

Our Beautiful Church

— A SERIES OF ARTICLES DEPICTING THE MAGNIFICENCE OF OUR CHURCH —

PART SIX: THE AISLE WINDOWS ON THE SOUTH SIDE

In part 5, we began our coverage of the stained glass treasures we have in our church. It is useful to repeat that the use of stained glass in church decoration is not only for the purpose of ornament; first and foremost, pictorial windows are there to teach spiritual lessons and constitute, in effect, homilies in glass. Part five described the windows on the north side; this part 6 covers the windows on the south side.

THE PRINCIPAL THEME

We know that the principal theme of the stained glass windows in our church is that of the title of the church, *Our Lady Queen of Martyrs*. As we have seen, in the aisle windows on the north side of the church, the theme is that of Christ represented under five traditional aspects. On the south side, the theme is that of Our Blessed Lady, also under five traditional aspects. With the figure of Christ and of Our Lady under each aspect is the figure of a saint whose life or chief virtue is properly associated with the particular aspect portrayed.

THE FIRST SOUTH WINDOW



On the south side, the first window from the transept towards the rear is the Holy Family group. Our Lady is portrayed as **Mother of God**, holding the Infant Jesus in her arms, with the inscription of angelic salutation: *HAIL MARY*. The natural companion piece is that of St. Joseph, spouse of Our Lady and foster-father of Jesus. The inscription, *GO TO JOSEPH*, recalls the Joseph of the Old Testament, who – sold into captivity by his brothers – became in the days of famine the good provider for his people. From St. Joseph, the good provider of the the Holy Family at Nazareth, Christian fathers are counselled to seek advice and help.

THE SECOND SOUTH WINDOW

In the second window group, Our Lady is represented under the title of the **Immaculate Conception**, bearing the inscription *HAIL, FULL OF GRACE*, which is the Scriptural basis for the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception. The companion picture is that of St. Bernard of Clairveaux, noted – as the inscription reads – for *LOVE OF MARY*. He is the author of the beautiful prayer to Our Lady, *The Memorare*.



THE THIRD SOUTH WINDOW

The third south window pictures **Our Lady Queen of Martyrs** with St. Monica. This is a fitting association of Our Sorrowful Mother – who grieved at the foot of the Cross for Her Divine Son – with St. Monica, the mother who sorrowed for her wayward son, St. Augustine, until, through her tears and prayers and sacrifices, he learned to love God and became a great saint. The petition of the Litany of Our Lady, *QUEEN OF MARTYRS, PRAY FOR US*, is inscribed under the figure of Our Lady, and the virtue *PENANCE* under that of St. Monica.



Please note that there are many more items of interest in connection with the aisle windows in our church which could be mentioned, but space limitations constrict us to this broad sketch. It will, however, give a general idea of the significance of these Homilies in Glass to our parishioners and those who come to visit the church.

THE FOURTH SOUTH WINDOW



Photos by **Pepa Tanousis**

The fourth window is that of **Our Lady of the Rosary**, representing the favorite form of asking the intercession of the Blessed Mother according to her own wish, expressed in giving the Rosary to St. Dominic. The inscription *INTERCEDE FOR US* is the reminder of the power of intercession exercised by Our Lady of the Rosary. The companion picture is that of St. Rose of Lima, the first canonized saint of the western hemisphere, a member of the Dominican Order. Her name, St. Rose, recalls the fact that the Rosary takes its name from the *Crown of Roses for Our Lady*. The devotion of St. Rose for the Crown of Thorns is also associated with the title of Our Lady as a *Rose among thorns*. The inscription is the virtue of *PRAYER*.

THE FIFTH SOUTH WINDOW



The fifth window is the timely petition for peace in a war-mad world. Representing **Our Lady Help of Christians**, it is the prayer of our parish that peace may be maintained in this country and in the world, and that all forms of war with its horrors may soon cease, and that peace and freedom may once again come to our persecuted Christian brethren throughout the world. The petition inscribed is *BRING US PEACE*. The picture of St. Thérèse, *The Little Flower of Jesus*, who was a favorite of the soldiers in the last World War, and who had promised to spend her Heaven doing good on earth, is fittingly inscribed with the virtue of *CHARITY*.