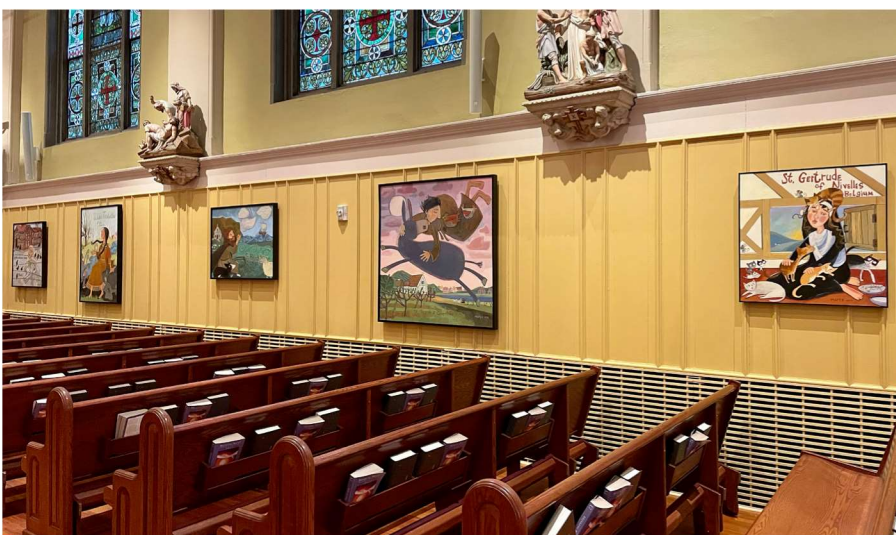


LIVES OF THE SAINTS

AN EXHIBIT BY ARTIST NANCY MAREK COTE

On display at Saint Cecilia from February 11 through the end of May

If you come into the church this weekend, prepare to be wowed! From now until the end of May, we will be surrounded by colorful, mixed-media paintings featuring a contemporary take on eighteen of our most familiar saints (canonized and not). This exhibition of works by artist Nancy Marek Cote provides a fresh perspective on some of the most well-known and beloved friends of God, including the debut of Nancy's newest work featuring Servant of God Thea Bowman, created specifically for Saint Cecilia. Nancy's paintings portray the lives of the saints in a new and modern way that is both whimsical and joyful. Her unique style captures the spirit of these men and women—our patrons and companions—in a delightful way that communicates something of their relationship with God. Nancy's paintings demonstrate what she calls, "the joy of finding God."





We're pleased to announce that Nancy's most recent work of Servant of God Thea Bowman will remain at Saint Cecilia permanently. About this painting, Nancy says,

"Servant of God Sister Thea Bowman was filled with a love that was felt by everyone around her. Through music, community, teaching, and prayer, she spread God's light, breaking down racial and cultural barriers. Creating the composition for my painting of Thea was almost effortless. After reading and researching more about her life, I felt like I knew her personally and, if I kept my heart open, pure, and joyful, the image of this extraordinary woman who reflected every quality of a saint who walked among us would unfold."

About Sister Thea Bowman:

Born in 1937 in Yazoo City, Mississippi, the granddaughter of slaves, Sister Thea became a Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration—the only African American member of the congregation. Through her gift of singing, gospel preaching, teaching, prayer, and storytelling, Sister Thea's life and work left a lasting mark on U.S. Catholic life in the late twentieth century. Sister Thea worked to break down racial and cultural barriers and to encourage people to communicate with one another as a way of better understanding other cultures and races. Sister Thea died of cancer in 1990, and in 2018 the Diocese of Jackson opened her cause for sainthood and bestowed on her the designation 'Servant of God.'

If you would like to learn more about Sister Thea Bowman, we encourage you to watch the 2022 documentary *Going Home Like a Shooting Star: Thea Bowman's Journey to Sainthood*. This hour-long film shines a light on the life, message, and legacy of Sister Thea, while exploring her work as an advocate for racial justice and intercultural understanding. The idea for the film came to Sister Judith Ann Zielinski, OSF, who wrote and produced the film following the 2020 murder of George Floyd. The documentary features commentary from those who knew Sister Thea personally and highlights her joy-filled spirit, life-changing cancer diagnosis, and the power of her 1989 speech to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. This film premiered on ABC last fall and is now available for streaming on the Diocese of Jackson's YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W9oOa2iOwck>). To read a review of this film, please see pages 9 and 10 of the bulletin.

(Right) From the sanctuary to the narthex: Saint Cecilia, Saint Mary, Saint Francis of Assisi, Saint Maximilian Kolbe, Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, Saint Patrick, Saint Joseph (Giuseppe) of Cupertino, Saint Gertrude of Nivelles, Saint Lucy
(Left) From the sanctuary to the narthex: Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, Servant of God Thea Bowman, Saint Martin de Porres, Saint Anthony of Padua, Saint Oscar Romero, Saint Josephine Bakhita, Servant of God Dorothy Day, and Saint Isidore the Farmer
Narthex: Our Lady of Guadalupe
