

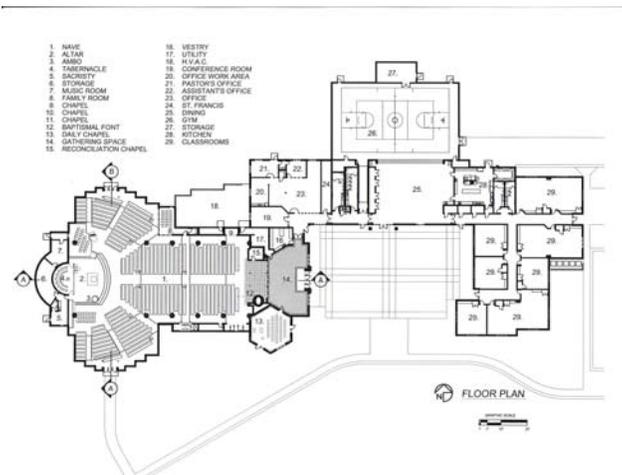
When the Catholic communities in Eagle and Meridian, Idaho, were faced with the need to merge into one larger parish, they engaged GLANCEY/ROCKWELL of Boise as their architects. The challenge for the community and the architects was “to create a new place of worship that both *worked as* and *looked like* a Catholic church.” Our firm of LITURGICAL ENVIRONS was therefore brought on board as an integral member of the design team to educate both the parish and the architects in the areas of liturgy and canon law, architectural history, and Catholic architectural thought, and to set the course early in the schematic design phase to help the architects achieve the parish’s vision.



## A New Parish Center for Holy Apostles Meridian ID



The church proper accommodates over 1100 members, plus the daily mass chapel. Despite its size, the wide sweeping vaulted roof and the cupola over the sanctuary provide both focus and intimacy. The project is grouped around a large central courtyard, reminiscent of the early Christian basilicas, with facilities for administration, social, education, and apostolic needs. The complex thus speaks to “the City of God” as made manifest here in Meridian.



This building has been immensely popular with the conjoined communities, and serves as a profound and graceful presence of the Catholic faith in Idaho. Its simple and economical materials are rendered into forms that recall the deep memory of Christian architecture — courtyard, narthex, basilican hall, centralized martyrium, apse, and cupola — that work together to achieve admirably the desires of the community.

Through its careful expression of traditional forms, which are synthesized with modern architectural means and economic efficiencies, and a contemporary aesthetic appeal, the building reminds us that the Church participates in, as St. Augustine wrote, “*Divine Beauty ... ever ancient and ever new.*”



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Client: Diocese of Boise  
Pastor: Fr. Timothy Ritchey  
Architects: Glancey-Rockwell  
Liturgical: Steven Schloeder

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