

Our New Crucifix



Last weekend, as we celebrated the feast of our Patron, St. Thomas More, we also welcomed the recently-created crucifix that will grace our new Church.

Lynn Kircher, www.kirchersculpture.com, the artist who created our crucifix, accompanied it from his studio in Colorado to Oceanside, and oversaw, with the help of Brian Leahy, our Director of Construction, and a number of Parishioners, the attachment to the cross and then its erection in our present worship space on Saturday, June 22.

Special thanks is given to our Parishioner, Martin Zschoche, who created the cross for the corpus!

The crucifix will remain in our present worship space until the Church is ready to accept it. At that time, the corpus will be placed on its permanent cross which is being designed by our architect, Renzo Zecchetto, www.zecchetto.com.

The Interior Design Team (IDT) which has been meeting monthly for about nine years spent much time in determining the "moment" of Jesus' time on the cross that we wanted to portray on our crucifix.

Many crucifixes in many churches image a Jesus that is already dead. His head is hung down, and it is obvious that he has already died.

The IDT wanted to portray a Jesus that was still alive on the cross, not yet dead. We wanted him looking upward to the heavens.

The artist, Lynn Kircher, and the architect, Renzo Zecchetto, collaborated to implement the ideas of the IDT. Jesus, on the cross, would be looking up, and in the new Church, he will be looking into natural light which will be flowing through a window strategically placed for this purpose.

This moment of crucifixion portrays the idea that Jesus, while in the midst of his suffering is looking beyond the present moment. He is trusting in the Father, believing that the promise of the Father would be fulfilled.

Jesus is in the present moment, yet he sees beyond. The hand of

Jesus reaching upwards to the sky is a gesture of thanksgiving, aliveness, purpose, and looking beyond death, and placing his life once again in the Father's hands.

Jesus is in the present moment, but because of his faith, is beyond, in that new place where all tears will be wiped away.

The "Seven Last Words" are the phrases which Jesus uttered while hanging on the cross. They can be found if one reads all four Gospels.

Of the seven phrases, four are directed to the Father. As we reflect upon our new crucifix, because of the crosses we may be carrying in our lives at the time we reflect upon the crucifix, hopefully, we can join Jesus in his prayer directed to the Father. His prayer can be our prayer:

Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do...

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Father, into your hands I commend my spirit...

It is finished...

As Pastor, my prayer is that all who will look on our crucifix will see in it a symbol of hope – helping one to always move beyond the present moment with its hardships and difficulties, to what lies beyond, the Resurrection and new life where all tears will be wiped away.

Our new crucifix is still in need of a Memorial donor or donors. It is being offered for \$75,000.

Also, Lynn Kircher had cast forty replicas of our crucifix. They are nine-inch replicas and were offered for \$750. Lynn only charged us for materials, as his gift to help us in our fundraising.

Presently all forty replicas have been reserved! Lynn is willing to cast more. So we have created a waiting list. If we have the interest of at least twenty more people, Lynn will cast more. The cost would be the same - \$750.

If you are interested, please contact Chris Smith, our Director of Stewardship and Development. She will give you all the details, as well as payment plans.

This is an exciting time in our Parish history! Let us enjoy these days...