

THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS
IN
ST. JOSEPH'S CONVENT

IN THE YEAR OF 1925 whilst studying in the Art Institute of Chicago during the summer, and boarding with the Ladies of Loretto, I had a companion in Sister Salome, a Benedictine from Duluth. One Sunday we were invited to visit the Motherhouse of the Benedictines in Chicago. Their newly built chapel was adorned with a "Via Crucis" painted by their sister artist on china plaques. This furnished me the inspiration to do the same for San Antonio. The firm of Maurer imported the needed plaques from Germany. They were beautiful flawless china 8x12 inches. Now came the search for suitable models to paint from. We finally located them in the celebrated Stations of the Cross by Professor Luigi Morgary - at that time the highest exponent of Christian Art in Italy. They excel by simplicity of composition, religious character, convenient balance of movement, and soberness of color, preserving at the same time in a just measure, artistic and ornamental requirements; the whole in strict accordance with the decrees of the Church as to their dogmatical setting and liturgical compliance.

Leo XIII in a letter from the Vatican by Cardinal Mocenni, December 17, 1902:

" His Holiness has received with the expression of the highest appreciation your artistic reproduction of religious subjects, and found your undertaking timely, commendable, and carried on in conformity with the venerable decrees of the Church and with such an artistic execution that undoubtedly will ensure them long duration and

decorum. Therefore the Holy Father willingly and heartily praised your laudable undertaking under the inspiration of the purest ideals of sound Christian Art."

The encouraging appreciation of St. Pius X is expressed in the following letter of Cardinal Merry del Val to the Company:

" Most Esteemed Gentlemen:

" I am in receipt of your letter of January the 20th, accompanying the set of the Morgaric Stations of the Cross. I have submitted to the Holy Father the sample proof of this new work and I am very glad to inform you of the high admiration of His Holiness for the splendid reproduction accomplished by your artistic establishment.

"His Holiness feels confident that the "Via Crucis" will prove a work highly deserving of Religious Art, owing to the great achievement you have made in expressing the grandeur of the subject with the most exquisite execution. Your work will greatly satisfy the piety of the faithful and at the same time will prove to be a beautiful ornament of the House of God. Together with his best wishes for a complete success that will establish the value and usefulness of your artistic reproduction of Religious Art, The Holy Father, to encourage you in the praiseworthy undertaking, imparts with great benevolence from his heart his paternal blessing to you and to all the artists of the establishment.

"In conveying to you my special appreciation for your useful and timely undertaking that brings on Religious Art so much credit and glory, I avail myself of this opportunity to

Express to you my personal esteem.

Your most obliged servant

Cardinal Merry del Val

Rome, Jan. 23, 1908."

The Stations at St. Joseph's Convent have been painted at St. Mary's Academy, Amarillo, Texas, and fired there at a Revelation Kiln #6, - four times, some of them five times. May they accomplish what they were intended for: grant help and consolation to those who follow in the Blessed Saviours sacred footsteps during the last stages of His Sacred Passion and Death - particularly our sick and old Sisters.

Pray for Sister M. Alphonsine, C.C.V.I.

SISTER ALPHONSINE died on December 25th, 1959