

PRESS DOSSIER

Timothy Schmalz

Rome, March, 2026

CONTENT

1. Glossary of Translations	1
2. Timothy P. Schmalz	2
2.1. Early Life, Style and Themes	2
2.2. Artistic Career	2
2.3. Creative Purpose	3
2.4. Major Works	5
2.5. Artist Pictures	6
3. Website & Social Media	7
4. Press Highlights	7
5. Main Sculptures	8
5.1. Homeless Jesus (2013)	8
5.2. Angels Unawares (2019)	10
5.3. Mary, Untier of Knots (2019)	12
5.4. The Dante Garden (2021)	14
5.5. Sheltering (2022)	15
5.6. Life Monument (2023)	17
5.7. Let The Oppressed Go Free (2023)	18
5.8. Be Welcoming (2024)	19
6. Press Contact	22

1. Glossary of Translations

EN	ES	IT	FR
Homeless Jesus	Jesús Homeless o Jesús sin techo	Gesù senzatetto	Jésus sans abri
Angels Unawares	Ángeles sin saberlo	Angeli inconsapevoli	Anges inconscients
The Dante Garden	El Jardín de Dante	Il Giardino di Dante	Le Jardin de Dante
Mary, Untier of Knots	Virgen desatanudos	Maria che scioglie i nodi	Marie qui défait les nœuds
Sheltering	Refugio	Rifugio	Abri
13 Houses Campaign	Campaña 13 Casas	Campagna 13 Case	Campagne « 13 Maisons »
World Day Of The Poor	Jornada Mundial De Los Pobres	Giornata Mondiale Dei Poveri	Journée Mondiale Des Pauvres
Life Monument	Monumento a la Vida	Monumento per la Vita	Monument à la Vie
Let The Oppressed Go Free	Dejar en libertad a los oprimidos	Rimandare liberi gli oppressi	Renvoie libres les opprimés
Be Welcoming	Sean acogedores	Siate accoglienti	Soyez accueillants

2. Timothy P. Schmalz

Timothy Paul Schmalz is a globally recognized Canadian artist whose bronze sculptures blend religious devotion with social awareness, inviting viewers to reflect on compassion, dignity, and the human condition.

2.1. Early Life, Style, and Themes

Timothy Schmalz was born in 1969 in Elmira, Ontario, Canada, and is based in St. Jacobs, Ontario. He began sculpting at a young age and has developed a career of more than three decades creating figurative bronze work. He is internationally known for his large-scale bronze sculptures that explore religious themes, social justice, and human dignity.

Schmalz's work bridges traditional religious iconography and contemporary social issues. He conceives many pieces as *visual prayers*, aiming to communicate spiritual truths in a universal language through sculpture.

2.2. Artistic Career

Timothy Schmalz is a world-renowned figurative sculptor who has spent communicating Gospel truths and the inherent dignity of the human person through authentic, large-scale bronze art for more than 30 years. Some of his most recognized pieces, conceived as 'visual ambassadors', are strategically placed in iconic locations worldwide. Schmalz's masterpieces are designed to arrest the passerby, shattering indifference by translating the Bible into the physical realm.

Schmalz's work has a notable presence in the heart of the Catholic Church. Copies of his sculptures are installed at major Christian pilgrimage sites, including Capernaum, Fatima, and the Vatican itself. Multiple works have been blessed by *Pope Francis*, and he has been described by some commentators as a contemporary interpreter of the Church's concerns through art.

This mission has garnered recognition from three pontiffs. His portfolio includes sculptures blessed by Pope Benedict XVI, who championed the *Via Pulchritudinis* (the Way of Beauty) as a bridge to the divine. This tradition of artistic excellence continues

with the support of Pope Francis, who has blessed several of Schmalz's most iconic works—including Homeless Jesus, Angels Unawares, Sheltering, and Mary Untier of Knots. Furthermore, the sculptor's dedication to social justice echoes the landmark teachings of Pope Leo XIV, reinforcing the role of sacred art as a catalyst for human solidarity.

