

Architectural Services

For

Ecclesiastic Design

Submitted by:



3/19/2024



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Dear Members of the Architectural Selection Committee:

The firm of **Martin A. De Sapia, AIA** has specialized in religious architecture and master planning of religious complexes for its entire 40 year history. We have completed projects for over 100 religious entities. Our completed projects include new churches, parochial schools, religious education buildings and parish centers, as well as worship space and parish center additions, renovations, and renewals.

Your principal-in-charge, Martin De Sapia, and your project architect, David Mooney, are highly experienced in religious facility design and planning. Our small size allows us to build great relationships with congregations because of the high level of service and quality of design that we provide.

Martin De Sapia is a Liturgical Consultant member and Treasurer of the Association of Consultants for Liturgical Space and has attended numerous national seminars and conferences on liturgical design.

The firm of **Martin A. De Sapia, AIA** provides site master planning, architecture, and interior design with our in-house staff. We also hold a high level of knowledge in all of the related specialty consulting trades: lighting design, liturgical furnishings, and acoustics. Our mechanical consultant, **Strunk – Albert Engineering**, and structural consultant, **MPP Engineers, LLC**, have a long history working with our firm with an extensive catalog of collaborative religious projects. Both consultants have a strong background in assessing existing facilities and are able to meet our very demanding design standards for church renovations and new construction.

We look forward to the opportunity of meeting with you to discuss your church and to show the work of our firm in more detail. For questions regarding this proposal, please call or email Martin De Sapia at 908-788-5222 x216 and at mdesapio@desapio.com or David Mooney at 908-788-5222 x206 and at dmooney@desapio.com.

Very truly yours,

Martin A. De Sapia, AIA

David L. Mooney, R.A., LEED AP



Section A

Firm History, Profile and Current Leadership



Why should you select Martin A. De Sapia, AIA as your architect?

We have 40 years of experience developing master plans for churches.

Please refer to the “Select Master Plan Projects” in this proposal.

We take the time to understand the needs of your unique faith community.

We specialize in religious architecture. For the last forty years, religious buildings have comprised approximately 80% of our completed projects. We have designed churches, chapels, community centers, classrooms, and administrative spaces for Lutheran, Catholic, Baptist, Episcopal, Methodist, Jewish and other faith groups. We take the time to understand the uniqueness of each faith and each community and create a design that is uniquely fitted to them.

We have 40 years of experience designing beautiful churches.

Please refer to the “Select Religious Client List” in this proposal.

We will be your partner from concept to occupancy and beyond.

We are here to help you realize the dreams and goals of your faith community. We can help you determine how to phase your construction based on your parish’s financial situation. We will be your advocate throughout the construction process to ensure that the design intent is met and that a high quality of construction is achieved. Many of the congregations that we have worked with have been with us for decades.

Trust those that have gone through this process before you.

The Parish Community of Saint Helen in Westfield, NJ recently selected Martin A. De Sapia, AIA to design the renovation and expansion of their Sanctuary after several false starts with other architects. The conceptual design was completed with expansion of the original program and included a brand new worship space. To keep the larger project on budget, a contractor was hired in coordination with our office to monitor the construction costs as the project proceeds through design development and construction documentation. We participated with the building committee to bring the new design to their congregation through large group open presentations. We are sure they would be happy to report on how we are doing and why they felt we were the right firm for them.



Formal Qualification Statement

Firm Information

Name and Address of Firm:	Martin A. De Sapia, AIA 270 South Main Street, Suite 300 Flemington, NJ 08822
Name of Principal Owner:	Martin A. De Sapia
Date of Founding of Firm:	1984
List Similar Assignments:	See “Select Religious Clients List” and “Similar Completed Projects” pages in this proposal (Section B)
Personnel Assigned to Project:	See resumes of Martin De Sapia and David Mooney on following pages.



Martin A. De Sapia, AIA
Principal of Firm, 1984 – Present

- REGISTRATION: Architectural Licenses
New Jersey 1983, New York 1988, Pennsylvania 1989, Massachusetts 1997, Delaware 2004, Maryland 2008, Connecticut 2009
Professional Planners License
New Jersey 1985
Interior Designer License
New Jersey 2007
National Council of Architectural Registration Boards Certification 1987
- EDUCATION: University of Notre Dame, *Bachelor of Architecture 1981*
Rome Studies Program 1978-1979
- CONTINUING EDUCATION: Attendance at National Conferences on Environment and Art for Catholic Worship, *Chicago, Washington, D.C., Orlando, Boston, Minneapolis, San Diego, Albuquerque, Colorado Springs, Indianapolis, Kansas City*
- PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: ACLS Association of Consultants for Liturgical Space
American Institute of Architects
New Jersey Society of Architects
National Trust for Historic Preservation
Interfaith Forum on Religion, Art and Architecture
- HONORS: First Place Winner - Design Competition: *Church Street Housing*, co-sponsored by Central Chapter of New Jersey Society of Architects and Trenton Urban League for 16 units of low income housing in Trenton, NJ
- 1997 International Masonry Institute New Jersey Golden Trowel Award Best in Category - Municipal/Community: *St. Luke Roman Catholic Church*, Toms River, NJ
- 1998 International Masonry Institute New Jersey Golden Trowel Award Best in Category - Commercial Projects: *270 South Main Street Professional Office Building*, Flemington, NJ
- SELECT CHURCH DESIGN PROJECTS: Refer to “Similar Completed Projects” pages and “Select Religious Client List” that are included in this proposal



David L. Mooney, R.A., LEED AP Project Architect

Mr. Mooney has been with Martin A. De Sapia, AIA since 1995 and has been a Project Architect for the firm since 2003. A select list of projects completed with the firm is on the reverse.

