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Heaven on Earth

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Exhibit ran from April 26-May 28, 2004

Heaven on Earth

"Heaven on Earth" is an exhibition of paintings by Brother Jerome Pryor, S.J. which celebrate the union of the Divine and the Human. "Since my soul is a heaven wherein I dwell while awaiting the heavenly Jerusalem, this heaven too must sing the glory of the Eternal, nothing but the glory of the Eternal."



Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity

Brother Jerome J. Pryor, S.J., received his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Painting and Drawing at Wayne State University in Detroit. He joined the curatorial staff of the Detroit Institute of Arts in 1958. There his area of concentration was in Pre-Columbian and Post-Columbian American Indian art, as well as the decorative arts: textiles, glass, metalwork, furniture, and ceramics. He left the museum in 1962 and taught studio art in the adult education classes for the Detroit Board of Education,

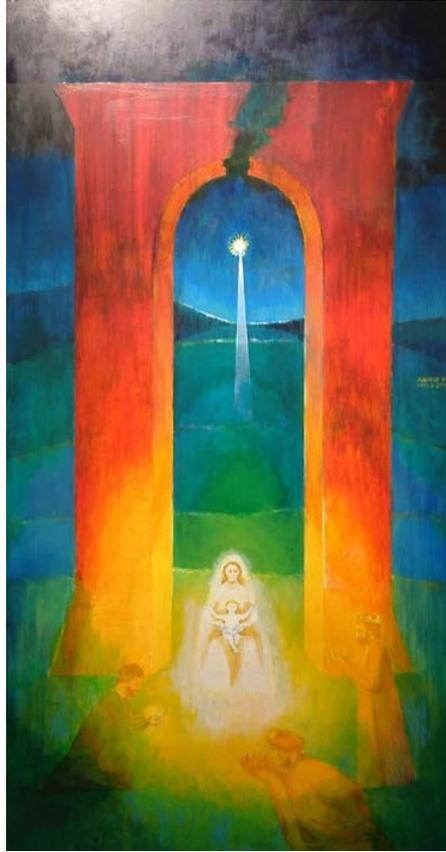
Division of Adult Education until he joined the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) in 1964. After finishing the novitiate, he received his Doctorate in Humanities from the Higher Education Department at Wayne State University. He taught art history at the University of Detroit from 1967 until 1971, and then was transferred to John Carroll University where he taught studio art, art history and appreciation.

From 1972 he was commissioned by the Rector of the Jesuit Community, Fr. Richard T. Deters, S.J., to execute twenty-eight murals on the life of Christ for the Schott Jesuit Residence at Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio. In 1974 he was hired as a full-time teacher at Xavier University, where he remained until December of 2002. At Xavier, he taught studio art, art history and appreciation, music appreciation. After a number of years he developed what became his main thrust in teaching: an interdisciplinary humanities appreciation course which not only showed what art, music, and literature do independently, but what they do when combined. Films and opera were used to illustrate this relationship.

His artwork has been exhibited nationally and internationally and his work is in the collection of a number of museums and universities. He designed the interior of churches and chapels, including St. Regis church in Birmingham, Michigan, and the University of Detroit Student Chapel. He has done a number of murals in public buildings and restaurants, as well as in private homes, both in this country and overseas. He is now artist-in-residence at Colombiere Center in Clarkston, Michigan, where he has his studio, and where he teaches art as therapy for Insight retreatants who make their retreats in the Insight wing of the center.

"The greatest discovery a human can make is that of mystery."

Albert Einstein.



The Epiphany

Acrylic on Panel, 2003, Br. Jerome Pryor, S.J.

The three wise men come to honor the infant Jesus. God is reaching out to the whole world, not just to the Jews, in His extravagant generosity. Christianity was spread throughout the then-known world by the fabulous conquests and organizational abilities of the Roman Empire. But the Arch of Triumph of Rome is crumbling, and a New King, seated in the triumphal arch, reigns with the power of love rather than force.



The Visitation

Acrylic on Panel, 2003, Br. Jerome Pryor, S.J.

Mary, pregnant with Jesus, visits her cousin Elizabeth, who is carrying John the Baptist. She relates the appropriate response of the child in her womb when she says that he "jumped for joy."

The scriptural text that underlines this scene for me is from the *Canticle of Canticles*: "Winter is over and past; the sound of the turtle-dove is heard in our land."



The Journey to Emmaus

Acrylic on Panel, 2003, Br. Jerome Pryor, S.J.

This scene depicts the disciples walking down the road to Emmaus. Christ has already been crucified, and they are despondent. They meet a stranger (really Christ, although they do not recognize Him), who opens their minds to scriptural texts, which anticipate Christ's death. In this painting, His illuminations pale the light of the sun. They later recognize Him for who He is in the inn at Emmaus.



The Pool of Bethesda

Pastel on Velour, Br. Jerome Pryor, S.J.

