

EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST

by Ron Scott Teachworth

Exhibition of Sacred Art

Nov. 9 - Dec. 29, 2018

Reception: Nov. 9, 2018 5-8 pm

Marygrove College Art Gallery

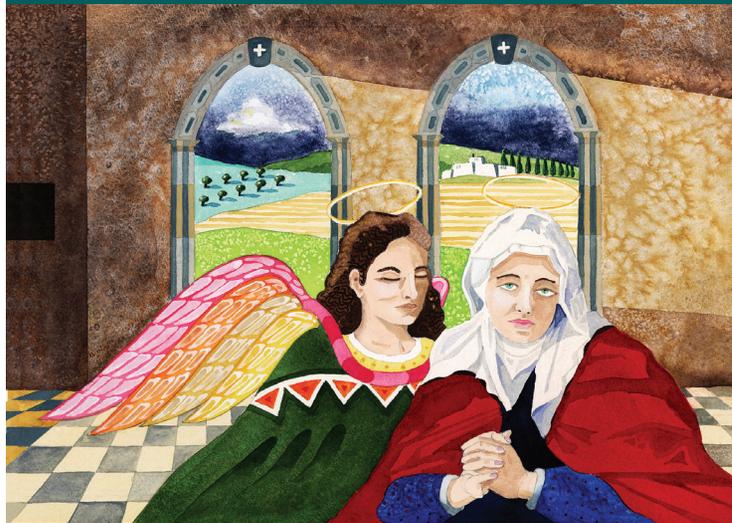
Liberal Arts Building 4th Floor

9-5 or by appointment

8425 W. McNichols, Detroit, MI 48221



Mary Visits Jesus, 2013, 22x30 inches



Annunciation, 2011, 22x30 inches

The primary purpose of Christian sacred art is to convey religious meaning. Sacred art manifests themes and visual symbolism from Christianity. It is a means of evangelization in that it leads us to see and contemplate the divine mysteries of our faith through a primary sense. Today's Christian art is the same as the early centuries of sacred art, that is, to awaken the spiritual by physical senses that lead us to the Triune God. For those who are drawn to visual representation, it provides an impelling context not only for the faithful but offers an opportunity for those who have left the Church and for those who may be interested in discovering the beauty and mystery of our faith.

From the early centuries onwards, Christian art was produced in vast quantities for churches, clergy, and laity. The Protestant Reformation had an enormous negative impact on Christian art in that it was destroyed and even halted in some regions. In the Catholic countries, art continued and flourished during the Counter-Reformation. A sharp decline, however, from the 18th century onwards was evidenced. By the 19th century, the root of sacred art as a visual representation of spiritual meaning and symbolism shifted to art appreciation. Dana Gioia writes in the publication, *First Things* (2013), that there is a lack of art in Catholicism today. He comments,

“Catholic artists are almost invisible in American culture today.”

Trained in visual art, I completed my M.A. at Wayne State University in painting. I began by painting landscapes on canvas using acrylic paint and on paper using watercolor. Throughout the years, I competed in fine art competitions and was represented by galleries with my acrylic abstractions and representational watercolors. My journey in becoming a contemporary artist of Christian art began after my acceptance into full communion with the Catholic Church in 2008. My RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) experience and my study of Fra Angelica's frescos at San Marco Convent in Florence, Italy, were critical events in my life. They were the two primary

catalysts that changed my representational watercolor work. Above all, Fra Angelica's work had a profound effect on me, especially his fresco, *The Annunciation*.

The first new watercolor I completed was my interpretation of *The Annunciation*, (22" x 30") and it was accepted into a nationwide-juried exhibition at Saint Vincent College in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, in 2015 at The Saint Vincent Gallery of Catholic Arts. There were only 39 works of art selected for the exhibition, and I was fortunate to have *The Annunciation* in this exhibition.

This event was extremely encouraging and I began to study and research the paintings of Jesus, dating back to the fourteenth century. I spent time studying the work of Giotto, Raphael, de Vinci, Caravaggio, Botticelli, Rubens, Velazquez, Mantegna, Fra Angelico, and Giovanni Bellini. I started by using many of the same traditional depictions in art history but developed my interpretations relating to the figures, composition, color variations, and settings. Technically, I borrowed much from my previous work in watercolor, like adding backgrounds, texture to surface areas, and my approach to a balanced composition.

All of these works are new interpretations from many episodes in the Bible. Two are entirely newly conceived ideas like *Mary Visits Jesus* and *The Conversation*. In the beginning, I was selecting passages that I was drawn to, both from the Bible scripture and from the visual art record that had been created in the past. I did not realize that as I painted, I was building a visual narrative in the *Events in the Life of Jesus Christ: From The Annunciation to Ascension* in eighteen works of art.

To express the good news of the life of Jesus Christ through a visual medium speaks to the grace of the Holy Spirit.



