



NEWS RELEASE

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ASKEW NIXON FERGUSON ARCHITECTS WINS BENE AWARD

Memphis, TN - Askew Nixon Ferguson Architects is pleased to announce that the firm is the recipient of a Bene Award from Ministry and Liturgy Magazine. These national awards honor excellence in the design of sacred symbols.

The specific project recognized by this award is the baptismal font at Christ the King Catholic Church in Southaven, completed by Askew Nixon Ferguson in early 2004. The baptismal font was designed by the project team at ANF in conjunction with Kenneth vonRoenn of Architectural Glass Art, Inc. Headed up by partner Joe Wieronski, the ANF team also included Melissa Pritchard, Amanda Whitaker, Chloe Harris, and Ken Griesemer, a Liturgical Consultant from Albuquerque. Although a distinctive entity, the full immersion font is integrated into the overall design of the church by its geometric form, which reflects the vaulted crossing in the church, and its solid geometric aesthetic. Built of limestone with a granite interior, the cruciform font is sited at the near the entrance to the assembly area to remind congregants of their baptismal entry into the church. The glassy, reflective surface created by the still water in the font echoes the glass of the bowl which sits atop it. The font's location enables the vibrant colors and images in the large stained glass rose window above the altar to be reflected in the surface.

The slumped glass bowl in the font was constructed by renowned glass artist Kenneth vonRoenn, of Architectural Glass Art, Inc. Its organic, naturalistic form allows the water to flow gently from it. The slumped glass was created by heating the glass to soften it and then molding the molten glass over a form. This process allows glass to assume soft free-flowing shapes.



Font's location in the sanctuary



Baptismal Font



Slumped glass bowl in the granite font

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