

ACLS



NEWSLETTER

ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTANTS FOR LITURGICAL SPACE

Upcoming ACLS Activities

Please join us at:

University of Dallas Ministry Conference, Irving Convention Center

Oct. 11-13, 2018

SouthWest Liturgical Conference, Houston, TX

Jan. 23-26, 2018

Upcoming Events

WEBINAR:

September-

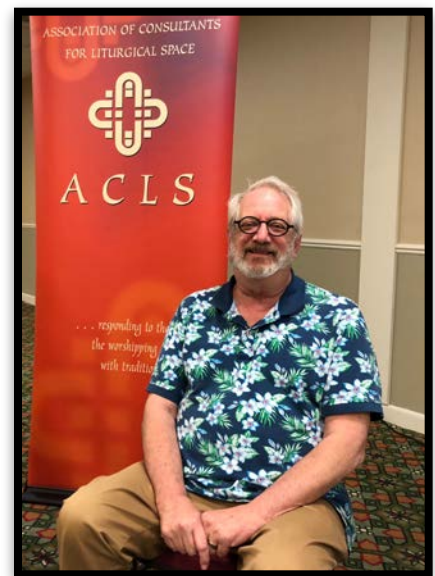
Design Fugitives - a firm that specializes in creative architectural and liturgical fabrication

ACLS Trip to see

Passion of Christ
Play:
Oberammergau
2020

ACLS Retreat News

Our retreat was fabulous! It was such a delight to spend time with old friends and to meet new ones. John Buscemi did a wonderful job of facilitating lots of insightful discussions and we are most appreciative of all his hard work! Thank you John!



Paul, Carol and John did a spectacular job planning the retreat all the way down to the little details of shuttling all of us from Chicago and Milwaukee to Lake Geneva.

James Hundt took the reins and organized a couple dinners out for us. Monday evening began with a lively dinner at an intimate and friendly place called "Barrique" followed with a hilarious trip to the local Piggly Wiggly for breakfast items.

Website Photos

We need your help!

Our website is a wonderful resource for people in need of our services! The photos on it are exquisite and serve as a great catalogue for our work. Please continue to add new photos of your projects, not only will they be on the website, but now we are pinning them on Pinterest and Facebook. Take advantage of ACLS promoting you! When you do add your photos make sure you are renaming the slides with your information, not the image number.

Send your Member News to be included in the next Newsletter!

We'd like to know more about you and your work.

Tuesday, several of the ladies hiked through the neighborhood on the lake and enjoyed seeing the quaint cottages. We settled in for discussions with John and the group, stopping only for lunch at the Ridge. As the day went on, our conversations went from "How can one describe an authentic experience of worship?" to "How do we describe liturgy as a work of service for/of the people?". This was followed up with dinner at a local German restaurant and then back to the meeting room for an insightful Pecha Kucha. At each session we were treated to beautiful music by Flutist Denise Lagiglia which offered time for reflection and prayer. She also led us in some prayerful songs in a Taize fashion.

Wednesday began with conversations focused on "How do we describe our own artistic spirituality and who are our mentors/guides". Our newest member, Jay Hall Carpenter, learned that he had, unknowingly, been this particular sculptor's muse for quite some time. I'm so fortunate for getting to meet him and I expect to learn so much from Jay! Of course, this is exactly what the retreat was intended to do - bring us together with like minded individuals from whom we could learn and be inspired. So many of us work completely alone, it's good to really get to know others in the same situation. After lunch our discussion turned to "What are the emerging notions of resurrection?" As the retreat progressed, the attendees really opened up about their work and their spirituality. I sincerely hope that more ALCS members attend the next one, which, by the way, is already being planned for next year.



John Buscemi, Jay Hall Carpenter, with Ken Greismer - photo bombing

Wednesday evening's banquet was quite fun, the food was perfect and the group really enjoyed themselves! There were many long hugs, big smiles and promises to see each other again soon. The camaraderie between us was wonderful and truly uplifting.



Thursday most of us headed home although Juanita and Robert headed to BJ's Memorial service. She will be missed.

ACLS is planning to have a presence at the various conferences around the country, including Valparaiso, University of Dallas Ministry Conference and Southwest Liturgical Conference. Please let us know if you are attending any of these! SWLC and UDMC will both be having an Art and Environment Track where our members will be speaking. FYI, the SWLC theme is Sacred Beauty and will hopefully attract building committees. There are also plans for some church tours that could make it worthwhile to arrive a day or so early. That conference is scheduled for Jan. 23-26, 2019, the UDMC is Oct. 11-13, 2018 and will be held at the Irving Convention Center.