From 2007 to 2009, David was the Owner's Representative for the construction phase of a new sanctuary, new education wing, and major renovation for Congregation Agudath Israel in Caldwell, New Jersey. He provided daily on-site project review to ensure that the project was constructed in accordance with construction documents, design intent, and owner's requirements.

In keeping with the principle of being a good steward of the earth, David became a LEED Accredited Professional (LEED AP) in 2009. The United States Green Building Council (USGBC) is leading a national consensus for producing a new generation of buildings that deliver high performance inside and out. Through the Green Building Certification Institute, the USGBC grants the LEED AP designation to individuals with enhanced understanding of green building practices and principles and the ability to support and encourage an integrated design process.

Qualifications:

Licensed Architect in the state of New Jersey.

National Council of Architectural Registration Boards Certificate Holder.

Recognized as a LEED Accredited Professional by the Green Building Certification Institute.

Education:

Bachelor of Architecture, Pennsylvania State University, 1995

Rome Studies Program, 1994

Professional Licensure:

Registered Architect, New Jersey, 2003 to Present

Other Certifications:

NCARB Certification, 1998 to Present

LEED AP (Green Building Certification Institute), 2009 to Present

LEED AP Building Design & Construction (BD+C) Specialty, 2011 to Present



David L. Mooney, R.A., LEED AP

Select Completed Projects with the Firm:

270 South Main Street Professional Office Building - Flemington, NJ

Honor: International Masonry Institute New Jersey Golden Trowel Award Best in Category - Commercial Projects

St. Thomas More at St. John's University - Queens, NY

New 400+ seat church, administrative offices, and related spaces on the Queens campus.

St. Charles Borromeo (Phase 2) - Skillman, NJ

20,000sf Phase 2 addition to existing church (also designed by DeSapia) New social center including offices for various user groups, multi-purpose rooms, large social hall, youth center, and commercial kitchen.

Christ Our Light Catholic Church - Loudonville, New York

13,000sf worship space renovation including new sanctuary platform ceilings, lighting, flooring, pews & furnishings.

Congregation Agudath Israel - West Caldwell, NJ

500 seat sanctuary/social hall addition, 3-story education wing addition and renovation of two story office and education facility.

Calvary Baptist Church - Little Egg Harbor, NJ

33,000 s.f. education addition which includes 16 classrooms, gymnasium, kitchen, nursery, youth group room and offices

St. Helen Church - Westfield, NJ

15,700sf addition of a 650 seat church and 100 seat daily chapel to the existing administration building.

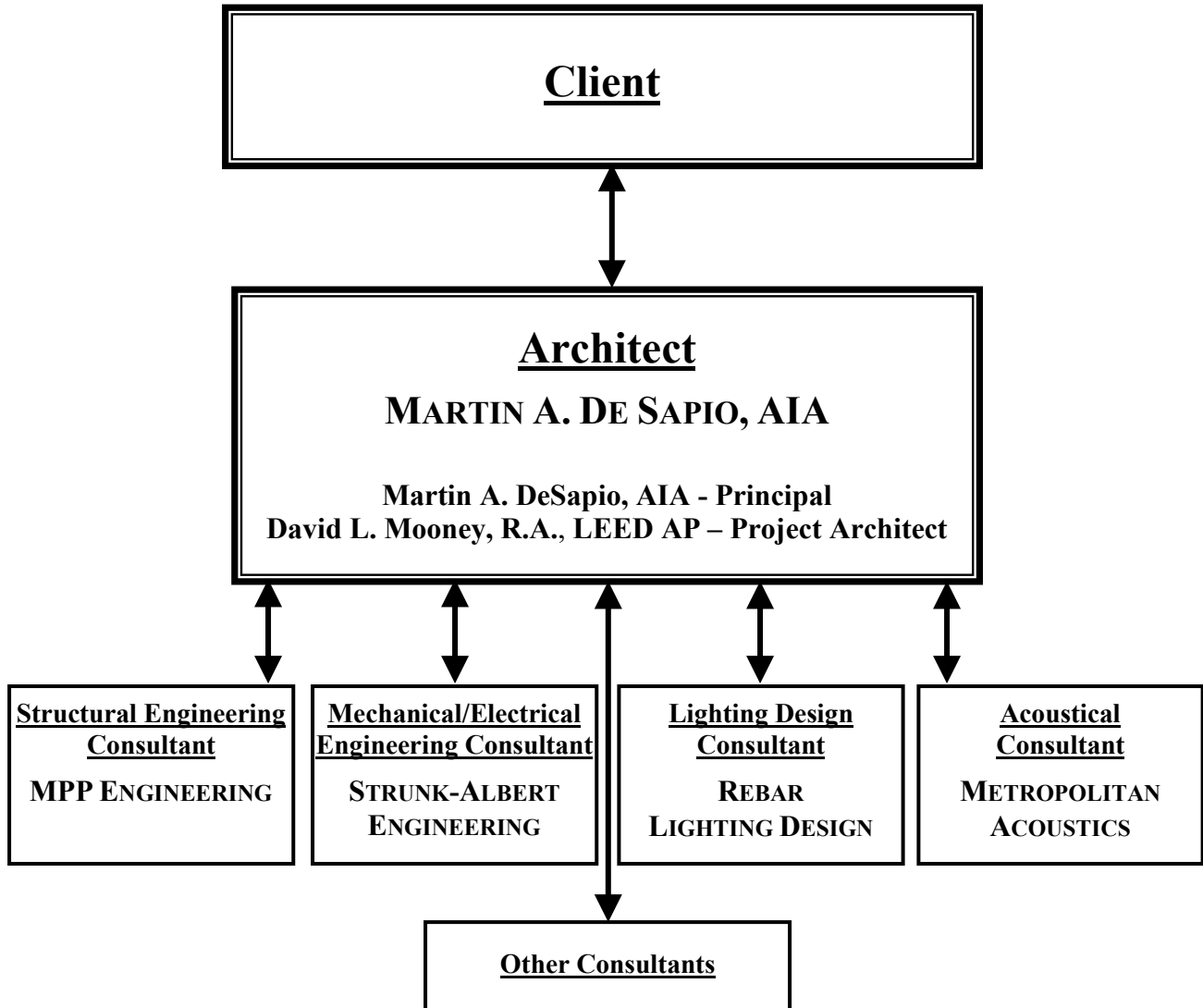
Special Interest:

