

DECORATIONS COMPLETE

ST. MARY'S CHURCH DECORATIONS COMPLETED BY O. J. KOVER

It will pay you to go miles to see the interior of St. Mary's church, Sleepy Eye. O. J. Kover, an artist from Ft. Wayne, Ind. assisted by his son, after four month's work has completed the decorations in the interior of the church. It is a work of art and adds glory to the name of the artist. The people of this city can always point with pride to this magnificent monument. Following is an account of the last Sunday services and an explanation of the work by Rev. J. Alfred Kern, Assistant rector:

Great was the surprise of the members of St. Mary's Catholic church last Sunday morning when they beheld their dear church in the new vesture, and rightly did they celebrate the reopening of their church by special and most impressive ceremonies all day Sunday. Proud as they always were of their great religious monument, their House of God, never was there a greater feeling of joy and enthusiasm manifested than when they knelt gazing upon the monument of love and veneration, truly worthy of the Immaculate Queen; and great was their joy when the congregation assembled for the first time in the new Immaculate.

Well did the preacher, Rev. P. Schirmers of Cologne dwell upon the meaning of the adornment of the beautiful church. Well did he understand how to explain not the pictures only which depict the story of the "Help of Christians" but even the meaning also of the ordinary colors and their blending that construe the interior of the edifice to one "sursum corda" upwards raise your hearts. Most fittingly did he liken St. Mary's Church, as it now pleases heart and eye to a festive vested spouse, the spouse of the ever zealous Pastor of St. Mary's Church. Nor was it alien to give credit in due expression to the ability of an artist, who so well understood how to aggrandize the Glories of Mary the Help of Christians and help the uplifting, graceful arches to coerce the pious beats and lift them beyond the high ceilings into the house of all crowned.

To explain a little, the Sanctuary above all is apt to extract at once on entering the church the wonder and admiration, indeed—this is the

Catholic church. Famous as Sleepy Eye Catholic church has been heretofore, she cannot but attract new admirers and move them on to the altar rail. There the eyes rest gladly in contemplation of those loveable paintings so fittingly accompanying the center idea of adoration. Two large pictures, to the left "Our Lord Blessing the Five Loaves," to the right, "The Communion Part of the Last Supper." Above these pictures, swaying over light clouds, two Cherubs, calling with trumpet the faithful to the adoration of the Most High; also two other Cherubs offering incense, the symbol of adoration. The ceiling of the sanctuary is kept in most enhancing azure blue. "The Blessing Father" greets the visitor at the entrance of the Sanctuary.

Rightly did the preacher say that every pillar even could be made the subject of a sermon, too lengthy here to explain. Let us turn to the nave. Our eyes and hearts motively turn upwards. There within the embrace of the most graceful arches are seen in mellow colors the pictures explaining the life of "The Mother of God." As the preacher properly anoints those pictures not exacting a hard study of their meaning, but are an open prayer book, meditating and prayers well known, a great help to the hopeful Christian.

There are eight beautiful paintings on the walls near the ceiling that are masterpieces of attracting beauty. They are:

1. Mary at the feet of her mother, St. Ann.
2. The Visitation of Our Lady to her cousin Elizabeth.
3. The Presentation in the temple.
4. The Flight into Egypt.
5. The Holy Family of Nazareth.
6. The Finding of Jesus in the Temple.
7. The Marriage Feast of Cana.
8. The Sorrowful Mother.

The dome, certainly a grandeur, shows in the center a splendid white cross encircled with a crown of thorns. Around this simple yet grand symbol are in ample fields the four main representations of the church's patron saint, the Blessed Lady, namely facing the entrance: "The Help of Christians" to the south "The Mother Immaculate," (this picture particularly attractive) to the north "The Assumption of the Blessed Lady," facing the altar we behold the "Crowning of Her."

Alongside the rosette windows we meet four pictures of angles reminding us ever and anon to the praise of God and the reason thereof.

In all, you cannot leave Sleepy Eye Catholic church in its new grandeur without the old adage "you never saw the like."

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