



Holy Cross Parish Church

Deerfield, IL

Project Spotlight: November 2005



LOCATION:

Holy Cross Parish Church
Deerfield, IL

OWNER:

Diocese of Chicago, IL

ARCHITECT:

Jaeger Nickola & Associates
Ltd. Architects
Park Ridge, IL

GENERAL CONTRACTOR:

Bourbon Tile & Marble Inc.
Buffalo Grove, IL

STONE CONTRACTOR:

Bourbon Tile & Marble Inc.
Buffalo Grove, IL

**STONE INSTALLATION
SYSTEM:**

LATICRETE International, Inc.
Bethany, CT

LATICRETE DISTRIBUTOR:

Century Tile Supply

Contractor puts faith in LATICRETE for waterproofing church reconstruction

By Lesley Goddin

The 40-year old Holy Cross Parish Church in Deerfield, Ill., — home to some 900 Roman Catholic families — was outdated in form and function. A \$3.5 million project by the Diocese of Chicago promised to totally flip the church front to back, relocating the entrance near the parking lot instead of the street side placement appropriate when parishioners walked to church decades ago.

The plans added 3,000 square feet to both the north and south sides of the church to provide space for parishioners to gather, said Celine Coath, principal for Jaeger Nickola & Associates Ltd. Architects, the Park Ridge, Ill., firm in charge of the renovation. The worship space was expanded with the addition of 1,000 square feet to the east and the west.

Originally, the church was to have vinyl floorcovering in the worship space, replacing worn carpet under the pews. But Larry Bourbon, member of Holy Cross Parish since 1992 and co-owner of Bourbon Tile & Marble Inc., decided the church deserved the more elegant, refined and awe-inspiring ambience afforded by porcelain tile and marble.

"I fell in love with the tile he picked," Coath said, of the Refin through-body porcelain tile. "It's very attractive and simple and classical. It doesn't scream at you and there's a nice feel to it. Plus it's porcelain — that's our criteria. I wanted a through-body porcelain in case it chips."

Coath said that Bourbon offered other suggestions as well, such as using large format tile under the pews, smaller grout joints for a monolithic look and rich Emperador marble on the altar steps, in the center aisle and as accents to the baptismal font and planters.

What's more, Bourbon donated all the time and craftsmanship to the project, including 4-8 installers over a three-month period in autumn 2004.

"This is my parish — my daughters will get married here," Bourbon said. "We wanted to give to the community, by giving what we know and making sure it is done right".

But going into the project, the Diocese had some concerns. Specifically, the Diocese had experienced problems with water leakage at other Roman Catholic churches. "Water can do tons of damage to wood or plaster," said Scott Carlson, senior account manager for Century Tile Supply, the LATICRETE distributor who supplied products for the job donated by LATICRETE International, Inc.

The Diocese originally wanted to call in its own contractor to tile water-sensitive areas such as the baptismal font — a focal point at the church entrance — and planters that lined the altar.

But Bourbon was adamant about doing the work himself.

"We do this every day," Bourbon said. "I didn't want to let anyone else do the baptismal font in my parish. We made sure it wouldn't leak."

Bourbon is a fourth generation tile setter. His great grandfather started as a tile setter after emigrating from Quebec in 1890. While in college, Bourbon worked along with his dad setting tile. Then in 1991, he and his wife Nancy opened their own company in Buffalo Grove, Ill. Today, Bourbon Tile & Marble (www.bourbontile.com) is a multimillion company with 80 workers in the field, and stone fabrication operations. Their emphasis is on high end residential with some commercial work such as Soldier's Field and Northwestern Hospital.

"Our belief is to focus on quality," Bourbon said. "We treat everyone the same and do the best we can. We concentrate on integrity and doing what's right. It's all about being the best."

So Bourbon's belief in his company's excellence passionately drove him to insist on doing all the tile and stone work in the project: 10,000 square feet of porcelain tile in the sanctuary with 3,000 square feet of porcelain tile in the bathrooms, complete with marble accents and granite countertops in the bathrooms and multipurpose spaces.

And Bourbon had faith in LATICRETE products to create a waterproof seal in the font and planters. "We've used LATICRETE for years — and have a lot of confidence in their products" Bourbon said.



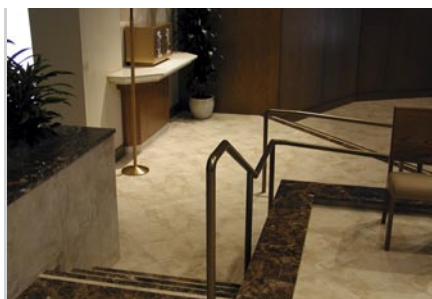
Monument marking renovation.



Intricate stone work at altar.



Scope of altar stairs.



View of floor work.

He chose LATICRETE® 9235 Waterproofing Membrane for the font and planter areas. Bourbon used LATICRETE 86 Latilevel Self Leveling Underlayment Admix and Primer for Underlayments beneath the pews where tension rods were encased in concrete and created stress on the slab. He selected LATICRETE Blue 92 Anti-Fracture Membrane for the church floor and set the tile with LATICRETE 253 Multipurpose Thin-Set Mortar. He finished the project with 1500 Series LATICRETE Tri-Poly Fortified Sanded Grout.