Beyond these spiritual themes, some of Schmalz's works include monuments that honor veterans and firefighters, connecting with viewers through intricate details that allow them to feel "a part" of the piece. Through these visual translations, Timothy Schmalz ensures that sacred art remains one of the most potent instruments of evangelization in the modern world.

Discover more of Timothy Schmalz through this [studio video](#) produced in 2021. Also, a documentary entitled [Angels Unawares](#) about the work of Timothy Schmalz was released by Agoras Media in April 2025. The film was directed by veteran documentary filmmaker Nicolas Rossier.

2.3. Creative Purpose

Timothy admits without hesitation: "My mind, heart, and soul are focused on glorifying God through works of art." Schmalz is committed to and determined to renew devotional sculpture, creating works that celebrate, promote, and preserve our faith. He draws on Renaissance iconography and constantly seeks new interpretations and perspectives that make people reflect, feel, and believe. "I do everything I can to see a concept from a new perspective. I believe that this is how we can find creative ways to celebrate the Creator."

The artist draws on, as he describes it, "epic themes to create epic art." Large bronze sculptures—monumental in size—that, as he likes to say, "visually translate the Bible." Some have become landmarks. "I believe that if I am able to create a sculpture with both beauty and intensity, it will lead many people to the Word of God," he adds.

Schmalz is not satisfied with just one copy of the works; he wants them to be wherever they are needed, wherever they have something to say, wherever faith is necessary in the streets. He often emphasizes sculpture's ability to "stop people in their tracks" and invite contemplation. He frequently draws inspiration from Scripture and from encounters with real-world suffering — such as the image of a homeless man that motivated [Homeless Jesus](#) — aiming to make invisible people and struggles visible through art.

Timothy Schmalz describes his sculptures as being visual prayers. When he creates three-dimensional pieces in bronze, he is quite aware that they will outlast him. He realizes he coexists with two things, Christianity and bronze metal, which are much more durable. It is between these that he has developed a subtle appreciation for what Saint Francis of Assisi meant by “instrument”.

When his sculptures are installed outside, it brings him happiness. Three-dimensional bronze works of art are excellent advertisements for any Christian Church. The best compliment these sculptures receive is to amaze and fascinate the most cynical youths of today. If they think that the art is amazing, they will have to think that the message is as well”. My purpose is to give Christianity as much visual dignity as possible. Christian sculptures are like visual sermons twenty-four hours a day.

Saint Gregory the Great wrote that “art is for the illiterate”. The use of images was an extremely effective way to educate the general population. Our contemporary culture is in the same state today, not because of illiteracy, but because people are too busy to read. In this world of fast-paced schedules and sound bites, Christian art creates “visual bites” that introduce needed spiritual truths in a universal language.

Christian sculpture serves many as a gateway to the Gospel and to the viewer’s own spirituality. After looking at an interesting piece of art, the viewer is curious. “Who is the man on a cross? Why does he suffer?” The more powerful the representation of the art, the more powerful the questions become. Creating art that has the power to convert. Creating sculpture that deepens our spirituality. Attaining these two goals describes his purpose as an artist.



2.4. Major Works

- [Homeless Jesus](#) – Perhaps his most famous work, depicting Jesus as a homeless person sleeping on a park bench. Installed originally at Regis College in Toronto in 2013, this powerful image has been replicated in dozens of cities worldwide and was notably blessed and displayed at St. Peter's Basilica.
- [Angels Unawares](#) – A monumental bronze installed in St. Peter's Square in the Vatican. It depicts migrants and refugees from varied cultures and was blessed by *Pope Francis*.
- [Sheltering](#) – A life-size sculpture in St. Peter's Square dedicated to the homeless that combines the figure of a person with a symbolic dove covering them.
- [Let the Oppressed Go Free](#) – A powerful depiction of St. Josephine Bakhita freeing victims of human trafficking, also blessed by the Pope.
- [Matthew 25 Series](#) – A group of works based on the biblical passage that calls viewers to see Christ in the marginalized.
- [The Dante Sculpture Garden](#) – A large outdoor project illustrating all 100 cantos of *Dante Alighieri's Divine Comedy* surrounding a statue of Dante at the University of St. Michael's College in Toronto.

