



ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH

GATHERING AREA ROSE WINDOW

The Risen Christ surrounded by the Twelve Apostles



Henry Adams, in *Mont St. Michel and Chartres* (1905), established what has become the prevalent understanding of the meaning behind the design of Gothic cathedrals -- those we know by high towers, spires, flying buttresses, and the like. The Gothic cathedral was basically meant to be a link between God and humankind -- between heaven and earth. Almost every aspect of Gothic design is "incomplete" -- for example, windows come to points rather than finishing off in fully rounded arcs. In this way, the whole building becomes a kind of connecting device between this realm (earth) and the next (heaven). The exception that demands the word "almost" is the rose window, placed so that it is seen last, as the believer leaves the church. After prayers and services in an environment fixed upward, literally, to a heaven imagined to be physically above the earth, the Christian believer turns to go out into the day-to-day world once more - but not before seeing the only complete element in the whole building, the perfect circle of the rose window. This is the believer's promise of the perfection to come -- the hinted answer to the prayers just said and, as the representation of the mystical rose, a visible sign of the rites just performed.

ALTAR ROSE WINDOW

The Lamb of God

Just as blood and water flowed from Jesus' side as he hung upon the cross, streams of water and blood flow from the Lamb, with the blood being captured in a chalice. These symbolize Baptism and Eucharist, the foundation of the sacramental life of the church.





CRY ROOM

Theme: The Laurel

The evergreen leaf of the laurel tree is a symbol of eternity, victory and triumph. It is suggestive of eternity because the foliage does not wilt. It is symbolic of the victory over sin and triumph over evil.



ABOVE THE KNAVE

(EAST AND WEST SIDES)

This design is non-subjective, but with continuous flowing patterns moving from window to window; the "negative space" of the wall between the windows is utilized to unite the patterns.



ABOVE THE NAVE

(West Front)

Cross of the Passion Window. The window depicts the crown of thorns, using dark colors which are symbolic of the Passion and of Penitence.



ABOVE THE NAVE

(East Front)

Cross of the Resurrection Window. This window gives us the Heavenly Crown of Thorns. The theme as well as the bright colors are symbolic of Christ Risen, Lord of the Heavens.



WEST FRONT NAVE

Symbols: Birds and Vine

A motif from early Christianity which symbolizes the faithful coming to feed at the vine.



EAST FRONT NAVE

Stations of the Cross depicted in stained glass



BY THE TABERNACLE

Theme:
Light of the Holy Spirit
enters the worship space.



ST. THOMAS MORE SHRINE

Theme: Daises.
Which are symbols of Purity, and as such
associated with the Holy Family.



REAR NAVE

Theme: Seven flames
Burning before the Throne
of God (Rev. 4:5)
symbolize the Holy
Spirit. Prayer ascends, as
does smoke from flames.