



New Look of UTS Chapel Awaits Graduation Visitors

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A visitor to the chapel of the Unification Theological Seminary (UTS) in Barrytown today will open the door, and the first thing that hits him or her will be the light. His or her eyes will be drawn to shafts of light streaming down from 16 brand new, double-paned, tinted, argon-gas filled, segmented windows. Gone are the 100-year-old stained-glass windows installed in 1930 by the Christian Brothers, a Roman Catholic service order. In their place are modern windows designed by Chad Hoover (UTS'80), an architect and member of the UTS Board of Trustees.

“The natural light gives an open, vertical feeling that wasn’t there before. It changes the character of the chapel in a good way,” John Redmond, former CFO of UTS who was involved in the transfer of windows, says.

Another good part is that the windows were “swapped” for the antique windows, courtesy of the Christian Brothers order, in effect netting the seminary a \$650,000 upgrade to its physical plant.



New windows installed on the south side of the UTS Chapel

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Dr. Michael Mickler, UTS Vice President for Administration

Some of the stained-glass windows depict the life journey of Saint Jean-Baptiste de La Salle, the founder of the Christian Brothers order in the late 17th Century. Other windows recreate sacred scenes from the Bible but incorporate portraits of La Salle’s early patrons, according to Redmond. He adds, “the fact that the Christian Brothers stepped up gave us a fortunate opportunity.”



Stained glass window featuring the young St. Jean-Baptiste de la Salle as a young man in Reims

Find story here <http://manhattan.edu/giving/barrytown-windows>.

The stained-glass windows removed in March today are in the hands of Manhattan College in New York City, where they will be re-installed by March, 2016. As the Manhattan College website tells it, “The 10 scenes in the 8 windows portray the panoply of La Salle’s life as it was developed over the course of time among the Brothers’ community. These windows are absolute treasures. In an exciting acquisition, Manhattan College will be entrusted with a collection of exquisite stained glass windows originally installed at the Brothers’ Novitiate in Pocantico Hills, N.Y., and moved to the chapel at the Brothers’ Novitiate in Barrytown, N.Y., in 1930. The windows portray scenes from the life of Saint Jean-Baptiste de La Salle, from his childhood in Reims to his death and subsequent glorification in heaven.”

“It is a win-win situation. The Christian Brothers got their sacred history, and we get handsome, double-paned, asbestos-free windows that will last another 80 years,” says Dr. Michael Mickler, UTS Church History professor and, as Vice-president of Administration, a manager of the windows swap. “Since some of the windows were cracked or broken, a retrofit of the whole set would have been required in the next 10 years, costing UTS more than \$650,000” says Hoover.

Was the swap worth it? Visitors to the UTS’s graduation ceremony at Barrytown on Saturday, May 23rd at 3:00 p.m. can judge for themselves. “It’s in the eye of the beholder,” says Hoover, who says, “some argued that we could never get rid of the stained-glass windows.” Yet there likely are hundreds of students who passed through the UTS campus over the years who often wondered about

the topics depicted in the windows but never found out. I was one of them. Some say the muted light of stained glass draws the visitor’s attention to the altar, whereas now your eyes notice the light from the portals.

The stained-glass icons revered by the followers of La Salle are fitting symbols of the 40-year period in which the campus hosted the Christian Brothers Novitiate in Barrytown. Now, as UTS celebrates its 40th anniversary in May, the face lift of the Chapel may stimulate stewards of UTS’s next 40 years to look up, sense the direction of the light and open their minds to new possibilities.



UTS Chapel with scaffolding during installation of the new, double-paned, asbestos-free windows