

HOLY FAMILY MAUSOLEUM AT RESURRECTION CEMETERY

An Installation by the Conrad Pickel Studio, Inc

story and photographs by Richard Gross

The Conrad Pickel Studio was founded in 1947 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, by Conrad Pickel, who had learned the craft of stained glass at the world-renowned Mayer Studio in Munich, Germany. Thirty years after its founding, Pickel moved the studio to Vero Beach, Florida, where it is located today with a west coast office based in San Diego, California.

The head of the studio today is Paul Pickel, son of the studio's founder. Paul Pickel is known for his dedication to excellence in the art and craft of stained glass, mosaic, and sculpture. Also, he has served as president of the Stained Glass Association of America.

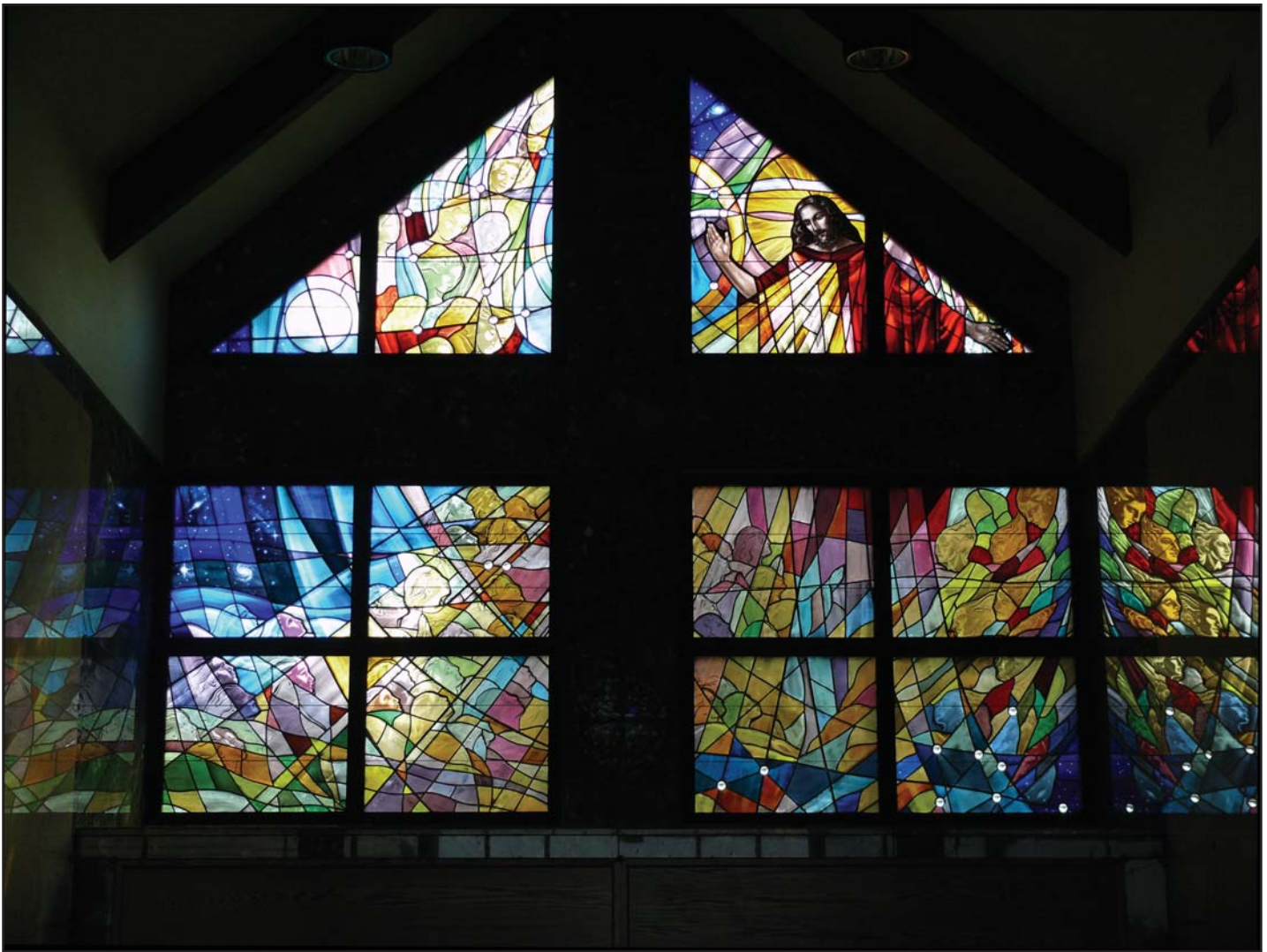
Holy Family Mausoleum, located in Lenexa, Kansas, was blessed by Archbishop Joseph Naumann, bishop of the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas, on September 5, 2009, at a dedication Mass that celebrated the mausoleum's opening. Three large stained glass windows in the marble-finished mausoleum present scenes from the family life of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. The largest window, which faces the main entryway, presents the *Family of God*, while a small oculus over the main door presents the *Lamb of God*.

In the window depicting Joseph and Mary with the infant Jesus (this and opposite page), Mary's red and heavily painted robe through its color not only foreshadows the death of Christ on the Cross but is an expertly used backdrop for the infant Christ wrapped in a white blanket. The contrast of light and dark when viewed in midmorning sun causes the infant Christ to seem to come forward, toward the viewer, as if He were actually in front of the window. This is striking not only in its artistic effect but also in its power to remind the viewer of the Resurrection.



Three of the windows at Holy Family Mausoleum depict the Holy Family. The window shown above and detail, right, depicts Joseph and Mary with the infant Jesus.





