

# Liturgical Art Acquisition Policy

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We have a tradition of commissioning liturgical artworks and furnishings based on needs/desires identified through the parish. Artworks and furnishings need to enhance our communal liturgical celebrations or our personal prayer. A committee goes through a prayerful process of study leading to STA's commissioning an artist. This way we have one-of-a-kind artworks and furnishings that have a special place within the St. Thomas setting. This process helps ensure that we end up with a product that meets the criteria of excellent quality in design, materials, and craftsmanship. We have also valued forming a close relationship with the artists.

## Liturgical Art Acquisition Process

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Generally, a need for an artwork has been identified - by the Liturgical Ministry or Art and Environment or the Pastor's wish-list. The main point being, LTA identifies the need.

### **Examples:**

1. A parish survey at the beginning of our church renovation process indicated that parishioners wanted an image of Mary and vigil lights in the worship space.
2. To fill the second devotional space at the south end of the church, a committee collected suggestions and narrowed them down to St. Joseph and St. Thomas Aquinas as potential images. A parish survey showed a preference for St. Thomas.
3. During the renovation project the liturgical consultant encouraged us to eventually have 3 processional crosses - the first one, a crucifix, and a celebratory cross and it was time to act on commissioning the crucifix.

Establish a committee to work through the process. Includes resident and student parishioners, sometimes a staff member in addition to the STA Liturgist. Committee does not design the product. This process was borrowed from the University Museums for their Art in State Buildings committees.

### **Committee process:**

1. Study the topic.
2. Develop plan to obtain parishioner input.
3. Develop an art statement specifying the purpose of the art, message or emotion we want it to communicate, materials desired (if the committee has a reason for specific materials), desired size or size limitations, time-frame.
4. Look for potential artists.
5. Interview potential artists. Look at previous work. Evaluate for fine quality design, materials, and craftsmanship. Sometimes we have asked for a proposal.
6. Select artist. Ask for a proposal.
7. Discuss proposal with artist.
8. Artist prepares an agreement specifying work to be done, price, payment schedule, etc. Includes a statement that the artist will provide information on materials and finishes used and care instruction. STA and artist sign it.
9. Artist prepares a model, if appropriate, or provides another way for committee to see the artist's progress for discussion and approval.
10. Artist completes the commission.
11. Dedicate artwork and offer prayer for artist. Celebrate.
12. Educational program by artist for parish sometime during the process.
13. Photograph professionally.
14. Prepare any accompanying material - ex. prayer card.
15. Communicate with parish and update as appropriate.
16. Update donor as appropriate.
17. Pray - at every meeting.