

Symbols IN Stone & Tile

APPROACHING THE ALTAR

As you approach the front entrance of the church, above the large window are four stone faces. These are gargoyles, copied from similar figures on the first church building.

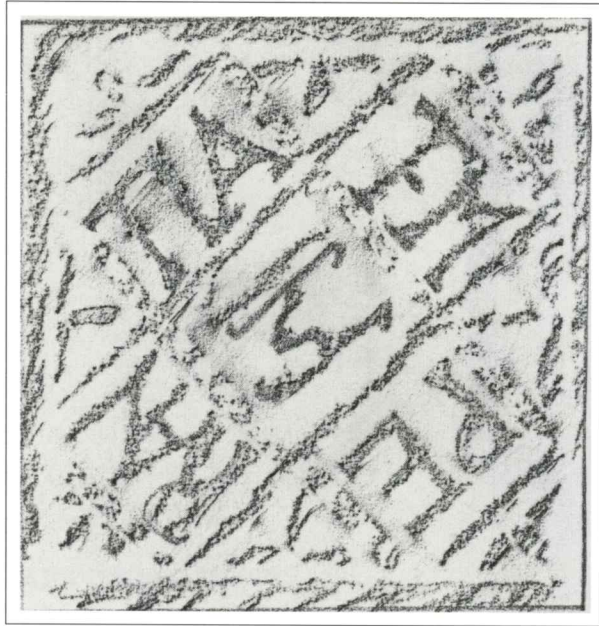
Inside in the narthex are Moravian tiles in the floor, and also a beamed ceiling. Between the narthex and the nave is a carved wood screen filled with glass.

Approaching the altar are tiles interspersed with squares which have symbols on them as depicted on the following pages.

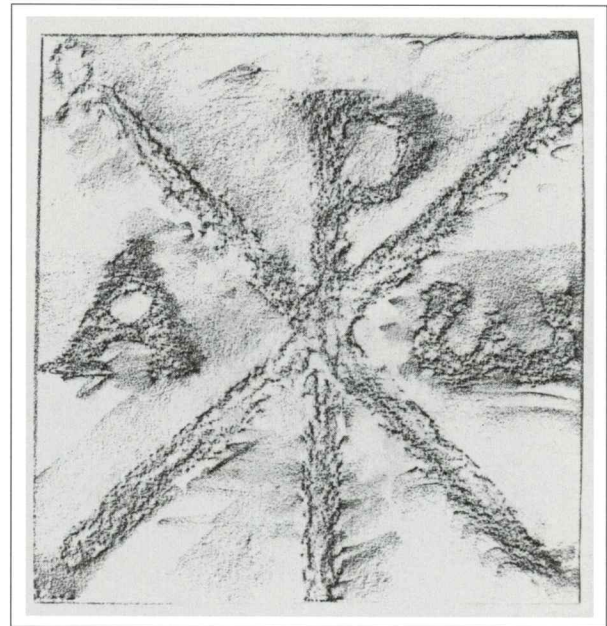
THE ALTAR

The altar is made of marble. On the front is carved the Lamb of God lying on the *Book of Seven Seals*, with the three-rayed numbus signifying that it is the symbol of divinity. The lamb is Jesus Christ, the book contains God's purpose for mankind. Jesus is the only one worthy and able to open the seals and reveal what will be achieved according to God's plan.

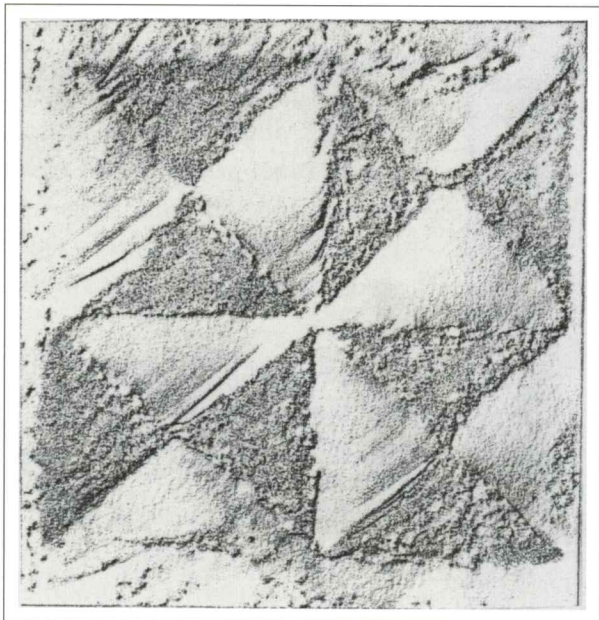
On the mensa, or altar table top, is carved the Greek cross. There is a cross in each corner and a larger one in the center, representing the five wounds of Christ. The shield at the very top of the altar has the Greek letters *chi* and *rho*, the first two letters of the word for Christ. Above that, on this same shield, is a crown representing Christ as King. The cross above the altar is a Latin cross with *fleur-de-lis* finish at the ends.



