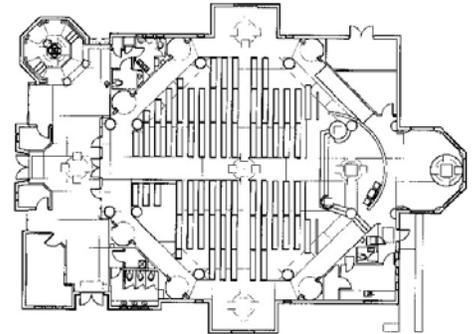




Evening View

After the small yet vibrant parish of St. Therese's realized they had outgrown their existing building, Fr. Patrick Brankin enlisted **LITURGICAL ENVIRONS** to plan and design their new 360-seat church. With a tight budget constraint for an agrarian community, we worked together to design this strong, compact, spacious, well articulated, and efficient building. While the design is rooted in the



Floor Plan

traditional forms of Catholic church architecture, it still addresses local climactic and vernacular issues, materials, technologies, and a program suitable for a parish community growing strongly into the third millennium. This project was formally consecrated on The Feast of the Little Flower in the Jubilee Year.

A New Church for Saint Therese Collinsville OK

The plan is generated from the octagon, a symbol of the Resurrection, over which is laid the Cross to recall our Redemption. These forms simultaneously evoke the immanent centrality of early Christian buildings, and the hierarchical transcendence that speaks to the Body of Christ. The 12 columns that define the nave and sanctuary remind us of the Apostles, while the 24 clearstory windows allude to the Elders around the throne. The ambulatory accommodates both circulation and private devotional spaces, and leads to the Eucharistic Chapel in the apse. The entrance, through a triumphal arch containing Reconciliation Chapels, reminds us of the need for personal preparation as we enter the church.



Nave



Tabernacle as Church

The baptistry takes the ancient octagonal form, and is sunken three steps to represent Jesus' three days in the tomb. Each element of the building is articulated in a harmonious integration of form, creating a true sense of the "church", both as the "community" and as the "sacrament".



Sanctuary

Project Team:

Client: Diocese of Tulsa
Pastor: Msgr. Patrick Brankin
Structural: Jim Geurin PE
Civil: Sack & Associates PE

Bishop: Edward J. Slattery, DD
Architect: Steven Schloeder, NCARB
MPE: Flynt Kallenberger PE
Contractor: Gorman and Sons





Aerial view from South West



South Elevation



View from North West

The massing of the forms at St. Therese gives clear definition to each separate part — entry, baptistery, bell tower, nave, cupola, apse — thus allowing us to “read” the building as an organic and integrated whole. By respecting this “language” of form, function, location, and symbolic meaning, we are able to design a “church that looks like a church”, which participates in the tradition of Catholic architecture while being very much of our age.

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Tympanum of Christ in Glory



Ceiling Pattern of Mystical Rose



Baptistery



Annunciation Window

For St. Therese we were able to acquire and adapt some wonderful antique pieces from a deconsecrated Catholic church in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. The beautiful stone tympanum over the entry doors, so typical of Romanesque and Gothic churches, was reworked with bronze medallions showing the coats of arms of Pope John Paul II and Bishop Edward Slattery of Tulsa. The ceiling vaulting forms a “mystical rose” pattern in honor of the Little Flower. The seven antique stained glass windows, from Holy Family Church in Philadelphia, show scenes from the lives of Our Lord and Our Lady. The altar was rebuilt from sections of an old communion rail, and the presider’s chair incorporates large marble relief carvings from an antique altar frontal. By creatively adapting and reusing liturgical furnishings, “like the wise steward, who takes from the storehouse both the old and the new” (Matt. 13:52), we were able to achieve a profoundly beautiful and economical project that continues the great tradition of Catholic architecture into the 3rd millennium.



Presider's Chair from Antique Marble Altar