National Ski Patrol (NSP)

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| • Member of Delaware Valley Ski Patrol in New Jersey | (1989 - present) |
| • Member of Shawnee Mountain Ski Patrol in Pennsylvania | (1995 - present) |
| • NSP Outdoor Emergency Care (OEC) Instructor | (2016 - present) |
| • OEC Instructor of Record for Delaware Valley Ski Patrol | (1996 - present) |
| • NSP NJ Region OEC Administrator | (2006 - present) |
| • Award: NSP National Appointment, Number 11874 | (2009 - present) |
| | (2017) |



Team Organization Chart



We have collaborated with all of our consultants on many of our completed church projects.
They understand our high expectations in regards to church design.



Section B

Select Relevant Experience

Team member and subconsultant names in bold are proposed for this project.



Select Religious Client List

At Martin A. De Sapia, AIA, we specialize in architecture for religious institutions. Since the founding of the firm in 1984, religious projects have been our primary focus. Our ability to listen and interpret the needs of a diversity of faith communities is exemplified by this partial client list (**new buildings and major additions are in boldface type**):

***St Helen Church, Westfield, NJ**

***Calvary Baptist Church, Little Egg Harbor, NJ**

Calvary Baptist Church, Morristown, NJ

Christ Our Light, Albany, NY

Church of the Assumption, New Egypt, NJ

Church of the Visitation, Brick, NJ

**Congregation Agudath Israel of West Essex,
Caldwell, NJ**

Einstein College of Yeshiva University Synagogue,
Bronx, NY

Faith Lutheran Church, Hillsborough, NJ

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, South River, NJ

Immaculata High School, Somerville, NJ

**Immaculate Conception Elementary School,
Somerville, NJ**

Immaculate Conception School, Clinton, NJ

Our Lady of the Snows, Floral Park, NY

Our Lady of Sorrows, Trenton, NJ

Our Lady of Victories, Baptistown, NJ

Pope John XXIII High School, Sparta, NJ

Praise Temple C.O.G.I.C., Wenonah, NJ

St. Barnabas Episcopal, Monmouth Junction, NJ

Saint Benedict, Holmdel, NJ

Saint Cecelia, Iselin, NJ

Saint Charles Borromeo, Skillman, NJ

***Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Three Bridges, NJ**

***Saint Francis of Assisi, Belchertown, MA**

**Saint Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother,
Avondale, PA**

Saint Helena School, Edison, NJ

Saint James, Pennington, NJ

Saint John the Evangelist, Dunellen, NJ

Saint John Neumann, Califon, NJ

Saint Joseph, Aston, PA

Saint Joseph, Middletown, DE

Saint Joseph, Washington, NJ

St. Joseph Regional School, Newton, NJ

Saint Luke, Toms River, NJ

Saint Magdalen de Pazzi, Flemington, NJ

***Saint Mary Magdalene, Springfield Gardens, NY**

St. Paul's Baptist Church, Philadelphia, PA

Saint Thomas More, Manalapan, NJ

***Saint Thomas More Church,
Saint John's University, Jamaica, NY**

Saint Vincent de Paul, Richboro, PA

Saint William the Abbot, Howell, NJ

Temple Beth-El, Hillsborough, NJ

Temple Emanu-El, Livingston, NJ

United Methodist Church, Flemington, NJ

***See following pages for details of these projects**



ST. THOMAS MORE

Diocese of Brooklyn
Queens, New York Campus of St. John's University

Project: New Church

Client Contact Information:

Mr. Salvatore Ciampo, Exec. Dir. of
Design & Construction
Phone: (718) 430-2176 (at Yeshiva University)

Construction Manager Contact Information:

Tim Norton, Project Supervisor
Skanska USA Building Inc.
170-19 Grand Central Parkway
Jamaica, NY 11432



Size: 13,400 sq.ft.
Year Completed: 2005

Key Internal Team Members: **Martin De Sapia**, Bradford Worthington, **David Mooney**

Key Subconsultants: **Strunk – Albert Engineering**; **Scott McConnell**, Schoor Depalma

Description: St. Thomas More Church is a new 13,400 sq.ft. church on the main campus of St. John's University. A campus church had been a dream of the St. John's community since its inception over a century ago. The church stands prominently on the campus green and is on axis with the oldest building on campus, St. John Hall, and also shares an axis with St. Augustine Hall. The church houses worship, administrative, and conference facilities.

