

## 2003 FAITH & FORM RELIGIOUS ART AWARD



**PROJECT: RELIGIOUS ARTS, VISUAL ARTS**  
Stained Glass Windows  
Congregation of the Sisters of St. Agnes  
Fond du Lac, Wisconsin

**AWARD**  
Merit

**ARTIST**  
Guy Kemper  
190 N. Broadway  
Lexington, Kentucky 40507  
859-254-3507  
[www.kemperstudio.com](http://www.kemperstudio.com)

**FABRICATOR**  
Derix Glasstudios  
Taunusstein, Germany

**LITURGICAL CONSULTANT**  
Fr. Mark Joseph Costello

This work is unusual in that it has been freed from two of the traditional constraints of the craft: the leadline and the use of vitreous enamels for painting. The glass is mouth-blown, double-flashed glass that has been etched in successive layers with acid to produce a painterly effect. Since the color is actually glass instead of paint, which is duller, it has all the richness and refractive quality of blown glass. The pieces are then laminated to a base of clear tempered glass, eliminating the necessity of a leadline between individual pieces.

These windows address several architectural and thematic concerns. The chapel has rounded walls. The ceiling is punctured by a cylindrical vault that rises 35 feet at the center of the room. There is circular seating. The floor, chairs, and furnishings are natural oak and the walls are white. It is a very simple and poetic space.

The springs which brought these pioneering women to settle their present location in Fond du Lac provide the theme. These springs have played an important role in the physical and spiritual nourishment of the community. The circular rhythms respond to the architectural theme of the space and symbolize many things both in

this world and beyond. The prismatic effect of the hallway windows is achieved with a thick band of leaded crystal that casts slowly moving, intense rainbows through the space.

### JURY COMMENTS

*This piece possesses a wonderful sense of journey. The composition's horizontal bands contrast with the sweep of motion. The circle provides a dramatic sense of movement, and draws the windows together so that they can be read as a single composition. The piece ties in well with the history of the religious order, in a contemporary fashion.*

