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Trinity Cathedral: The Burnham Stained Glass Windows

Cleveland Sacred Landmarks Research Group:

Michael Tevesz, Michael Wells, James Whitney

As a large and familiar landmark (at least from the outside), it is possible not to appreciate the traditions as well as complex associations that make up the interior art of Trinity Cathedral. To better appreciate this interior, its components may be studied separately in order to understand them fully before trying to comprehend the entire interior decoration of the Cathedral as a whole. A separate study of Trinity's Burnham Studio stained glass windows is a case in point.

Trinity Cathedral contains over forty stained glass windows that span the 15th through the 20th centuries. Its medieval windows come from the hands of artists working long ago in England and Germany while the more recent windows are the work of such noted studios as Willet, Connick, Tiffany, Heaton, Young, and Burnham. Employing traditional orientation and iconography, these windows tell particular stories to those in attendance at Cathedral functions. How does their orientation and iconography achieve this story telling and what stories are told?

Looking closely at the Burnham Studio windows (the most accessible in the Cathedral) provides answers to these questions. Positioned just above eye level, these windows are easy to see. Located along the aisles below the large windows of the east and west transepts and along the east and west aisles of the nave, they are in high usage areas of the Cathedral. They tell a thematically unified story based on legendary and biblical information about the life of Jesus.

The Burnham Studio produced fifteen windows for Trinity Cathedral. Three are located along the aisle below the large Nativity window in the west transept; three more are located in the corresponding position in the east transept below the large window depicting the Resurrection. Five