Featured on "City of Churches", episode "St. Thomas More Church at St. John's University" (aired 10/26/16)
<https://netny.tv/episodes/city-of-churches/st-thomas-church-st-johns-university/>





SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Diocese of Springfield
Belchertown, Massachusetts

Project: New Church

Client Contact Information:
Rev. Vernon P. Decoteau, Pastor
Phone: (413) 323-6272

Size: 12,600 sq.ft.
Year Completed: 2005

Key Internal Team Members:
Martin De Sapia and **David Mooney**

Key Subconsultants:
Strunk-Albert Engineering; Schoor Depalma Engineering



Description: The new home for St. Francis of Assisi is sited on a former apple orchard about a block away from the Church's previous home. The new site is nestled in a wooded area making it feel like a retreat from the pressures of the outside world..





ST. MARY MAGDALENE CHURCH

Diocese of Brooklyn
Springfield Gardens, New York

Project: New Church

Client Contact Information:

Sister Maryellen Kane

Phone: (718) 949-4311 ext. 2

General Contractor Contact Information:

Gino Fazio

G. Fazio Construction

58-41 63rd Street

Maspeth, New York 11378

Size: 14,760 sq.ft.

Year Completed: 2016

Key Internal Team Members: **Martin De Sapia**, Paul Juliano, **David Mooney**

Key Subconsultants: **Strunk – Albert Engineering**; **MPP Engineers, LLC**



Description: In 2010 the church which was built in 1927 was ravaged by fire. It was hoped that the building shell and structure could be salvaged, but the structural evaluation revealed that the extent of the damage would require a complete demolition. The new church significantly expand the worship space and add a basement level social hall. The timber trusses echo the structure from the previous church while new stain glass and liturgical furnishings highlight the congregation's traditions and backgrounds.

Featured on "City of Churches", episode "St Mary Magdalene" (aired 10/18/17)

<https://netny.tv/episodes/city-of-churches/st-mary-magdalene/>





SAINT HELEN CHURCH

Archdiocese of Newark
Westfield, New Jersey

Project: Addition and Renovations

Client Contact Information:
Msgr. Tom Nydegger, Pastor
Phone: (908) 232-1214

Size: 15,740 sq.ft.
Year Completed: 2021

Key Internal Team Members:
Martin De Sapia and **David Mooney**

Key Subconsultants:
Strunk – Albert Engineering; MPP Engineers, LLC



Description: Originally built in 1972, St Helen's congregation desired a renovation and addition to their church to complete a multi-phase campus improvement project. Programmatic requirements for a large gathering space & additional seating, and existing structural deficiencies resulted in a new 650 seat church to be proposed on the footprint of the old sanctuary. An addition between the new worship space and existing administration building accommodates the sacristy, restrooms and new 100 seat daily chapel. Existing stain glass windows and field stone from the existing exterior was salvaged from the original church and incorporated into the new design.





ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON CHURCH

Diocese of Metuchen

Three Bridges, New Jersey

Project: New Church, Additions and Renovations

Client Contact Information:

Rev. Thomas J. Serafin, Pastor

Phone: (908) 782-1475

Size: 37,000 sq.ft.

3 Phases Completed between: 1989 - 2007

Key Internal Team Members:

Martin De Sapia

Key Subconsultants:

Strunk – Albert Engineering; MPP Engineers, LLC



Description: The 37,000 sq.ft. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church Complex was designed and constructed in three phases between 1989 and 2007. As the architect for all three phases a continuity of design was developed and the full program was completed as membership grew and funds became available.

Phase I & II includes Worship Space that seats 450, Narthex, Daily Chapel, offices, & meeting rooms. The church interior is an interplay of painted forms and wall surfaces washed in natural light, with contrasting painted and dark stained woodwork throughout.

Phase III (shown here) includes a formal lobby, social hall, commercial kitchen, and 14 religious education classrooms. The building's major spaces are broken into distinct forms that integrate perfectly with the Church.





CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Little Egg Harbor, New Jersey

Project: Multipurpose/Classroom Addition

Client Contact Information:

Michael Dellaperute, Pastor

Phone: (609) 296-4606

Size: 33,000 sq.ft.

Year Completed: 2014

Key Internal Team Members:

Martin De Sapia, Paul Juliano, David Mooney

Key Subconsultants:

Strunk – Albert Engineering; MPP Engineers, LLC



Description: The 33,000 sq.ft. multi-purpose addition to the existing Church's auditorium (worship space) building included offices, classrooms, gymnasium, commercial kitchen and nurseries. A porte cochere leads to a large foyer space (bottom left) which connects the existing with the new addition. The project used tilt-up construction for cost savings and a long building life. The exterior tilt-up concrete wall slabs were veneered with cement siding to match the aesthetics of the existing church.





