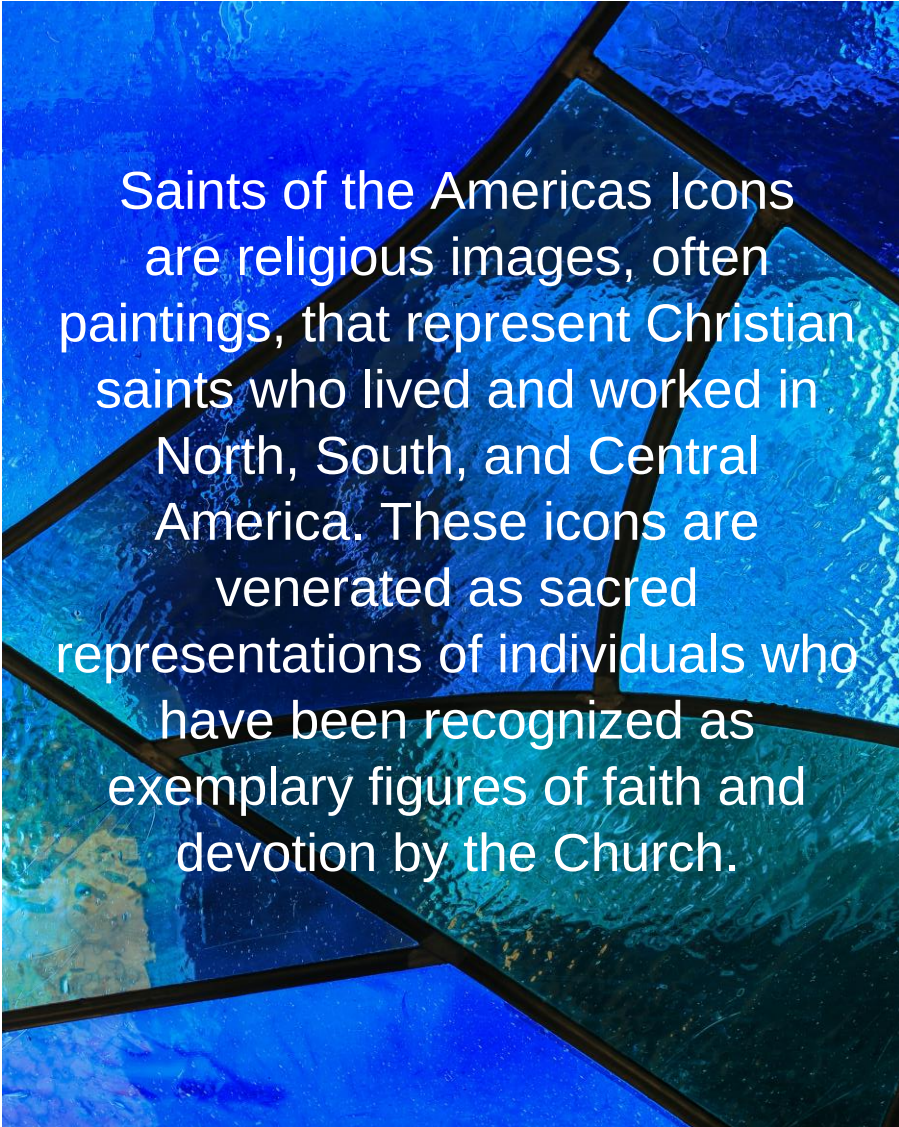


SAINTS OF THE AMERICAS



Saints of the Americas Icons are religious images, often paintings, that represent Christian saints who lived and worked in North, South, and Central America. These icons are venerated as sacred representations of individuals who have been recognized as exemplary figures of faith and devotion by the Church.

St. Mary of Nazareth Catholic Church
4600 Meredith Drive
Des Moines, IA 50310
www.stmarysdsm.org

Saints of the Americas

When I arrived at St. Mary of Nazareth in 2020, Deacon Tom Bradley shared with me his dream to have some of the words of Mary's Magnificat written on the church walls. I realized that the space above, just below the windows, would make a nice place to include Icons, which are religious artwork depicting saints. The more I thought about these dreams, and prayed over the possibility of doing this work, I started to talk with various parishioners and parish councils about turning these dreams into reality.

