

THE TWIN SPIRES

**The Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Savannah, GA
June 2011**



Potty for a Price Cleans Up Again



Monica Kerr (above) was the Chair for the event. At left, Carol Ray (L) and Sarah Aliffi-Baez sell tickets.



This year's Potty for a Price was the most successful ever as it has become a very popular fund raiser in town on St. Patrick's Day. As well as bringing a giggle and much needed service to all, many former Cathedral School students, teachers and retired Sisters stop by to remember their happy years in the building. In addition to the bathrooms, the nursery was also open for the needs of new mothers, nursing mothers and they even had a changing table for babies. It cost one dollar to use the facilities, or \$5 for usage anytime during the Parade. Children were of course free. This year's project raised almost \$3,000 to support CCW projects.

The CCW has been hosting a couple of "Breaking Bread" events each month. A Coffee and Donuts continental breakfast served after the 8 a.m. and 10a.m. Masses on the first Sunday of the month and the Parish Covered Dish Suppers, held on the third Wednesday of each month, give us all a chance to enjoy our fellow parishioners up close and personal.

Throughout the first quarter the CCW continued to meet their commitment to provide and prepare food for the Social Apostolate and established a new effort to collect old eye glasses, for the Mercy and Goodness Foundation, which will be sent to Africa. They also refurbished the Rectory family room and the dining room, replanted the flower boxes in front of the Rectory and are presently improving the Parish Hall.

The next big event will be the 6th Annual Rummage Sale on Saturday, September 10, 2011, at the Parish Center from 8:00 a.m. —1:00 p.m. Last year's rummage sale was a huge success with

record breaking sales! We are very thankful to the Cathedral parishioners for their donations. Everyone walked away with a treasure and a smile on their face. Funds raised from this year's Rummage Sale will be used for a special project at the Rectory. Drop off dates: 6/26, 7/31, 8/28 & 9/4, between 8 a.m. — 1 p.m.

Carter Bathroom Kudos

CCW recently received the following letter:

ROSALYNN CARTER

2 May 2011

Dear Friends,

I read in the March issue of the Twin Spires that you have renovated the Rosalynn Carter Guest Bathroom on the Second Floor Rectory. I am delighted to know that I have a bathroom named after me!

Ms. AnaLisa Marcantonio, a first grade teacher at Pulaski Elementary School in Savannah, sent me the newsletter. She had shared the story with her students, who had been studying about Jimmy, and thought I might like it, too.

Thank you for the renovation and for keeping the Peacock Painting. It is beautiful. If I get to Savannah any time soon; I'll visit "my bathroom."

Sincerely,

Rosalynn Carter

Say it with Flowers, A Tribute to Brother Robert



Brother Robert Sokolowski, S.M., is officially the Pastoral Assistant at the Cathedral but those of you who have been members of St. John the Baptist Parish for a number of years know that he is much more than that. He transferred to the Cathedral Parish in 1988 and since then we have all been the beneficiaries of his hard work. His responsibilities include everything concerning the physical facilities of the Cathedral as well as its aesthetic environment. We have him to thank for the decorations that make the Cathedral so beautiful at Christmas and Easter, as well as other special days during the year.

Brother Robert has been very pleased at the reaction to his work, not only from the people in the parish, but the entire City of Savannah. Over 18,000 people visit the Cathedral each year during the Christmas season to see the beautiful decorations. Many people make an annual pilgrimage from around the diocese and snowbirds from up north regularly stop in Savannah, en route to Florida, to see our beautiful Cathedral decorated for the season. Southern Living magazine carried an article, complete with pictures, about Brother Robert and the Cathedral Christmas decorations a few years ago.

He finds decorating the Cathedral for the Easter Season the most challenging assignment of all his yearlong activities. "But

when the lights come up at the Gloria during the Easter Vigil Mass, to reveal the Cathedral in all its splendor, I have a very great sense of personal satisfaction," he said.

