

CHURCH OF ST THOMAS MORE
Interior Design Team Meeting
Presentation on Stained/Art Glass
January 18, 2012

Present: Father Mike Ratajczak, Pastor; Robert Habiger, Liturgical Consultant; Charlene Buhlert, Mary Castle, Ann Eriksson, Pat Goscienski, Phil Goscienski, Sondra Parks, Chris Smith, Kathleen Quinn.

Absent: Kathy Arciero, Diana Diaz, Mario Diaz, Lorraine Doering, Douglas Lynn

The meeting was held at the home of Sondra and David Parks and opened at 7:15 PM. The purpose was to meet and interview the glass artist Elizabeth Devereaux.

Elizabeth began by telling us she currently has two commissions in Southern California, ten more in Michigan and Wisconsin. Her home is in Chico, California. She has been doing art glass for 44 years. She has a 4,000 square foot studio. Her tradition is Catholic. She has lived in Europe, studied international design.

She showed us DVD illustrations of how art glass is made and many of her finished projects. We saw how blown glass is made into a cylinder, cut into sheets. The finished glass sometimes resembles watercolor paintings. She showed us examples of transparency, reflectivity, and prismatic light with bevels, gold luster.

One illustration showed a side window that was opaque at the bottom, transparent at the top, providing privacy with plenty of light. We saw examples of projected light – that which comes to the interior at different times of the day. She likes to “invite” the exterior plantings and distant hills so they become part of the design. She showed us examples of how this is done. She gave us pieces of art glass and explained how they were made.

Elizabeth told us if she is chosen she will listen to the unique needs of our parish for the purpose of collaboration. The final design may take three to four weeks. She has admiration for Renzo Zecchetto; he is a fine architect who sees the building as “sculpture”.

Mary Castle remarked that she would like to see a lot of color. Phil Goscienski asked how close we are to knowing the size and shape of the windows that will hold the art glass. Robert Habiger replied that we are very close; we should know by the end of February the size and shape of the northeast windows for the Thomas More shrine. In addition we may want stained glass near the Mary shrine, perhaps reflected light taking into consideration the tower above.

In a discussion of our parish, Sondra Parks remarked that we have many older members and we have been together a long time; these are the “Founding Fathers”. The makeup of the parish is changing somewhat as more young families join us. The people in our parish are very friendly; members greet newcomers and guests. Parishioners arrive early for Mass so they can visit with

friends. Father Mike said he hopes to have this tradition continue when we move to the new sanctuary. To illustrate how involved people are in the parish, Chris Smith gave a copy of the latest issue of The Tower to Elizabeth. It shows the more than 100 ministries in the parish from Social Ministries to Liturgy to Music Ministry and more. We have 1100 households and about 3,500-4,000 parishioners.

Elizabeth Devereaux told us that art glass sanctifies the space. If we hire her she will study the area, the light and the landscape. She will provide us with three copies of the DVD showing her completed work. Phil Goscienski said he was pleased as a third of our members were unable to be at this meeting and it is important that they see and understand what we experienced. Elizabeth said she would like to meet with the entire committee as she feels she would be at a disadvantage if the committee interviews another artist. She can meet with us via Skype or correspond by e-mail. She said she will be in the area in March for her annual trip to Borrego Springs.

Phil Goscienski told us our next meeting will take place on February 14. The topic of the discussion will be the tabernacle.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Quinn