To make a long story short, in 2023 we finally stenciled the Magnificat on the church walls, and now in 2025 the Icons have been installed.

Why "Saints of the Americas" for the Icons? I have visited many churches across our great nation and I noticed so much artwork of saints, but usually always of the Blessed Mother and the Apostles and Saints of Europe. This made me question, "why are there very few, or no artwork of saints of our nation and ties to the new world?" This thought inspired me that if I was ever given the chance I would promote saints of our nation and continents. My opportunity finally arrived here at St. Mary of Nazareth. The 18 saints selected have feast days which are celebrated annually. I tried to select saints who can, or have touched our lives, such as Michael McGivney founder of the Knights of Columbus, or Mother Cabrini who died in Chicago, or Rose Philippine Duchesne buried outside St. Louis and for whom a high school in Omaha is named after her. All these saints strived to bring faith to this nation. I believe they deserve remembrance and devotion, and these Icons allow us to do so here at St. Mary of Nazareth.

Finally, I want to acknowledge and thank the 15 families, along with the Women's Association and the Knights of Columbus who contributed to the purchase of these 18 icons. There are so many other people who assisted me in the process, who agreed with my dream, and who helped me to make it become a reality. To all of these unnamed individuals and to the parishioners of St. Mary of Nazareth, thank you for your support, and enjoy and remember these saints depicted in these 18 icons.

Blessings,

Father John Frost, Pastor
2025

SOUTH WALL – FRONT TO BACK OF CHURCH



Our Lady of Guadalupe

Our Lady of Guadalupe refers to the Marian apparitions that occurred in December 1531 on Tepeyac Hill near present-day Mexico City. The Virgin Mary appeared to an indigenous man, Juan Diego, requesting a church be built in her honor. To convince the skeptical bishop, she caused out-of-season Castilian roses to bloom and imprinted her image miraculously on Juan Diego's tilma (cloak) when he presented the flowers. The cloak, astonishingly well-preserved after nearly 500 years, is now enshrined in the Basilica of Our Lady of

Guadalupe, the world's most-visited Catholic shrine. Our Lady of Guadalupe is credited with inspiring millions of indigenous people to convert to Christianity by 1539. Declared the Patroness of the Americas, her feast is celebrated on December 12 yearly. She remains a central figure of devotion and unity across the Americas to this day.

Saint Juan Diego

Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin, born near Mexico City, was an indigenous Mexican of the Chichimeca people. Baptized at age 50, he is renowned for witnessing four apparitions of the Virgin Mary in December 1531, where she asked him to petition for a shrine. The Virgin's image miraculously appeared on his cloak as proof. Juan Diego dedicated his life to prayer and caring for the shrine until his death. He is the patron saint of Indigenous people.

Born: 1474, Cuautitlán, Mexico

Died: May 30, 1548 (74 yrs), Tepeyac, Mexico City, Mexico

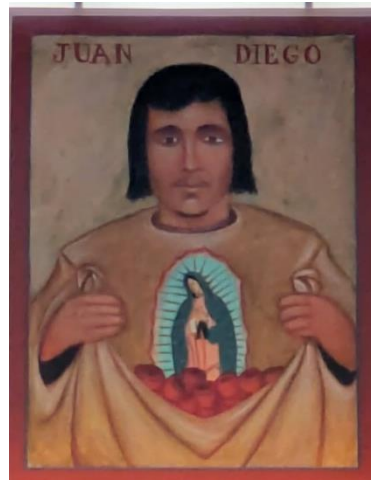
Buried: Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mexico City, Mexico

Spouse: María Lucía (m. ?–1529)

Attributes: Tilma with the impressed image of the Virgin Mary, roses

Canonized: July 31, 2002, Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mexico City by Pope John Paul II

Feast Day: December 9





Saint Rose of Lima

Saint Rose of Lima, born Isabel Flores de Oliva, in Lima, Peru, was the first person born in the Americas to be canonized by the Catholic Church. Known for her severe penance, charity to the poor, and lifelong vow of chastity, she is patron saint of Peru, Latin America, embroiderers, gardeners, and florists. St. Rose is honored for her spiritual dedication and care for the needy.

