

# The Holy Family Jesus, Mary and Joseph

The Holy Family has long been a subject of devotion and inspiration, and has lent its name to the number of pious associations and religious institutions. The Holy Family sculpture in an ambulatory shrine was created by Jerzy Kenar of Chicago.

Kenar was born in Iwonicz Zdroj, Poland in 1948. There he studied sculpture at the Academy of Fine Arts in Gdansk. In 1973 he left Poland and immigrated to Sweden. Within six years he moved to the United States.

Kenar has collaborated with more than 100 churches throughout the nation, specializing in figurative sculpture, sacral design (sanctuaries), and liturgical furnishings. His creations are often interactive and child friendly. The shrine sculpture welcomes the viewer to sit and touch. Kenar states that his goal is for his work “not only to be appreciated by the everyday viewer, but first, and foremost, by the future generations to come – the children.



The artist is highly opposed to common social “spoon feeding,” choosing instead to subtly express the poetry of his liturgical creations. He allows for a profound imprint, and sacred personal impact upon the viewer.

Kenar has received honors for his work from various international educational institutions, among them being the noted Holy Water Font for Mary De Strada Chapel at Loyola University in Chicago. In the year 2000, *Ministry & Liturgy* magazine granted him top honors with two BENE awards in the Permanent Category of Visual Arts for his creations of “Resurrection”, and “Saint Francis with Screen,” and an additional honorable mention for a “Holy Family.”

Kenar continues to exhibit his personal art and liturgical creations throughout the country, working primarily in wood, bronze, acrylic, and stone.