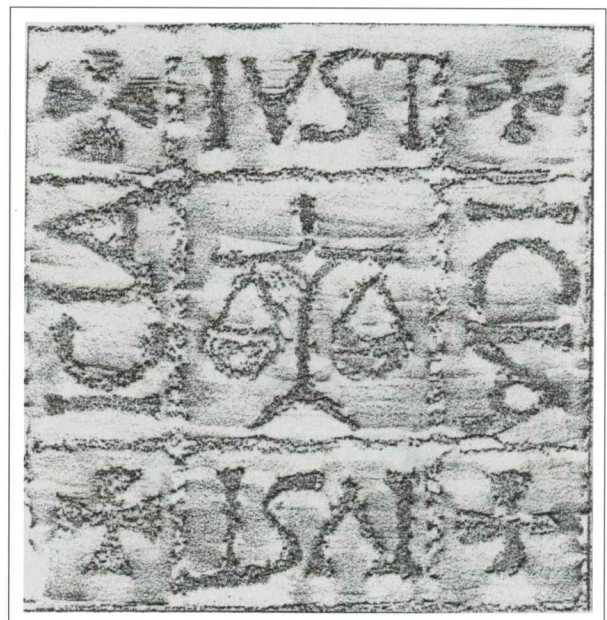
Beginning at the east side, the first symbol is TEMPERANTIA. The dot means that a letter has been omitted. This Latin word means sobriety or temperance.



The next symbol is the *chi rho* with *alpha* and *omega*. *Chi* and *rho* are the first two Greek letters of the word for Christ; and *alpha* and *omega* are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, meaning the beginning and the end.



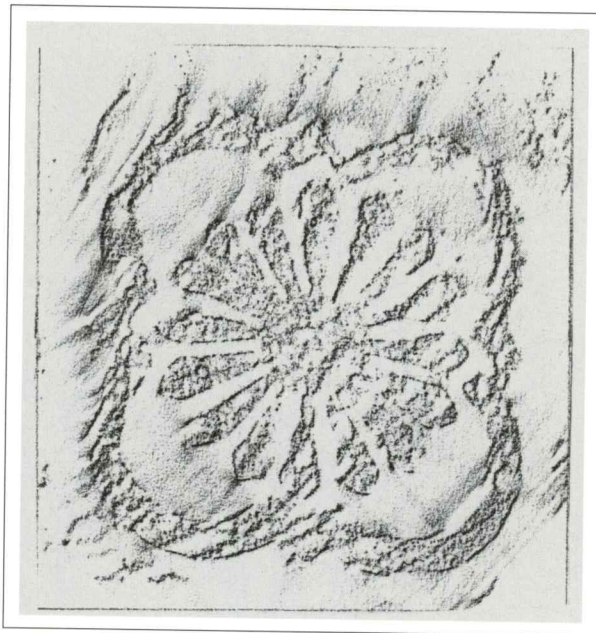
This symbol is a stylized form of the Maltese pattee cross, used for decorative purposes. This may have been used as a symbol of the Crusades, or because Paul spent some time on Malta when he was shipwrecked there.



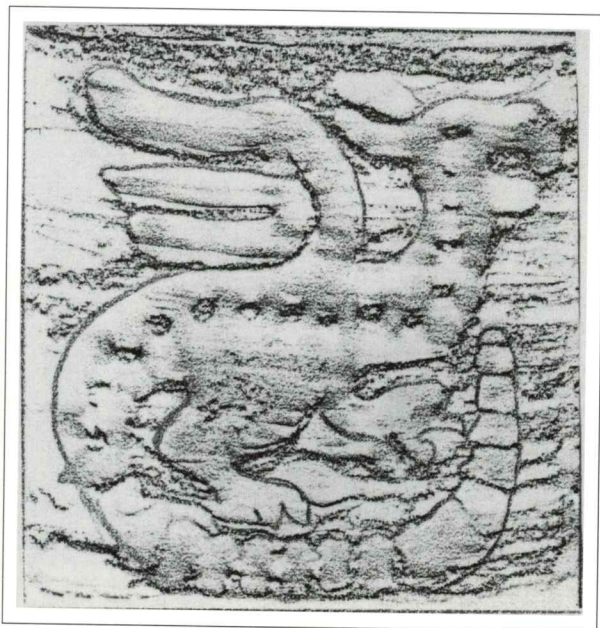
Justitia means justice or love of justice.



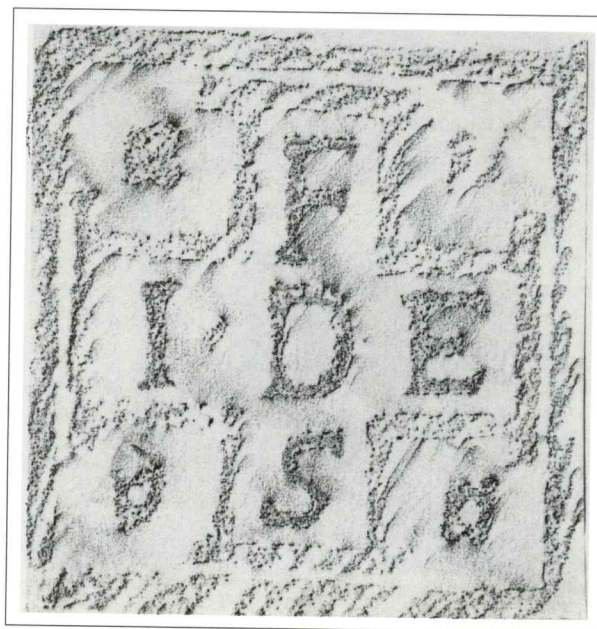
Caritas means love. The Latin dictionary gives “love,” as does the new *Good News Bible*. The King James version gives “charity.”