Section C

Recommendations

Parish Community of Saint Helen

Worshipping God | Serving Others | Making Disciples

July 21, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

I am happy to provide my highest recommendation for Martin A. DeSapio AIA. I do so on behalf of the entire Saint Helen parish, my predecessor, the Most Rev. Michael A. Saporito, D.D., who began the project, Mr. Christopher Steiner, our Facilities Manager and all those who had any role in the planning and execution of the rebuild of Saint Helen Church. At every turn, Martin DeSapio and David Mooney brought their professionalism, expertise, and hard work right from the beginning. I do not believe any other firm could have provided the incredible and extraordinary services they did.

The firm's utmost concern, right from the start and to its completion, and even beyond, has been the needs of the parish and of those who worked hard to develop a plan. Their guidance was indispensable when developing those plans and bringing them to fruition. Their guidance and input, especially when hitting those "bumps in the road" that all projects inevitable have, provided not only comfort but confidence. They truly had the best interests of the parish at the forefront of their service.

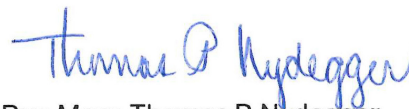
The Firm's attention to detail was most remarkable. As pastor, my knowledge of the particulars of architecture and construction was markedly limited. They patiently explained the specifics in a way that could be understood to someone not accustomed to the language and parlance of the field.

The Firm's presence, both that of Mr. DeSapio and Mr. Mooney, is a reality that truly stands out. Throughout the project, one of them, and typically both, were present at meetings with the contractor and the Archdiocese of Newark, even when those meetings took place in the site and on a weekly basis. They were able to provide the architectural and structural plans at a moment's notice and were readily familiar with every aspect of the historical decisions and change orders.

While such letters of recommendation can tend to speak in superlatives, please know that none of the above is exaggerated in any sense of the word. They accurately reflect the services any client can expect from the Firm. I not only recommend them as stated in this letter but have also done so to the Archdiocese of Newark, who are well aware of their extraordinary work. The Firm is faithful to their contracted services right to the very end, and then some, and provide a notable flexibility, even when it comes to the finances.

I not only recommend Martin A. DeSapio AIA, but I commend them for their astute, informed and, yes, pastoral, approach, and service.

Sincerely yours,



Rev. Msgr. Thomas P. Nydegger
Pastor



St. Francis of Assisi Parish

P.O. Box 612

Belchertown, MA 01007

To Whom It May Concern:

As pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church, I am honored and delighted to recommend to you the firm of Martin A. DeSapio. At the beginning of our quest for a new church we had the pleasure of interviewing nine architectural firms and Martin rose like cream in milk to the top of them all.. From the start we knew we could work with him and that we had the right man and the right firm for our project and our years together only affirmed this belief.

Throughout the proposal and design stage Martin worked with us and created his designs from our needs. He never imposed his ideas or designs upon us but rather allowed them to emerge from our discussions and mutual insights. The end result was a design that we were not only very pleased with but one that answered our needs and complemented our New England landscape.

Throughout the ordeal of bidding, cost reduction and re-design, Martin and his firm were right there with us. When finally we were under construction their presence and ability to work with our contractor and Diocesan personnel only reaffirmed the fact that we were in excellent hands and kept our costs in line.

On the night before the dedication ceremony, when we first brought our community into the building the people cried for joy and delight in their new church, so pleased they were in what had been constructed. Since then we have received many visitors who always express awe at its beauty and simplicity and speak of the peacefulness they feel within its walls. Martin and his firm have given us not only a new building but a truly "holy and peace-filled" church, one in which we truly are the people of God.

In conclusion I can not recommend Martin and his firm highly enough for they are truly dedicated to the ministry of building a true and beautiful house for God's Holy People. How blessed we were to have entrusted our dream with them for the church we now have is truly a dream fulfilled.

Sincerely yours,

Handwritten signature of Rev. Vernon P. Decoteau in blue ink.

Rev. Vernon P. Decoteau
Pastor

Temple Emanu-El of West Essex

Rabbi Mark Kaiserman 264 West Northfield Road, Livingston, NJ 07039 973.992.5560 www.emanuel.org
Cantor Sharon Brown-Levy
Rabbi Emeritus Peter E. Kasdan
Sherry Nemiroff, Director of Education
Ellen Levitt, Early Childhood Director
Theresa Edelstein, President

October 3, 2011

Martin A. De Sapio
Martin A. De Sapio AIA
270 South Main Street
Suite 300
Flemington, NJ 08822

Dear Martin:

On behalf of the entire congregation at Temple Emanu-El of West Essex, we are writing you to thank you for the exceptional work, leadership and guidance your firm provided from start to finish on our Sanctuary Renewal Project during the last two years.

From the moment we met, our fellow Committee members, Board of Trustees, and we felt that we were in your capable hands to guide us through this effort. Several of our Committee members worked on previous renovation and construction projects at Temple, and our team was universal in its praise and appreciation for your handling of the project from start to finish. And, universal agreement in our organization does not happen every day!

We want to especially thank and acknowledge the work of David Mooney. David's passion, concern and dedication to our project were evident in everything he did. We could always count on David to ensure things were running smoothly, setting standards for quality in all phases of the project and not allowing other partners on our project to settle for less.

You understood our needs. You knew how we needed to navigate through this project. You offered sage guidance, reassured us and gave us confidence to move forward when we needed it. Ultimately, you were a trusted and valued partner in leading our congregation to realize our dream of renewing our Sanctuary. Thank you.

