



OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHAPEL

The Lourdes Foundation is seeking assistance from the community to build a new chapel for Lourdes Hospital, the only remaining Catholic hospital in western Kentucky. The current chapel was built thirty years ago and the space must now be used to expand Cardiac Services due to increasing volumes and proximity of space.

Liturgical architect, Fr. Mark Joseph Costello, has agreed to assist Vice President of Mission Services, Sr. Marie Moore, and Lourdes priest, Fr. Dan Kreutzer, in designing a liturgically appropriate worship space. Emphasis will be placed on creating a serene, inspiring place for patients, families, and employees of all faiths to gather.

Lourdes Hospital is committed not only to healing the body, but also nurturing the spirit. The new chapel will be relocated in the front of the hospital at the junction of the outpatient service building and the pedestrian mall. The placement of the chapel at this junction will form the “heart” of the hospital and provide a structure, with the cross as the most prominent feature, to greet visitors as they approach the hospital.

As a person enters the gathering space, they will become aware of the serene sounds of the healing font and will see the display of holy oils. The chapel is circular in design, so the altar will be placed centrally for maximum Mass participation. Also to allow for those who wish to spend time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, this chapel will be located in an adjoining space within the chapel.

The design of Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel will incorporate the soothing elements of the earth including light, wood, and water. First, in stark contrast to the current chapel with no outside light source, two walls of art glass windows will allow light to surround those who enter the chapel.

Next, the wooden floors will create a much different space than any other in the hospital. Those entering will naturally step with greater care as the texture changes from carpet to wood when they make their way to seating. The tabernacle, altar, ambo, credence table, chairs and kneelers will also be crafted from wood.

Water will be the third natural element of the new chapel. From the gentle curves of the entry vestibule, to the flowing patterns of the fabric tapestry behind the altar and the healing font's gentle sound, the chapel's design reflects the springs of life-giving waters of baptism. Like the gentle waves of the sea, the art glass windows will bathe those who enter in swathes of blue.

Nationally known local artist Freda Fairchild will create five liturgical tapestry panels containing passages of scripture in Latin, Greek, Aramaic, Hebrew and English. The tapestry will beautifully convey the message of God from scripture, while also assisting with acoustic control in the circular structure.

Lexington, Kentucky artist Guy Kemper will design the chapel windows and has chosen *Quiescence* as the title of this work. The gentle waves of blue forming the art glass are meant to provide tranquility for those in grief by creating a sanctuary for the soul within the hospital that will allow both peace and reassurance through faith.

Sculpture placed on the wall near the Blessed Sacrament Chapel will depict the Pieta, Mary embracing the dying Jesus. As Mary holds Jesus, many who come to the hospital chapel will hold their loved one's health or suffering in their prayers.

In accordance with the new General Instructions on the Roman Missal, the current keyboard must be replaced with a non-electrical instrument. The addition of the piano will allow an opportunity to provide liturgically appropriate music to accompany the Mass and special celebrations.

Audiovisual equipment will be installed in the new chapel during the construction phase to allow patients who cannot leave their rooms to view the Mass celebration through their television. This will allow inclusion of those who would otherwise not have the opportunity to participate.

Finally, furnishings and any salvageable materials from the old chapel will be donated to St. Mary High School to construct an on-campus chapel for student and family worship. The school shares an adjacent campus with Lourdes and will benefit from this contribution.

Water is a continuing theme throughout Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel. Elements of the Chapel's design reflect the springs of life-giving waters of baptism.