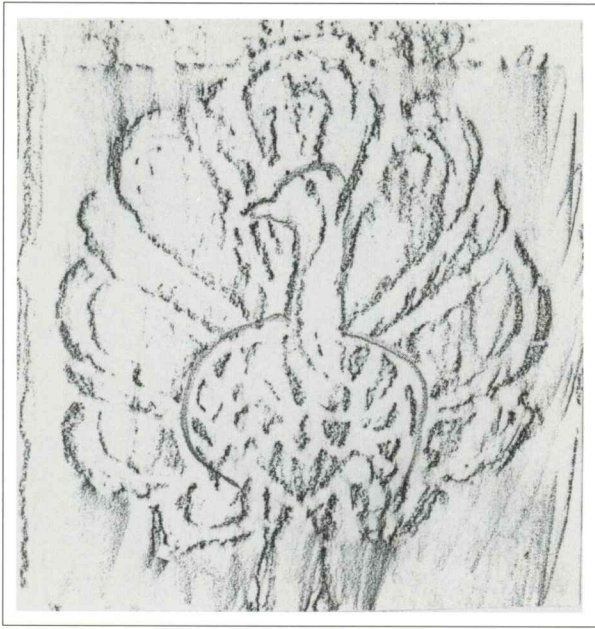
The daisy is the conventional symbol of the innocence of the Holy Child.



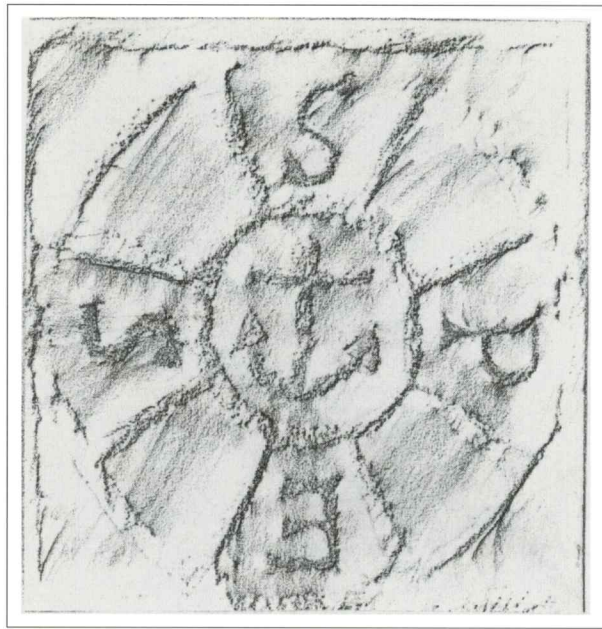
The serpent represents Satan. His symbol is to be placed where the pastor would step on it, and it would be crushed. This tile is found in several places.



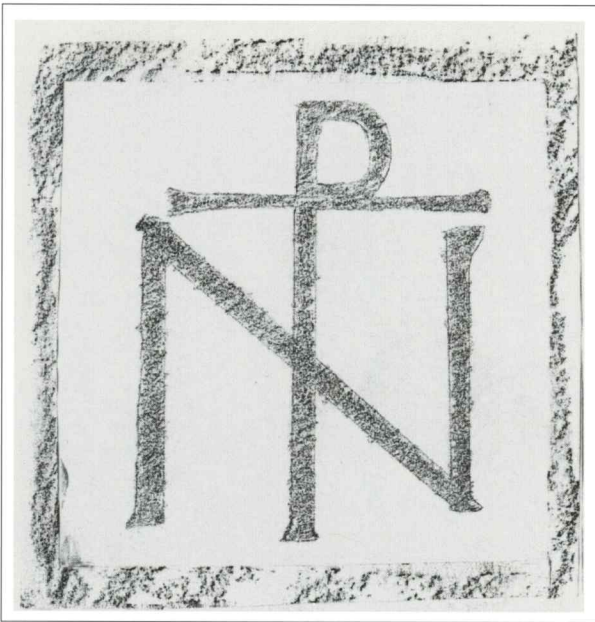
Fides is the Latin word for faith.



The peacock was an early symbol of the resurrection. When the peacock sheds his feathers, he grows more beautiful ones than he lost.



Spes is the Latin word for hope.



This is a monogram for Christ and stands for Christ the Victor.



This symbol is translated, "Be of good cheer I have overcome the world." This symbol is a combination of a Greek Cross, the first and last letters of the Greek words for Jesus Christ, plus the Greek word *nika*, which means victor. The curved lines over the *IC* and *XC* indicate that they are abbreviations.