

# THE BREYDERT'S

They were acquainted from the early thirties when she was a practicing obstetrician in Leipzig, Germany, where he was getting his Ph.D. At that time they were both Lutherans, although she was born to a Jewish family. In 1935 they converted to Catholicism at the great Benedictine Abbey of Beuron. Because of his opposition to the Hitler regime he fled Germany to Norway in 1937. Soon she was obliged to close her office and in 1939 also left Germany. They met again in Belgium, were engaged and intended to emigrate to the USA which proved difficult. WWII had begun. Dr. Katharina Littauer received her visa and sailed away in February 1940. After spending more than a year in prison and different detention camps, Frederick was able to join her in NY. They were married on Christmas, 1941 and lived in New York for twenty five years, returning to their original professions. Retiring to Block Island.

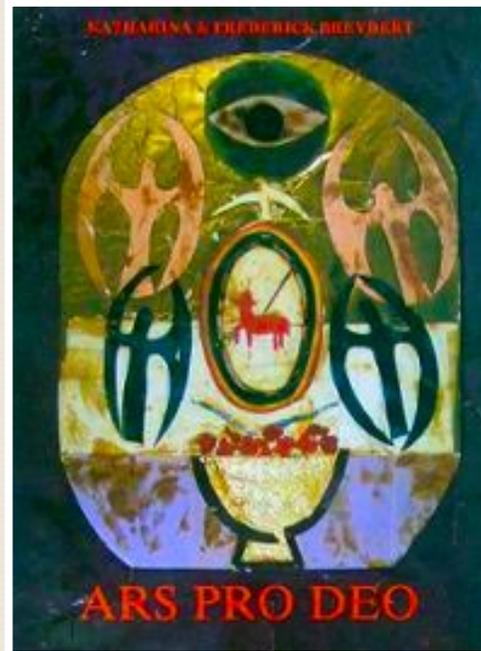
Their common art production, carried on until their deaths, started in Antwerp at a time of extreme existential suspense, with the first collages by Katharina. Frederick encouraged that artistic outlet which was also the expression of her deeper spiritual experience. Her compositions during those terrible war years came to life as "visual prayers" they had very often been seen during or after daily Mass - as supplication and intercession, praise and thanksgiving: her own way of testifying as a born-physician, a born-healer, to Christ's victory over suffering, misery and death. On the back of each collage she used to write a short explanation and she dedicated each of them to F.B.

Later on when the couple had settled in New York, they wanted to interpret the collage pictures in different media. Katharina was very good at embroidery and succeeded masterfully. The technique of mosaics, she had to learn, but soon she found there also a new and original form of expression. Then Frederick himself learned the Limoges-technique of "cloisonné" enamels and made a few beautiful pieces on silver. Finally an artist friend suggested they try stained glass windows! Those were done for St. Andrew Catholic Church and Parish Center, Block Island, RI. The first ones on the Biblical Creation were inaugurated in October 1978, one year before Katharina's death, the others completed by Frederick in the following years.

Katharina and Frederick Breydert were Oblates of Portsmouth Abbey, RI. They fervently and joyfully applied through their whole life the benedictine motto "Ora et Labora" meaning "pray and work." The latin title of this book was inspired by the title of an article on their work published in 1964.



*We invite you to meditate  
amidst these inspired pieces,  
to experience the Breydert's witness,  
the blessing of Christ's call.*



Excerpted from, "Art for God"  
*Forty years of religious art by  
Katharina Littauer-Breydert and  
Frederick Breydert (1939-1979)*  
© 1985, Claude Breydert and  
*The Church of St. Andrew, Block Island, RI*

# SAINT ANDREW ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



Art inspired by faith,  
Masterfully crafted for God.

Saint Andrew Parish  
is home to this remarkable  
one-of-a-kind stained-glass  
art installation!

Gifted to Saint Andrew Parish by:  
*Katharina and Frederick Breydert*



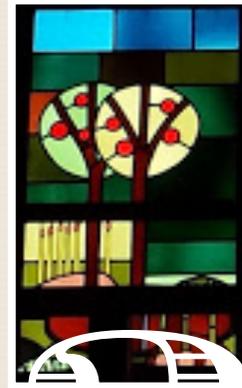
And God said,  
 “There shall be light”  
 And there was light on  
*the First Day*

1

And God said,  
 “Let us have  
 waters above and  
 the waters below and  
 between  
 the firmament”  
 And God called firmament  
*heaven*  
 and it was evening  
 and it was morning,  
*the Second Day*



2



3

Let the earth  
 bring forth  
 all sorts of trees,  
 each bearing  
 its own fruit & seeds,  
 all sorts of herbs,  
 bearing their own  
 fruits & seeds,  
*the Third Day*



Let there be bigger light  
 in the firmament  
 to rule over day  
 and to govern the seasons  
 and a lesser light  
 to govern the night  
 and also many stars,  
*the Fourth Day*

4

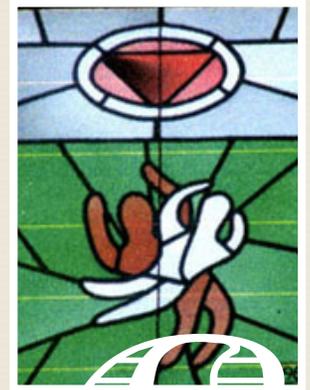
The creation  
 of fish & fowl  
 “Be fruitful and  
 multiply,”  
*the Fifth Day*



5



&



6

And God said:  
 “Let there be  
 creeping creatures  
 and cattle on earth “

And God said:  
 “Let us make an image  
 and likeness of ourselves,”  
*the Sixth Day*

# THE SIX DAYS OF CREATION

*Stained glass by* KATHARINA L. BREYDERT

*Text by* FREDERICK M. BREYDERT