

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 began in January, 1943, and was complete and dedicated on April 2, 1944 (Palm Sunday). The cost was stated to be \$20,000, which is equivalent to about \$340,00 today. The scenes depicted are fundamentally different from what Conrad Schmidt presented as potential plans to Father Bernard N. Geller. 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 to desired changes, although the 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: The Wedding at Cana

Gospel Reference: **John 2:1-12**

On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." ⁴And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. And he said to them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast." So, they took it. When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now." This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him. After this he went down to Capernaum, with his mother and his brothers and his disciples, and they stayed there for a few days.

Footnotes: The apparent bride and groom appear at the top of the stained glass with wedding guests at the table. The stained glass appears to merge the first verses with the last as Mary appears to be gesturing to Jesus, while a servant is actively pouring the water. There may also be a "seventh jar" in the stained glass at the feet of Jesus. Some artistic license to try to convey the complete passage in one stain glass frame.

Quotes taken from English Standard Version