

CHURCH OF ST THOMAS MORE
Interior Design Team Meeting
Discussion of Altar, Font, Crucifix, Tabernacle
July 9, 2012

Present: Rev. Michael Ratajczak, Pastor; Kathy Arciero, Charlene Buhlert, Mary Castle, Diana Diaz, Mario Diaz, Lorraine Doering, Ann Eriksson, Pat Goscienski, Phil Goscienski, Robert Habiger, Douglas Lynn, Sondra Parks, Kathleen Quinn, Chris Smith

Guest: Stephen Hirt, Artist

The meeting opened with prayer at 7:25 PM at the home of Phil and Pat Goscienski.

- **Discussion of Design of Corpus for the Crucifix**

The artist Lynn Kircher provided sketches of his proposed designs for the corpus for the main crucifix that will be behind the altar. The committee members studied the ideas and concluded that the one that shows Christ looking toward the light is the one we prefer.

- **Report from Stephen Hirt, Artist**

Stephen Hirt told us he met with the architect, Renzo Zecchetto recently in order to have an understanding of what he envisions. He told us Renzo wants to see relationships between the architecture and the artistic elements and Stephen agrees. He is happy to hear from all of us with ideas and opinions. He told us he seeks to be “theologically articulate”. He told us we can achieve drama from the use of light. The designs should be the “opposite of baroque” in Renzo’s words. He mentioned that as shown in the drawings, he considers the black piano to be a distraction; perhaps a neutral colored piano would be better. The point that Stephen was making was that an altar created from a darker stone would draw attention to itself, and that would be good since the altar is the main focus of the church.

- **Discussion of Altar Design**

Stephen Hirt showed us various ideas for the main altar. The material is granite that will be quarried from a site in the State of Washington. The color is olivine – a dark green. We looked at a sample of the granite set on a sample of white travertine so that we could envision the altar on the white travertine floor.

Stephen showed us numerous ideas for the design of the altar. The “mensa” or top of the altar will reflect light, particularly if the edges are slightly curved upward. The mensa dimensions will be six feet by six feet or perhaps 5 ½ feet by 5 ½ feet. The

base of the altar will have a vertical split or crack to indicate the “torn veil” mentioned in scripture (Matthew 27:51). This split will not be continued on to the mensa. We will not include relics in the altar.

- **Discussion of The Font**

Stephen showed us two designs for the font. Both are unique. The first idea incorporates the idea of a movable round font which covers a large font in the floor for baptism by immersion. The lower font – the entire area covered by a lid – will be eight feet in diameter. With the proposed design, as much as 5,000 pounds can be accommodated. In the first design the immersion area will have a cover that is connected to an eight-inch pipe pivot point from which the water will be delivered. In the second design, the upper font will be of a more traditional design but the idea of a cover with a pivot point will be incorporated. Both fonts can be made from glass and bronze. Both ideas fit within the budget.

- **Discussion of the Tabernacle**

Stephen showed us drawings of the proposed tabernacle. In this design the outer layer will be made of hammered/textured bronze. The doors will open to show an interior tabernacle made of stainless steel. The steel can be textured with the cross design left untextured. The base of the tabernacle will have a shelf to accommodate a ciborium. The tabernacle will rest on a base made of the same material as the altar.

The sanctuary lamp will be placed in a textured glass container. Stephen showed us a sample of the container. We placed a lit candle in it and agreed that it is acceptable. It need not be red; a clear glass lamp is under consideration.

- **Discussion of Future Meetings**

At our meeting in August, Renzo will present his designs for the pews, chairs, ambry and donor recognition memorial in the Meditation Garden. In September we will meet with Stephen Hirt again to continue the discussion of the two concepts for the baptismal font. The October meeting agenda is to be determined.

- **Additional Comments**

Douglas Lynn told us he and Jim Treat met with Renzo’s staff regarding the audio/visual system. They were pleased with how the matter is being handled.

Chris Smith suggested that we not spend time now on designs for the ossuary as our present one is adequate. A new ossuary can be designed and fabricated later in the process.

The meeting closed with prayer at 9:50 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Quinn