St. Martins Episcopal Church

2216 Metairie Road

St. Martins Church sits right on one of the banks of the former Metairie Bayou.

The original church, now the parish hall, was built in 1946, just four years after the establishment of the parish, and the large brick church was completed in 1958. Ten years after they began worshiping in the new building, the congregation started talking about stained glass windows for the nave and the liturgical wall on the Metairie Road side.

Gabriel Loire (1904-1996), whose art is seen nowhere else in the New Orleans area, was chosen to create the windows, and the nave windows were completed in 1969. With a studio in Chartres, France, Loire was a master of both stained glass and the new technique of faceted glass *(dalle de verre)*. The St. Martins windows incorporate the latter style, which accounts for the strong, bright colors.

The window titles explain Loires intentions in designing the windows and add to the congregations enjoyment of them. Bright yellow streams from above in the Light of God windows on the left side of the church, and in the Love of God windows each person is framed in an almond-shaped mandorla. Numerous symbols and objects become visible as one spends time enjoying the glass.

About ten years later, Loire created a watercolor cartoon for the Great West Window, which illustrates the biography of St. Martin of Tours. The installation, however, was delayed almost 30 years. The designer had died, but his son Jacques made his design a reality.

**Windows**

Altar

left side: The Light of God

1. Gods Light Illuminates Peace, Reconciliation Efforts

2. Gods Light Keeps Truth Alive in Science and Discovery

3. The Light of Gods Grace in the Churchs Sacraments

4. Gods Light Shines through the Gospels

5. Jesus Christ, the Light of Gods Love for Humankind

5. Gods Love Perceived in Creation and Revelation

right side: The Love of God

1. Love the Lord Your God with Heart, Soul, Mind

2. Love Your Neighbor as Yourself

3. Love Your Enemies; Pray for Your Persecutors

4. Her Sins Are Forgiven, for She Loved Much

5. Through Love We Are Made Free as Children of God

6. Nothing in All Creation Can Overcome Gods Love

Great West Window (St. Martin of Tours Window)

*Visited October 24, 2010*

*The church has compiled a detailed description of each window; check with the office.*

When citing information from this document, please acknowledge the

Preservation Resource Center of New Orleans, 2021.