

Illumination in Memory of Lynn J. Verhey

Given to St. Brendan the Navigator Episcopal Church by the illuminator, Vincent G. Mazzucchelli

Lettering:

Capital letters are in Lombardic Gothic versal.
Lower case letters are in Italian round-hand miniscule which is based on the old Roman uncial.

Illumination:

All of the illumination is done with the blending of colored inks and highlighted by gold leafing. The illumination encompasses three styles:

1. Riccardiana Lactantius was a Florentine illuminator. Most of his work was done in the latter half of the 15th century. A modification of his calligraphic technique was employed in the three-colored scroll design found beneath the "B" in "Be", the start of the verse and surrounding the Celtic cross along the right side of the illumination.

2. To tie in with the St. Brendan's illumination, the illustrator used a modified Celtic Cross design. It is the only prominent Celtic design used on this illumination. The small red circles containing several smaller yellow circles are a modification of those used in the Book of Kells. Here they are used to fill space at the end of lines of lettering.

3. His own designs have been used in the depiction of the "Lord's." The "L" is gold leaf and the star-like burst as the background to the letter "L" represents the outburst of Christianity. The center of each contains a simple plain cross representative of the Benedictine Order of the Holy Cross. The vine scroll serving as the background to the "ord" of Lord represents the spread of Christianity.

The horizontal bar at the bottom of the illumination is simply an artistic depiction of the cross. The middle portion of the bar is interrupted with the Oxford Chant setting of the "Jubilate Deo." The ends of the bar are represented by two different crosses. The right one is the Jerusalem Cross and the one to the left is an Orthodox cross found on icons with the Byzantine expression "Jesus Christ Conquers."

Within the Celtic cross a smaller red cross is a copy, in form, of those found in the Christianity phase of the Kushite Kingdom, which occupied the territory of what is now Lower Sudan and Ethiopia.

About the Illuminator:

Vincent G. Mazzucchelli was born in Boston in 1926. Following a two-year stint in the army during World War II, Vincent entered Fresno State College where he earned his Bachelor's degree. This was followed by an M.A. from Syracuse University and a Ph.D. from UCLA where his emphasis was in cartography and desert geomorphology.

Vincent served as director of the cartographic section at the System Development Corporation. This was followed by his academic career as Professor of Cartography at California State University, Los Angeles, until his retirement.

In retirement, Vincent has returned to his avocation of making illuminations in the styles of the 14th through 16th centuries. The first major illumination was presented to St. Thomas the Apostle Episcopal Church in Hollywood, CA. Three others have been completed for St. Thomas the Apostle Church. In addition to the two illuminations for St. Brendan the Navigator, others have been presented to St. Nicholas Episcopal Church in Encino, CA, Mount Calvary (a guesthouse of the Order of the Holy Cross) in Santa Barbara, CA, St. Andrews Episcopal Church in South Carolina, and St. Mark's Lutheran Church and Church of the Advent of Christ the King, both in San Francisco.

During the autumn and winter of 2019 the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles exhibited a collection of Dr. Mazzucchelli's illuminated manuscripts at St. Paul's Commons —the Diocesan Headquarters, Retreat and Conference Center. At the dedication ceremony, he presented St. Paul's Commons with a large illumination which hangs permanently in the lobby.