

# Restoration of the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament

## Tour Notecards

## -i- NOTES

- The major points of interest are in black type and a slightly larger font.
- *The minor points (or background information) are in blue type and a slightly smaller font.*
- Instructions for pausing, stopping, etc. for the group are in this type.

## -ii-

- The points of interest are arranged “geographically,”
  - (1) beginning outside the Cathedral,
  - (2) moving to the vestibule, then
  - (3) stepping into the sanctuary at the baptismal font,
  - (4) moving up the south wall (roundels) to the
  - (5) Pipe organ and the Martyrs’ Chapel, then the
  - (6) Pendentives and discussing the retrofitting,
  - (7) viewing the restored dome, roundels and oculus,
  - (8) viewing the marble altar, and the
  - (9) Stained glass windows, then entering the
  - (10) Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament, then moving to
  - (11) the Chapel of Our Lady (north side), then the
  - (12) Sistine Madonna and back down the north wall
  - (13) to the confessionals.

## -iii-

- ■ The cards are laid out in 3” X 5” fashion.
- If they are printed on card stock, each sheet cut into the four sections, and holes punched in the upper left hand corner where indicated, they can be assembled on a book ring.
- The cards on a ring can be used either for a self-guided tour or for a “cheat sheet” for a group tour.
- For more information and background, go to the “teacher resources” on the Cathedral website, <http://www.cathedralsacramento.org/>

## ● # 1 Looking Outside the Cathedral



- The site was deliberately chosen close to the State Capitol.
- Juxtaposition of two important institutions--Church and State. Each pursue common good for society, but from different angles.
- Built in the neo-Italian Renaissance style of the Church of the Holy Trinity in Paris where **Bishop Manogue** studied for the priesthood.

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- • When it opened an estimated 8,000 people came to the celebration and dedication.

- Lower tier statues (left to right):

*St. Patrick  
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel  
St. Joseph  
St. Anthony*



- The central tower is 217 feet high and has a 8,000 pound bell and four smaller ones  
*The large bell was donated by Bishop Manogue.*

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- • The original cost of building the Cathedral (1886-1889) was \$250,000, which is roughly \$5,131,000 today's money.



- The 2003-2005 restoration and retrofit cost \$34 million.
- *The Cathedral was restored stylistically, retrofitted for earthquake safety, and protected from water damage with upgrades around the lower level.*

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## ● Gilding the Crosses

- The seven (7) crosses on roof and towers are from 6 to 8 feet tall. They are made of sheet metal!



- *They were gilded by steeplejacks from NYC using gold foil in 4" squares.*
- *They hung from ropes 216 above K Street.*

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## Flood protection

- *A floodwall was built on the north side*
- *A 10 foot underground waterproof membrane was placed around the foundation to protect the basement from flooding on the south and west sides.*



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## # 2 The Vestibule



- **Gabriel Moraga (left cartouche)** was a 39 year old Spanish sea captain who gave the Sacramento River its name in 1808.

*(Beautiful-- "this is like the holy sacrament.")*

- **Fr. Peter Anderson (right cartouche)** was a Dominican priest who founded St. Rose of Lima (first Catholic Church in Sacramento). *He died of cholera six months after he arrived.*



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- **Bishop Patrick Manogue (back wall)**, b. 1829, d. 1895, Manogue was a gold miner turned bishop, stood 6'4" tall and was cultured: he knew French, Latin Greek and Hebrew



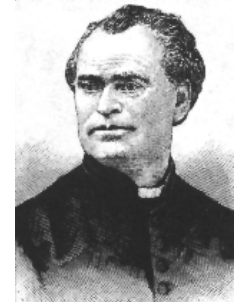
*Translation of inscription:*

*In memory of  
The Most Rev Patrick Manogue,  
first bishop of this diocese and  
founder of this Cathedral.*

*His successor placed this stone  
as a memorial of his dutiful service.*

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- He put himself through seminary at St. Sulpice in Paris using the money he earned in the gold mines.
- *He was ordained in 1862, returned and became pastor in Virginia City, NV.*
- *In 1881 he was named assistant bishop of Grass Valley--at the end of the gold rush. He urged Rome to change the diocesan headquarters to Sacramento.*
- He drew on his many gold mining friends to help pay for the Cathedral.



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### ● #3 Baptismal Font

**Pause a minute to let the group visually scan the vastness of the Cathedral and the restoration.**

#### **Background**

*Its prominence reflects the importance given this sacrament in the liturgical reforms of the Vatican II Council; used to be in a tiny room.*



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- Present location at the front symbolizes the Baptism is the sacrament of entrance into the Church.
- *Can be celebrated by total or partial immersion or by having water poured over the forehead.*
- *For those who step in the font, the movement will be from west to east because in the New Testament Jesus is described as coming like the sun rising in the east.*

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#### ● **Mosaic**

- The design reflects from dark to light, through the cross.

