

A Word about Ed Spires

It all began when Fr. Boccaccio met Ed Spires at St. Pius X Parish in Fairfield in 1972. Ed later moved to Norwalk and our pastor quickly invited him to join the St. Philip community. Father credits Ed and his extensive professional background in theater, music and the decorative arts as the primary lay force behind our present church setting.

Ed's eyes and hands and research are seen in everything from the hydrastone casts of a 13th century Spanish frame for the six tiles around the present statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the design of St. Mary of the Way sculpture outside the main entrance to the church, the colorized Stations of the Cross and many other works. He was the parish "artist-in-residence," and served as the overall artistic supervisor and engineer of the church design. That's literally from the floor up—he designed and handcut the flooring tiles, created the setting for the Holy Family painting in the Holy Family Chapel, and devised the inventive use of materials from secular sources, especially from United House Wrecking in Stamford, for a range of works. In many cases, if he didn't execute a final work, he designed and supervised the production, as in the "Blest Are They" shrine on the wall of the main vestibule that acknowledges parishioners for their generosity to the church.

In recognition of his immense contribution, Ed became the first parishioner to be awarded the Bridgeport Diocese's St. Augustine Medal of Service, in 2005. Similarly, he designed the four-foot-high figure of our patron St. Philip in the church garden near the chapel entry and the outdoor altar that honors the donors in the 2008 "Lift High the Cross" campaign.