

ATRIUM TOUR

(13) Holy Vessel - Chalice



The friars in Austria referred to the Cincinnati-based province as their “Tochter Provinz”—the Daughter Province.

On May 30, 1951, the Very Reverend Eligius Weir, OFM; the Very Reverend Romuald Mollaun, OFM; and Fr. Bernardin Schneider, OFM visited the Schwaz Friary of the St. Leopold Province while returning home from Rome after a General Chapter. There they were struck by the craftsmanship of Fr. Fabian Barcata, OFM, a friar living at the monastery, and arranged for him to design and finish the chalice as a symbol of the close bond between the Province of St. Leopold and the Province of St. John the Baptist.

The chalice is richly decorated with a grapevine heavy with fruit. The vine, firmly rooted in the foot of the chalice, rises from a globe on which Innsbruck, Austria, and Cincinnati are marked with small stones. These strong roots join together to form the stem of the chalice, then branch into leafy tendrils that support the cup

above. A crucifix marks the front of the chalice.

The intricate tracery of the leaf veins, the exquisite shading of the grapes, and the delicate lines of the corpus were all handcrafted by Fr. Fabian in the eighty-fourth year of his life and the sixty-first year of his priesthood.

Father Provincial Vincent Kroger, OFM, of the St. John the Baptist Province first used the chalice in 1952. For the occasion, the following invocation was offered:

“May the Holy Sacrifices at which Father Provincial uses the chalice from Tyrol bring down God’s choicest blessings not only on the Tochter Provinz [Daughter Province], which is our own Alma Provincia [Beloved Province], but also on the Mutter Provinz [Mother Province], which gave us our start.”