Don't forget about the Oberammergau Trip! The dates right now are May 24-June 3, 2020. The Passion Play is on May 28 and is the main focus of the trip. There is a music festival during Pentecost, June 1, in Salzburg which we could also attend. Prices on the trip won't be determined until closer to 2019.

Robert Habiger is looking for someone willing to take over his position as Treasurer in January. This is a great opportunity to get more involved in ALCS! Pray about it! He tells us that it only takes two or three hours a month.

If you'd like to know more behind the scenes information about ACLS, the Board Meeting Minutes are posted on the website!

Thank you again to Carol, Paul and John for treating us to an inspiring and delightful retreat!!

By God's Grace,
Shelley Kolman Smith, LLC



In Memoriam:

BJ Katz

October 28, 1950 – May 17, 2018

Art and glass were the mission of BJ Katz, creator and founder of Meltdown Glass Studio in Tempe, Arizona. BJ Katz began art explorations in her home town at the Art Institute of Chicago and Northwestern University. She loved the glass paperweight collection at the Art Institute. Her studies took her to Stanwood, WA where she took a class started by Dale Chihuly, and then to Australia to continue learning and to work in a public access glass studio. She

developed her unique techniques in her garage until founding her own company in 1993. Her work reflects her love of nature, trees, the ocean and the multitude of possibilities offered through kiln fired glass. Her designs ranged from intimate interior pieces for homes to

large scale architectural applications, including the Milpitas BART Station in California.

BJ Katz enjoyed a good gathering of friends for conversation and coffee, and relished the art chats at liturgical conferences with other members of ACLS. Liturgical projects by BJ Katz can be viewed at this link: <http://www.meltdownglass.com/installations/venues/liturgical.php>



Member News:

Gianfranco Tassara of Inspired Artisans Ltd.

My connection to liturgical art began in my early childhood.

At the age of 14, I was very fortunate to live in Rapallo, a small town in northwest Italy. I attended Mass at Parrocchia SS. Gervasio e Protasio, the main downtown church which was consecrated in 1118. My interest, more than following the liturgy, was to admire the beauty of the building which was full of stained glass windows and fluted marble columns that were added during a 1700's renovation.

I vividly remember that the older men sat in the back of the church by the main entrance in order to slip outside unnoticed. The baptismal font was located nearby in a separate room. At that time fonts typically contained still water rather than circulating water. This was a good thing for the older gentlemen as the only bathroom was located in the sacristy and only available to the priests.

In the mid 1970's I moved to the United States. Shortly thereafter I began my career creating liturgical art. I have been fortunate to work on many projects over the years. I would have to say that I have found the font to be one of the most interesting as well as one of the most challenging of the liturgical fitments to create.

Whether designing a baptismal font or a holy water font, the font is always a tricky endeavor to undertake. It is a challenge both aesthetically and mechanically. Also, the choice of placement within the church building is often a topic of great discussion and strong opinions.

As baptism symbolizes one's "entrance" into the Christian Church, historically fonts have been placed near the entrance of the church to serve as a reminder of baptism. In the early days, sometimes a special structure was built adjacent to the church, as in the Battistero in Florence, to house the baptismal font. As time passed, some churches began to place the font with the other liturgical fitments on the predella. However, the reforms of Vatican II have resulted in the return of the font to the entrance of Catholic churches.

For over 30 years I have created, fabricated and installed many fonts. Some are pedestals with a bowl atop from which the standing water can be sprinkled. Others are immersion pools with an adjacent pedestal which allows running water to circulate from the upper bowl down into the lower font. Of course regardless of the style of font chosen, both types equally accomplish the significant rite of baptism and renewal.

Below is a sampling of a few of my font commissions. As you may notice, some are holy water fonts created for schools and cemeteries while others are baptismal fonts for churches. We utilize a variety of materials and have created fonts in all shapes and sizes.

School holy water fonts:



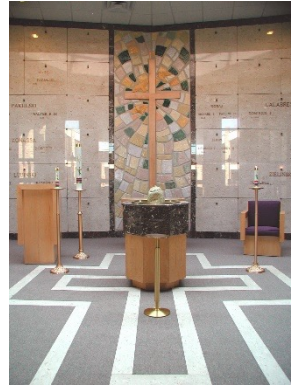
Top row: St. Mary's Springs Academy, Fond du Lac, WI; limestone, oak, glass, Venetian glass mosaic. This school is located by a lake which made the visual of water crucial to the font's design. The stone was sourced locally.

Aquinas College Chapel, Grand Rapids, MI; Blue Pearl granite, concrete, oak, marble mosaic- water recirculates. The Blue Pearl granite was also used for the other liturgical fittings. The Dominican Cross was to be placed at the bottom of the bowl.

