wing:

- The Cure of Ars, St. John Vianney, from the Robert J. and Nana Sullivan family
- St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, from the Norm and Laura Dtanda Family
- St. Louis of France, in memory of Louis Anelli, class of 1971
- St. Thomas Aquinas, from the class of 1969
- Bishop Patrick Manogue from the classes of 1967 and 1968
- Mother of Wisdom, in memory of Judith Ann Ramsour, class of 1961

Center Windows:

- St. Robert and St. Gabriel
- Christ the Teacher and St. Michael
- St. Leo and St. Raphael

Right Wing:

- St. Joseph the Worker, in memory of John Fitzgerald Kennedy from the class of 1964
- Cardinal Newman, from the classes of 1965 and 1966
- St. Paul, in memory of Leo Pistone, class of 1970
- St. Francis of Assisi in memory of Michael Stewart, class of 1972
- Our Lady of Mount Carmel, from the Jack and Ro Reviglio family.
- St. Albert the Great, from the Frank and Jennie Desmond Family.

Back Wall:

- Charity, from the Michael and Tammy Dermody family
- Hope, from the Chris Aramint family
- Faith, from the John Aramint family
- The Holy Spirit, in memory of D.J. Benardis from the class of 1966