

OUR MURAL

Saint Ann Maronite Church, Scranton PA



A REPRESENTATION OF THE EARTHLY LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST

BY
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OUR MURAL

It is a most comforting and uplifting background for a Priest who is continuing that which Jesus has entrusted to all Priests through Peter and the apostles and also a beautiful representation to us of why we are all here and of the Paradise to come.

A beautiful thought is that most of those shown have lived at the same time and have spoken to and touched Jesus. Jesus embraced Peter and the apostles who in turn laid hands in peace on each other and also on succeeding Popes, Bishops and Priests. To this day and at this time the Priest passes this sign of peace from Jesus and the apostles to each of us. Thus we are touched by the hands of Christ and His apostles.

The disciples have listened to Jesus, we hear the same words in the same language each time we participate in our liturgy. Remember also that many of those shown were martyred, often in a cruel manner, because they chose to bring to us the message of Jesus. The artist said that he thought of those who spoke, prayed, shared food and suffered with Jesus and knowing this it became painful for him to even think of omitting any of them.

The main concept of this mural is depicted in the center. The uppermost center shows the hand of God the Father pointing to His Son Jesus in the center of the entire mural. As mentioned in Daniel we do not see the Father but the hand representing Him. The Holy Spirit is represented by the dove, thus the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In the lower center are two of the apostles, Peter and the beloved John. On the right of Jesus are His Mother and Foster father, Mary and Joseph from the house of David. On His left are grandparents, the mother and father of Mary, Ann our patroness and Joachim.

The five angels on each upper side are representative of God the Father. On the left, there is a row of four ending with

Archangel Michael and the fifth angel below them. The same is shown on the right with Archangel Gabriel. The artist placed four in the rows because there are always four angels at the throne of God. The rest of the mural is concerned with God the Son, Jesus and His human life on earth. At least 21 or 22 of those shown lived during the years Jesus remained on earth and interacted with Him during those years.

Facing the mural, in the middle row and from the left are the apostles Simon, James the Less, Thomas, Phillip and James the Great. On the middle right from the left to right are Andrew, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thaddeus Jude and Mathias. Those shown on the lower row right side are from the Old Testament, they spoke and foretold the coming of the Messiah. From right to left Abraham, from whom we all descend, Moses, King David, the prophets Isaiah and Ezekiel. Last from the Old Testament and making the transition to the New is Anna the Prophetess.

In the lower left row are those from the New Testament. From right to left are John the Baptist completing the transition from the Old to the New Testament. Then Mary Magdalene, Luke the Evangelist, Mark the Evangelist, Paul the apostle to the gentiles, Maron representing the Maronite and entire church.

I have spent time with the artist and his family from the beginning of his painting of the mural to its completion and a few times since. His concept was to depict God and especially the life of Jesus from prophecies and interactions with Abraham and Moses to the present church. Thus all apostles and family are shown, as are the gospel writers and others.

The wife of the artist pointed out to me that this is the only mural existing that shows four women and also that, unlike other paintings, all figures have eye, skin and hair coloring typical of Jews and Gentiles of that era.