

The Quilt Project

by Joan Howe-Pullis



The true beauty of a quilt is that small pieces are used to build larger pieces that interconnect to become something much bigger and more complex and beautiful than any of the individual pieces on their own. In fact, the most interesting and beautiful quilts put fabrics together that don't necessarily look like they belong together. Once incorporated in the design, each fabric section brings out the beauty and quality in the other pieces that an observer would not see if each piece were viewed alone.

This is also the great thing about people! Our group of about 30 women (we eventually grew to about 40 women) met for the first time in the middle of January. For some of us, this would be totally new, while others were quite accomplished quilters and sewers. Ideas flew around the room about how to organize tasks, what equipment would be needed, creating a system to keep track of the photo fabric squares we would collect, and how to get the word out to the community about what we were doing and how our members could be involved.

As we met to work together every Monday and Thursday, I marveled at the degree of commitment to the project, the tireless sharing of time and talent, the wonderful humor and love that filled the Dietrich Bonhoeffer Room. We screamed, "Woo-woo!" as each section came together and the design began to take shape before our eyes.

At the end, we gathered together to bless, with prayer and holy water, the products of all of our work - three large banners, seven processional banners, an ambo banner, the altar cloth, two presider stoles, and a deacon stole. Deacon Al was there to anoint our hands and our foreheads with oil as a blessing of the work of our hands and the work of our minds!

The satisfaction of seeing the quilt come together so beautifully, and knowing that it has been received so enthusiastically is rewarding in a way that is almost indescribable. But even beyond that, the community of love and respect that was built among us was an unexpected bonus.

I am so grateful to Pax Christi for being a place where such bonuses are possible. And I will always be grateful to each and every one of the Jubilate Quilters for sharing the treasure of her time, talent, humor, and love with this community.