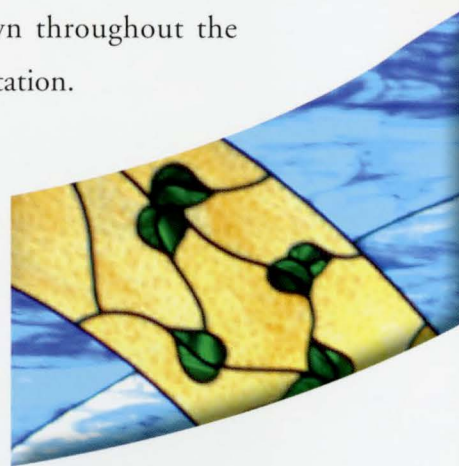
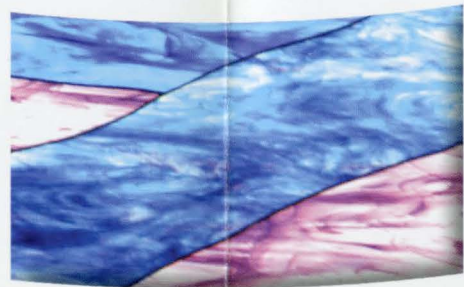


# THE SOURCE *of* SPIRIT



The history of the Rose de Lima chapel and campus continues to spring forth from the terrain on which it was built and its surrounding neighborhoods. Prior to its beginnings, this geographical area was owned by the U.S. government. Hoover Dam had recently been constructed nearby, thus controlling and rerouting the waters of the Colorado to be used in many surrounding states. The area in which the hospital is now located was once known as Midway (*located midway between Boulder City and Las Vegas*) only to be renamed the Townsite of Basic, when during the war the government chose this location to build its magnesium plant, school, hospital



and several other sites here.

Approximately 1,300 families, most of whom were to be employed at the Basic Magnesium plant, took up residence here, thus creating a boom town in Basic. Their children attended Basic School and serious health problems were cared for at Basic Magnesium Hospital. After only a few years however, as World War II came to an end, it became clear

to those in government that the production of magnesium would soon be obsolete. They needed to make decisions relative to the future of the plant, hospital and school.

With the encouragement of Senator McCarran and Reverend Peter Moran, Pastor of the neighboring St. Peter's Catholic Church, a telegram was sent to Mother Mary Gerald, OP Superior of the Dominican Sisters of Adrian, Michigan inquiring if it might be possible for the women religious there to take ownership of and to operate the hospital, which was already known throughout the region for its reputation.

In June, 1947 seven Dominican Sisters, dressed in their black and white habits, symbolic of action in the midst of contemplation, arrived here by train to minister to our patients and their families. The Sisters joined others, as together, they cleaned floors, delivered babies, sat with dying patients, cooked meals, planned special dinners for staff and then four times each day the

Dominican Sisters retreated to the chapel, to pray together in common.

This perhaps was the beginning of a new culture at the hospital, for faith rooted in prayer and community usually spills over into hospitality and brings about a subtle reshaping in which not only what we do is vital to the healing

May you experience the peace of

of body, mind and spirit, but how we do it as well.

The Sisters, physicians and staff of the newly renamed Rose de Lima Hospital grew closer together as their commitment to wholeness and holiness deepened each day.

The story of the development of this hospital from a government run institution to a sacred place of healing in the context of a faith community is told in the storyboard located off the lobby on the first floor. It is also told in the symbols leading to and located within the chapel located immediately to your left from the main lobby.



As you enter the doorway of the hallway leading to the chapel, your eyes are drawn to an etching of Saint Rose of Lima, created by G. E. Mullen of San Antonio, Texas. The image depicts Rose, a mystic and activist, dressed in the habit of a lay Dominican of the 1500's. The daughter of upper-class Spanish colonists in Peru, Rose denied the privileged status of her birth, took vows

*God in this moment and place!*

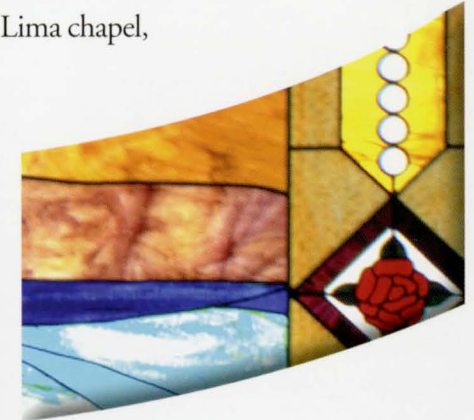
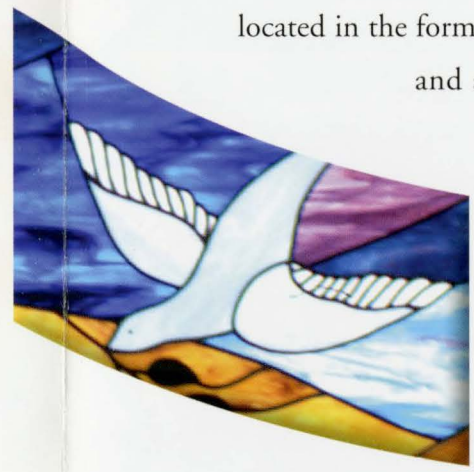
as a Dominican lay person and lived as a recluse in her parents' garden, devoting her life to penance and prayer in reparation for the ills of society in her day. The people of her village recognized her holiness and often called on her for counsel and assistance. Her love for those who were ill and/or poor led her to found the first "free clinic" of the New World. She was the first person born in the Americas to be officially canonized as a saint worthy of public veneration

It is in her spirit of prayer and concern for those who are marginalized that leads us forward. In the

hallway is a lovely framed needlework piece, created by Greta Neumann, a St. Rose volunteer. It contains symbolic icons of the mainstream religions and invites all to be aware of and to honor the variety of faith beliefs among us. Further down the hall hangs a large sunburst art piece drawing our spirit inward as we move towards the chapel itself which is simple and sacred.

A lit candle indicates the presence of Eucharist/the sacred bread, reserved here for those who are ill.

The altar and tabernacle are the originals once located in the former chapel years ago and around which the



Sisters prayed each day. As we gather for Eucharist, memorial services or quiet contemplative prayer each day, we recall the gifts of faith and hospitality that are offered to us in this moment and place.

We are enveloped in stained glass windows designed and executed by artists Tom and Bonita

Sherman of Las Vegas; Bonita was born at St. Rose! The brilliantly colored windows serve to remind us of our proximity to both Lake Mead and the surrounding desert, so significant to our beginnings. If we look closely, we will also see seven roses in the archways of the windows, reminding us of the first seven Sisters and the presence of their spirits which continue to hover over us still. The single dove holding an olive branch in its beak is reminiscence of the biblical dove in the story of the flood announcing a time of peace and new life.

The solitude and silence offered here in St. Rose de Lima chapel,

while bringing comfort to us as individuals, will eventually send us forth from this sacred place to continue the work of those who came before us; the outpouring of hospitality which gives birth to the healing of body, mind and spirit.

**For more information regarding faith concerns, please contact the Spiritual Care office at 616-4555.**



