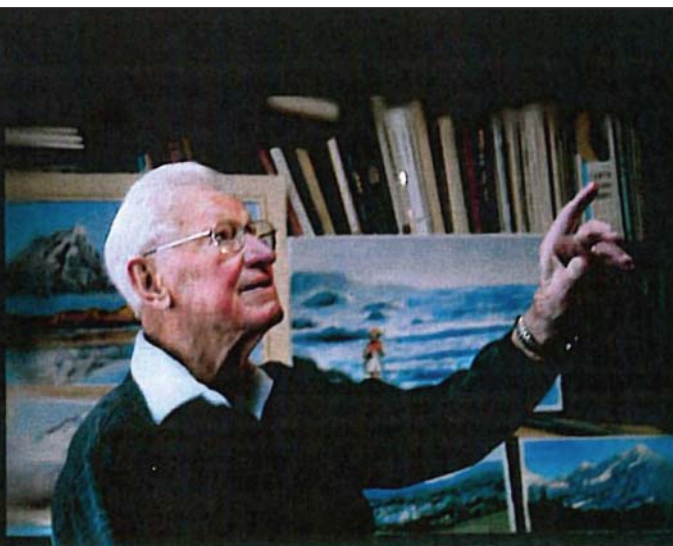


# In Memory of

*Bernard Otto Gruenke*

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## A PASSION FOR ART



*Art is forever*

*As art is one of the noblest human pursuits, the artist's work becomes a representation of his time: his buildings, statues and paintings are an indication of how a sensitive society thinks, dreams and communicates. These products of the human mind and hand are part of our regional and national heritage and they should be preserved for future generations.*

*Bernard O. Gruenke*

Bernard Otto “Senior” Gruenke, 1913 – 2012, died on March 31 at the age of 99. Among his many contributions to stained glass are the creation of one of the first *dalle de verre* windows in America in 1948; membership in the Stained Glass Association of America since 1936; service as Vice President of the SGAA; and service as the President of the Conrad Schmitt Studios.

Gruenke was named a Fellow of the Stained Glass Association of America in 1972, and he was awarded the prestigious SGAA Lifetime Achievement Award in 1996. In 1980, Mount Mary conferred an honorary degree, Doctor of Humane Letters, on Gruenke. He also oversaw the stained glass, interior design, painting, and murals for thousands of church building projects and renovations.

Gruenke’s lifelong study of art began at the Layton School of Art; at age sixteen, he was encouraged in his studies and awarded a scholarship to the Concordian Art School in Washington. Gruenke joined the Conrad Schmitt Studios in 1936, where he worked closely with Mr. Schmitt. Gruenke purchased the studio in 1951 from the Schmitt estate.

The Conrad Schmitt Studios are still owned by the Gruenke family and continue to produce stained glass and interior design for churches around the world.