Born: April 20, 1586, Lima, Peru

Died: August 24, 1617 (31 yrs), Lima, Peru

Buried: Basilica and Convent of Santo

Domingo, Lima, Peru

Siblings: Hernando Flores de Oliva

Parents: Gaspar Flores, María de Oliva y Herrera

Attributes: Dominican tertiaries' habit, roses, anchor, Infant Jesus

Canonized: April 12, 1671, Rome, Papal States by Pope Clement X

Feast Day: August 23

Saint Martin de Porres

Saint Martin de Porres was born in Lima, Peru, the son of a Spanish nobleman and a freed Black indigenous woman. Despite facing racism and poverty, he dedicated his life to caring for the sick and poor, working as a Dominican lay brother. Known for miracles like healing and caring for animals, he founded an orphanage and helped the enslaved Africans in Lima. He is the patron saint of multiracial people, barbers, public health workers, and innkeepers.

Born: December 9, 1579, Lima, Peru

Died: November 3, 1639 (59 yrs), Lima, Peru

Parents: Juan de Porras de Miranda, Ana Velázquez

Siblings: Juana de Porres

Attributes: a dog, a cat, a bird, and a mouse

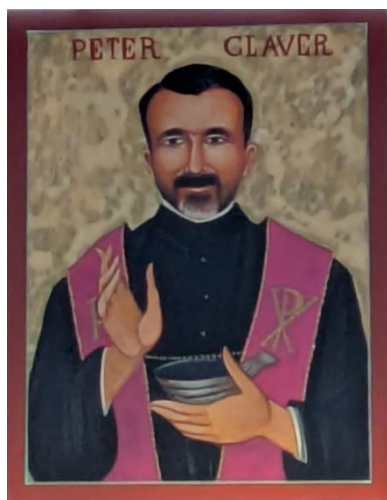
eating together from a same dish; broom, crucifix, rosary, a heart

Beatified: October 29, 1837 by Pope Gregory XVI

Canonized: May 6, 1962, by Pope John XXIII

Feast Day: November 3





Saint Peter Claver

Saint Peter Claver (1580-1654) was a Spanish Jesuit missionary who devoted his life to helping enslaved Africans in Cartagena, Colombia. Known as the "apostle of the Blacks," he personally baptized around 300,000 enslaved people, providing them with food, medicine, and spiritual care despite opposition. He is the patron saint of slaves, African missions, seafarers, Colombia, and interracial justice. The Colombian Congress honors him by celebrating September 9 as the National Day of Human Rights in his name.

Born: June 1580, Verdú, Spain

Died: September 8, 1654 (74 yrs), Cartagena, Colombia

Buried: Santuario de San Pedro Claver, Cartagena, Colombia

Parents: Pedro Claver y Minguella, Ana Corberó

Siblings: Isabel Claver

Canonized: January 15, 1888, Rome by Pope Leo XII

Feast: September 9

Saint Frances Cabrini

Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini was an Italian-American religious sister and founder of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart. Born in Italy, she initially aimed to be a missionary in China but was directed by Pope Leo XIII to serve Italian immigrants in the United States. She founded 67 schools, orphanages, and hospitals worldwide, serving vulnerable immigrant communities. She is the patron saint of immigrants, hospital administrators, and impossible causes. She became the first U.S. citizen saint.

Born: July 15, 1850, Sant'Angelo Lodigiano, Italy

Died: December 22, 1917 (67 yrs), Columbus Hospital, Chicago, IL

Buried: 1933, St Frances Cabrini Shrine, New York, NY

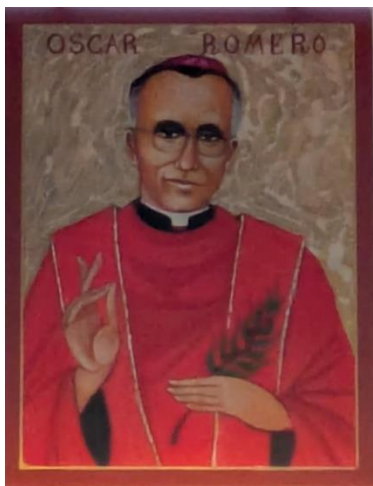
Parents: Agostino Cabrini, Stella Oldini

