

News from Bob Koeck, President

The Keck Group, Inc.

Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Paterson, NJ: 1200 feet of pews

The Keck Group was chosen for this project because we combined a new approach to alleviate the existing pew comfort issue.

With a strong background in modifying old historic pews built for smaller bodies of the early 1900's, The Keck Group used their former experience to create a more comfortable seating as requested by church goers in the 2000's.



"Finished backs new seats"

With the help of Dennis Rodano, Project Manager and Rebecca Ruiz-Alloa, Architect, both with the Diocese of Paterson, and Arthur Sikula, well known Architect from New York, the decision was made to use the Keck approach, and we were off to the races.



"Refinished confessional"



"Pew parts ready to be finished"

Instead of opting for the expensive new bodies (the intent had been to replace everything but the decorative ends), we offered the option of just replacing the seat with a wider, contoured new oak seat.

Visually, the restored pews would still retain the exact look as they have for the past 80 years, but the comfort factor would be updated to the 2000's. As you look down the church, the back capping and the backs themselves are original. Same nice old grain, while retaining the patina (beauty of age) so desired by the Architects.

Although the install date is still elusive because of the problems often uncovered during the restoration of a project of this magnitude, we are well underway at our facility in Middletown, NY.

All of the seats, backs, and ends have had the finish removed, and we are in the finishing stage. The newly manufactured contoured seats are now in house ready to be finished, the kneelers ordered, and we look forward to assembly and installation early in the new year.