



SAINT AUGUSTINE

by
Achim Klaas

The parish of Our Mother of Good Counsel in Homer Glen, Illinois is privileged to have a major work of liturgical art hanging on one its walls. It is a relief carving of St. Augustine of Hippo by the renowned Canadian artist Achim Klaas.

The piece is carved out of a laminated solid block-panel of knot-free lindenwood (basswood) according to Lynda Klaas, spokesperson for [klaas design inc.](#) and the wife of the artist. “It was Achim’s first attempt at a religious relief carving,” she said, and “took approximately 180 hours to complete. The sculpture’s intent is to sum up the passion and power of St. Augustine’s religious essence.”

The sculpture, completed in 1982, was commissioned by the Augustinian community of St. Gregory parish in Cambridge, Ontario, Canada where Fr. Tom Osborne was pastor. “We commissioned the carving to bring a presence of our Augustinian tradition and history to a parish that we were administering.” Fr. Osborne has noted that in the Klaas sculpture, “Augustine is depicted at work on one of his many treatises but looking up at the seal of the Augustinian order for which he wrote a rule containing a vision for religious life.”



The sculpture was inspired by a 15th Century painting of [Sandro Botticelli](#) (1445-1510) as well as “by the writings and history of St. Augustine,” according to Lynda Klaas.

The sculpture hung in the narthex of St. Gregory’s until the Augustinians withdrew from the parish in 2001. Fr. Osborne arranged to have the sculpture brought to Our Mother of Good Counsel parish, the parish which he founded in Homer Glen, where it resides to this day.

Achim Klaas was born in 1950 and began his career in his early teens as a painter. He was educated at York University and the University of Toronto where he expanded his knowledge base into architectural design and sculpture.

Currently, he is the principal artist and designer of [klaas design inc.](#) which he founded in 1974. Its studios are located near Cambridge, Ontario.