Siblings: Rosa Cabrini

Beatified: November 13, 1938, by Pope Pius XI

Canonized: July 7, 1946 by Pope Pius XII **Feast Day:** November 13





Saint Oscar Romero

Saint Oscar Arnulfo Romero was the Archbishop of San Salvador, known for his outspoken defense of the poor and human rights amid El Salvador's violent political conflict. Ordained in 1942, he was a vocal advocate against social injustice and oppression. Assassinated while celebrating Mass in 1980, he was declared a martyr by Pope Francis. Romero is the patron saint of social justice, human rights defenders, and El Salvador. He lived simply alongside cancer patients in a hospital before his death, embodying his commitment to the marginalized.

Born: August 15, 1917, Ciudad Barrios, El Salvador

Assassinated: March 24, 1980, San Salvador, El Salvador

Movies: El cielo abierto

Parents: Guadalupe de Jesús Galdámez, Santos Romero

Canonized: October 14, 2018, by Pope Francis

Feast Day: March 24

Saint Katharine Drexel

Saint Katharine Drexel was an American Catholic religious sister and philanthropist. Born into a wealthy Philadelphia family, she devoted her life and fortune to aiding Native Americans and African Americans. In 1891, she founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, focused on educating marginalized communities. She established Xavier University of Louisiana, the first Catholic historically Black university in the U.S. Drexel is the patron saint of racial justice and philanthropists. She was the second U.S.-born saint and used over \$12 million of her inheritance for charitable missions.

Born: November 26, 1858, Philadelphia, PA

Died: March 3, 1955 (96 yrs), Cornwells Heights, Pennsylvania

Buried: Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter & Paul, Philadelphia, PA

Parents: Francis Anthony Drexel, Hannah Langstroth

Siblings: Louise Drexel, Elizabeth Drexel

Canonized: October 1, 2000 by Pope John Paul II **Feast:** March 3





Blessed Father Stanley Rother

Blessed Father Stanley Rother was an American priest from Oklahoma who became a missionary to the Tz'utujil people in Guatemala. Despite early struggles with Latin, he mastered Spanish and the native Tz'utujil language to serve his parishioners faithfully. Known as "Padre A'Plas," he supported his community socially and spiritually amid political unrest. Martyred for defending their rights in 1981, he was beatified in 2017 and is the patron of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City and American martyrs.

Born: March 27, 1935, Okarche, OK

Died: July 28, 1981 (age 46) Santiago Atitlán, Guatemala

Parents: Franz Rother, Gertrude Smith Rother

Beatified: September 23, 2017, Cox Convention Center, Oklahoma City, United States by Cardinal Angelo Amato, S.D.B.

Major shrine: Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Venerated in: Catholic Church **Feast Day:** July 28

NORTH WALL – FRONT TO BACK OF CHURCH

Saint Kateri Tekakwitha

Saint Kateri Tekakwitha known as the "Lily of the Mohawks," was the first Indigenous person of North America canonized by the Catholic Church. Born to a Mohawk father and Algonquin mother, she survived smallpox but was left scarred. Inspired by Jesuit missionaries, she converted to Catholicism at 19, took a vow of chastity, and fled persecution to live in a Christian mission near Montreal. She is the patron saint of ecology, the environment, Native Americans, and people in exile.

Born: 1656, Auriesville, NY

Baptized: April 18, 1676

Died: April 17, 1680 (24 yrs) Kahnawake, Canada

Buried: St. Francis Xavier Mission Catholic Church, Kahnawake, Canada

Parents: Kenneronkwa Tekakwitha, Tagaskouita Tekakwitha

Beatified: June 22, 1980, Vatican City by Pope John Paul II

Canonized: October 21, 2012, Vatican City by Pope Benedict XVI

Feast Day: July 14





Saint Junipero Serra

Saint Junipero Serra was a Spanish Franciscan priest and missionary known for founding 9 of the 21 Spanish missions in California, including the Mission San Diego and Mission Carmel, which helped spread Christianity among Native Americans. Born in Spain, he joined the Franciscan Order in 1730 and later traveled to the Americas as a missionary. He walked an estimated 24,000 miles establishing missions. He is the patron saint of California and catechists. He founded the Mission San Juan Capistrano which is linked to the annual return of swallows celebrated on March 19.

