

Our new sacred art is a reproduction of an original painting entitled *The Mystical Body of Christ** by Ruth Stricklin. It shows the unity of the three parts of the Body of Christ: the Church Suffering, the Church Triumphant, and the Church Militant. The (A) Church Suffering is depicted in Purgatory at the bottom, and the Church Triumphant is depicted by six representative saints, who draw us, the Church Militant, into loving worship with them. This draws us into an encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist and in the Cross as we keep our eyes fixed on Him, knowing that He has made us to be a saint in this time and place.

Left Panel:

(B) The hand on top of the banner represents God the Father.

(C) Angels carry incense, representing the prayers of the Church, to God the Father and God the Spirit.

(D) **St. Andrew Kim Taegon** was a courageous evangelist and bold witness in the face of persecution. Christianity was prohibited at the time in Korea, but his parents knew that the faith was their most precious resource and passed it on to him. Andrew Kim's father was subsequently martyred for practicing the faith. This did not deter St. Andrew Kim, who went on to study in the seminary and became the first Korean-born Catholic priest. Like his father, he was martyred, at the age of 25. St. Andrew Kim and his father show us the importance of passing on the faith to our children.

(E) **St. Kateri Tekakwitha** was orphaned by a smallpox outbreak at age 4 and raised by her aunt and uncle, a Mohawk chief. She was evangelized by Jesuits at the age of 11 and committed herself completely to Christ as a virgin at the age of 13. Her family was not supportive of her decision and arranged a marriage for her at age 17, so she fled to a village of Catholic Indians. She is called Lily of the Mohawks in honor of her chastity. She entered full communion with the Church at 18 and died at 24 in 1680. She reminds us of the importance of evangelization and our common vocation to follow Jesus with our whole lives.

(F) **St. Kizito** is one of the Ugandan martyrs who were burned alive by the king of Buganda in 1886. He was chosen to be a royal page and success and riches within his society lay before him. The king of Buganda, however, began to persecute Christians and was particularly opposed to the Church's teachings on sexual morality. When Kizito and the other pages refused to give in to the king's lust, he ordered their execution. He was only 13 when he gave everything, including his life, for Christ in martyrdom. Because of witnesses like St. Kizito, Uganda has gone from a negligible Catholic population to being 40% Catholic today.

Right Panel:

(G) The dove on top of the banner represents God the Holy Spirit.

(C) Angels carry incense, representing the prayers of the Church, to God the Father and God the Spirit.

(H) **St. Josephine Bakhita** was captured by Arab slave traders in her native Sudan at age 7 and eventually sold to Italians who took her to Italy in 1885. When her Italian mistress had to return to Sudan, she left Bakhita in the care of the Canossian Sisters where she encountered Christianity for the first time, learning the truth about God and his love for her. When her mistress returned to take her back, Bakhita refused to go. Declared free by the Italian courts, she chose with her new found freedom to surrender her whole life to God, becoming a Canossian sister herself. She shows us the power of forgiveness and that God can bring good even out of great evil.

(I) **St. Rose of Lima** born in Peru to a Spanish father and a mother of indigenous and Spanish parents, Rose was the first person born in the Americas to be canonized a saint. She is remembered for her chastity and her care for the poor, whom she would sometimes bring home to her own room to care for. She is known to have received communion and practiced adoration daily, neither of which were common practices at the time. Spurning opportunities to suitors who could offer money, power, and an easy life, she took a vow of chastity, knowing that God alone could satisfy her heart. She is a model of how encountering Jesus in the Eucharist should overflow in love and evangelism.

(J) **Blessed Carlo Acutis** was born in 1991 and is on the path to becoming the most recently born canonized saint. He is quoted saying, "All people are born as originals but many die as photocopies." He had a deep devotion to the Eucharist and created a website to spread information about Eucharistic miracles so that others could encounter Jesus in the Eucharist. He died of leukemia at age 15. He shows us that each of us is called to use our unique gifts to draw others to Christ, regardless of our age.