Jesus the Homeless, by Timothy Schmalz

reviewed by Richard A. Kauffman in the May 29, 2013 issue



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In an era when homeless people can be seen sleeping on city sidewalks and park benches, Canadian artist Timothy Schmalz wanted to convey the idea that Jesus too was homeless. It was said of him: "The Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." Schmalz didn't anticipate that his sculpture would be controversial. St. Michael's Cathedral in Toronto and St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York expressed interest in displaying the work but were overruled by diocesan officials. Schmalz said he was told that the image was not "appropriate." Schmalz is negotiating with another church in New York City for a permanent home.