



THE STORY OF THE

Doors of Saint Mary

The designers of Saint Mary Interparochial School devoted special attention to the stained-glass doors that welcome all who enter this sanctuary of learning and spirituality. Created in rich colors, the doors depict two intertwined themes: Our nation's fight for independence and our city's distinction as an oasis of religious freedom.

Look closely, and you will see depictions of the symbolic "Freedom Ship," the British occupation of the city, and the Stars and Stripes. Founding fathers George Washington and John Adams, as well as famous figures from Philadelphia's religious history, are shown as well. Several crosses memorialize the 667 victims of the tragic yellow fever epidemic of 1793 who are buried beneath the current school building. The many religious sisters who dedicated themselves to the care and education of Philadelphia's children are represented as well, including Philadelphia native St. Katharine Drexel.

At the dedication of Saint Mary Interparochial School in 1970, the doors were said to "cast their light upon the children and nuns and speak in a rich variety of color, uniting the entire school in the beauty of holiness. They are beautiful but not dramatic. They portray the message of the faith."