2.5. Artist Pictures



3. Website & Social Media

- 3.1.1. [Website](#)
- 3.1.2. [LinkedIn](#)
- 3.1.3. [Instagram](#)
- 3.1.4. [Facebook](#)
- 3.1.5. [YouTube](#)

4. Press Highlights

- 4.1.1. [The Visual Prayers of Timothy Schmalz](#)
- 4.1.2. [The sculptor of 'Homeless Jesus' talks faith, art and social justice](#)

5. Main Sculptures

5.1. Homeless Jesus (2013)



The sculpture Homeless Jesus is a visual representation of Matthew 25. The sculpture suggests that Christ is with the most marginalized in our society. The figure of Christ is wrapped in a blanket with his face covered, and the only indication that it is Jesus are the visible wounds on his feet.

The life-size version of the work offers enough space for someone to sit on the bench and is cast in bronze, measuring 36" H x 84" L x 24" D. Canadian sculptor Timothy Schmalz created this work in 2013 as a way to denounce the situation of homeless people. The original work is located at Regis College at the University of Toronto. Subsequently, nearly a hundred replicas were placed around the world. In Spain, there is a copy in the Almudena Cathedral (Madrid) and in the Church of Santa Ana (Barcelona).

Basic Information of the sculpture:

Name: "Homeless Jesus"

Artist: Timothy P. Schmalz

Material: Bronze

Dimensions: 2,13 meters (length) x 0,91 meters (width) x 0,61 meters (height)

Weight: 450 kg

Location: Regis College, University of Toronto (Toronto, Canada); Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development (Vatican City, Italy); Christ Church Cathedral (Dublin, Ireland); St. John the Divine Cathedral (New York, United States); Catholic Charities (Washington D.C., United States); Cathedral of

the Good Shepherd (Singapore); Holy Magdalena Church (Bruges, Belgium); St. George's Tron Church (Glasgow, Scotland); Sant'Egidio (Antwerp, Belgium); St. Anne's Square (Manchester, England); Church of Sant'Egidio (Rome, Italy); Capernaum (Israel); Almudena Cathedral (Madrid, Spain), Church of Santa Ana (Barcelona, Spain).

Pictures: [More pictures](#)



5.2. Angels Unawares (2019)



[Angels Unawares](#) is inspired by the biblical quotation from Hebrew 13:2: “*Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained **Angels Unawares.***” The sculpture was blessed by **Pope Francis** and installed at St. Peter's Square in 2019.

The silicon bronze sculpture called **Angels Unawares** was made by Canadian artist **Timothy Schmalz**. It depicts a group of migrants and refugees from different cultural and racial backgrounds and from diverse historical periods of time. Within this diverse crowd of people, angel wings can be seen emerging from the center, suggesting the presence of the sacred.

Timothy Schmalz wanted to highlight that “People from different cultures, different races, all work together like a tapestry. And it is intentional that they are all clustered together to show unity. The beautiful thing is that I can also show all the emotions that people must experience when coming to a new place: the losses, but also the joy, the celebration, and the happiness.”

Basic Information of the sculpture:

Name: "Angels Unawares"

Artist: Timothy P. Schmalz

Material: Bronze

Dimensions: 6,15 meters (length) x 2,1 meters (width) x 3,3 meters (height)

Weight: 3,8 tons

Location: [St. Peter's Square](#), Vatican City (2019), [The Catholic University of America](#), Washington DC, USA (2020), [Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal](#), Montreal, Canada (2022)

Pictures: [More pictures](#)

Web: www.angelsunawares.org



5.3. Mary, Untier of Knots (2019)



The sculpture "**Mary, Untier of Knots**" is an allegory of human difficulties, symbolized as knotted ribbons, which the Virgin unties and unties like a mother helping her children.

The sculpture is the work of Canadian artist **Timothy Schmalz**, is known worldwide for his works "**Homeless Jesus**," present in more than 140 cities around the world, and "**Angels Unawares**," installed and blessed by **Pope Francis** in 2019 in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican.

