

The Blessed Virgin: Pattern of Holiness **The Love of Christ Impels Us**

The Blessed Virgin: Pattern of Holiness room envisions a sacred place, a prayerful destination where participants may come in silence and contemplation to be with Mary, to pray with Mary, to learn from Mary who is both Model and Mother. In Mary we find the love of Christ impelling us toward deeper communion with her Son and so renewed in his mission for the world.

The overarching theme of the space will be visual, and within the confines will be representations of the Blessed Virgin as seen through the rich and varied lens of the many cultures and peoples who gather under her protective mantle. Statues, icons, paintings, prints, ranging from Our Lady of Guadalupe, Lourdes, Fatima and Knock to Our Lady of Grace, Queen of Heaven and Mother of Sorrows will manifest the Universal Church's honor and dignity offered to Mary within the multicultural experience of the local Church here in the Archdiocese of Chicago.



The link from the Local to the Universal will be manifested through the use of devotional images of the Blessed Virgin from various parishes, religious communities and institutions throughout the Archdiocese. Text and photos describing the cultural origin of that particular devotion and how it has affected the lives and faith journey of the community will accompany each image.

While there will be a strong catechetical dimension to the space, the primary purpose is prayer. To foster a proper prayerful aesthetic, the lights will be intentionally dimmed and the use of draped easels, soft music, *prie dieux* and kneeling pillows will instill a sense of reverence and silence.

It is intended that those who enter this space will journey through it intentionally and prayerfully. The space complements and celebrates the rich and textured tapestry of the Catholic faith through the 'one' who provides our pattern to grow in holiness, for all cultures, all centuries, each individual. The space intends to offer a place of rest, prayer and engagement in which we may come to the realization that in Mary, our Mother, we have a sure Model of that Body, the Church, and a Mother who will show and teach us the path to Her Son.