

Vermont jeweler's work installed in Chicago church

MANCHESTER — Manchester jeweler Carmel Furtado, owner of Leaves of Gold Gallery, has completed a commission for the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago, a sterling silver jewelry box measuring 2.5 inches in height and 4 inches in diameter and set with lapis, malachite, pearl, opal and garnet cabochons.

The box will be attached to the outstretched hand of a statue of St. Clare in the chapel of "Clare at Water Tower" a new retirement community in Chicago.

St. Clare took vows of poverty to follow St. Francis of Assisi. In art, she is always depicted offering her jewel box.

This statue is being installed in a chapel and the box, constructed with a lock and key, will be used to store communion hosts.

"It was a challenge to 'work larger' than most jewelry pieces. Two previous models

were done before I had the piece looking the way I wanted. But, it was freeing to be able to build a piece without the constrictions of formal jewelry design."

The commission came out of a meeting during Open Studio 2007 with liturgical sculptor Alice Manzi of Saratoga, N.Y. The formal dedication was held on Dec. 3.

"My jewelry and gift items are hand crafted and my goal is to create pieces that will be passed from one generation to the next. As a craftsperson of many years, I also work to encourage other artists by providing a venue for them to show their work and by teaching jewelry making to children and adults. I encourage people to visit not just to shop, but to visit my studio, chat and learn about the techniques I use."



St. Clare's jewel box, by Carmel Furtado

Printing imperfections present during scanning