With gratitude, appreciation and L'Shalom,



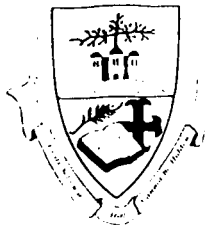
Rabbi Mark Kaiserman



Theresa Edelstein
Temple President and
Co-Chair
Sanctuary Renewal Committee



David Spiler
Co-Chair
Sanctuary Renewal Committee



Rev. Gregory E.S. Malovetz

It is my pleasure to be listed as one of the references for Martin A. De Sapio, A.I.A.

Our Parish has had a long association with Mr. De Sapio and his firm. From the very beginning, our Building Committee was impressed with the quality of his work and the integrity he brought to the planning process.

Mr. De Sapio has a wonderful talent for translating a Parish's needs into a design that is both practical and beautiful. Throughout the design process, he was able to develop a design based on the Committee meetings and the Parish's budget.

One of the strengths of our relationship with Mr. De Sapio is his good understanding of construction cost. One problem in our Diocese with new church construction has been the discrepancy between an architect's estimate and the construction bids. This was not the case in working with Mr. De Sapio. He has consistently been accurate in projecting costs during the design phase so that we have kept our project in focus.

Mr. De Sapio is well schooled in church architecture and the theology of art and environment. He strikes a wonderful balance in keeping true to the Church's understanding of worship and sacred space, and the practical experiences of Parish life. As a practicing Catholic, Mr. De Sapio looks at his design not only in terms of form and beauty, but how will the parishioner practically be served and inspired by the building.

Our Township has a particularly cumbersome process for building. Mr. De Sapio and his staff have been great in seeing us through this process. He has made himself available when we needed guidance, and has kept on top of the project so that things did not "slip through the cracks."

It has been a particular blessing to be associated with Mr. DeSapio, and the members of his firm. Any Pastor involved in building knows what a headache the process is, even under the best circumstances. Mr. De Sapio has made the process much easier.

I would strongly recommend him to churches considering building, and would be glad to speak with any considering Mr. De Sapio.

Gregory E.S. Malovetz

(Rev.) Gregory E.S. Malovetz

Pastor

St. Charles Borromeo

Montgomery Township, N.J.

Rocklyn Asset Corp.

243 Prospect Park West
Brooklyn, New York 11215
Office: 718-965-7300
Fax: 718-965-7316

Martin A. DeSapio, AIA
270 South Main St.
Suite 300
Flemington, NJ 08822

March 15, 2018

Mr. DeSapio,

This letter is issued to express my sincere thanks and appreciation you and your firm put into the design and construction of our St. Mary Magdalene Church located in Queens, NY.

From the initial schematic design and right through to the last door knob installation, your firm was there looking out for the interest of the Parish.

The final design met each requirement established by the Parish and when we didn't know exactly what we wanted, you supplied suggestions that more than met the needs and looked great too.

Your deep involvement with the contractor during the build provided the expertise necessary to ensure a true masterpiece that all are happy with, not just from a functionality standpoint, but from an efficient use of money.

In closing, I look forward to our next project, and have also recommended your firm outside of our Diocese.

Sincerely Yours,



Barney Rauert
Senior Project Manager
Rocklyn Asset Corp.



St. Joseph Parish
371 E. Main Street
Middletown, DE 19709
302-378-5800
sgiuliano@stjosephmiddletown.com

Office of the Pastor

October 28, 2008

Martin A. DeSapio, AIA
270 South Main Street, Suite 300
Flemington, NJ 08822

Dear Martin:

Please accept my sincere thanks for all you and Paul Juliano have done to assist our parish bring the dream of a new church to life. Please allow me to share my thoughts with you regarding the process.

From the first meeting, our Building Committee was impressed with the professionalism and care we received from you. In addition to your expertise, you both are tremendous listeners, always taking our comments, questions and suggestions to heart. By incorporating ideas from all of the committee members, everyone came away with a sense that they had made significant contributions to the overall design of the church.

The final design was a true masterpiece, incorporating all of the elements we wanted. Even though we had to do some scaling back due to finances, you both worked with us to make sure that the final product remained true to the original concept. And your design also has allowed us to construct in phases, which will help us move forward as more funds become available.

In addition to the innovative ways the entire building was made accessible for those who may have mobility issues, including presiders, the inclusion of elements from our old church has given a wonderful sense of history and enabled all of our parishioners to feel at home.

The other outstanding element of this process was the oversight and assistance with the General Contractor. From the time we first interviewed builders your help has been a blessing. By means of the weekly construction meetings, we were assured of the completion of the project in a timely way that stayed true to the vision.

In short, I could not be happier with your firm, and would highly recommend you to any and all who are interested in a first-class building project. Thank you again for your help, and please encourage anyone interested in working with you to contact me for more information.

Asking God's blessing on you and your loved ones, I am

Sincerely yours,

Very Rev. Steven B Giuliano, V.F.
Pastor

SAINT GABRIEL OF THE SORROWFUL MOTHER CHURCH

P.O. BOX 709

8910 GAP NEWPORT PIKE

AVONDALE, PA 19311-0709

610-268-0296 (VOICE)

STGABRIEL@KENNETT.NET

610-268-5022 (FAX)

WWW.RC.NET/PHILADELPHIA/ST_GABRIEL

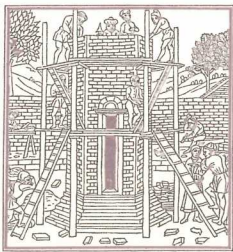
December 1, 2008

Upon recommendation, our Catholic Church parish community of about 700 households contacted the architectural firm of Martin A De Sapio, to assist us in erecting a proper Church building with adjoining office space. Our original worship space was an all purpose building also used for meetings, socials, gym activities, etc. The need was for a suitable, larger, and more aesthetic worship space. Another pressing need was for suitable office space, which was then crammed into a modular rectory.