On July 27th 2022, Pope Francis blessed the sculpture of "Mary, Untier of Knots" during his apostolic visit to Canada. The work was a **gift for the indigenous peoples**. The blessing took place after the Liturgy of the Word celebrated by the Supreme Pontiff during his pilgrimage to Lac Saint Anne in Alberta, Canada.

Basic Information of the sculpture:

Name: "Mary, Untier of Knots"

Artist: Timothy P. Schmalz

Material: Bronze

Dimensions: 2,4 meters (tall)

Location: Lake Sainte Anne, Alberta, Canada

Pictures: [More pictures](#)



Pope Francis blessed the sculpture during his apostolic visit to Canada.

Video of the creative process: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XphQO6omCkU>

5.4. The Dante Garden (2021)

To commemorate the 700 year anniversary of Dante in 2021, Timothy Schmalz has created a sculpture of each of the 100 cantos in the Divine Comedy. Included in the project is a life-size sculpture of Dante in exile.

Each sculpture highlights one of the most interesting scenes from the canto, creating a visual read of the epic poem, which is widely considered the greatest work in the Italian language. The culmination of this work can be celebrated through a walk in the Dante sculpture garden which is located on the campus of the University of Toronto at St. Michael's College in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Basic Information of the sculpture:

Name: "The Dante Garden" (also referred to as *The Dante Sculpture Garden*)

Artist: Timothy P. Schmalz

Material: Bronze

Dimensions: The installation consists of 100 individual bronze panels; each panel is roughly about 2 ft tall × 1 ft wide (page-like reliefs representing each canto of *The Divine Comedy*), arranged around a life-size central sculpture of Dante.

Location: St. Michael's College in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Pictures: www.dantesculpture.com

Video of the creative process: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4S-9RFhekOg>



5.5. Sheltering (2022)



The "[Sheltering](#)" sculpture was conceived to shed light on the problem of homelessness in the world and to promote practical solutions in line with the mission of the [13 Houses Campaign](#), an initiative of the worldwide Vincentian Family. The **Vincentian Family** is a movement of different religious congregations, lay associations and charitable organizations inspired by the life and work of **St. Vincent de Paul**.

Pope Francis blessed "Sheltering", on the 9th of November 2022, a few days before the **Sixth World Day of the Poor**. The work was given to the Vincentian Family's, [FamVin Homeless Alliance](#) (FHA)¹, with the goal of ending homelessness and changing the lives of the 1.2 billion people who live without a place to call home around the world. "Sheltering" is a life-size bronze sculpture depicting the figure of a homeless person covered by a blanket pulled by a pigeon in flight.

¹ **About Famvin Homeless Alliance and 13 houses Campaign.** The Famvin Homeless Alliance (FHA) is a Vincentian Family initiative supporting established and emerging homelessness programs across the globe. Our vision is a world where everyone has a place to call home and a stake in their community. The FHA was set up in 2017 to mark the 400th anniversary of the Vincentian Charism and is managed by Depaul International. The Vincentian Family is a global Catholic movement rooted in the spirituality and example of Saint Vincent de Paul and Saint Louise de Marillac, with a membership of over two million people. Currently, the 13 houses Campaign is present in 60 countries, with 92 projects, 2311 houses built and 8643 people supported. More information: <https://vfhomelessalliance.org/c13h>

The sculpture is the work of Canadian artist **Timothy Schmalz**, who wanted to highlight the plight of the homeless, offer them comfort, and promote practical solutions such as the Vincentian Family 13 Houses Campaign. While talking about the reasons for creating the sculpture, Schmalz said, *"It is everyone's job to provide the homeless with a roof over their heads. To make them visible and address their needs."*

Basic Information of the sculpture:

Name: "Sheltering"

Artist: Timothy P. Schmalz

Material: Bronze

Dimensions: 167,7 cm × 85,6 cm × 76 cm

Weight: 120 kg

Location: The Motherhouse of the Congregation of the Mission in Paris

Pictures: [More pictures](#)



Pope Francis blessed "Sheltering", on the 9th of November 2022, a few days before the Sixth World Day of the Poor.