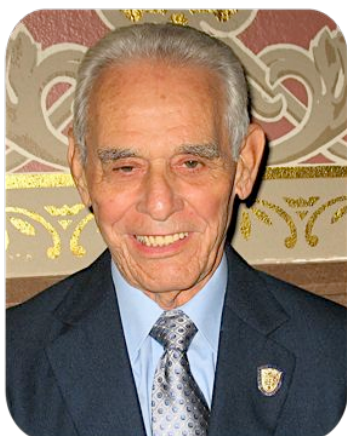
In recognition of Brother Robert's 70th birthday, members of various churches in Savannah and beyond, both Catholic and other faith traditions, came together to produce a floral tribute. It was on display in the Cathedral over the weekend of May 28–29, 2011 in appreciation of how he has enriched our lives over these past 23 years. What better way to express our appreciation to Brother Robert for his talent and inspiration that have enhanced the beauty of the Cathedral for so many years. He has also shared his knowledge to bring the same beauty and inspiration to other churches. It was fitting that so many church members on floral committees joined together to install elaborate floral designs in the Cathedral to celebrate his birthday. There were 14 arrangements in all from the following churches: Blessed Sacrament, Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Sacred Heart, St. Anne from Richmond Hill, St. James, St. Joseph from Macon, St. Frances Cabrini, St. Peter the Apostle, Calvary Baptist, Christ Church Anglican, Christ Church Episcopal, Skidaway Island Presbyterian, St. John's Episcopal and Wesley Monumental United Methodist. Brother Robert was overwhelmed by this beautiful floral tribute.

MANY OPPORTUNITIES



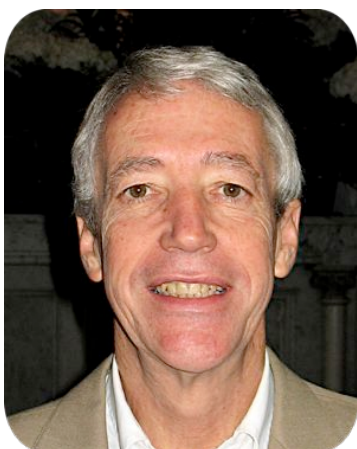
Christian Service Committee

Karen Stack and her husband Tom moved here from North Carolina and joined the Cathedral Parish in 2000 after encountering Msgr. O'Neill after Mass. She has been a member of the Christian Service Committee for the past 5 years and was instrumental in putting together the Personal Hygiene packets for the Social Apostolate. "It feels good to do something for people who really need some of the basics like a cake of soap and a toothbrush or food. We help in that category, too! I just love our group and our mission to help our less fortunate brothers and sisters."



Usher

Julius Gaudry was born in Savannah and grew up in the shadows of the Twin Spires. Baptized and married in the Cathedral, he traces his lineage back to the French Catholics who founded the original Congrégation de Saint Jean-Baptiste, in the early 1800's. He has been an usher for the past 5 years at the 10 a.m. Mass and is always the first one to arrive. He recently greeted a visitor by name. The woman was so impressed that she wrote a letter to Monsignor O'Neill expressing her appreciation "for the great good he has done in saying such a small and simple thing, 'Welcome back, Mary'." Monsignor O'Neill commented "Congratulations and hats off to Julius. He is what a good usher should be."



Tour Guide

Pete Connolly moved to Savannah 4 years ago from Albany, NY, after attending a business conference here. He learned about becoming a Tour Guide at the last Ministry Fair. Pete is pleased to have time to volunteer and give back

something of himself. "I really

enjoy seeing the wonder on faces of the tourists as they come into the Cathedral. Interacting with people from all over the country and the world is exciting and telling them about our beautiful church is very gratifying."



Parish Life

Norene Buckstine agreed to Monsignor O'Neill's request to assume responsibility as Chair Person for the Parish Life Ministry. Norene and her husband Ernie relocated to Savannah from New Jersey in 2009. They chose the Cathedral as their church

because it is such a majestic and

spiritual place to worship God. Consistent with the inscription on the Cathedral's altar, "Blessed are they who are called to the Banquet of the Lamb," Norene hopes to convey a message to both new and existing parishioners that "All are welcomed to this banquet since we are all one body, one community, in Christ."

