

**PRESS RELEASE  
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**SCULPTOR BREAKS NEW GROUND**

Sculptor Alice Manzi has recently installed her most ambitious religious commission to date “The Annunciation” in a new church in Missouri.

The Art Committee at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Lee’s Summit, Missouri saw Alice’s work at the Form/Reform Conference in 2004. A visit was made to MANZI Studios in Porter Corners, NY in October of 2005 and work began on designing a piece on the subject of the angel Gabriel appearing to Mary to announce that she will give birth to Jesus. The Annunciation, most often depicted in paintings, is rarely if ever attempted in sculpture. Indeed, virtually all the Renaissance painters have at least one Annunciation in their bodies of work.

The Gabriel figure, at 3/4 life size, was carved from high density urethane foam, and the lamination of the 2" thick foam sections allowed the placement of a steel chest plate and pipe to facilitate installation in the church niche ceiling. The piece was given a hard shell coating prior to painting. The Mary figure, at life size, was cast in bonded Carrara marble at Sculpture House Casting in New York City. The use of non traditional materials and the placement and gestures of the individual figures make this work a truly ground breaking piece.

Ms. Manzi has written a lengthy article about the research and creation of the Annunciation for ML Magazine. She was assisted in this effort by liturgical consultant Bob Rambusch and artist Nancy Lee Chinn. Upon seeing photos of the completed Annunciation Ms. Chinn wrote an impressive critique of the work. This was the final paragraph;

“It is exciting to find brave artists like Alice who can also explore such new technology to make new presentations of these old themes come alive in new ways. Do we not all yearn to know God more fully? This is good, good work on many levels.”

The full article with photos is expected to appear in a future issue of *Ministry and Liturgy*.

Ms. Manzi has recently completed a memorial for Ottawa, Canada, and is currently at work on a statue of St. Clare for a retirement center in Chicago.