#### **Psalm**

- *Dominant symbolism in the font is new life; Flowing water is a key symbol in the Old and New Testaments.*
- *The two deer in the mosaic recall Psalm 42: "Like a deer that yearns for flowing water, so my soul is yearning for you, my God."*



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#### ● **Marble (was mined and hard carved in China)**

- Octagonal shape is reminiscent of the Book of *Genesis*: God created the world in six (6) days and then rested; banished Adam on Eve on the seventh day.
- *God also promised to send a Savior, a promise fulfilled in the Resurrection of Jesus. The early church fathers saw the Resurrection as the eighth day, which reversed the curse of Adam and began a new creation of all humanity.*
- *For those who are baptized, eternity already has begun; they are living the eighth day.*

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## ● # 4 Restoration and Roundels

### No Stylistic Unity

- Old photographs of this building over the years showed that the changes made lacked stylistic unity, i.e., the marble crucifix and the false dome.



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- *By the 1980s the Cathedral had departed significantly from how it was originally meant to look: a Victorian interpretation of French Renaissance.*
- The 2005 restoration began with a leaking roof and soon evolved into a much larger project, a plan to restore the building's past and create a stylistic unity.

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- • Sacramento **Bishop Weigand** commissioned an inventory of the building which was done by **Harry Hallenbeck** from **Vanir Construction**. It soon evolved into a much larger project--a plan to restore the building's past and create a stylistic unity.



- *Bishop Weigand had done this before when he headed the restoration of the Cathedral of the Madeline in Salt Lake City.*

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### Preservationists

- **Harbison Mahony Higgins (HMH) Construction Company**, a Sacramento based firm, was hired to head the construction of the project.
- *Preservationists were the driving force behind the project: architects and artists whose national reputations have been built on their expertise in restoring historic buildings for the original design and style.*
- Architects **Beyer Blinder Belle** (Ellis Island and Grand Central Station) studied archives and old photographs.



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### ● Restoration Painting

- **Jeff Greene** of **EverGreene Studios** of NYC was hired to do the art work:
- They did a paint analysis to better understand the different decoration schemes of the first 50 years.
- *The current restoration scheme restores the church to its Victorian past and presents it as an integrated whole.*



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### ● Painting by **EverGreene Studios**



- *Notice the stencil painting on the arches, the gold tipping.*
- Note the ornate upper columns that are made of sheet metal to look like plaster. These columns—as well as the outside towers—are original from the 1880s when they were built
- *They are a sign of the craftsmanship of the time.*

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### ● Roundels

- Placed on all four sides of the Cathedral, depicting the 12 apostles.
- *Painted by EverGreene Studio artists*
- Point out the eyes, i.e., *Matthew* the tax-collector.



**Pause giving the group an opportunity to look at the roundels as you walk down the nave to the south mural.**

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### ● # 5 The Reuter Organ and The Martyrs' Chapel

In its 116- year-history the Cathedral has been home to three pipe organs.

- *The first was built by the New York firm of J.C. and H.S. Odell for St. Rose of Lima Church and moved to the Cathedral when it opened 10 years later.*
- *With a variety of changes over the years this instrument served the Cathedral's needs until around 1970 when both the organ and the gallery that housed it were removed.*

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- In 1977, under the direction of **Bishop Alden Bell**, the *Schlicker Organ* (made in Buffalo, NY) with nine (9) ranks of pipes was installed.

*Primarily a practice organ for universities and music schools, it was inadequate for the musical demands of Cathedral liturgies.*

- In 2005, the **Reuter Organ** Company of Lawrence, KS, produced the new organ, which has an additional 15 ranks of pipes.



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- This organ, which has 24 ranks of pipes, has many musical and operational features that the old organ lacked.



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### ● **The Martyrs' Chapel (south)**

- *The table in this chapel and the north chapel are two of the original side-altars in the Cathedral (removed in the 1930s "renovation").*

**Mural painted by artists at EverGreene Studios.**

- This is one of 250 original works painted by **EverGreene Studios**. The paintings were done on canvas in NYC and sent to Sacramento to be put up in the Cathedral. Artists came to Sacramento to add the finishing touches.

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- A Vatican painting of the risen Jesus by **Pietro Perugino** was the inspiration of this mural. *Two other artists, **Fra Angelico** and **Filippo Lippi**, were also studied.*

- The martyrs close to Christ suffered persecution of the early church.
- The martyrs on the lower part of the mural represent the ethnic communities of our diocese.



