

## **Mary, Mother of the Life Within**

### **A Statue Rich in Symbolism**

Given the visceral and volatile nature of the abortion issue, it was the artist's intention to address it in a wholly positive way. The aim was to inspire contemplation by highlighting those things that are transcendent about motherhood and the beauty of children. In so doing, it is hoped that all people of good will could unite on common ground, regardless of their socio-political persuasion. Perhaps most importantly, it is hoped that the statue's message will help to incline someone considering an abortion towards a positive conclusion. He endeavored to sculpt the most beautiful and graceful statue he could, with an inner beauty and grace that manifest themselves in the outer forms. The following is an explanation of some of the main themes addressed in the sculpture:

*Outwardly a serene portrayal of motherhood, Mary's posture is also analogous to that of a pregnant woman cradling the baby within; the Infant's posture subtly suggests the fetal position of an unborn child. This is to show the inseparable connection between these dual phases of human life and development.*

*At the center of the statue is a dove symbolizing the Holy Spirit, the 'Lord, Giver of Life'. The head of the dove, located on the heart of the Infant, represents the unique soul present in every child. In turn, the head of the Infant rests on the heart of His Mother, whose gaze envelops them both. In this way the Holy Spirit, Infant, and Mother are integrated one with another. This establishes the beautiful, inherent, physical and spiritual connection of all mothers with their children.*

*Christ's head rests on Mary's heart, surrounded by a cross-halo with tear shaped accents signifying the trials of all those affected by abortion. Mary holds in her heart the suffering of the innocents. The Child is naked, completely dependent of His Mother's comfort and protection. His leg rests gently over her hand. This is to show that only with its mother's love will a baby be able to take its first step into the world and live the life it has been given.*

*The tilt of Mary's head and her features are purposefully reminiscent of Michelangelo's Pieta, but have a different nature. Instead of the sorrowful reality of her Son's death, this new statue shows Mary's deep and joyful contemplation of her Motherhood as she envelops her child in a protective, life-giving embrace. That gesture will eventually lead to Mary opening her arms – first to give Jesus to the world, and then to receive him back in His suffering and death. When seen in the light of why it was commissioned, this Pro-Life statue is truly a pieta in its own rite. The tie in is a strong one and is designed to be so.*

*The rosary on Mary's arm reminds us that this powerful prayer can change the world by leading the way in bringing an end to the suffering and division caused by the abortion issue; a throne of clouds alludes to classic images of the Assumption and Coronation.*