About The Artist

Ron Scott Teachworth was married in 1972 to his wife, Jilia, at St. James Catholic Church in New York City. Although he attended mass for thirty-five years, it wasn't until he went through the RCIA program in 2010, that he officially converted to Catholicism.

Mr. Teachworth, a Detroit-based artist, was born in Detroit, earned a BA in art from Central Michigan University, and an MA in painting from Wayne State University. He produced educational television after his time at London Film School, and taught painting at BBAC, and Oakland County Community College.

He has exhibited in over 60 visual art exhibitions; four one-person shows, including one in New York City. He was granted a Michigan Artist Award for his feature film work, and has won nine awards from the Michigan Watercolor Society for his watercolor work. His visual artwork is part of 38 personal collections, and 19 corporate collections. He has always considered himself part of the Detroit Art Community.

Parish Exhibition

The original works of art will travel as an exhibition and are not for sale. If your parish would like to host a showing of this exhibit, please contact Ron Teachworth. (High resolution prints will be available)

248-321-2979
ron1441@comcast.net
ronteachworthreligious.com
ronteachworth.com

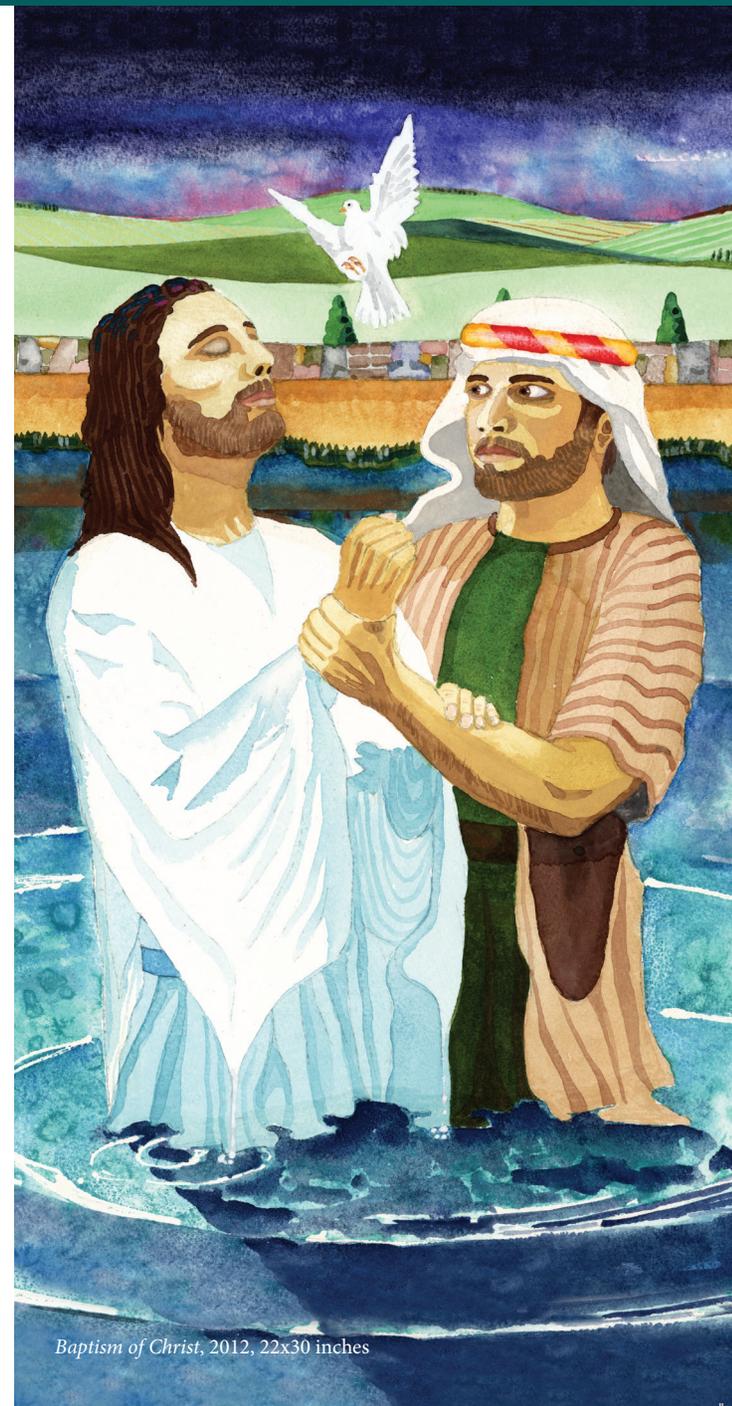
Ron Scott Teachworth
1441 Millrace
Rochester Hills, MI 48306

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His Most Reverend Excellency, Henry Allen Vigneron
Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament
12 State St. Detroit, MI 48226

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Baptism of Christ, 2012, 22x30 inches