TO SERVE THE LORD



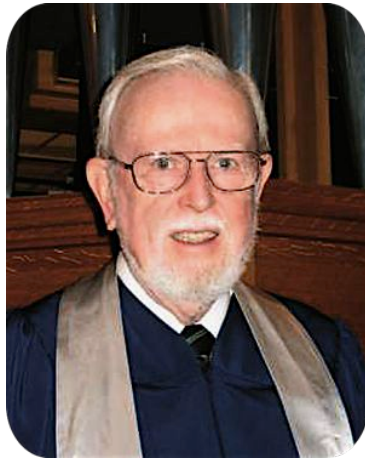
Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion

Jackie Pryor and her husband John moved here from Massachusetts 6 years ago and decided to become parishioners after attending their first Mass at the Cathedral. According to Jackie, "I felt unworthy and inadequate becoming an Extraordinary Minister, but it has been an opportunity for great spiritual growth. When I raise the Host and declare, 'The Body of Christ', there is a moment of spiritual intimacy when two sets of eyes, focused on the Host, meet and the Communicant affirms our shared belief with an 'Amen'. I am so grateful and humbled to serve our parish in this capacity."



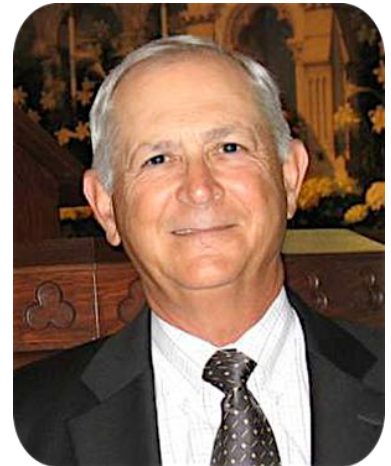
Council of Catholic Women

Mary Downs joined the CCW in the fall of 2004 after reading a notice in the Bulletin. "Becoming a member of the CCW has been spiritually rewarding as I receive more than I give. We have a great group of women in the CCW. We all get along, work well together and enjoy special occasions; they feel like an extension of my own family. Most importantly, I have grown spiritually by doing God's work. Becoming a member, I feel more a part of the Cathedral parish family," commented Mary.



Choir

Joe Ryan became a member of the Cathedral Men's Choir when he was a cadet at Benedictine back in 1956, because he loved to sing. The highs and lows of the music sometimes stirs strong emotions in him. "Singing for the installation of 3 different Bishops was a triple highpoint and I especially love singing at Christmas time. It was also a thrill to sing with my father, my uncle, and my best friend in the choir at the same time. Being in the Cathedral Choir has been a joyful experience" said Joe. And when Mass is over, Joe takes off his choir robe and dons a cassock, as he is an altar server at the next Mass.



Lector

During his last tour at Fort Stewart, Nick Perkins' wife said she could stay here forever so, after spending 35 years in the U. S. Army they settled in Savannah about 3 years ago. "A friend of ours mentioned that Judy Roddy went to the Cathedral and liked it, so we attended Mass and decided to join. I believe that being a member of the church, one should be willing to serve. So I decided to use my communication skills to serve the Lord and having been a Lector before, I signed up to read the Word again at the last Ministry Fair," said Nick.

ANNUAL WALK FOR LIFE DRAWS MANY

By Gretchen K. Reese



Above, Birney Bull and Geraldine Pufahl. Left, Philomena Cubbedge (daughter of Will and Lydia) and her friend Amber.

The Annual Walk for Life, which supports the Savannah Care Center, was held Saturday, April 16, 2011. On a lovely spring day, many families and parishioners of our parish gathered in Forsyth Park to celebrate the Annual Walk for Life. Bright turquoise balloons followed the walkers on two trips around the park. The Walk for Life raised over \$10,000 for the Care Center and Cathedral of St. John the Baptist

parishioners were some of the best represented donors for the Walk.

For the past 25 years, the Center has been offering support to teens and women in the greater Savannah area who are in unplanned pregnancies. They seek to show the love of God to each person who comes through the doors. Since 1986 they have seen over 30,000 teens and women, providing free pregnancy tests, parenting classes, sexual integrity classes, G.E.D. test preparation, post-abortion counseling, free diapers, baby formula, baby food, clothing, baby supplies and more.

