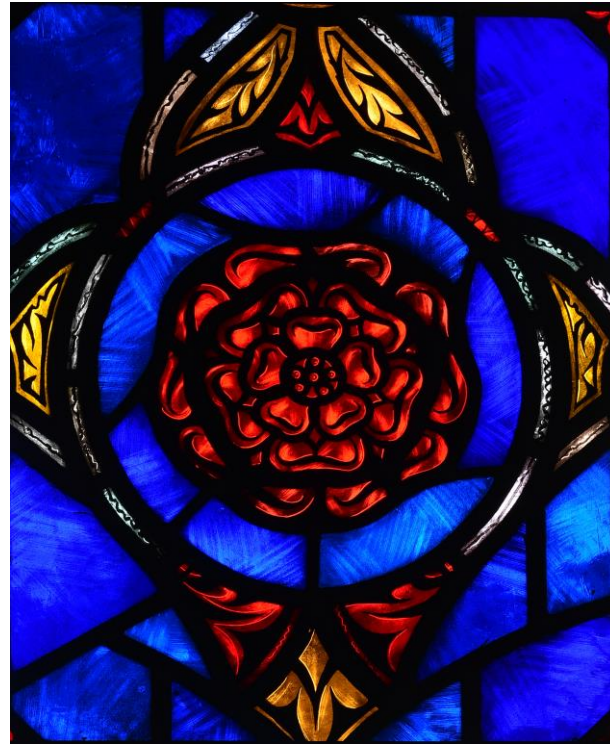


THE SACRISTY WINDOWS

The windows in the sacristy continue the presentation of symbolic images. A series of medallions set in predominantly colorless lattice embody the honorary titles of the Virgin Mary as found in the Litany of the Virgin. The litany, one of the oldest devotions now still in use, was approved by Pope Sixtus V in 1587. The general pattern of honorific acclamations is common to almost all cultures; allegorical concepts are evoked to help a participant focus on the importance of a specific office or individual. The titles selected from the litany used here are Mirror of Justice, Spiritual Vessel, Mystical Rose, Tower of David, Star of the Sea, Queen of Martyrs (as in the upper chapel) and, in the hallway, Ark of the Covenant. The imagery is deeply indebted to Old Testament expressions as found in the Song of Songs and other texts. In the stairwell is the symbol MR for *Maria Regina*, the monogram of the



Virgin as Mary as Queen of Heaven. Again, drawing on the Old Testament prototypes structured by a monarchical social context, kingship and queenship became terms of honor for Christ and Mary. Devotional hymns alluding to these titles were familiar to the Holy Cross community. Among the best known is probably the eleventh-century *Salve Regina* ("Hail, queen, mother of mercy) and the prayer used around Easter time, *Regina Caeli, Laetari, Quia quem meruisti portare, Resurrexit sicut dixi* (Queen of heaven, rejoice! For He Whom thou didst deserve to bear, Hath risen as he said), introduced into the liturgy by Pope Gregory V (996-99).