



Sacred Art Announcement

Parishioners on the Committee for Sacred Art of Saint Bede Catholic Church proposed to the Pastor and Pastoral Council over 2 years ago a project to enhance liturgy and worship at Saint Bede Catholic Church through the completion of the original plan for the church. Part of the original vision for the church was to have a representation of the American Saints on the drum (interior wall above the pews) of the church. The 34 panels that you see on the drum are not for the acoustics, they cover some HVAC air returns and were designed to eventually host artwork. The plan approved by the BARC (Building and Renovation Commission) of the diocese is to expand the Sacred Art project to include all the Saints of the Americas, in adoration around the altar. The Catechetical basis for this can be found in the Apostle's Creed, ...the *Communion of Saints* and was a common theological motif to show the unity of our liturgical sacrifice with the worship of God in heaven.

Given the parish is still completing the *Living Our Mission* Campaign and we are continuing to expand our discipleship efforts, the funding of this Sacred Art project is intended to be solely from contributions restricted to that purpose and not part of our Offertory (Annual Parish Appeal) or other collection. These are contributions of parishioners who have wanted to contribute to this initiative without the parish actively soliciting funds and are not part of our parish operating budget.

I am pleased to announce that due to the efforts of a number of donors, Saint Bede is proceeding with the purchase and installation of our first panels. On Wednesday, August 15, (the Feast of the Assumption of Mary) artist Angel Ramiro Sanchez who teaches at the Florence Academy of Art in Florence, Italy ("Ramiro"), will join us following the 9 am mass to answer questions about the project and to share the design for each of the thirty-four panels.

The use of mosaics has been determined to be the most durable and artistic way to bring the lives of the saints to life in our space. This will provide not only a historical

perspective on the church but also a teaching opportunity for all Christians. Beyond our parish, there is nothing like it anywhere in the region and indeed in our country. Along with the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, it will also serve as another way to engage visitors in Williamsburg as a means of evangelizing through beauty; a key theme of Pope Francis. Depending on the production schedule and timing of additional contributions, we anticipate the project to take several years to complete.

A more detailed description can be found on the Saint Bede website: www.bede.org/sacredart. If you have additional questions or comments, please feel free to contact Sam Samorian at 757-229-3631 ext. 2315 or ssamorian@bede.org