

INSPIRATION

SAINT ROBERT OF NEWMINSTER IS REMEMBERED AS A GENEROUS, COMPASSIONATE, AND CAPABLE MAN DEVOTED TO GOD. A MAN OF GREAT SIMPLICITY, HE WAS REPORTED TO BE STRONG AND ACTIVE, AND COMMITTED TO FASTING. HIS ACTS AND MIRACLES CONTINUE TO INSPIRE PEOPLE TO HELP OTHERS, AND TO HONOR GOD.

THIS TRIPTYCH PORTRAYS THREE CENTRAL IDEAS:

THE PATRON SAINT'S LIFE AND MIRACLES

THE CHURCH HISTORY AND OUTREACH EFFORTS

THE YOUTH AND THEIR SERVICE AND HOPE

THE CENTRAL IMAGE OF SAINT ROBERT CHARACTERIZES HIM AS A YOUNG MAN, FULL OF COMPASSION AND CONVICTION, HOLDING HIS CHURCH IN THE PALM OF HIS HAND. HIS SURROUNDING IMAGERY IS DERIVED FROM AN ACCOUNT GIVEN BY SAINT GODRIC, A FRIEND OF SAINT ROBERT, PRESENT AT SAINT ROBERT'S DEATH, JUNE 7, 1159. SAINT GODRIC REPORTED SEEING THE SOUL OF SAINT ROBERT ASCEND INTO THE HEAVENS AS A GLOBE OF FIRE, LIFTED BY ANGELS ON A PATHWAY OF LIGHT. A VOICE REPEATED TWICE "ENTER NOW, MY FRIENDS." THIS GRACIOUS MESSAGE IS CONVEYED ON A RIBBON SYMBOLIZING SCRIPTURE, AND REMINISCENT OF THE "ROAD TO EMMAUS," THE STAINED GLASS WINDOW IN THE CHURCH.

ENCIRCLING SAINT ROBERT ARE IMAGES DEPICTING HIS LIFE AND HIS MIRACLES. THE MIRACLES ARE IDENTIFIED BY CROSSES. THE RAYS REPRESENT GOD, RADIATING PEACE. THE OUTER VIGNETTES ILLUSTRATE HOW GOD HAS INSPIRED FAITHFUL PEOPLE TO CONTINUE NOBLE EFFORTS IN THE SPIRIT OF SAINT ROBERT.

THE INNER CIRCLE, UPPER LEFT VISUAL, CONVEYS THE BANKS OF THE RIVER, SKELD, IN THE MIDST OF WINTER. ST. ROBERT JOINED THIRTEEN RELIGIOUS MONKS THERE. THEY WERE LIVING IN HUTS MADE OF HURDLES AND ROOFED WITH TURF. IT ALSO ALLUDES TO THE MONASTERIES AND CHURCHES THAT HE HELPED ESTABLISH.

JUST AS ST. ROBERT, THE MAN, STARTED CHURCHES, THE UPPER LEFT IMAGES CORRELATE BY DEPICTING ST. ROBERT, THE CHURCH, ITS ORIGINS AND PROGRESS. THE ROOTS IN ADA WERE ESTABLISHED BY THE OTTAWA INDIANS, WHO BUILT A SMALL CATHOLIC CHAPEL, REPRESENTED BY THE HUT. THE INTERIORS SHOW THE ORIGINAL CHURCH, THE FIRST CHURCH AT 6477 ADA DRIVE, AND THE CURRENT CHURCH OPENED IN 1998.

THE INNER CIRCLE, LOWER LEFT, CONVEYS ST. ROBERT'S FIRST MIRACLE. AS A MONK, ST. ROBERT'S FASTING WAS EXTREME, SPURRED ON BY THE EXTREME POVERTY AND FAMINE IN THE

COUNTRY. HE BECAME KNOWN FOR HIS GENEROSITY TO THE POOR. CONCERNED ABOUT HIS RIGOROUS FASTING, A BROTHER BROUGHT HIM SOME FOOD. ST. ROBERT SELFLESSLY ASKED THAT IT BE GIVEN TO THE POOR INSTEAD. A STRANGER AT THE GATES TOOK THE FOOD, AND THE DISH. WHILE THE BROTHER EXPLAINED THE LOSS, THE DISH MIRACULOUSLY APPEARED ON THE TABLE.

THE OUTER, LOWER LEFT CORNER, CONNECTS ST. ROBERT'S FIRST MIRACLE WITH GIFTS RECEIVED FROM BAPTISM, EUCHARIST, AND CONFIRMATION; THREE OF THE SEVEN SACRAMENTS. THE PASCHAL CANDLE IS A REMINDER OF CHRIST'S PRESENCE, ITS LIGHT SYMBOLIZES HIS TRIUMPH OVER SIN AND DEATH. THE INCLUSION OF BAPTISM, AND HOLY WATER, DEMONSTRATES INITIATION INTO THE CHURCH. THIS CORNER ALSO ALLUDES TO NEW LIFE, FAMILY, AND THE LAST SUPPER.

THE INNER CIRCLE, LOWER RIGHT, INDICATES A BELT ST. ROBERT WAS GIVEN TO BE KEPT AT NEWMINSTER ABBEY FOR PERFORMING MIRACLES. SAINT ROBERT HAD BEEN WRONGLY ACCUSED OF HAVING A RELATIONSHIP WITH A DEVOUT WOMAN. ST. BERNARD FOUND THE ACCUSATIONS TO BE BASELESS AND GAVE THE BELT WITH HIS BLESSING. IT IS SAID ST. ROBERT FULFILLED MIRACLES, THAT MANY ILL PEOPLE HAD RECOVERED JUST BY TOUCHING THE BELT.

THE OUTER RIGHT, LOWER CORNER, CONVEYS YOUTH SERVING THE COMMUNITY, AND HAVING FUN IN THIS PURSUIT. JUST AS SAINT ROBERT HELPED SO MANY IN HIS LIFETIME, YOUNG PEOPLE CONTINUE THIS TRADITION. THEY ASSIST OTHERS, AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD THROUGH THEIR DETERMINATION, HARD WORK, KINDNESS, CARE, AND MERCY TO OTHERS.

THE UPPER RIGHT, INNER CIRCLE, SHOWS A MIRACLE REPORTED AT SAINT ROBERTS' TOMB. A MONK, WHO WORKED ON THE TOMB, IS SAID TO HAVE FALLEN UNHURT FROM A LADDER, DESPITE A GREAT HEIGHT. GOD GRANTED SAFETY AND PROTECTION TO THE MONK WHO WAS INDIRECTLY SERVING SAINT ROBERT.

THE CARE AND AID THAT GOD GRANTED TO THE MONK, IS EMULATED BY FAITHFUL PARISHONERS. THE UPPER RIGHT, OUTER CORNER DEPICTS OUR CURRENT CHURCH OUTREACH EFFORTS. THE PEOPLE OF SAINT ROBERT OF NEWMINSTER PARISH SUPPORT NUMEROUS GROUPS, INCLUDING THE SISTER PARISH IN HAITI, HOLY NAME OF JESUS SCHOOL, AND CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES.

SAINT ROBERT OF NEWMINSTER WAS A MAN WHO LIVED A VERY LONG TIME AGO. HIS DEVOTION TO GOD, AND HIS GOOD DEEDS, LEAD OTHERS BY EXAMPLE. HIS FAITHFUL ACTIONS CONTINUE TO INSPIRE PEOPLE TO HELP OTHERS, AND TO HONOR GOD.

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