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St. Paul The Apostle Church Celestial Windows to be featured on PBS

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Posted: Wednesday, November 20, 2013 4:00 am

For centuries, artists have created stained glass windows for churches to tell stories about their faith, to create beautiful places of worship and for people to experience a silent communication between God and themselves as they gaze upon the artist's work and its message, which speaks to them.

Located across the street from Johnson Space Center and established in 1964 to minister to the people moving into Clear Lake to work on the Apollo Program, St. Paul the Apostle Church was in 2009, in the process of building its new church. Fittingly, the theme for building their new church was entitled, "THE HEAVENS DECLARE THE GLORY OF GOD."

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The liturgical designer, Rolf Rohn from Rohn & Associates Design, Inc. collaborated with the building committee and Peter's Glass from Paderborn, Germany to create the windows that would become known as our Celestial Windows. Studying images from the Hubble Telescope, it was decided that the photos from the Orion Nebula and Omega-Swan Nebula would be the model to create the upper windows of the church. Peter's Glass, using a new method to create art on windows, would take actual photos from NASA and copy them onto large panes of glass to create the six huge windows inside St. Paul Church. Desiring to add sacred art to the windows above the altar, Rohn's artists added the dove representing the Holy Spirit and the seven tongues of fire symbolizing the descent of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost and the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. The angels to the right and left of the Holy Spirit window are to reflect the different ages and nationalities of our multi-cultural parish.

The inspiration for the Creation Window in St. Paul's narthex was taken from the Apollo 8 mission. It was in 1968 that St. Paul parishioner and astronaut, William Anders took the first colored photo of earth, as it appears in space. The photo is famously known as "Earthrise." In a live historic broadcast on Christmas Eve, the astronauts took turns reading from the book of Genesis, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Another photograph taken from the Apollo missions was used to create the glass, specifically showing our beloved Gulf Coast and city of Houston.

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Rohn's artists were able to add the moon and a galaxy. These 3, the earth, moon and universe, are our glorious heavens that God created and man accomplished bringing these heavens into view in our lifetime.

HoustonPBS / Ch. 8 will feature these windows and the designer in their show "Arts InSight" on Thursday night at 7:00pm, December 19, 2013.



Business Spotlight

CCA STAR Scholarship
www.startournament.org



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In hopes of luring more Texas youth to the sport of fishing, the CCA Texas STAR scholarship division offers a total of 10 scholarships in increments of \$20,000 and \$50,000. STAR participants from ages 6-17, who catch the largest Flounder, Sheepshead, or Gafftop will be awarded a \$50,000 college scholarship. To find out more about the CCA Texas STAR tournament visit: www.startournament.org.

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