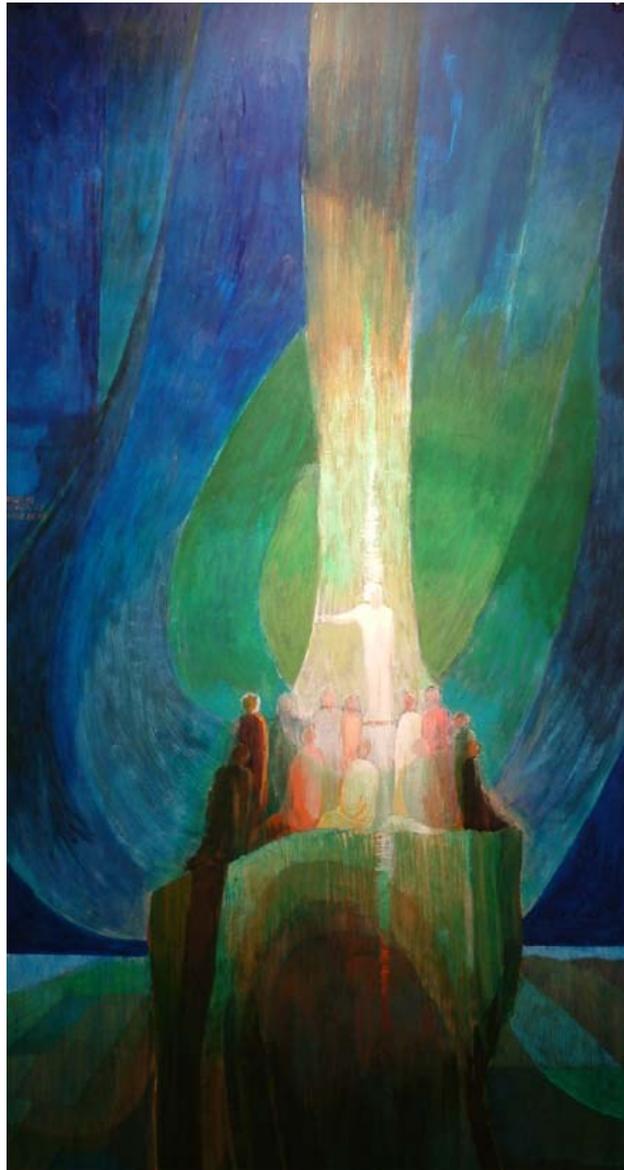
This scene represents the pool whose waters were stirred periodically by an angel. It is said, the first sick person to enter the pool after the movement of the water, was cured.



The Presentation of the Child Jesus in the Temple

Acrylic on Panel, 2003, Br. Jerome Pryor, S.J.

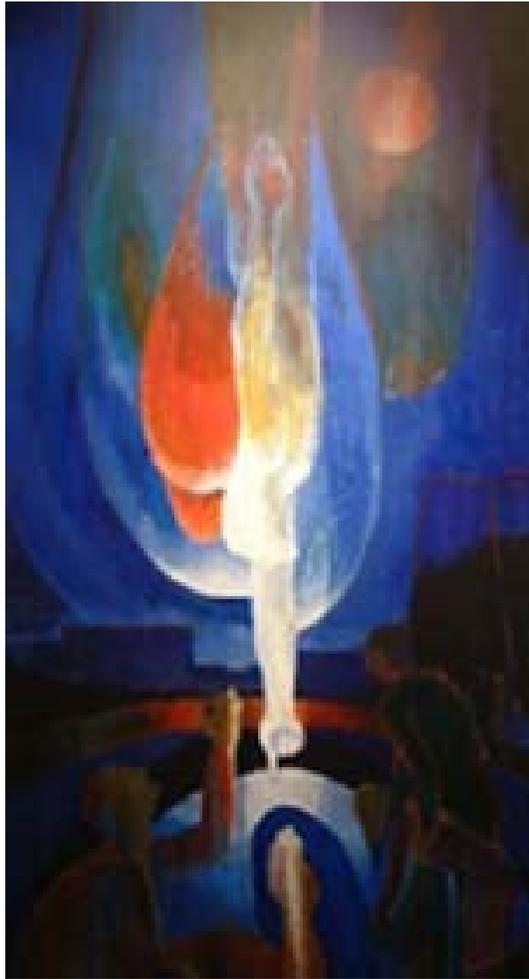
According to Jewish custom, Mary brings the Child Jesus into the temple. Simeon, the High Priest, rejoices that the expectation of the Messiah is finally a reality, while Mary wonders about Simeon's prediction: "This child is destined for the rise and fall of many, and through your heart a sword shall pierce."



Christ Dispersing the Twelve Apostles from the Mountaintop

Acrylic on Panel, 2003, Br. Jerome Pryor, S.J.

"Go and teach all nations."



The Pool of Bethesda

Acrylic on Panel, 2002, Br. Jerome Pryor, S.J.

This scene shows the famous healing pool, which was stirred periodically by an angel. The first cripple to submerge in the pool was cured. Christ cured the cripple who was too incapacitated to ever have been the first.