

PAST STILL PRESENT

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THE RELICS ROOM

The sacred past is still very much present in the new Relics Room located off the St. Faustus Chapel.



In this room are displayed relics given to our Sisters over the years. We hope that it will be a place of devotion which will inspire those who visit with a deeper awareness of our unity with all those who have gone before us in the communion of saints. Visitors are welcome at any time.

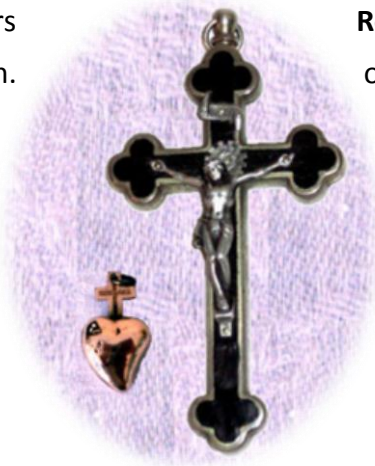
The room features two shadow-box panels each containing 156 relics (some are duplicates) obtained mostly through the efforts of Msgr. Martin B. Hellriegel while he was chaplain for the sisters 1918-1940.

Display cases hold reliquaries (with relics) made by our sisters. The **four fan-shaped** reliquaries and the **Chi-Rho** Reliquary were made by Sr. Hiltrudis Powers.



Two **red easels** were stitched by sisters in the Ecclesiastical Arts Department.

The **gold relic hearts** worn by our sisters prior to 1935 are displayed; one is open.



Relic crosses are displayed; one is open to show the relics inside.



A special treasure is the large **reliquary, the bust of St. Conrad**. The reliquary, the work of Josef Wirth, Jr., of Konstanz, Baden, was purchased from the artist by Rev. Martin B. Hellriegel and presented to Mother M. Wilhelmine on the occasion of her golden jubilee, January 6, 1933. Inside is a relic of St. Conrad. Conrad was Bishop of Konstanz (-Freiburg), Germany, (the home-diocese of Gurtweil); he died November 26, 975. He was known for his exceedingly great love of and devotion to the most Precious Blood of our Divine Savior.

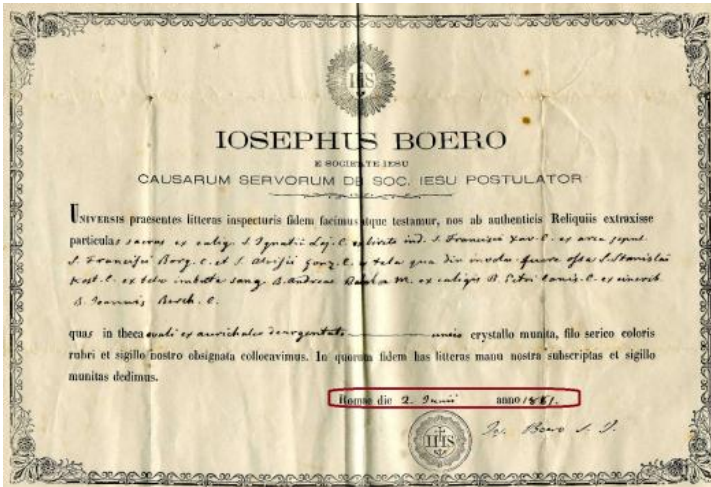


Reliquary for the relic of the Holy Cross - This reliquary, done by the monks of Maredsous Abbey in Belgium, was given to the community by Dom Ermin Vitry, a monk of this abbey, in the 1930's. He directed our Chant program at this time and continued to do so until his death in 1960.

On the walls are hung various illustrations.

One pair is the facsimile of the document and its translation authenticating the relic of the bones of **St. Faustus the boy martyr** ("Ossibus Sancti Fausti Pueri Martyris") whose bones are enclosed in a case covered with a wax effigy beneath the altar in the St. Faustus Chapel.





A second pair is the facsimile of the **oldest document** in the collection, *2. Junii anno 1861.* [2 June year 1861] together with a translation. These two documents are typical of the many documents which have been preserved in binders and kept safe in a vault.

A third display is a plaque which shows the **Miracle of the Precious Blood** at Walldürn, Germany, a representation of the Corporal stained with the images of the head of the crucified Christ.

A cloth which touched the miraculous Corporal preserved in Walldürn and was given to the community by the chaplain Rev. H. Mueller accompanies the plaque.

The story of the miracle is as follows:

In 1330, Fr. Henry Otto celebrated Mass in the Church of St. George in Walldürn, Baden, Germany. After the consecration he accidentally upset the chalice and spilled the Precious Blood on the corporal. Where the Precious Blood flowed, the form of the crucified Christ appeared, surrounded by eleven thorn-crowned heads. Frightened, Fr. Otto hid the corporal, revealing its location to his confessor only on his death bed. The corporal was found and given to church authorities, eventually making its way to Rome where Pope Eugene IV approved the veneration of this sacred relic, granted indulgences to the faithful who visited it, and ordered a basilica to be built to house it.



On a table are various aids including a booklet of prayers and information about relics in general, a chart which shows the names of the saints whose relics are in the two shadow boxes, a binder containing a brief biography of each of those saints, and several books of *Lives of the Saints*.