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### Devotional Crucifix

- *The devotional crucifix was deliberately placed so people can come forward and touch it.*

**Depending on your group invite them to touch the crucifix as a mark of their faith and the mystery of the Resurrection.**



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## # 6 Pendentives and Seismic Retrofitting

### Pendentives

- The four pendentives at the top of the pillars holding the dome depict the authors of the four Gospels: *Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John*. Their

names are held by angels, with the symbol of each painted at the bottom. The pillars remind us of the four Gospels on which the theology of the Church is built.



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### Seismic Retrofitting

- The original brick pillars were hollowed out and reinforced with a structure of steel and concrete.
- In order to do this a temporary structure was built to support the dome while the pillars were hollowed out.

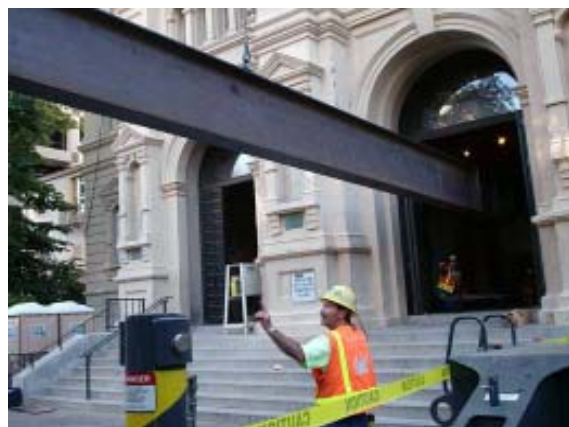


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- In addition, steel structures were built within the walls to secure the building.

### Show the Seismic Retrofitting diagram.

- 320 tons of steel were used to make the building earthquake proof.





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## ● # 7 Dome, Oculus, and Roundels

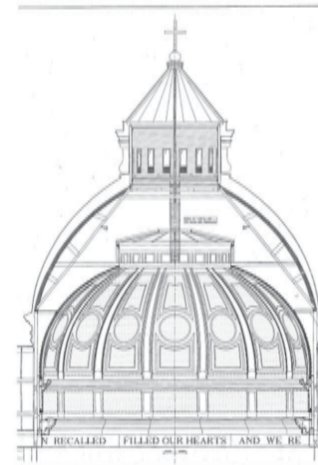
### Interior Dome (biggest single change in Cathedral)



- In 1932 the original interior dome was dismantled (*according to newspapers for structural and acoustical reasons*), and a false dome was constructed at the ceiling level, reducing the interior height of the building by 50 feet.

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● Use the sketch of the interior dome side by side with the photo of the outside dome.



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- When the dome was dismantled the skeletal wood frame of the original dome was retained allowing the architects to reconstruct the interior wall of the dome.



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## ● Oculus

- The dove in the oculus has a wingspan of 7 feet, a dramatic reminder of the Holy Spirit's presence in the life of the Church.
- Using digital photography, the image was projected onto a giant plastic sheet, which was sandwiched between two sheets of glass.





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- It does not get direct sunlight, just reflected light from the lantern.

**Refer to the dome sketch and dome photo used earlier.**

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### ● Roundels

- 16 roundels on the interior of the dome tell the story of the Eucharist.
- Their scripture verse is referenced below each.
- All are examples of nourishment from God.
- They signify the *past* (**Old Testament**), *present* (**New Testament**), and *future* (**Revelation**).

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*The Cardinal points (NSEW) are from the New Testament depicting Jesus feeding the people.*

*The Last Supper:*  
Luke 22:19



The Cardinal Points

*Breakfast on the Shore:*  
John 21:12



*Feast of Emmaus:*  
Luke 24:30-31



*Loaves and Fishes:*  
John 6:11-14



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*The Roundels between each of these are from the Book of Revelation and the Old Testament.*

*A vision of Peace:*  
Isaiah 11:7



*Abraham and Isaac:*  
Genesis 22:9-10



*The Marriage of the Lamb:*  
Revelation 19:7-8



*Elijah on a Chariot:*  
2 Kings 2:11



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*The Veil in the Temple:*  
Matthew 27:  
51-52



*The Glory of God:*  
Revelation  
4:2-8A

*Sacrifice after the Flood:*  
Genesis  
8:21



*The Sacrifice of Melchizedek:*  
Genesis  
14:18-20

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*The Passover:*  
Exodus  
12:7-8



*The Feast on the Mountain:*  
Isaiah 25:6-8A

*The Book of Seven Seals:*  
Revelation  
5:9



*Manna in the Desert:*  
Exodus  
16:12

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- The Latin writing on the drum of the dome is the antiphon by *St. Thomas Aquinas* summing up the theology of the Eucharist.

