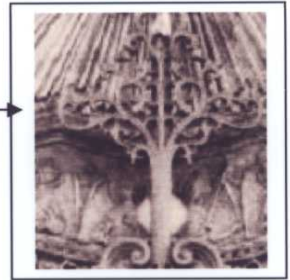


Christ the King Chapel Reredos Sculpture, "A Meditation in Stone"

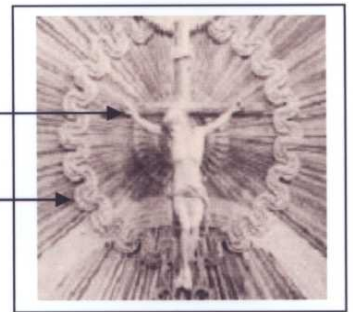
The reredos sculpture in the sanctuary of Christ the King Chapel is 22 feet wide and 38 feet high. It took eleven months to build on-site in 1927. It is mainly composed of silica and cement and reinforced with steel rods. The reredos was designed by sculptor Mr. Chris Mueller from a sketch conceived by Father Theophilus Richardt, OFM (SEE FULL PHOTO BELOW)

Here is an explanation of what it represents according to Fr. Richardt, through the use of Biblical passages, and Catholic tradition:

In the center of the sculpture stands the "TREE OF LIFE" (Genesis 2:9), symbolizing the special tree that stood in the Garden of Eden, the fruit of which would have perpetuated supernatural life in man. But, because of man's sin, the plan was frustrated. Therefore, God put into motion the course to "redemption and salvation" for fallen mankind. (Genesis 3)



So, from the trunk of the Tree of Life grows the "TREE OF THE CROSS", upon which the SAVIOR, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, (surrounded by a crown of thorns, as well as shining rays of glory) immolates Himself to the All-Powerful Father, (represented by the bearded man at the very top); and dies on the cross (John 19:30) to merit redemption for the sins of mankind; and gives Grace through the Holy Spirit, (represented by the dove) thus depicting the doctrine of the Holy Trinity, the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19) (Nicene Creed)



Therefore, because of this One Perfect Sacrifice on the cross ...

... the souls of the "CHURCH SUFFERING" in Purgatory, (See the lower panels), are visited by the angels, and freed to enter Heaven;



... the "CHURCH MILITANT" living on Earth, (see the 2nd tier of panels on your left, in the full sculpture) recalls the offering of the priest Melchizedek (Genesis 14:18), and it also recalls the spiritual food, the paschal lamb, of the Old Testament (Exodus 12:1-13);



...but now it enjoys (see 2nd tier panels on your right) Emmanuel ("God with us") in the Holy Eucharist, the Spiritual Food of the New Testament. (Hebrews 7:1-3) The people are depicted in a state of adoration before Christ's Presence in the Eucharist. (Romans 10:9) (1 Corinthians 12: 23-32)



... and, the "CHURCH TRIUMPHANT" forever in Heaven rejoices at the Wedding of the Lamb! (See the large outer ring which represents Heaven). (Revelation 19)



In Heaven, (inside the large ring) the CHOIRS OF ANGELS are depicted as seraphic winged beings. The SAINTS in Heaven are represented by the sun, the moon, and stars. THE RAINBOW, in the heavenlies, as in the days of Noah, proclaims and pledges peace and reconciliation between heaven and earth. (Genesis 9:13)



The small statues from your left to right are: ST. FRANCIS meditating on the mystery of the Cross; THE PELICAN, ripping open its breast to feed its young, a symbol of the Savior who feeds His people with His own Flesh and Blood; and ST. CLARE discouraging the enemies of God with the Blessed Sacrament (the Holy Eucharist);



ST. BARBARA carrying the Holy Eucharist; THE LAMB symbolizing Jesus, slain for mankind in sacrifice; and ST. ANTHONY preaching the mystery of the Cross.



The ALTAR, (the main altar that was there until 1980) (see photo)

blends into one with the Reredos sculpture. Its baldachino, (a small, simplified replica of the grand Baldachino, which stands over the main altar, and tomb of St. Peter, in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome), which sits in front of a large white circle representing the Holy Communion host, professes the Church's union with the Holy See.



SEE FULL PHOTO BELOW