Martin De Sapio and his associate Brad Worthington were very helpful. They listened to our needs and guided us throughout the entire project. They were open to suggestions and offered them as well. They were very patient in hearing the many and often divergent voices of the lay committee. They were especially helpful in integrating into our building beautiful stained glass windows from a closed Church building. The finished building is a gem, winning an award for design and beauty.

Even after the building was completed, Martin and Brad assisted with a few issues until resolution. We plan to rely upon them for our future building plans.


Rev. Richard J. Maisano, Pastor



Richard S. Vosko, PhD, Hon. AIA

Designer & Consultant for Worship Environments

14 January 2015

Deacon Richard Thiesen
Christ Our Light Church
1 Maria Drive
Loudonville, NY 12211

Dear Dick:

I congratulate you and your parish community on the successful completion of the renovation of your place of worship. Such an undertaking is never easy. It requires steady leadership, wisdom and sensitivity. You provided all three.

Dick, it was my honor to serve as the liturgical design consultant for your project. I have been part of the process from the very beginning. I am so pleased that many of the liturgical concepts which I proposed have been incorporated into the plan.

The architectural company, Martin A. DeSapio AIA, has lived up to its celebrated reputation. Martin and his team served you well. I hope they will find more work in our Diocese.

I take great pleasure in adding your project to my growing portfolio and hope that you will include my name on the list of professionals who have work with you on this exceptional project.

Thank you again for the opportunity to participate in the good work you are doing.

Warm regards,

Richard S. Vosko, Ph.D., Hon. AIA

cc. Martin A. DeSapio, AIA ✓

A CHURCH FOR THE UNIVERSITY

St. Thomas More

Julia Upton



St. Thomas More Church, Queens, New York.

Reverend Michael J. Carroll, C.M.

Martin A. De Sapio, architect.

We waited fifty years for a church at the Queens campus of St. John's University in New York. Founded in Brooklyn in 1870, the university had outgrown its original site by the mid-1950s and began moving to another site, a former golf course in Queens. Campus architectural plans from 1954 originally included a church, but limited resources meant that more pressing academic needs came first. The community had a place of worship, but it was a small, cave-like chapel with a very low ceiling—cozy and intimate, but not bold enough to call students and faculty forth to serve a world in need.

Still, the people prayed and hoped and dreamed. A breakthrough moment occurred decades later when two benefactors offered to share their dream and their resources with the university. Experience had taught them that the ability to stand firm amid the storms and stresses of life comes from having taproots in faith nourished by the Eucharist. They wanted such strength for future generations of St. John's students and dreamed of a church building that would be open and inviting, drawing students to its center.

In early 1998, that image became one of the guiding principles we (that is, the members of the building committee) used in designing and eventually building a church for the university. Alongside it was the image of our parishioners.

Worship Spaces for Young People

St. John's University is home to 20,000 students, 75 percent of whom are undergraduates between the ages of 18 and 24. At that age and stage of development, life tends to be all about relationships, usually peer relationships! With only a few years to spend at the university, students have little time for a worship space and set of symbols and images to slowly reveal their meanings. This fact, and a resulting concern for visual clarity and immediacy, informed our decisions about the design. We selected symbols and images, hoping that they would speak to young adults and relate to them at their stage of religious development. We wanted the church to be alive, filled with light and color. And since we are a university community, we decided to emphasize imagery showing Jesus as teacher. Trusting that alumni and benefactors would be willing and eager to assist us financially, we also decided to have art specially designed.

Collaboration was key. Even before hiring an architect, we invited others to join us in developing the project's scope. We met with groups of campus ministers and parishioners to discuss their dreams for using the church. We made trips to recently constructed churches; studied ecclesial documents and other relevant literature; contacted other universities that had recently built churches; developed a list of architects and artists to interview; and developed a planning calendar. Opportunities for collaboration persisted throughout the project.

Working with the Architect

After interviewing six architectural firms, each of which had built fine churches, we selected the firm of Martin A. De Sapio, AIA. The firm had designed several churches, some of which we visited; each one impressed us for its fidelity to the principles of Vatican Council II and because it looked as though it belonged to its neighborhood. The churches, taken as a group, were quite distinct, which led us to think that the architects would collaborate with us, not arrive at the first meeting with a complete design of what our church should be.

We wrote a document for the architects, "The Shape of Worship," weaving together elements from *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, *Environment and Art in Catholic Worship*, our collective experiences with the redesign of liturgical spaces, and the results of our focus groups on how the church would be used. The document included a few illustrations, which might have conveyed more to the architects than did the text.



We recommended a large narthex (gathering space), not just for fellowship or overflow situations, but particularly to allow students time and space to make a transition from the hectic world outside the church. We also envisioned a central-plan church to emphasize the people of God at prayer, and a separate Blessed Sacrament chapel to allow students a place for private prayer virtually round-the-clock.

While our greatest concern remained the church interior, we considered the exterior, ensuring that the church would “look like a church,” fit with a university founded in 1870, and relate well with other campus buildings. We passed all these points along to the architects, then held our breath.