Divine Savior Holy Angels High School, Milwaukee, WI; oak, maple, glass. This Catholic girls school was created when Divine Savior High School and Holy Angels Academy combined. The curved wood elements holding the vessel represent feminine hands.

Bottom row: Marquette High School, Milwaukee, WI; Botticino marble, bronze, glass; Bene Award 2010. This boys high school was formed in 1857. The four pillars show solidity joined by a bronze cross. An ornate glass paperweight holds the water in the glass vessel.

Cemetery holy water fonts:



St. Joseph Cemetery, Waukesha, WI; maple, granite, boulder, fiberglass- water recirculates

St. Adalbert Cemetery, Milwaukee, WI; maple, granite boulder, fiberglass- water recirculates

Friends and family place their hands in the water and touch the coffin as a sign of blessing and goodbye.

Baptismal fonts in churches:





Top Row: St. Mary Episcopal Church, Park Ridge, IL; oak, copper, aluminum, designed by architect David Kuhlman. The Neo-Gothic style of the church is represented by the arches, along with the warmth of the congregation in the copper bowl.

Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, Vancouver, WA; Emperor and white Carrara marble- water recirculates. Water touches all elements; tower, basin, and Paschal candle pedestal.

Second Row: St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, Waterford, WI; Venetian glass mosaic, glazed ceramics, bronze, limestone- water recirculates. The local flora detail decorates the gates and local stone indicates provenance.

Third Row: St. Luke's Lutheran, Waukesha, WI; oak, maple, bronze, designed by architect Paul Barribeau. This new baptismal font prominently features a generously-sized bronze bowl with St. Luke gracing its border.

Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Westminster, CO; Emperor and Carrara marble. A very solid top, over graceful columns.

St. Patrick/St. Anthony Catholic Church, Grand Haven, MI; granite, oak, glazed tiles, designed by architect David Kuhlman- water recirculates. Christ rose from the grave on the eighth day after his triumphant entry into Jerusalem. This is symbolized in this 8-sided font.

Bottom Row: Grace Presbyterian, Milwaukee, WI; wood, brass, glass. The four brass columns united by a circle represent the 4 Evangelists while the holy water vessel symbolizes Christ.

Almost 50 years have gone by since I spent Mass admiring the liturgical art in a 12th century church in Rapallo. Without a doubt, those experiences inspired the development of my adult professional life. Today, when I begin creating a font, I always refer to the classic architecture that I observed in my youth.

Of course much has changed since those days. Today men of all ages sit throughout the sanctuary. Bathrooms are readily available for everyone rather than only in the sacristy for the priests. The baptismal font is usually quite visible in modern churches rather than being tucked away in a separate room. And often today, circulating water is preferred- a font with a stream of water falling into a pool below.

Life evolves. Sometimes this includes a return to its origins. In this case, circling back to the use of running water similar to the original river. Although much has changed since the days of performing baptisms in a river, the significance of utilizing flowing water as an initiation into the Church carries through to the present day.

Gianfranco Tassara

Inspired Artisans Ltd.

ACLS President's Letter July 2018

It is a steamy and stormy Fourth of July here which means I am indoors and able to send off this note for the newsletter. We have just finished our retreat at Lake Geneva and have all returned refreshed and renewed. I have been reminded once again of how important our physical gatherings are especially for those of us who work solo. And this is true not just for our work but also for our personal lives. Our spiritual journey was enriched by the conversations at our retreat so skillfully guided by John Buscemi. You can read much more about the retreat throughout this newsletter.

Now that we are all home our work for ACLS continues. We are looking forward this fall and winter to ACLS presence at the Southwest Liturgical Conference and the Dallas Ministries Conference and the Cathedral Ministries Conference. There are other new and renewed projects that you will be hearing about in the future for ACLS members. As always we welcome your suggestions and efforts on behalf of all of us.

Serving on the board for ACLS is a privilege we should all share. Soon we will begin looking for members to run for the ACLS board. Please consider being a part of the group that makes this organization work for all of us. With the retirement of Robert Habiger we are looking for someone to take over as ACLS treasurer. This is an appointed position and a key position in our leadership. Robert has organized and put together the treasurer's work so that he says it really only takes a couple of hours per month plus attending our monthly board conference calls. If anyone has interest in helping out with this work, please contact Robert and he will fill you in on the details. We all thank Robert for his dedicated service and steady reassurances as we guide ACLS into the future.

Enjoy the summer sunshine,

Carol Frenning

ACLS Letter from the President