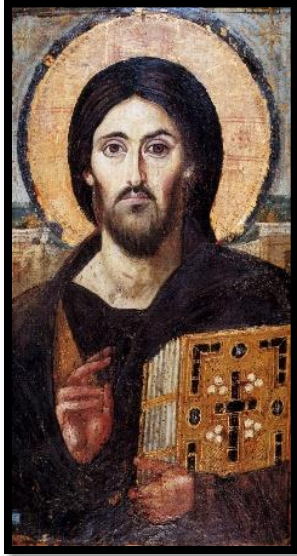
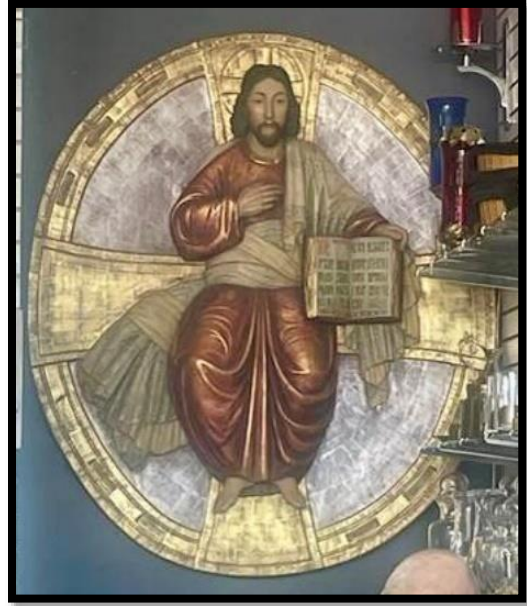


ATRIUM TOUR

(5) Christ the Teacher Sculpture

In the Gospel of St. Mark, Jesus is identified as “teacher” no fewer than twelve times. This image of Christ the Teacher reflects that truth and serves as a visible reminder that Christ is the first teacher of our school community. Watching over our campus, he stands as the model for all who teach here and the one in whom all true learning finds its source.

This hand-carved bas relief was created by Carl Moroder of the Conrad Moroder Company in Ortisei, Val Gardena, Italy. Moroder came from a family shaped by a long artistic tradition, with sculptors and artists spanning five generations. After the carving was completed, it was finished with 23.75-carat gold leaf and antique paint. The three-dimensional sculpture stands five feet tall, weighs 250 pounds, and hangs in the vestibule as the central visual focal point for students entering the school’s main entrance.



This one-of-a-kind work is based on an original sixth-century icon preserved at St. Catherine’s Monastery in Sinai, Egypt. Located at the foot of Mount Horeb, where the Old Testament recounts that Moses received the Tablets of the Law, St. Catherine’s is the oldest Christian monastery still serving its original purpose. The original icon, often known as Christ Blessing or Christ Pantokrator (“all-ruler”), was painted in encaustic, a wax-based technique used in Egypt from at least the late first century. Likely created by a highly skilled artist in Constantinople, the image shows Christ raising his right hand in blessing while holding an ornate Gospel book in his left, emphasizing his identity as the living Word of God.

As the oldest known icon of Christ, it survived through centuries because of the monastery’s remote location, the dry desert climate, and later layers of overpainting that helped preserve it until its restoration. In this historic and sacred image, Christ the Teacher continues to bless, instruct, and watch over all who enter.

ATRIUM TOUR

This sculpture was donated in the memory of Paul and Naomi Thomas. Paul (aka Mike) and Naomi had a special dedication to Roger Bacon High School and had relationships with the Franciscan priests and brothers who became their dear friends.

This friendship developed when their oldest son, Steve, began his high school career at Roger Bacon. Steve, Class of 1961, was a noted basketball player and is in the RB Sports Hall of Fame. Their second son, Mark, graduated from Roger Bacon in 1967. Their grandson, Peter, graduated in 2001.



During their sons' years at RB, Mike and Naomi were very active in the school via the PTA and the Dad's Club. They especially developed close friendships with Fathers Alan, Donnul, Farrell, and Sylvester - all who contributed to Mike and Naomi's appreciation of the value of Franciscan education.

In honor of the Franciscan education tradition, and in memory of Mike and Naomi, a scholarship fund was created in 1998 - an annual full-tuition award given to a junior year student. The fund provided scholarships for 26 years. Their memory will continue to live at RB through their gift of the "Christ the Teacher" sculpture in prominent display in the vestibule student entrance to the school.