- *The English translation is:*

*“O Sacred banquet in which Christ is received, the memory of his passion is renewed; where the soul is filled with grace, and a pledge of future glory is given to us.”*

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## # 8 Altar and St. Toribio

**Docents bow in front of the altar as sign of devotion and respect.**

### Crucifix

- The crucifix (*13 feet tall*) and crown (*14 feet in diameter*) weigh 2,000 lbs. (*the size of a small car*). They are held up by four aircraft cables that are attached to the beams in the ceiling.





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### ● Altar

- Because the main altar is the central focus of the Cathedral it is placed in the visual center under the dome.
- The white marble like the marble in the baptismal font was mined and carved in China. The dark marble was mined in Spain.



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### ● St. Toribio

- The altar contains a relic of **St. Toribio Romo** who was martyred during the persecution of the church in Mexico in the 1920s and 1930s. Many relatives of his live in the Sacramento area.
- *On the pulpit is carved in Greek letters the first line from John's Gospel: "In the beginning was the Word."*



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### ● # 9 Windows, Restoration, Donors of the Original Windows, Windows in the Nave

#### Restoration

- The windows above the tabernacle and in the sanctuary were made in the late 1800s in Innsbruck, Austria. The windows in the transept were made in California.
- All the windows were dismantled and sent to two companies (*Massachusetts and Minnesota*) to be cleaned and re-leaded as part of the 2005 restoration.

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### ● Donors of original windows (friends of Bishop Manogue)

- The windows in the east end of the sanctuary are the oldest and were in place for the opening in 1889.

**The Nativity** (left window) was donated by **Mrs. Thomas Dwyer** whose husband purchased most of the land for the Cathedral site and who owned a prosperous transportation and brick business.





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● ***The Last Supper***

(center window above the tabernacle) was donated by **Anthony Coolot** who owned a cigar store and was a railroad investor.



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● ***The Ascension***

(right window) was sponsored by **Daniel McCarthy** of Brighton.



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● • **Sanctuary North Wall**



The four evangelists (left to right)

***St. Matthew***

(angel)

and

***St. Mark*** (lion)

sponsored by  
***Elizabeth Hooker  
Harley***

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● ***St. John*** (eagle )

and

***St. Luke*** (ox)

sponsored by Colonel  
***James McNasser,***  
owner of the Golden  
Eagle Hotel in  
Sacramento



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• **Sanctuary South Wall**



The four Doctors of the western church (left to right)

**St. Jerome** (lion)

**St. Augustine** (angel)

sponsored by the **Young Men's Institute, No. 27**



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**St. Ambrose** (beehive)

**St. Gregory the Great** (dove)

sponsored by the **Ancient Order of Hibernians of Sacramento**

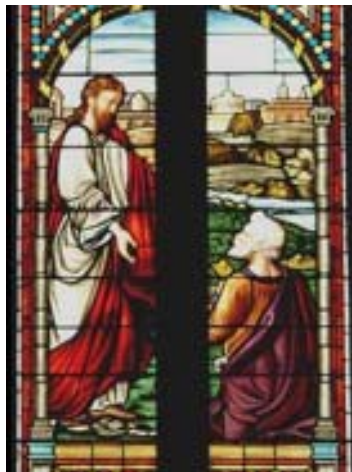


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• **Windows on the north transept** were made in California (*probably from the San Francisco studios of John Mallon, owner of Pacific Glass Cutting Works*).

**Christ Delivering the Keys to St. Peter**

sponsored by the **Catholic Knights of Sacramento**



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**The Return of the Prodigal Son**

donated **Mrs. Margaret Crocker of Sacramento**

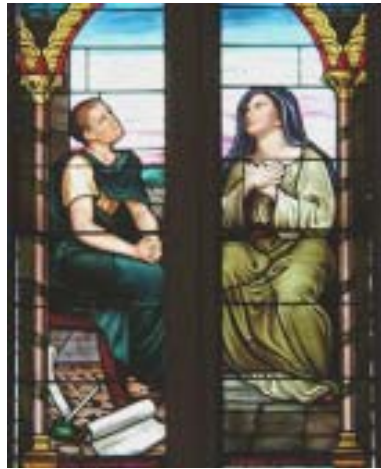


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●  
***St. Augustine with his  
mother St. Monica***

*donated by Miss Birdie\* Fair  
of San Francisco*

*(See Note following)*



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●  
**NOTE:** Both Birdie and Tessie (*donated Last Communion of St. Jerome*) were the daughters of Theresa Fair, divorced wife of millionaire James Fair, owner of the San Francisco Fairmont Hotel. The Fairs were befriended by young Fr. Patrick Manogue in Virginia City.