“Our reputation is about our installation and bond is everything to us,” Bourbon said. “We’ve been using LATICRETE for the past 8-9 years. I like LATICRETE’s single-source responsibility from underlayment to grout. We consulted with LATICRETE prior, during and after the installation and they provided technical support to facilitate the project.”

Only the original beams remained after the church was gutted. Bourbon’s palette of browns, creams and beiges in contrasting earth tones complemented the original woodwork. The tile flowed from the font in the entrance, down the center aisle and under the pews up the steps to the altar at the rear of the church, creating a sense of continuity and leading the eye from font to altar and back again.

Creamy beige porcelain 12" x 12" tile by Refin covered the sanctuary platform that crested the stairway and supported the altar. The steps themselves sported 3 cm Emperador slab that Bourbon fabricated with a square edge. He had considered a fabricated porcelain cap for stairs, font and planter, but it proved prohibitively expensive. Deep chocolate Emperador marble was a better choice.

Bourbon plowed out the tread to insert polished Crema Marfil mosaics so priests could see the steps as they descended the altar. “It was a depth finding and safety measure,” Bourbon said.

The altar posed several challenges. In addition to cutting a groove in the Emperador slab to receive the insets, Bourbon had to manage materials of different thicknesses — 3 cm stone slab that needed to be flush with 3/8" porcelain tile on the floor. And the planters on the half-walls behind the altar needed 2 cm Emperador caps to match the 3 cm Emperador slab on the altar steps, while sitting atop 3/4" porcelain tile.

Flowing from the altar, Bourbon installed honed beige 12" x 12" porcelain tile on a diagonal down the center aisle, saddled with 10 inches of polished 1/2" x 1/2" Emperador marble mosaics to give it a shine. Brass terrazzo bead bordered the mosaics to add definition.

Field tile under the pews was 20" x 20" beige honed porcelain tile, eliminating the possibility of blinding glare on a polished surface, and providing durability from shuffling feet. “Porcelain is impenetrable,” he said. “It will stay that way for years.”

The crowning glory of the project was the baptismal font, of a tiered design by Jaeger Nickola principal Bob Nickola. It allows water to flow from the top octagonal level to the lower cross-shaped level.

The general contractor built and waterproofed the concrete basin, Coath said. Bourbon then added LATICRETE 9235 Waterproofing Membrane for extra waterproofing protection before surfacing it with marble.

Luminous Perlato marble slab covers the interior and exterior walls of the font. Polished Emperador caps, sill, treads and 1/2" x 1/2" mosaics glisten in a cross design on the floor of the font, inset with Crema Marfil mosaics to echo the cross shape.

The resulting project was a shining example of craftsmanship — and awe.

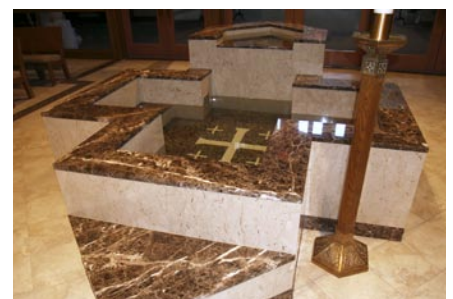
“In old churches, there is an awing effect,” Bourbon said. “In new churches, it’s more about the people. I wanted to try to create a sense of awe to help people reflect on how little we are compared to the scheme of things. I can’t build a building — but I can do tile work, so we did what we could to convey that feeling of awe in the tile work and our craftsmanship.”

The renovation progressed to allow Christmas Mass 2004 to be celebrated in the church, and was totally completed by Easter 2005.

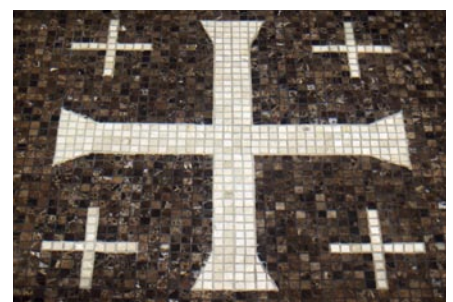
“Seeing Larry provide his time and labor free of charge portrays just what he’s about,” Carlson said. “It was real nice of him to do this for his church, and we were very happy to be involved, with this project along with the people at LATICRETE themselves.”



Larry Bourbon and Paul Schmidt.



Baptismal font.



Mosaic artwork in baptismal font.



Church aisle floor.



1956 - 2006

50 years
of innovation

Corporate Headquarters:
LATICRETE International, Inc.

One LATICRETE Park North,
Bethany, CT 06524-3423 USA
800.243.4788
203.393.0010

www.laticrete.com

Latin America: 1.203.393.0010

Europe: 34.96.649.1908

Middle East: 917.7.244.6396

India: 91.40.2337.8775

China: 86.21.139.1812.3215

Asia Pacific: 852.2526.6660