

LEO A DALY

March 10, 1995

John Rhoden
23 Cranberry Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Dear Mr. Rhoden:

Our firm is currently designing a new Chapel in Washington's Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. The Chapel construction will be funded entirely by the donations of African American Catholics, and it will be called the "Our Mother of Africa Chapel." The design we are presently developing for the space, illustrated in the enclosed drawings and perspective rendering, features a marble statue of the Virgin Mary in a niche on one side of the space and a marble bas relief on the wall opposite the statue. The subject of the bas relief has not been defined yet, but it will narrate a significant aspect of the Black Catholic Community's heritage.

We are now assisting the National Black Catholic Congress in their search for an African-American artist to create the sculpture for the Chapel, and your fine work has placed your name on our list of those clearly qualified to receive the commission. I am writing to ask if this project would be of interest to you and, if it is, whether your schedule would allow you to do the work this year.

If you are interested in being considered for the commission, we will arrange for a meeting to be scheduled with you and representatives of the Congress, the National Shrine, and our design staff. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

LEO A DALY



Vernon Geisel
Director of Architectural Design

cc: Greg Tucker, National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception
Dr. Hilbert Stanley, National Black Catholic Congress

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