Beautiful Lighting Renovation Highlights Church Grandeur

Holy Apostles Catholic Church, 16000 W. National Ave., working in stages as funds became available, replaced its aging lighting with unique new lighting combining energy efficiency, beauty and flexibility. The church, set amid farms and fields when it was founded in 1855, grew as housing subdivisions and the city of New Berlin developed around it.

Holy Apostles hired LMH Lighting to design the system and Roman Electric to install the lighting and controls. Inefficient, maintenance-demanding incandescent lamps were replaced with energy saving compact fluorescent and LED lamps. A new easy to operate, customer-pleasing, sophisticated ETC control system lets the church light, turn off and dim lamps to illuminate church events as needed, create dramatic scenes, and extend lamp life.

Light fixtures vary depending on location in the church. The following are all lighted with compact fluorescent lamps. Eighteen canister fixtures each have three 57-watt lamps. Two smaller pendants each contain eight 40-watt central and three 40 watt downlights. Eighteen large pendants each contain 13 lamps: three 70-watt uplights, two 42-watt downlights, and eight 40-watt lamps in the center. Four pendant fixtures at the doors each feature three 42-watt lamps.

Four precisely adjusted theatrical lights with high intensity 150-watt metal halide lamps highlight the sanctuary and altar. Spread around the sanctuary perimeter are 26 50-watt 2700K LED lamps. The church wanted LEDs for their energy efficiency, long life and low maintenance - significant benefits on such a high ceiling.

The eighteen large pendant fixtures include uplights, which the church never had before, to illuminate their beautiful wood ceiling. The central lamps generate a pleasing bright glow and the downlights provide task lighting.

Fr. Don Thimm, Holy Apostles pastor, said Roman Electric had done period maintenance at the church. "For our first significant project with Roman, I was very impressed," he said. "Their commercial service manager Barry Dickinson and foreman Ben Schiller were just outstanding in the design and implementation, and very respectful. Barry's and Ben's suggestions and ideas on the project made it far better than what we started with. Their service was outstanding."

Lynn Howard, owner of LMH Lighting, said, "I worked with Roman's Ben Schiller on the aiming and adjusting of the sanctuary and altar LED lamps. Ben's good so the complex adjustments went pretty fast. He did an excellent job."

Photo Captions:

Holy Apostles Catholic Church at 160th and National Ave was founded in 1855.

The church replaced its aging lighting with a unique system combining beauty and efficiency. Compact fluorescent and LED lamps save substantial energy and reduce cost. Special theatrical lighting gives the sanctuary and altar a compelling new look.

The new lighting system now also illuminates the church's beautiful wood ceiling.

New lighting fixtures include 18 large pendants - six are shown here - each containing 13 compact fluorescent lamps. Eight 40-watt lamps provide the warm glow in the center, three 70-watt uplights highlight the impressive wood ceiling, and two 42-watt downlights spotlight activities below. Each pendant fixture contains three electrical circuits for maximum lighting versatility.







