

Dame Isabel Piczek

It's the end of an era! Many of us knew Isabel—her remarkable creations in the field of art and her talents regarding the Shroud of Turin. But few knew that she was also accomplished in the fields of physics and theology. She was a world reknown mural artist and a world-class person who traced her ancestry all the way back in the Austro-Hungarian Empire to, as I recall, a vizier of the royal house of the Habsburgs. And she bore the dignity of the royal house.

The Shroud would be a mural if it were a painting; she strongly disagreed with those, such as the late Walter C. McCrone, that the Shroud was a painting! She was the expert on murals. In the art world there could be no greater authority! The Shroud was the genuine burial wrapping of Our Lord Jesus.

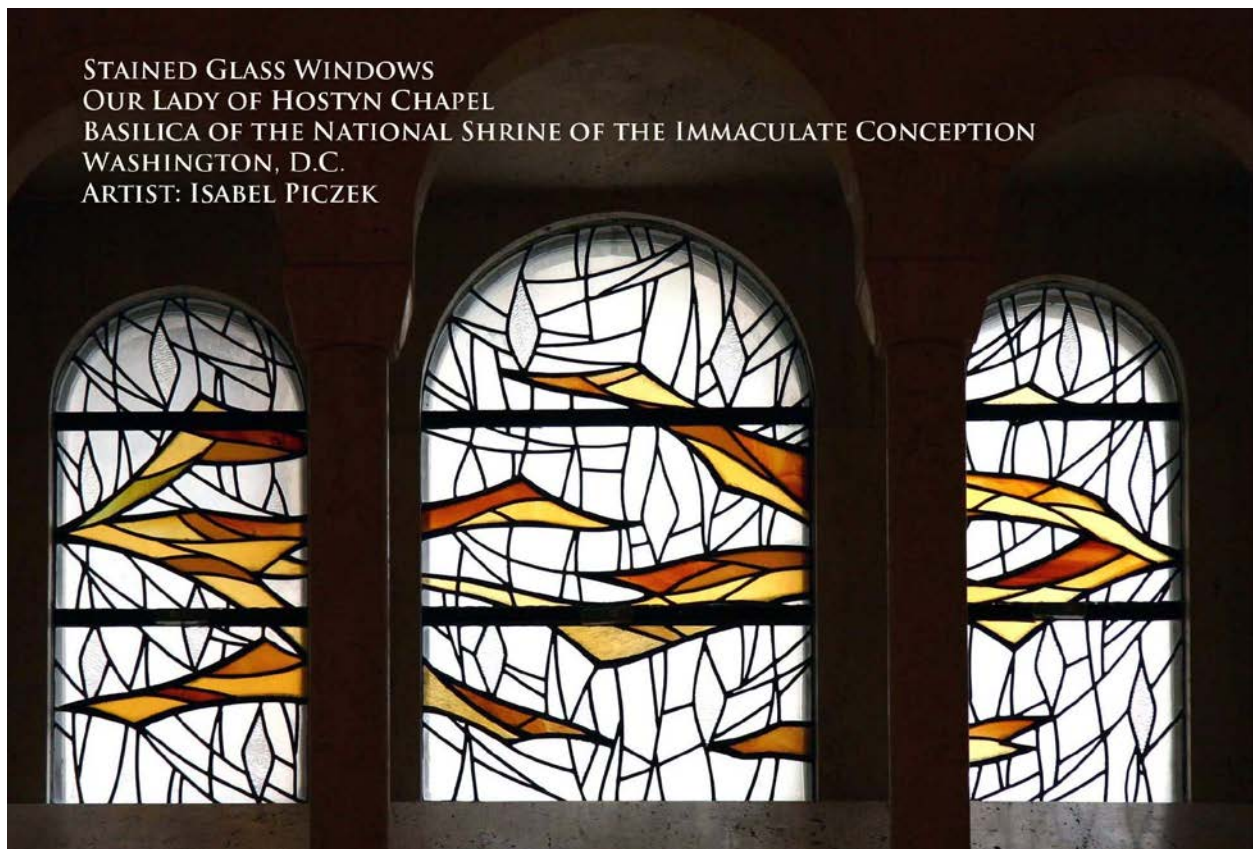
I first met her in Paris, France at a Shroud conference in 1989. She took Connie and Roger Apple and myself out to dinner where we got acquainted. She was dedicated to ecclesiastic art. Her first major work was a mural in the dining hall of the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome. Lois and I were treated to a private tour in 1993 by her to see this mural that most do not see.

I'd like to present a broader artistic perspective regarding Isabel--although many of her art works will be found today in churches up and down the California coast, there is also a set of stained glass windows in the chapel of St. John Neumann In the crypt church of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. We called her while we were in Washington visiting our grandson. She was so excited to learn of our visit to the Shrine.

In early 1991 I worked with her along with others on a committee to establish the New York International Symposium held at Columbia University, where she made important contributions in the design of that conference.



Isabel Piczek, Sept. 19, 2005, (photo by Paul C. Maloney)



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What follows here are a few photographs I took while Lois and I were on a West
Coast trip



Camarillo, CA (photo taken by P. C. Maloney, Sept. 17, 2005)



Camarillo, California (photo taken by P. C. Maloney, Sept. 17, 2005)



Piczek Studio (photo by P. C. Maloney, Sept. 19, 2005)



The chapel in the Holy Cross Cemetery, Culver City, CA (photo by P.C. Maloney, 9/19/2005)



Isabel Piczek with her mural of the resurrection in the background (Chapel of the Holy Cross Cemetery, Culver City, CA; photo by P. C. Maloney, Sept. 19, 2005).



Piczek Studio, Los Angeles, CA (photo taken by P. C. Maloney, Sept. 19, 2005)

We had always worried that she might suffer her final days by falling from a scaffold! She did fall at least once that we knew of! But she recovered to create additional, new and beautiful masterpieces. These are our fond memories of Isabel. We shall miss her. We mourn her loss. Rest in peace, dear friend.

She stands in awe of that Great and Lofty Gate, and as it opens to her she hears a voice echoing on the gentle breeze: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant. Enter into the Joy of Thy Lord." Matthew 25:23.