

BB

MOTION

PUBLIC WORKS

Transfiguration Parish was established in 1923 under the leadership of Father John B. Cotter. The original parish extended to Culver City on the west, including the area that is now St. Bernadette's Parish. The original Transfiguration Church was an old three-story structure on the northwest corner of Browning and Western Avenues, where all masses and social activities were held. In the 1920's that building was moved to the northeast corner of Van Ness and Santa Barbara (now named Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.), and a new church was built next door. This "new church" is the parish hall that is used today.

In 1937 the church building at 2515 W. Martin L. King Blvd. was erected. In the same year the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet arrived, and Transfiguration School opened with 150 students. Father Cotter won high recognition for the design of Transfiguration Church and the development of the new parish. Father James Buckley commissioned the magnificent mural of the Transfiguration of Christ, painted by Velda Buys Gately, which was mounted above the main altar in 1944. Father Earl Walker commissioned the beautiful mosaic behind the tabernacle. He also purchased the present main altar and the imported hand carved statues used at Christmas time. Extensive remodeling and renovation of the church, rectory, and grounds, eagerly financed by the parishioners through the Light of Hope capital campaign, distinguished the pastorship of Father Jarlath Dolan. The church bells were restored in 1991, a beautiful Pastoral Center created in 1993 and a shade canopy added to the hall in 1995.

In 2021, Archbishop José Gomez entrusted the Josephites with the pastoral care of Church of the Transfiguration. The Josephites - St. Joseph's Society of the Sacred Heart, is a religious community of Catholic priests and brothers, committed to serving the African American community through the proclamation of the Gospel and personal witness of members. The mission of the Josephites at Transfiguration kicked off with the appointment of Fr. Anthony Bozeman, S.S.J., as the first Josephite and African American pastor and more recently with the appointment of Fr. Godwin Akpan, S.S.J., as pastor in August 2022 who set the tone for the 100th Anniversary of Church of the Transfiguration in August 2023.

The intersection of Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd and Roxton Avenue holds a central location within the 10th Council District and the City of Los Angeles, serving as a daily touchpoint for many residents. In acknowledgement of the deep and lasting impact of the Church of the Transfiguration on the community, a lasting tribute to dedicate the intersection in honor of the work of the people of Transfiguration would further strengthen the bond between the church and the surrounding residents.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the intersection of Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd and Roxton Ave be named as "Church of the Transfiguration Square" in honor of the 101-year history of the Church of the Transfiguration, and that the Department of Transportation be directed to fabricate and install permanent ceremonial signs to this effect at this location, in consultation with Council District 10.

PRESENTED BY: _____

HEATHER HUTT

Councilmember, 10th District

SECONDED BY: _____

AUG 02 2024

OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CITY OF LOS ANGELES
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