Behind the Design

When at the outset of the project Bishop Thomas V. Daily granted the university permission to construct a church on campus, he urged us to include a strong Vincentian presence. It gave impetus to a mosaic, encircling the narthex, that illustrates the history of St. Vincent DePaul and his followers down to the present day. Central in the narthex is a hammered bronze baptismal font, on an octagonal rose granite base, with “living” water continually washing over its sides. The interplay between circles and octagons continues within the worship space, on the floor design, for example.

The main worship space is framed by a circular ambulatory surrounding the curved rosewood pews. In the center of the sanctuary stand the octagonal rose granite altar, with its visible reliquary, and a similarly designed ambo. The removable processional cross is inserted into a brass cruciform frame so that the community is never bereft of the cross. The presider’s chair, with a cruciform shape etched in gold, is also emblazoned with the community seal.

Seating capacity in the pews is 400, but expands to 600 with extra seating in the

We selected symbols and images, hoping that they would speak to young adults and relate to them at their stage of religious development.

Photos: (p.10) stained glass designed by Sylvia Nicolas. Jihad N. Nammour, photographer. (p.11 top) view of the altar from the baptistry; photo credit: www.taylorphoto.com

Late one night, a campus minister returning to the residence hall noticed that the church lights were on and went to investigate. The church was filled with students praying.



(Top) Exterior view of the church, (above) baptismal font with skylight. The mosaics recount the revelation of the Miraculous Medal to St. Catherine Laboure and show a procession of Vincentian saints. Photo credits: www.taylorphoto.com

ambulatory. We solved physical accessibility issues by not raising the sanctuary above ground level. With only six rows of pews, sightlines are adequate, but if not, a predella could be added. The sanctuary is set off by color and polish, which the community has respected naturally without prior instruction.

High above the central worship space are four large stained glass windows designed by Sylvia Nicolas. We selected her as our principal artist because her vivid classical images are both contemporary and traditional, and her generous use of transparent glass floods the space with light. Each Gospel is depicted in four quadrants: the Gospel writer with his traditional symbol; Jesus the teacher as best illustrated in that Gospel; and two key teaching moments from the Gospel that we thought would have special relevance to our students' lives.

Three Shrines

The lower stained glass windows surrounding the ambulatory illustrate fifteen key stories from Old and New Testaments. Here we invited the broader community to participate in identifying which scenes would be depicted. Our goal was never to please everyone. Rather we wanted to look far outside ourselves to discover which biblical stories or scenes have supported our people on their faith journey. In determining which saints would be represented in the Blessed Sacrament chapel, we asked students and parishioners which saints' lives and missions have served as models for them. In both cases the stories people shared have been very moving. Rather than adding new ideas they have confirmed most of our initial plans.

There are three shrines within the body of the church. The statue of St. Thomas More, sculpted by David Wanner, shows More making his stand against the king; he has defiantly yanked the chain of office from his neck and holds it at his side.

Wanner's statue in the Marian shrine we have named "Mary, Seat of Wisdom." Seated with the Scriptures open before her, she appears as an older woman. Since many of our students have told of extraordinarily rich relationships with their own grandparents, we wanted students to encounter a mature Mary.

The third shrine places our church in its unique moment in history. During the 9/11 attacks St. John's University lost 75 alumni and more than 50 other family members and associates. We thought it important to dedicate a shrine to their mem-

ory. Designing it was a challenge, but we came up with a powerful design: the shrine is framed by two rough granite walls, reminiscent of the twin towers. Water courses down them gently. In the center is a steel panel. Etched at the top are words from the American spiritual "O Healing River": "Send down your water wash the blood off of the land." Beneath it is a cross crafted by one of the iron workers at the World Trade Center (a neighbor who heard that we were building a church and thought we might want the cross), inscribed beneath the cross are words from the Book of Revelation promising that God will make his home among us and "there will be no more weeping, for death will be no more."

Behind this shrine is a simple Reconciliation chapel with a stained glass window depicting the Forgiving Father.

On a direct access with the altar is the octagonal Blessed Sacrament Chapel, with the tabernacle mounted in a rose granite tower, the sanctuary lamp above. Its four stained glass windows, designed by John Calligan, present collages of images: the church faithful, the church suffering, the church triumphant, and the church universal.

What We Learned

We took many risks and experienced many setbacks in the six years it took to move from design to dedication. Ultimately, however, the time itself proved to be a blessing we could never have imagined. So was the collaboration, not just because it enriched the pool of ideas, but because it extended ownership of the project. Although we were always confident that a central-plan church would be best for us, the experience of actually using the church has confirmed that decision.

In a circle there is no front or back; everyone can be part of the celebration at all times. Already this church has shaped our university community in new ways. Here

is just one example. At the end of spring break 2005, three St. John's students were killed in two unrelated traffic accidents; one student was engaging in a humanitarian deed. Late that night a campus minister returning to the residence hall noticed that the church lights were on and went to investigate. The church was filled with students praying. Knowing that these were not the Catholic or even Christian students, he asked why they had come to the church to pray. "We knew it is a holy place to be," they responded.

The dream of a church drawing students to its center has been fulfilled. Throughout the day students can be found there in quiet prayer, drawing strength from God, who is their center.

Dr. Julia Upton, R.S.M., is provost at St. John's University, Queens, New York, and led the building committee.



Thank you for your consideration.

**We look forward to working
with you on your project.**