Video of the creative process: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XphQQ6omCkU>

5.6. Life Monument (2023)

“The power of art, when it’s at its best, is to create awareness in a very subtle and beautiful way to a whole society. The importance of creating art, not for its own sake, but for God’s sake, and to use art to bring out issues that are oftentimes invisible, like the idea of the fetus in the womb. So, to create this piece will do a great job in bringing awareness of the beauty and sacredness of life.”

Timothy Schmalz

The National Life Monument is a large bronze and stainless-steel public sculpture celebrating the beauty and sacredness of human life and the Woman at the center of this life force. The Life Monument has enabled various methods of raising awareness of the dignity of all human life. Through this sculpture we are all called to see the value of life and the beauty of a mother’s tender love for the child in her womb, whom she is nearly ready to give to the world.

Basic Information of the sculpture:

Name: "Life Monument"

Artist: Timothy P. Schmalz

Material: Bronze (with polished stainless steel interior element)

Dimensions: 4,3 meters (high)

Weight: 4,080 kg

Location: The Catholic University of America’s Theological College in Washington, D.C., USA.

Pictures: [More pictures](#)



5.7. Let The Oppressed Go Free (2023)



[“Let the oppressed go free”](#) is inspired by the biblical quotation from Isaiah 58:6: *“Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed[a] go free, and to break every yoke?”*

It shows the victims of human trafficking, their struggle, and their joy when they were freed by Saint Josephine Bakhita, who suffered from slavery more than a century ago. Because this problem has always been there, buried in the dark. And it still is. That is why author **Timothy Schmalz** puts real faces to victims of a timeless drama —a newborn baby, a woman forced into prostitution, child soldiers, even his daughter.

The sculpture is the work of Canadian artist **Timothy Schmalz**, who wanted to highlight the scourge of human trafficking at a global level. *“This sculpture has a strong message and was designed to disrupt people's daily lives and make them think about human trafficking. This work not only has a religious message but also reveals a protest message for those who come by it around the city,”* said Schmalz.

Basic Information of the sculpture:

Name: "Be Welcoming"

Artist: Timothy P. Schmalz

Material: Bronze

Dimensions: 1,54 meters (length) x 92 cm (width) x 1,32 meters (height)

Weight: 215 kg

Location: [Church of Saint Francis](#), Schio, Italy and also a miniature in [St. Patrick's Cathedral](#), NYC, USA.

Pictures: [More pictures](#)



Cardinal Parolin blessed the sculpture in Schio, Italy (2023).



In 2023, Cardinal Dolan blessed a miniature sculpture in St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York.

5.8. Be Welcoming (2024)



A must-see stop on the Camino de Santiago

"Be not forgetful to entertain strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares"
Letter to the Hebrews 13:2

Inspired by the theme "being welcoming" from the Letter to the Hebrews, "Be Welcoming" is an invitation to welcome those who most often endure the indifference of others.

At first glance, the sculpture depicts the figure of a pilgrim. However, as one goes around it and changes perspective, a new image emerges: an angel with an outstretched hand welcoming the pilgrim.

"The sculpture is a monument to all those pilgrims who - over many centuries - walked this 'Camino' looking for the angel hidden within them."
Timothy Paul Schmalz

Basic Information of the sculpture:

Name: "Be Welcoming"

Artist: Timothy P. Schmalz

Material: Bronze

Dimensions: 1,54 meters (length) x 92 cm (width) x 1,32 meters (height)

Weight: 215 kg

Location: Chapel of San Roque de San Pedro Melide

Pictures: [More pictures](#)



6. Press Contact

Stephen Caruso

Account Executive

La Machi - Communication for Good Causes

stephen.caruso@lamachi.com

Mobile: +1 561.343.0982

Barcelona: Muntaner 479, Ático 3º (08021)

Buenos Aires: Grecia 3394, 1º44 (C1429BDJ)

Rome: Via Boezio, 4/C (00193)

Miami: 777 Brickell Ave., Suite 1210 (33131)