

Bill Iaculla's Stewardship Award Sunday, November 1, 2009



Fr. George's Testimony

When the church of St. Aloysius on El Camino Real was sold by the Diocese of San Jose and deconsecrated, there remained a bronze crucifix atop the structure. The new owners of the building offered this for sale to the parish, and when Bill Iaculla heard this, he decided to purchase it. "I'll do something with it," Bill told himself, and, because he is an artist, his choices were numerous.

Eventually he decided to create a sculpture emblematic of Christ's face on the cross, adding His hands holding a chalice. He backed the face, which he fashioned from a wax cast of himself, with a large communion wafer which also signifies a halo. Rather than placing a crown of thorns on the Lord's head, he circled them around the face, following the rounded contours of the front portion of the cross. Bill envisioned the piece being placed in the center of the courtyard at the pastoral center, creating a space for meditation.

Bill Iaculla with his sculpture on the front of the bronze cross from St. Aloysius Church, now in the courtyard of STA's pastoral center.

Bill called upon his former student at the Pacific Art League, Phil Nichols, to help him work on the project. Phil picked out the granite base, which was originally from the Sierras, then recycled from a building in San Francisco. Phil drilled a hole in the granite foundation and in the the cross, then assembled it. It took four men to move it into position.

Bill crafted a plaque for the base which reads, "Eat this bread. Drink this cup. Life everlasting...Allejuia, amen." He added, "Gift of the artist, September, 2009. *Pax et bonum* (Latin for "Peace and Good"). And then his name...William D. Iaculla.

Bill's background as an artist who not only sculpts but does printmaking and mixed media includes education at DePaul University, the Art Institute of Chicago, the American Academy of Art, San Jose State and Foothill College. He sculpts commissions, juries shows, give lectures, and teaches at the Pacific Art League. He says that many of his themes are derived from his family roots in southern Italy, and calls himself an artist for justice and peace.

"What's important to me," says Bill, "is being non-judgemental, accepting, forgiving and loving." He adds, "I am grateful to God for giving me this talent. I say to God every day, 'Thank you for helping me make decisions today.'"

And I thank you, Bill, with this stewardship award for your decision to use your time, talent and treasure to provide for the parish this artistic piece of history.