



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CONTACT:

Bob Sadler

(313) 833-7937 or (313) 819-5761 (cell)

bobsadler@detroithistorical.org

THERE'S STILL TIME TO GET ON THE BUS FOR THE DETROIT HISTORICAL

2/20/2006

Since 1972, the Detroit Historical Society has acquainted metropolitan Detroiters with the most fascinating and interesting religious institutions the area has to offer with its annual Historic Houses of Worship tours. The 2006 series begins Monday, March 6, 2006, with an east side Detroit tour featuring the following: Iroquois Avenue Christ Lutheran, Annunciation/ Our Lady of Sorrows, Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian, St. Charles Borromeo and St. Bonaventure Monastery.

The Iroquois Avenue Christ Lutheran Church was formed on Feb. 8, 1911, as a result of the decision by 11 members of St. Mark's Lutheran Church to establish an English language mission church on the lower east side of Detroit. Before the new church building was begun in 1913, the congregation worshipped in a rented chapel. The dominant architectural style of the church is clearly Gothic, but it also has influences from the early 20th century Arts and Crafts Movement. The architect was Louis Kell, the builder was Henry Malow and it is thought that the windows in the church were done by Edward Lee -- a Detroit stained glass artist.

The Annunciation/Our Lady of Sorrows Roman Catholic Church was established by Bishop John Foley to serve parishioners living east of Burns and west of Connors Creek. The old Hibbard School was purchased and moved to serve as the place of worship until 1912, when the present church was built. The church was designed in the Romanesque style as evidenced by the exterior. The interior, however, features a mix of styles with more of a classical influence. The church was designed by Donaldson & Meier.

After deciding to divide up the First Presbyterian Church into three parts to accommodate the expanding growth of the area in mid-19th century Detroit, Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian was built for people living east of the city. In 1924, a new location at Jefferson and Burns was selected, after the church merged with Bethany Presbyterian Church. With a cost of \$1.75 million, the structure was completed in 1926 and had two distinct parts: the Sanctuary and the Dodge Parish House. Architect

Wirt C. Rowland's deep interest in Gothic architecture is evident in the Neo-Gothic design of the church, although the style is used with considerable freedom.

St. Charles Borromeo was established in 1886 to minister to a east side Detroit Belgian community, and the parish school's students included French, Belgian, German, Scotch and Irish ancestry. The first church building was a small, wood-framed structure built by the parishioners, but by 1918, the congregation's growth made it necessary to move into a larger building. The new church was built by Detroit architect and parishioner Peter Dederichs and was designed in an early Renaissance-Romanesque style. The stained glass windows were designed and produced by the Daprato studios of Chicago

St. Bonaventure Monastery, or Friary, was established in 1883 when the Capuchin Friars had their first mass near Mt. Elliot Cemetery. The Capuchin Order is a branch of the Franciscans, which were established in 1209 by St. Francis of Assisi. After a group of friars wanted to return to stricter Franciscan rules in 1528, the Capuchin Order was established, and St. Bonaventure Monastery is the headquarters of the Capuchins in the United States. Since many of the friars came from Germany, the chapel is built in German Gothic style, and was designed by Detroit native Peter Dederichs. The interior includes hand-carved wood made by local craftsmen and oak statues of St. Francis and St. Bonaventure.

The spring 2006 series of Historic Houses of Worship tours continues with the following:

Monday, April 3rd

- Zion Evangelical Lutheran
- St. John Baptist Ukrainian Catholic
- St. Peter-St. Paul Orthodox
- Holy Redeemer
- St. Hedwig

Monday, May 1st in Wyandotte

- St. John UCC
- First Congregational
- St. Stephen's
- St. Patrick's
- Our Lady of Mt. Carmel

and Monday, June 5th

- Mariner's Independent Anglican
- Christ Church Detroit
- First Congregational
- Immaculate Conception Ukrainian
- St. Florian

The Historic Houses of Worship tours highlight the importance of maintaining and preserving these buildings as a visible history. Tours are co-sponsored by the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in

the State of Michigan and the Detroit Historical Museums & Society.

Each tour leaves from the Detroit Historical Museum parking lot (Kirby at Woodward) at 10 a.m. and returns at 4 p.m. The price, which includes the guided tour, bus transportation and lunch at one of the churches, is \$30 for Detroit Historical Society members and \$35 for non-members. Telephone reservations can be accepted with VISA, MasterCard or Discover Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. No tickets will be sold on the day of the tour. For more information, call (313) 833-7935.