

BRONZE SCULPTURE PROJECT - A Brief Outline

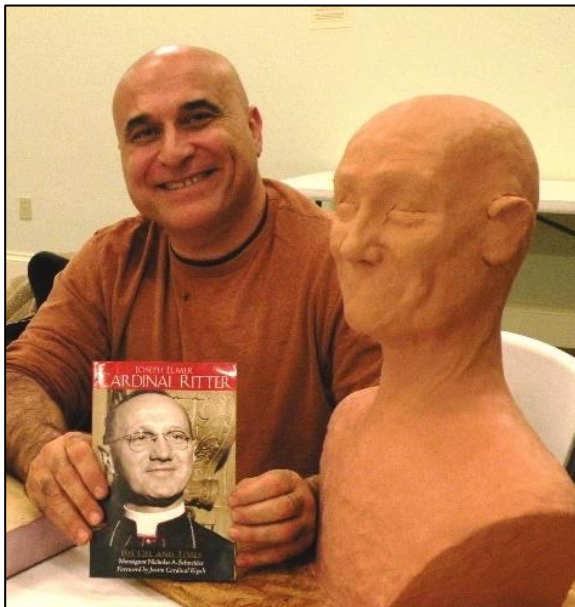
PHASE I – CONCEPT AND DEVELOPMENT

Prior to November 2011 - Between the original frame Ritter House and the new Ritter Center addition was the original brick kitchen for the Ritter Bakery operation.

This kitchen was restored to its original configuration after more recent, severely deteriorated brick additions were removed. The west wall was rebuilt and an antique door and sidelights installed for access to a future brick-enclosed rose garden, Cardinal Ritter's favorite flower. *The garden will also feature a sculpture of Cardinal Ritter as its centerpiece.*

Summer 2014 – As the garden infrastructure was installed the Board began discussions about the nature of the Ritter centerpiece.

October 15, 2014 – Board minutes record: "A bronze centerpiece in the Rose Garden is being considered by the family."



Early 2015 – Artist Guy Tedesco began working on a life size portrait bust of Cardinal Ritter.

April 16, 2015 – The proposal expanded from a bronze bust in the secluded rose garden to a life-size public art piece on the 13th Street lawn of the Cardinal Ritter House.

June 18, 2015 – Guy continued working on a clay bust of Cardinal Ritter as a gift to the Ritter House to aid fundraising for the public monument piece envisioned.

November 15, 2015 – Consultations between Tedesco and the Museum Committee produced an opinion that the monument should action-oriented to express the pro-active nature of Cardinal Ritter in the areas of integration and

social justice.

March 2016 – At the *Irish Coffee and Lecture Event*, Guy Tedesco unveiled the clay bust of Cardinal Ritter for our donors and friends to see. Response was wonderful. The next step was to produce a copy in a mixture of bronze powder and resin, known as “bonded bronze” (sometimes referred to as “cold cast bronze”).

October 20, 2016 – The completed “bonded bronze” bust of Cardinal Ritter was gifted to the CRBF by the artist for display in the Museum Room. To this point, the artist has graciously donated his time and his talent to this project in hopes that the larger public art project will result in adequate compensation.

May 18, 2017 – Although Tedesco has been deeply involved in several other projects, he and local artist Ray Day (Board secretary) continue to consult with one another on the development of the public monument project.



January 17, 2019 – Following a nine-month hiatus, Tedesco was again working on a miniature model of Cardinal Ritter and the figures of the three children that would make up the Ritter Monument.

January 24, 2019 - Ray reluctantly (due to increase cost) suggested a possible fifth figure: an African American mother representing the courage to allow her daughter to attend an all-white school at Ritter’s request. Guy immediately affirmed the value of such a figure.

(SUPPORTING SIDE NOTE: At the request of Bishop Ritter, Naomi Olive Harden agreed to enroll her daughter, Carole Harden Finnell, to Holy Name Catholic School

in 1937. Carole was one of the first children of color admitted to the then-all-white Indianapolis Catholic Schools. Naomi died at the age of 102 three weeks earlier on December 30, 2018.)

July 18, 2019 – Guy presented a nearly completed maquette (the proper term for the miniature model of a sculptural work of art) to the Board of Directors. In time



for this Board meeting he also prepared a four-page document entitled *Cardinal Ritter Sculpture Project Profile – Artist's Conceptual Approach*.

In it he laid out a verbal description of each element of the design and the interrelated importance of each.

Find a link to the document on the CRBF

website at - <http://www.cardinalritterhouse.org/bronze-sculpture/>

August 14, 2019 – At an Executive Committee meeting it was agreed that given the value of this project, the propensity of our community for public art projects, and our profound faith in Cardinal Ritter and the Holy Spirit are all signs that we should go forward to complete the project.



October 17, 2019 – The completed Bronze Project maquette is presented to the Board of Directors.



PHASE II – FUND-RAISING

The Cardinal Ritter Birthplace Foundation is now engaged in soliciting donations for the project.

PHASE III – INSTALLATION AND DEDICATION

Sometime in the future.