



COURTESY OF CHRIS MORAN

Reverse City artist Chris Moran touches up a statue of St. Francis of Assisi. Moran recently completed a painting of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Painter turns from fast cars to holy images

By Chris Meehan

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Chris Moran once painted fast-moving race-car scenes in order to make a go of it as an artist.

As much as he enjoyed creating works for NASCAR, the Traverse City painter has these days turned his talents from blacktop tracks to a different realm.

From his studio in northern Michigan, the Detroit-area native devotes much of his time and skills to crafting replica and original paintings of saints and other sacred subjects.

Also, when asked, he will restore statues and sculptures.

"I made a lot of money working for NASCAR," said Moran, who recently completed a painting of Our Lady of

Guadalupe for the Cathedral of St. Augustine in Kalamazoo.

"But what I'm doing now is more of a calling, a religious thing. God led me this way."

Moran has artwork in churches and other facilities all over the country.

He has recently completed large, colorful murals for St. Martin Catholic Church in Vicksburg.

The Most Rev. James Murray, bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Kalamazoo, officiated at a service last weekend at which the new painting was dedicated.

The service was held on Dec. 11, commemorating the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, who has been declared "Empress and Patroness of America" by Pope John Paul II.

Please see PAINTER, E2



Our Lady of Guadalupe, painted by artist Chris Moran, is now displayed at the Cathedral of St. Augustine in Kalamazoo.