

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

There are twelve stained glass windows along the north and south aisles depicting various scenes from the life of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The stained glass was designed and constructed by Conrad Schmidt Studios of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The company exists today although it has moved slightly west to New Berlin, Wisconsin. The project to build and install the windows began in January, 1943, and was completed and dedicated on April 2, 1944 (Palm Sunday). The cost was stated to be \$20,000, which is equivalent to about \$340,000 today. The scenes depicted are fundamentally different from what Conrad Schmidt presented as potential plans to Father Bernard N. Geller, the pastor of Nativity at that time. There were three proposed plans all of which depicted the central stained glass scenes as well as the smaller stained glass depicting various saints. The correspondence has been annotated with at least a partial list of desired changes, although there does not appear to be a direct documentation of the actual final configuration. Information for this presentation has been taken from the correspondence from Conrad Schmidt Studio in January, 1943, *We've Come This Far by Faith* (History of Nativity of Our Lord Parish) by Miriam Moses, and *Discovering Stained Glass in Detroit* by Nola Huse Tutag with Lucy Hamilton (Pages 80-81).

COMMENTARY:

Scene: **Annunciation**

Gospel Reference: **Luke 1: 26-38** The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, the angel said, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, for nothing will be impossible for God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the handmaid of the Lord; May it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Footnote: In the pane below the central medallion is a sprouting plant. **Isaiah 11:1:** But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom.