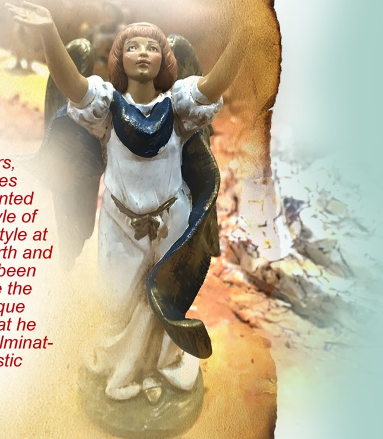
Church of St.Patrick-Edina

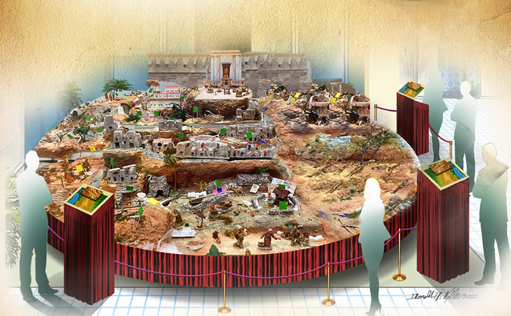
Unveils A Handmade Holy Land Diorama Masterpiece

In The Beginning



FATHER KUSS TEAMS UP WITH A MEDICAL ILLUSTRATOR

Throughout the past 44 years, Father Kuss collected a series of Italian Fontanini hand-painted figurines depicting the lifestyle of people in a Mediterranean style at the time of Jesus Christ's birth and Neapolitan Italians. He has been searching for a way to share the Christmas story with his unique collection. It is by chance that he met Donald Keller, which culminated into a commissioned artistic venture.



WORK IN PROGRESS

THE DIORAMA/DISPLAY

Father Kuss' collection now comes to life, in the form of an awe-inspiring diorama exhibit. This artistic marvel, spanning a grand 20-foot diameter disc that rises to an impressive 68 inches at its central peak, houses over 650 meticulously arranged figurines.

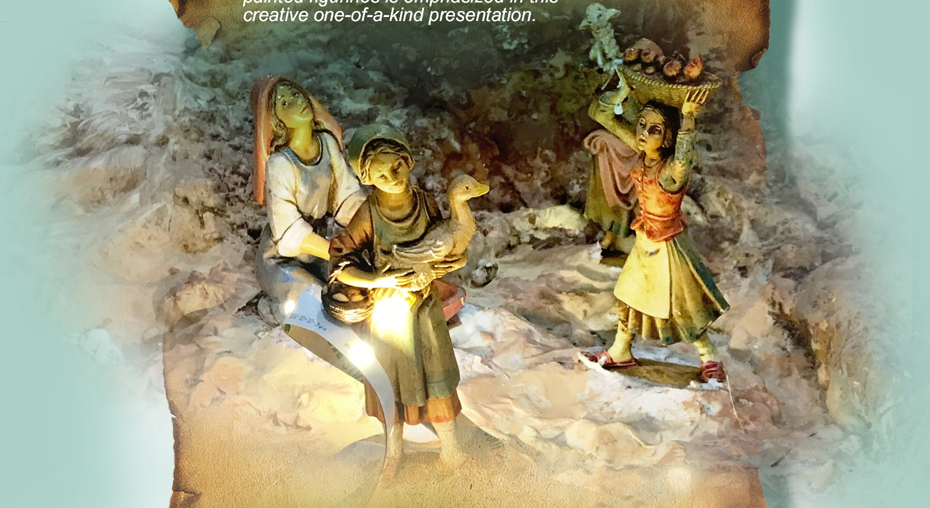
The 310-square-foot exhibit is a labor of love, hand-painted, shaded, and blended using traditional techniques reminiscent of "old-fashioned" craftsmanship, all brought to life through paintbrush strokes. The color palette, influenced by Keller's extensive study of the OLD MASTERS in medical illustration school, transforms the diorama into what appears to be a colossal, three-dimensional painting.

Your experience is enhanced as you enter into the remarkable landscape and the three-dimensional buildings.

The underlying structure of the topography is made up of packaging materials contributed by parishioners.

This magnificent work of art is the result of hundreds of hours of intensive work, including the work of several volunteers.

THE EXQUISITE DETAIL *of these hand painted figurines is emphasized in this creative one-of-a-kind presentation.*



NESTLED WITHIN THE TERRAIN
of the exhibit, is a network of more than 700 feet of wiring, which illuminates the collection with 1250 LED lights.

The collaboration between Father Kuss and Donald Keller is a testament to their shared commitment to faith and art. The result is an artistic masterpiece that invites you to experience the beauty of the Holy Land Collection in a way that is both visually stunning and spiritually profound.

Meet the Visionary:

Donald Keller, Illustrator and Designer

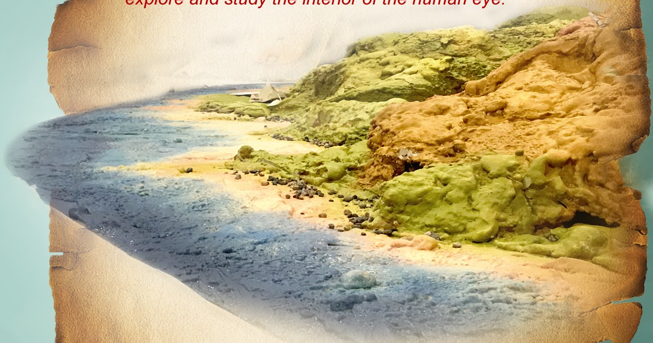
Keller’s illustrious 40-year career in medical illustration, specializing in illustrating surgical procedures in ophthalmology, has left an indelible mark on the world of medical illustration.

His contributions have been published in medical books and journals across the nation. Throughout his career, he has been commissioned to design and create numerous anatomical exhibits, some of which have been featured at prestigious events such as the American Academy of Ophthalmology and the ASCRS in cities like San Francisco, Los Angeles, New Orleans, Philadelphia, and New York.

In 1977, one of his 3-dimensional exhibits was awarded first place in the Association of Medical Illustrators 3-dimensional competition in Boston, MA.

That same year he was also presented with the OVERALL BEST OF SHOW AWARD for his 3D entry.

One of his most celebrated creations is a colossal, anatomically accurate walk-through replica of the human eyeball, measuring 10 feet in diameter. This impressive work was commissioned by a science museum in Charlotte, North Carolina, and over the course of 25 years, several million museum visitors had the opportunity to explore and study the interior of the human eye.



Father Kuss, Mr. Keller, and parishioners invite the public to visit the Church of St. Patrick to experience this unique nativity modeled in a European style in person.

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Donald H. Keller 2023