



Benilde-St. Margaret's

A Catholic, college preparatory school, grades 7 - 12

Our Lady of Peace Chapel

The chapel space was made possible through generous gifts from the families of Tom and Judy Mahoney, Gerald and Henrietta Rauenhorst, and Mark and Karen Rauenhorst.

The planning for the sacred space began in the late 1990s. The Faith Formation Department faculty and students from the liturgy committee class met with the architects, who then created an intimate design that brings liturgical celebrants and the congregation close together. The wall behind the altar includes several windows that bring sunlight and warmth into the space and through which the outdoor cross can be seen. As a backdrop to the altar, a large crucifix is suspended above a display of three icons representing the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, the Christian Brothers and the Benedictines, three religious orders whose legacies and charisms enrich Benilde-St. Margaret's.

The crucifix above the altar bears the corpus that used to be on the crucifix that once hung in the main hallway in Benilde High School. The corpus has hung in Benilde-St. Margaret's since the merger of Benilde High School and St. Margaret's Academy in 1974. The wood of the original crucifix was unsalvageable. The cherry wood of the crucifix in the chapel today came from a tree in the yard belonging to the site manager for the construction firm charged with building the chapel. Wood from the cherry tree was also fashioned into small memorial crosses that were distributed during the evening of the dedication.

The altar was donated jointly by the Benilde High School and St. Margaret's Academy Classes of 1971. Before the oak hardwood floor under the altar was installed, BSM students, faculty, and staff signed the underlayment, creating a sort of time capsule symbolic of the continuity of the community that meets and prays regularly in the chapel.

The tabernacle was a gift from Father Arnold Weber, past president of BSM, and his parishioners at Holy Name of Jesus in Medina. It was the second tabernacle from the old church of Holy Name, the first one having been destroyed in a fire.

The statue of the Blessed Mother – Madonna della Strada (Madonna of the Streets) – was donated by Suzanne Dunn in memory of her mother, Mrs. James McGraw.

In 2012, the Christian Brothers of De La Salle High School presented BSM with relics of St. Benilde as well as the original Vatican documents authenticating the relics. They are displayed in a case on the north wall of the chapel.

The monstrance and the luna, which are used for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and the furniture were designed by a local artisan through St. Patrick's Guild, St. Paul.

The Stations of the Cross along the walls were a gift from the BSM Parent Association.

The students and Faith Formation Department faculty reflectively prayed to select Scripture passages to be put along the back walls of the main chapel and in the Eucharistic chapel.

The gold chalice and paten were a gift from Rita Mitchell Hughes, SMA '58, given in memory of her mother, Yvonne Bonin Mitchell Ward, SMA '20. The gift was presented to BSM in

September 2007 by Bill Bonin, Benilde '61, Rita's uncle and the cousin of Betty Bonin Ferrian, mother of staff member Mary Beth Liekhus, SMA '68. The chalice belonged to Father Leon Bonin (1915-1995), who received it from his sister Yvonne on the occasion of his ordination on May 31, 1941. The chalice and paten "went through the war" with Fr. Bonin during his service with the Occupation Forces as an army chaplain in Japan. Fr. Bonin served the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis until his retirement in 1987. The chalice and paten was originally pewter with gold plating inside the cup. It was restored in 2008 and matches the communion ciborium.

The holy water fonts at each door came from the original chapel in Benilde High School.

The set of ceramic altar ware was crafted by Jean Nelson, CSJ and donated at the time of the chapel dedication along with a large celebratory, processional candle that was crafted by Gerrie Lane, CSJ.

The BSM stole was a gift from the BSM Mother's Club to Father Arnold Weber. When he retired from Holy Name, he returned it to BSM.

The large cross outside on the roof of the chapel was raised on Ash Wednesday 2001. Father Kermit Holl, BSM's chaplain, conducted the service. This cross can be seen from Highway 100 by all who drive by.

Along with donors, students, and faculty and staff, several people have been instrumental in making the Our Lady of Peace Chapel at Benilde-St. Margaret's School a community focal point of the BSM campus. We thank them all.