

Craftsmanship | *Special Award of Merit*



The Annunciation at Ave Maria University *Ave Maria, Florida*

MIA Member Company:

Titan Stone, LLC
Pompano Beach, Florida
Stone Contractor



Other Project Team Members:

Marton Varo
Annunciation Sculptor
Ave Maria University
General Contractor
Curtain Wall Design & Consulting (CDC)
(MIA Member Company)
Stone Façade Engineering and Design
Stone:
Carrara Marble

Judges Comments:

“This is one of a kind sculptural work, which sustains with merit a strong trade of exceptional craftsmanship.”

“The ability to “see” sculpture (art) in a natural block of marble and execute that vision is to be acknowledged.”

“Great artistic design and implementation.”

Ave Maria University staged a world-wide competition to solicit a work of art for the main entry niche of its existing stone-clad Oratory. Carrara-based sculptor Marton Varo submitted a design of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary to be carved from White Carrara Marble quarried from the still-active Cave Michelangelo, from which the marble for St. Peter’s famous Pieta was extracted. To create this sculpture, Varo required over 120 tons of raw Carrara Marble blocks, which he selected from the quarry himself.

The configuration of the existing façade surround, projecting well beyond the face of the Oratory substrate, made it impossible to utilize a traditional crane configuration to hoist the sculpture. As such, Titan Stone and CDC devised a counter-balanced beam trolley projecting from below the end of the crane outward so that the 7 feet wide by 7-1/2 feet tall pieces once hoisted to level could then be moved horizontally into place under the overhanging stone. Titan was also forced to provide a great deal of perimeter field cutting to achieve proper alignment within these difficult constraints.