

All of Sister Mary Charles's work came from her spiritual center. She said "I believe that creating art in any form is a way to bring harmony, balance, and healing into a world that is often chaotic and dissonant." She saw herself as a monastic woman artist who was challenged, on a daily basis, "to help save the world a bit through beauty and to glorify God through the work of my hands and heart." That work included a lifelong commitment to teaching and mentoring that often went beyond a classroom. A passionate advocate for peace and social justice, she wrote letters and took part in demonstrations. Always reflective, she remarked to a friend during an icon workshop, "I don't know why I've been given this time to work with all these beautiful images when others are out there working for peace and justice."

Sister Mary Charles answered that question with the work of her life. For her there was no other way to live but "to ask the God of love to work miracles of peace in all of our hearts, show us how to love one another, care for the earth, and give birth over and over to Jesus from the womb of our hearts."



*Sister Mary Charles painting her St. John icon at Subiaco Studio in the former St. Anthony's School, 2002*