

## Communion of Saints Proposal

The proposal is to adorn the 34 panels above the Nave with sacred art. This suggestion surfaced from the congregation during the Living Our Mission capital campaign during discussions about the liturgical art that was planned when the church was built in 2003. The original plans were to enhance worship and prayer through tapestry images of Saints of the Americas. Monsignor Keeney supported the concept to develop sacred art but understood that the sacred art project must complement the building project and could not divert funds from the Ministry/Administration building that will allow us to fulfill our mission to become disciples who form disciples. Our pastor realized there may be some parishioners who have a passion for art and may be in a position to provide the resources necessary to create the proposed liturgical mosaic panels, while supporting Living Our Mission.

Various art media were explored. The idea of tapestries was tabled as fabric would reduce the natural light that is an integral part of the original church design; additionally, tapestries fade and painting shares the same problem. Glass mosaics seem to be the most appropriate medium for the Sanctuary because of their properties that reflect the brilliant sunlight in the Nave and introduce timeless vibrant colors reminiscent of early Christian churches.

To find an appropriate artist, we turned to parishioner John Spike, an internationally recognized art historian, Assistant Director and Chief Curator at the Muscarelle Museum of Art at The College of William and Mary, and instructor of the History of Christian Art at the Pontifical Atheneum Regina Apostolorum in Rome. He identified Angel Ramiro Sanchez, an international artist who has the experience and solid Catholic background to capture the vision of American Saints in worship for the Sanctuary. For more information on Ramiro, click [here](#).

Ramiro spent the fall of 2015 working on a proposal for the design of the panels. As an example of his work, Ramiro painted one quarter size panel showing the American Saints Elizabeth Ann Seton, Marianne Cope, and Junipero Serra, with a California mission in the background as well as a study for Saint Martin of Tours, both illustrated at right. This work was part of a public presentation in the Nave on December 5, 2015.