The mausoleum's main window, above and details, right and left, presents the Family of God and reminds the viewer of the Resurrection, which will follow the general judgement at the Second Coming of Christ. These windows were designed and painted by Lyn Durham, who holds a Master of Fine Arts degree and had extensive watercolor experience before turning to stained glass in 1989. In 2003, she joined the Pickel Studio, where she is involved in all stages of art production.



The *Family of God* window, which is the main feature of the building, presents a powerful and uplifting composition that reminds the viewer that the family of God is also the family of the universal church while also calling to mind the anticipation of the joy that the family of God will share following the general judgement at Christ's return.

The *Family of God* window makes use of faceted jewels that amplify the night sky background while also

reminding of the Holy Eucharist, which is the source and summit of Catholic spirituality.

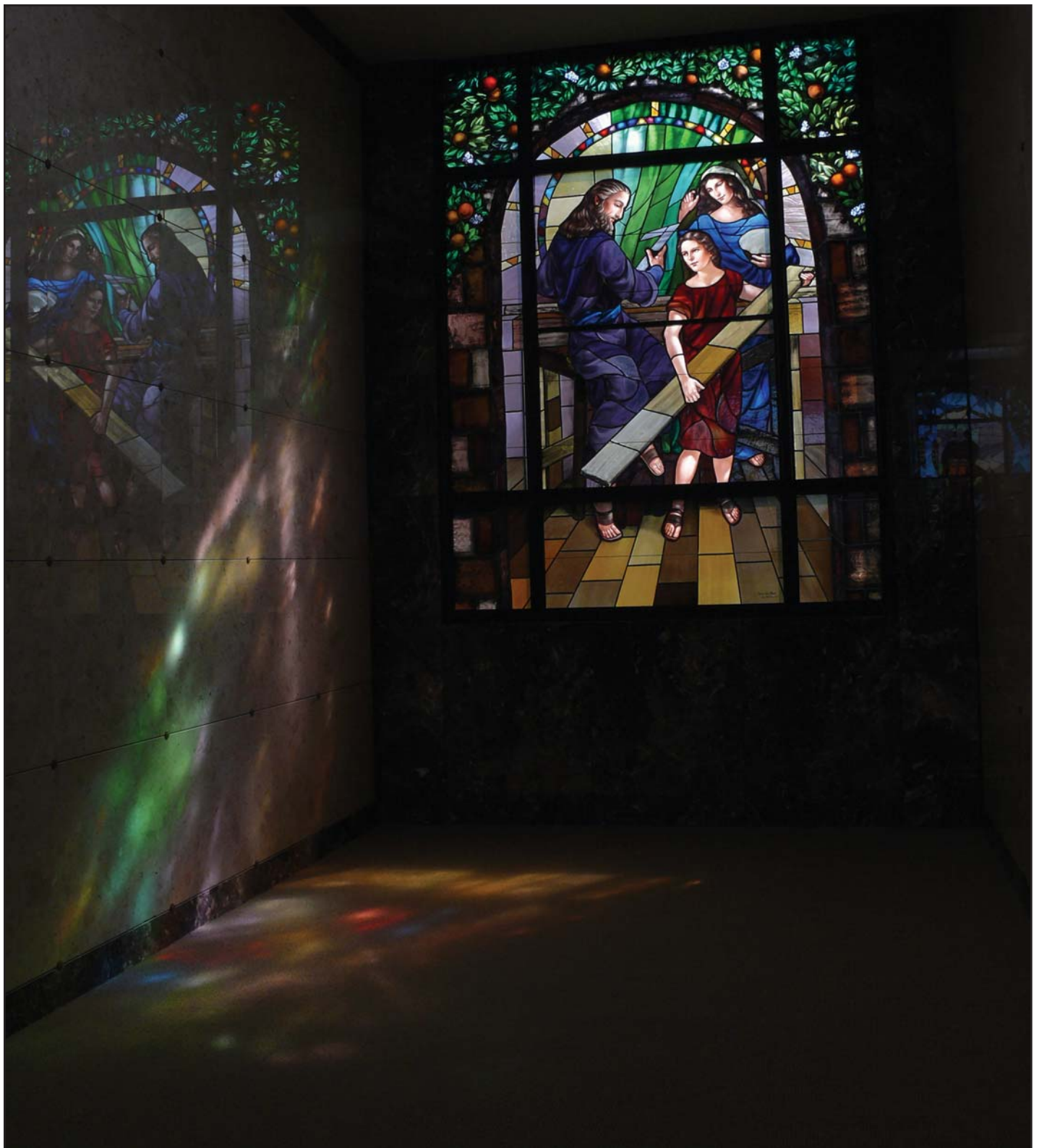
The second *Holy Family* window is an interpretation in glass of Michelangelo Buonarroti's portrait of the Holy Family, *Doni Tondo* (or *Doni Madonna*), from approximately 1504. This is a skillful rendition of the original painting with its bilaterally symmetrical triangular composition.

The third *Holy Family* window presents Christ at work in Joseph's workshop, learning the skills of the carpenter. It calls to mind the words of Luke 2:52, "And Jesus advanced in wisdom and years, and in favor with God and man."

The final window at Holy Family Mausoleum is a *Lamb of God* oculus above the main entry door.

This installation will be one of the sites visited on the Stained Glass





Opposite page is Lyn Durham's interpretation in stained glass of Michelangelo Buonarroti's portrait of the Holy Family, Doni Tondo (or Doni Madonna), from approximately 1504.

Above is a depiction of Christ learning the trade of carpenter from his earthly foster-father, Joseph, while the Blessed Virgin looks on.

Association of America's 2010 Stained Glass Tour, which will be a part of this year's Annual Summer Conference. The opportunity to see these windows in person is one not to be missed.