Many of the walkers, with the turquoise balloons, proudly pushed baby carriages or held the hands of small children. In addition to women, there were fathers, sisters, brothers and daughters involved in the walk. There were happy smiles and laughing children everywhere. A stronger statement for life could not be made. Please consider joining us in April, 2012 for the next Walk for Life!

PAINTING OF MADONNA AND CHILD ALSO SURVIVED THE FIRE

Here is the answer to the question posed in the last issue.

It has been generally understood that all the décor elements in the Cathedral were destroyed by the fire in 1898 except for the stained glass window in the front of The Blessed Virgin Chapel, depicting St. Cecilia with her portable organ and St. Agnes with the emblem of the lamb, symbolizing her purity, holding a palm branch, symbolic of her martyrdom. It is the only original window and decorative feature to have survived the fire.



Our Lady of Sorrows

investigation, this does not seem likely, since “The Mater Dolorosa” is usually pictured with the swords that represent the seven sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary that pierced her to the Heart and she is never pictured with the Child Jesus.

Some people have suggested that the painting could be a representation of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, since the Cathedral carried this designation for about the first ten years of its existence. Bishop William Gross, who laid the cornerstone for the new Cathedral in 1873, was particularly devoted to the Blessed Mother and this led him to dedicate the new structure to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, patroness of the Redemptorists religious order, of which he was a member. It retained that name until his successor Bishop Thomas Becker discovered, on a pilgrimage to Rome, that the Vatican had never formally approved changing the Cathedral’s name from “St. John the Baptist” to “Our Lady of Perpetual

However, recently Monsignor O’Neill showed me a small, elegant painting of a Madonna and Child, which used to hang in the Blessed Virgin Chapel that also survived the fire.

He suggested that it was a depiction of Our Lady of Sorrows however upon



Painting that survived the fire

was a child, that this painting, which she referred to as Our Lady of Perpetual Help, survived the fire.

Walt also contacted John Flanagan, a childhood friend now living down in Florida, whose mother Loretto Whelan Flanagan, was secretary to Bishops O’Hara and McDonough. He claimed that the painting, which she also referred to as Our Lady of Perpetual Help, hung for a number of years in the lower church on the Epistle side of the altar, (the right side facing the front), during the 1930s and 40s. Loretto Lominack confirms the story of her Uncle John Flanagan, that this particular painting was referred to as Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

Help”. The Holy See directed that that the Cathedral Parish should resume its original name of St. John the Baptist with Our Lady of Perpetual Help as the secondary patron.

Brother Robert pointed out an old photo of the Cathedral, from before the fire, which seems to show the painting hanging behind the altar in the Blessed Virgin Chapel, where the mural of the Holy Spirit now adorns the wall.

And Walter Schaaf confirmed that his grand-mother, Mary Driscoll, who worked in the Cathedral repairing vestments many years ago, told him when he



Our Lady of Perpetual Help

However, you may have noticed that a similar image, which more closely resembles our painting has begun appearing in the Sunday Bulletin in conjunction with CCW announcements. As it turns out, this image called Our Lady of Good Counsel, is the Patroness of the National Council of Catholic Women, so Jan Cunningham started using it with CCW notices.

Kim Iocovozzi, a parishioner and owner of Kim Iocovozzi Fine Art, recently took a look at the painting. In his opinion, it is an oil painting on a linen canvas which was probably executed



Our Lady of Good Counsel

in the late 1880's, as indicated by the wooden stretchers on the canvas and the decorative frame that are also representative of the period. Based on his observation of the positioning of the Mother and Child, the hands of the Infant and the respective glances of the figures at each other and rather than the viewer, he concurred with the opinion that it more closely resembled the image of Our Lady of Good Counsel than Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

Gillian Brown, Diocesan Archivist, found a photo from after the fire, in the commemorative booklet, "The Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Savannah, GA 1799-1902", of the Blessed Virgin Chapel, which clearly shows the painting hanging above the tabernacle and below the statue of the Blessed Virgin.

This same image also adorned the tabernacle door, on the Blessed Virgin Altar, shown below the painting, until just before the restoration in 1999-2000, when the tabernacles were converted into the ambry, now on the St. Joseph's altar.

And now you know the rest of the story.

—Peter Paolucci



View of Blessed Virgin Chapel with painting hanging over the altar Circa 1902



Tabernacle door image

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