*During the divorce, Bishop Manogue stood beside Theresa Fair and against her philandering husband. Theresa gave a lot of money toward the construction of the cathedral and built the bishop's residence that used to be located east of the Cathedral.*

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- Windows on the south transept were made in California, also.

***Last Communion of St. Jerome***

*donated by Miss Tessie\*  
Fair of San Francisco*

*(See Note preceding)*



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●  
***St. Patrick Converting the Irish***

*donated by St. Mary's Parish  
of Virginia City*







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***St. Paul preaching to the Athenians***

*sponsored by Mrs. Agnes Bernerly of Woodland*

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- The six windows in the nave depicting the Stations of the Cross are antique Austrian glass donated by **Margaret Crocker\*** whose private art collection is now the Crocker Art Gallery in Sacramento.

*(See Note following)*

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**\*NOTE:** *As a prominent California family, the Crockers supported many social and civic causes.*

**Background:** *Judge Edwin B. Crocker (1818-1875) practiced law and served on the State Supreme Court. He was the brother of Charles Crocker, one of the "Big Four" railroad barons, and acted as legal council for the Central Pacific Railroad. In 1885, his widow, Margaret (1822-1901), fulfilled their shared vision of creating a public art museum when she presented the E. B. Crocker Art Gallery and collection to the City of Sacramento.*

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**Windows in the Nave**

The modern windows in the nave were part of the 42 windows designed by **Susan Van Heukelom**, a California artist, for the 1989 100<sup>th</sup> year celebration.

- *There are plans to replace the eight windows in the nave with glass more consistent with the style of the sanctuary and transept windows.*

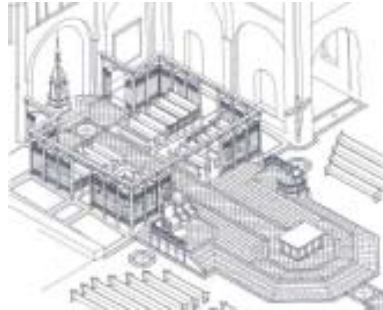




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## ● # 10 Eucharistic Chapel and the Tabernacle

- Proceed up the ramp into the Eucharistic Chapel.
- Bow upon entering in front of the tabernacle.
- Have the group sit in the pews and take a few minutes of silence to either pray or absorb the vastness of the chapel and the dome.



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## ● Tabernacle

- The tabernacle tower is made of marble from China and hand carved. It is 20 feet high and weighs six (6) tons.
- A special platform had to be made to hold it up.



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- The Tabernacle itself is modeled after the 1937s tabernacle from the Eucharist Congress in the Philippines.
- *The Latin inscription in English reads:*  
  
*"You have given them bread from Heaven, containing in itself all sweetness."*



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- In 1972 the altar was moved under the dome.
- *The space where the Eucharistic Chapel is now was abandoned space and used for storage. It will now be used for small prayer services, vespers, overflow seating, etc.*



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### ● Sanctuary Lamp

- Hanging before the tabernacle is an antique lamp with a perpetually burning light that signals the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.
- *The 100 year old sanctuary lamp hung in the east end of the Cathedral in the early part of the 20th century.*
- Nobody seems to know how it left the Cathedral, but we were happy to buy it back for \$5,000.



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### ● # 11 Chapel of Our Lady

- *Our Lady of Guadalupe* is the patroness of the Diocese.
- This mural is different from the south mural in that it is very geometric. *The inspiration for this mural was the 13<sup>th</sup> century Florentine artist Giotto.*



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- *These icons of the saints are very real in comparison to the Byzantine icons. Giotto was famous for being the bridge between the Byzantine period and the more realistic Renaissance period of art.*
- These are the saints of the Americas. One niche is left empty as a reminder anyone of us can be a saint.



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### ● # 12 Sistine Madonna (Donated by Mrs. Stanford)

- This is a reproduction of the famous **Sistine Madonna** by **Raphael Sanzio**.
- **Mrs. Leland Stanford** commissioned two to be painted—one for *Stanford University* and one for the *Cathedral*.



## ● # 13

### Confessionals

- **Burnett and Sons** of Sacramento made these confessionals, the same company that did the original confessionals a century ago.
- *The new sections of the confessional were ornately carved by computer to match the older hand carved wood.*



## ● # 14 Gift Shop

**Be sure to visit the Gift Shop.**

**A Coffee Table type book will be on sale along with other religious items.**

