

CARDINAL RITTER MONUMENT

By Guy Tedesco - Sculptor

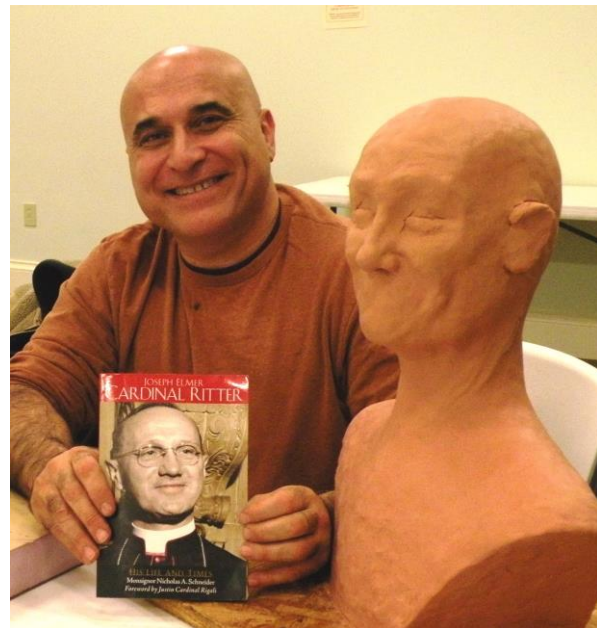
The Artist's Proposal for Community Involvement

I've long been known to create large art projects for communities paying very special attention to creating a sense of community involvement, ownership and pride through the direct involvement of those communities in the physical creation of art. I've successfully involved as many as 750 individuals ranging in age from infancy to 90+ years of age in a single project. The Cardinal Ritter Monument project continues that mission.

One of Cardinal Ritter's driving mottos in his life when presented with a task was to "Ask for help, roll up your sleeves and get to work."

That's exactly what I'm doing!

It's my intention to sculpt the original clay figures for this monument very much in the public's presence with the participation of students from various schools. Specific plans will be made when enough capital has been raised to warrant scheduling. I'm proposing that the 5 figures and the individual glass blocks for the barricade will be created as follows.



Working with glass and molten bronze or what's called cold working either of these materials is a difficult and dangerous process that requires high levels of training and very specific tools and equipment. However, there are openings in various stages of both processes that allow for the safe, supervised involvement of untrained assistants.

In creating the glass blocks, words will be etched into panels then suspended in the center of the blocks. The first stage in etching those words into the glass surface of the blocks is to design the layout of the words, place an adhesive plastic mask on the surface, transfer the design, then cut away the areas that will be etched with a small razor knife. With direction, participants from all locations and communities will be able to safely perform this task.

In creating the cast bronze figures and objects, the initial process is to sculpt by hand using various materials to create an original life sized model of the sculpture. An armature made of steel and lightweight foam is fabricated and carved to represent the shape and movement of the body. The next step is to sculpt the final outer appearance of the figure using various materials relating to the specifics of the design and area of the sculpture. Materials at this point may include plaster, reinforcing fabrics, resin, and modeling clay. Under direction, students and other individuals may be able to safely participate in the creation of the original at this stage, on a limited basis of course.

Once the original model is created, molds or three-dimensional negative forms are created using liquid rubber and either reinforced plaster or plastic. There's opportunity for public participation at this stage as well.

Past this point in sculpting and fabrication public participation is extremely limited due to safety concerns and the level of skill required.

My proposed plan is to create the original models for the bronze sculptures on site in several locations allowing a limited number of participants from several different communities. The locations and participants are chosen from very specific communities that have direct historic involvement with Cardinal Ritter's life's work.

The figure of Cardinal Ritter will be created in my New Albany, IN studio with specific hours advertised as open to the public.

Additional desired locations include:

The African American Mother figure on the campus of Our Lady Of Providence High School in Clarksville IN.

The African American Child figure on the campus of Cardinal Ritter High School in Indianapolis IN.

The Protestant Child figure on the campus of Cardinal Ritter High School in St. Louis MO.

The Jewish Child figure on the campus of the Jewish Temple in St. Louis MO.



At all locations, events will be held and individuals from all faiths and ethnicities will be invited to participate, in very limited ways, in the creation of all sculptural models.

Especially in today's world where the lines defining race, religion, gender, sexuality, spirituality, wealth, prominence, power, leadership, and indeed all demarcations and definitions of human culture and responsibilities as a species are scrutinized, blurred and redefined if not eliminated, we need inspiration and leadership. We stand at a precipice in a world of darkness with no defined path before us. It is the nature and challenge of human advancement, but we must continue in a leap of faith if we are ever to soar.

Cardinal Ritter was and continues to be a world leader. The efforts of his life and principles, his faith and spirituality, his sense of justice, fairness and equality for all evoke the brightest light of inspiration. To have such a bright light before us gives us immeasurable advantage.

Please join me in whatever way you're able, in honoring, continuing, and furthering the remarkable legacy of Joseph Elmer Cardinal Ritter.

Guy Tedesco – February 2020