Born: November 24, 1713, Petra, Spain

Died: August 28, 1784 (70 yrs), Carmel Mission Basilica Museum, Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA

Buried: Carmel Mission Basilica Museum, Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA

Parents: Antonio Serra, Margarita Ferrer

Canonized: September 23, 2015, Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception by Pope Francis

Patronage: Vocations; Hispanic Americans; California

Feast Day: August 28; July 1 in United States

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton

Elizabeth Ann Seton was the first native-born American saint. She founded the first American Catholic religious community for women, the Sisters of Charity, and opened the first Catholic parish school and orphanage in the U.S. Widowed young with 5 children, she converted to Catholicism in 1805 amid social rejection. She is the patron saint of Catholic schools, educators, widows, orphans, and those persecuted for their faith.

Born: August 28, 1774, New York, NY

Died: January 4, 1821 (46 years)

Emmitsburg, MD

Buried: The National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Emmitsburg, MD

Parents: Richard Bayley, Catherine Charlton

Grandchild: William Seton

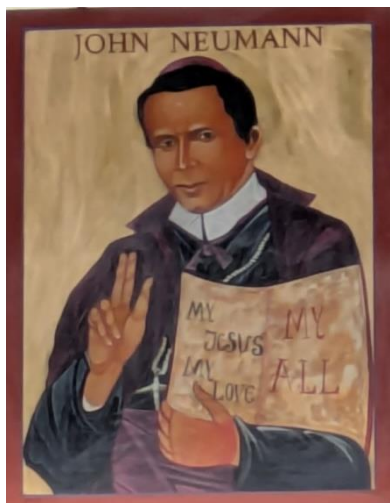
Children: William Seton, Rebecca Mary, Richard Seton, Anna Maria

Spouse: William Magee Seton (m. 1794–1803)

Canonized: September 14, 1975, by Pope Paul VI.

Feast Day: January 4





Saint John Neumann

Saint John Neumann was a Bohemian-born priest who became the fourth Bishop of Philadelphia. He is renowned for founding the first Catholic diocesan school system in the United States, significantly increasing Catholic education access. Neumann joined the Redemptorist order, becoming its first American member, and was fluent in six languages, aiding his missionary work among immigrants. He is the first American male saint. He is the patron saint of educators, immigrants, and sick children.

Born: March 28, 1811, Prachatice, Czechia

Died: January 5, 1860 (48 yrs), Philadelphia, PA

Buried: The National Shrine of St. John Neumann, Philadelphia, PA

Parents: Agnes Lebisch, Johann Philipp Neumann

Canonized: June 19, 1977; Vatican City, by Pope Paul VI

Church: Latin Church **Feast day:** January 5

Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne

Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne was a French religious sister and missionary who founded the first Society of the Sacred Heart convents in the U.S. She devoted her life to educating Indigenous American children and settlers in the Midwest frontier, enduring hardships, and cultural barriers. She was affectionately known as "the woman who prays always". She is the patron saint of perseverance amid adversity and is honored in the Archdiocese of St. Louis and the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau.

Born: August 29, 1769, Grenoble, France

Died: November 18, 1852 (83 yrs), Saint Charles, MO

Parents: Rose-Euphrosine Périer, Pierre-François Duchesne

Beatified: May 12, 1940, Vatican City, by Pope Pius XII

Canonized: July 3, 1988, Vatican City, by Pope John Paul II

Major shrine: Shrine of St. Rose Philippine Duchesne; St. Charles, Missouri, United States

Patronage: perseverance amid adversity, Archdiocese of St. Louis, Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau **Feast Day:** November 18





Saint Damien De Veuster

Saint Damien de Veuster, born Jozef De Veuster in Belgium, also known as Saint Damien of Molokai, was a Catholic priest renowned for his missionary work among Hawaiian people with leprosy on Molokai from 1873 until his death. He provided medical, emotional, and spiritual care, while building houses, schools, and churches for outcasts with leprosy. Contracting the disease himself, he persisted in his mission. He is the patron saint of people with leprosy and outcasts. Father Damien Day is celebrated on April 15 in Hawaii.

