

pcpc Witness

The Call to Artists

*"If you really fulfill
the royal law
according to the Scripture,
'You shall
love your neighbor
as yourself,'
you are doing well."
James 2:8*

In order to transport PCPC's Arts Festival from its basic themes into a full blown exhibit, a certain process takes place. Artists hear the call and respond. By the time the formal Call to Artists goes out via e-mail and mail, many works are already taking shape in the eyes, minds, and hearts of the artists. This year's theme was The Passion and the Promise.

Delivery Day, February 25, was bright and beautiful. Artists entrusted two hundred entries to white-gloved volunteers to be judged. In private interviews, I asked each artist one question: "At what point in time did you hear and respond to the Call for Artists?" What a blessed visual emerged as I heard answers such as: "The title was the inspiration," or, "I answered the call right after seeing the topic." One artist reported searching the internet for a Christian art show. (He eventually won a special award ribbon for his work.)

One artist had been on the PCPC mailing list for three years before responding to the call for the 2012 Festival. Another artist said that through attending the Art + Spirit classes last fall

she experienced a personal accountability to use her artistic talents for the glory of God. Others reported personal invitations came to them one-on-one, such as e-mails from friends urging them to investigate. One artist returned from a trip to Europe with renewed inspiration after seeing several cathedrals there. Through various ways, artists were drawn into the process of transferring observations onto canvas, clay, wood, paper, glass, and film.

Several artists reported they were unable to put on canvas what they were trying to convey because they were working under their own power. They stopped their work and gave God the glory—and their frustration. After they turned their work over to the Lord, the creativity flowed and became a living entity. During his guest appearance on March 1, Bruce Herman, a festival juror, related having a similar experience when he was painting the face of Christ.

All the artists conveyed appreciation, even awe, that they actually had this opportunity to create for the festival and explore the

depths of the passages in John 12, Mark 14-15, and Matthew 28.

For me, the artwork displayed at PCPC's gallery became living, breathing reminders of the lives and stories of the artists behind them. May our Lord receive all the glory continuously for these artists' amazing gifts portraying our Lord's Triumphant Entry, His Glorious Cross, and His Victorious Resurrection.

—Helen May Nichols

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