

Spring 2019

The Difference is Love

Volume 6 Issue 5

St. Margaret Hall's Latest Renovation is Complete



The Carmelite Sisters are pleased to announce the completion of the front lobby expansion, first floor update and Chapel renovation project at St. Margaret Hall. The project began in April 2018 and was completed in December 2018 just in time for the Residents to attend Christmas services in the Chapel.

The renovation of the St. Joseph Chapel at St. Margaret Hall was a successful marriage of old and new, blending the traditional marble altar, dark paneling and wood pews with the updated acoustical ceiling, wall covering and lighting. The carpet design was selected to compliment the beautiful stained glass windows.

The lobby expansion created a warm, welcoming entrance for our visitors and provided additional indoor and outdoor areas for our residents. The floor-to-ceiling windows fill the space with natural light and views to the outside keep residents connected to the time of day and seasons. The outdoor area includes

wheelchair accessible seating, colorful plantings and a water feature.

The first floor hallways were updated with new flooring, wall covering and lighting. The library, parlor and front solarium were redecorated as well.



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Look Closely – The Story in the Stained Glass

During the renovation, an envelope was discovered that contained a very interesting, yet incomplete, description and history of the Chapel's stained glass windows. This discovery began an exciting journey to gather the missing information to complete the description of the windows and to enhance our understanding of the narratives depicted in these magnificent works of art.

Stained glass is believed to have first been created by Ancient Roman and Egyptian artisans and the use of stained glass for windows of churches or monasteries flourished during the Middle Ages and continues through the present day. Stained glass windows were originally used as a storytelling tool for the illiterate population to understand stories from the Bible. The stories primarily told through images and symbolism play a vital role in telling the right story.



When sunshine seeps in the St. Joseph Chapel at St. Margaret Hall, the light it casts illuminates the brilliant colors and shapes in the stained glass in the windows. Like a tapestry, the window in the sanctuary tells a story and the windows in the nave show images and symbols of saints and The Holy Family.

In 1962 Reverend Edward McCarthy, from the Archdiocesan Building Commission, engaged Emil Frei Studio from St. Louis Missouri to create the stained glass windows for St. Margaret Hall. Francis Deck, from Emil Frei, was

selected to be the artist.

In the newly discovered document, Mr. Deck describes the sanctuary window as "a comparison between the Old and New Testaments and is basically a statement of the history of Redemption. In the area to the left of center the events of the Old Testament begin at the top with the Creation being suggested by the sun, moon and stars. Below the tree with the Star of David is the Old Law and the fall of man. At the bottom, the Promise is symbolized by the foot of Mary crushing the head of the serpent on the orb.

The New Testament occupies the right side beginning at the top with the Nativity. The Chi Rho (symbol of Christ) stems from the lily suggesting the birth of Christ and the motherhood of Mary. Lower, the three crosses suggest the Crucifixion and the chalice with the Blood of Christ flowing from the center cross recalls the institution of the Blessed Sacrament. The palm branch then suggests the Resurrection and finally at the bottom the Sanctification is suggested. The dove symbolizes the Holy Spirit and the tongue of fire completes the Pentecost idea.

In the window located to the left of the chapel and closest to the altar, St. Margaret of Scotland holds bread and roses in



her apron recalling the miraculous episode on her visitation to the poor. Three symbols, the thistle, chalice and wedding band, recall her attention to the cause of religion and piety. The symbols recall the synod which was held at her request on matters of Lent and fasting (thistle), Easter

Communion (chalice), and marriage laws (wedding bands).

In the middle panel, Our Lady of Mount Carmel holds the Christ Child and scapulars. Three symbols are the oak leaf, a symbol of St. Simon Stock to whom the scapular was presented, the scapular itself, and the lily symbolizing Mary.



In the panel at the back of the chapel, St. Simeon holds the dove recalling



the Presentation of Christ. The symbols in the background are the Star of David, suggesting the lineage of Christ, the lamp symbolizing the waiting of Simeon for the coming of Christ, and the Holy Spirit who inspired his Nunc Dimmittis."

Unfortunately, the note did not include the description of the remaining window located to the right of the altar. It was like reading

a mystery novel only to find out the last chapter was missing. Luckily, Aaron Frei from Emil Frei Studio located the answer in the archival records at the Missouri Historical Society. The window is devoted to St. Joseph. The first symbol starting

from the left suggests his patronage to the church. The second symbol shows St. Joseph as the head of the Holy Family, the lily symbolizes Mary, and the Chi Rho is the symbol for Christ. The third symbol shows St. Joseph as the patron saint of a happy death, and finally the fourth shows him as the patron saint of workers.



Stained glass windows are never static. In the course of the day they are illuminated by changing light, their patterns wandering across the floor, inviting your thoughts to wander with them. They allow the light of God into the church. We invite you to enjoy the beautiful stained glass in the St. Joseph Chapel. If you have any trouble locating the symbols, Sr. Eileen will be happy to help you find them.

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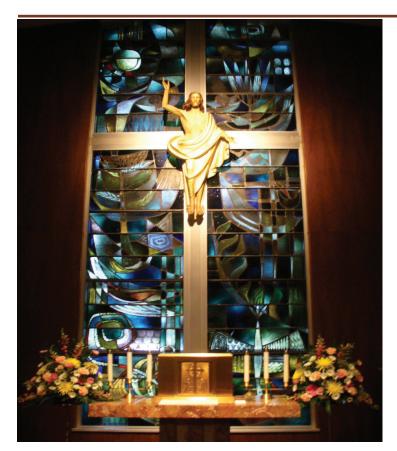
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Palm Sunday Mass – 11:00 AM Holy Thursday Mass – 4:00 PM Good Friday Services – 3:00 PM Holy Saturday Mass – 4:00 PM Easter Sunday Mass – 11:15 AM

St. Margaret Hall is a not-for-profit Skilled Nursing and Residential Care Facility sponsored by the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm. St. Margaret Hall exists to provide compassionate care to the elderly in an environment that meets the spiritual, physical, and social needs of each individual while promoting quality of life and inner peace.