Born: January 3, 1840, Tremelo, Belgium

Died: April 15, 1889 (49 yrs), Kalawao, HI

Buried: May 5, 1936 Sint-Antoniuskapel - Damiaancrypte, Leuven, Belgium

Parents: Joannes Franciscus De Veuster, Anne-Catherine Wouters

Siblings: Pauline De Veuster, Auguste De Veuster, Eugénie De Veuster

Beatified: June 4, 1995, Basilica of the Sacred Heart (Koekelberg), Brussels, by Pope John Paul II

Canonized: October 11, 2009, Vatican City, by Pope Benedict XVI

Feast Day: May 10

Saint Marianne of Molokai

Saint Marianne of Molokai, born Barbara Koob, was a German-American Franciscan sister who devoted her life to caring for leprosy patients in Hawaii. In 1883, she led 6 sisters to Hawaii to serve leprosy patients, later taking charge of Fr. Damien's home on Molokai, where she introduced cleanliness and dignity to patients. She is the patron saint of people with leprosy, outcasts, and those with HIV/AIDS. She is remembered for her courage and compassionate service. She never contracted leprosy despite her close work with patients.

Born: Jan 23, 1838, Heppenheim, Germany

Died: August 9, 1918 (80 yrs) Kalaupapa, HI

Parents: Barbara Witzenbacher, Peter Koob

Buried: Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace, Honolulu, HI

Canonized: October 21, 2012, Vatican City, by Pope Benedict XVI

Major shrine: Saint Marianne Cope Shrine & Museum; 601 N. Townsend St. Syracuse, New York, U.S.A **Feast Day:** January 23





Blessed Father Michael McGivney

Blessed Father Michael McGivney was an Irish-American priest who founded the Knights of Columbus in 1882 in New Haven, Connecticut. Concerned about vulnerable immigrant families, especially widows and orphans left destitute after the loss of the breadwinner, he created this Catholic fraternal benefit society to offer financial support and promote faith, charity, unity, and fraternity. He is the patron of the Knights of Columbus and is celebrated for his dedication to family, faith, and community welfare.

Born: August 12, 1852, Waterbury, CT

Died: August 14, 1(38 yrs), Thomaston, CT

Parents: Mary McGivney, Patrick McGivney

Feast: August 13

Saint Anne Therese Guerin

Saint Anne Thérèse Guérin, known as Saint Theodora Guérin, was a French-American Saint born in Brittany, France. She founded the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods in Indiana after emigrating in 1840. She worked tirelessly to advance education by founding numerous schools, and cared for orphans, the sick, and the poor. She is the patron saint of the state of Indiana and related Catholic diocese.

Born: October 2, 1798, Étables-sur-Mer, Binic-Étables-sur-Mer, France

Died: May 14, 1856 (57 yrs), Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, IN

Buried: Sisters of Providence Convent Cemetery, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, IN

Parents: Laurent Guérin, Isabelle Guérin

Siblings: Marie Jeanne Guérin

Canonized: October 15, 2006 by Pope Benedict XVI

Feast Day: October 3





ABOUT THE ARTIST

Twenty years ago, Joseph M. Malham decided to devote his life to the sacred arts—a devotion that continues to this day.

Born in Gary, Indiana, Malham is of Greek and Assyrian descent, and credits his Near East and Mediterranean heritage with his love of sacred art and iconography in particular. He studied art in Rome through Loyola University's Rome Center and graduated with a BA in History from that same institution. In the midst of a promising and lucrative

career as a fine art gallerist, Malham decided to give his life over to sacred, not secular, art.

From 2001 - 2021, he was an artist-in-residence at St. Gregory the Great Church in Chicago. Using the traditional techniques and materials iconographers have utilized for centuries, Malham writes his icons on poplar panels in egg tempera and 23k gold leaf. His panels and icon banners, a meld of traditional Byzantine/Russian images and his own unique style, have been acquired by churches, institutions and individuals around the country.

The Catholic Collection, presented by Trinity Icons, is less of a departure from and more of an evolution of his work as an iconographer in both form and medium.