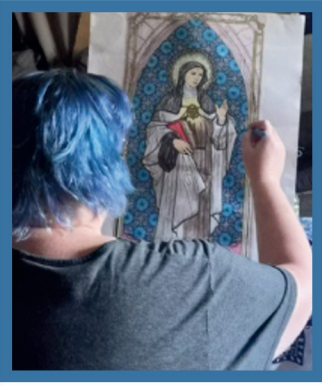




Our New St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Image About the Artist

The striking image of St. Elizabeth of the Trinity that graces our sanctuary is the work of Des Plaines-based artist Amanda Vandervort, who was born in Elgin and grew up in Tulsa, OK. From an early age, she was drawn to the world of artistry. Over the years, Amanda worked in pen and ink, oils, acrylics, chalk, charcoal as well as sculpture and ceramics.

Amanda's faith journey has, to some degree, mirrored her diverse artistic repertoire. She grew up in the Methodist Church, was confirmed as a Lutheran, attended Catholic schools, and was a member of an Episcopal Church. It was, however, a recent impromptu meeting with a parishioner that led to a visit by Amanda to St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Church. And that connection led to the creation of our patron's image.

As to the keys to her creativity, Amanda gives a nod to her husband, Steve, who as fire alarm technician, keeps her grounded with his logical approach to life. Also, Amanda extends a word of thanks to their 16-year-old daughter who provides her own set of youthful perspectives.

About the Image

In describing the artwork, Amanda underscores the trinitarian themes of the various elements. For example, the St. Elizabeth of the Trinity image has accents of red, white and blue to represent both her native France and America. The configuration of these colors is shaped to let faith, hope and love shine through each pane like the virtues themselves. In addition, silver, gold and copper leafing create a trinity of metals to adorn her, while the painting itself is in three separate mediums. Another symbolic detail is the wood used for the frame, which comes from a tree which had been living at the time when St. Elizabeth was in the convent. Specifically, it is Black French Oak, suggesting the original sin into which we are all born.

In recounting the creative process, Amanda emphasizes the behind-the-scenes teamwork. For instance, Danny took painstaking care in the cutting of the wood. Nora diligently conducted research that uncovered stories, prayers and theological themes that guided the design. Sam, at "Baked by Jane", kept the team going with sustenance, coffee and everyday love.

Meanwhile, Amanda moved the project forward from pencil sketches to final artwork by engaging in more than 300 hours of painting, pouring epoxy, and performing finishing work. Working together, the team formed sort of a human trinity, united by a spirit of simple generosity.

Amanda notes that during her visits to St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Parish she has been struck by the welcoming and smiling faces she encountered. What's more, as a Cherokee woman, Amanda noticed and admired our stained-glass window of St. Kateri Tekakwitha, the first Native North American saint canonized in the Catholic Church.

Amanda and her team exude pride in their craftsmanship and express the sincere hope that this image of St. Elizabeth of the Trinity will be a powerful reminder of our French Carmelite patron's holiness as well as a source of inspiration to all.