The 15th Annual Cathedral Heritage Gala was held on a chilly but beautiful Saturday night at the newly renovated Catholic Pastoral Center on Victory Drive.

The Gala began with cocktails and passed hors d’oeuvres by Chef Nick Mueller who served attendees while they toured the Pastoral Center’s main floor. The lovely young ladies from SVA were on hand with the building’s rich history and facts about the recent renovation.

The Pastoral Center opened in 1938 as St. Mary’s Home for “parentless young girls”. In 1967, the rules were changed to allow young boys in order to keep families together. Sister Mary Alvin Seubott became the administrator in 1969 until the home’s closing in 2010. At one time, St. Mary’s was home to 40 children. The building was restored by Dan Pinyan Construction Company and opened as the new Catholic Pastoral Center in April, 2015.

A spectacular dinner was served at 8:00 pm by Chef Nick Mueller in the main tent. Bishop Hartmayer welcomed everyone and encouraged their participation in our Live Auction to raise funds to benefit the Cathedral Endowment Fund. He expressed his gratitude to all the attendees whose presence was testimony to their support of our beautiful and historic church, which is such a glorious setting to worship God.

The highlight of the evening was Bishop Hartmayer’s presentation of the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifrice medal to Guest of Honor, Brother Robert for his many years of distinguished service to the Church. It is the highest medal that can be awarded to the laity by the Pope.

The Gala went high tech this year, using an online bidding application called BidPal for our Silent Auction. Once checked in, guests could look at all the silent and live auction items and bid right on their cell phones. Bids were automatically updated and bidders were notified immediately by text if they were outbid. The technology was incredibly easy to use and it was fun to watch all the action unfolding live on our phones.

The Live Auction was led by John Wetherbee of WTOC as our auctioneer. The most excitement of the evening was generated by Mary Lawrence Kennickell’s original oil painting of the Cathedral. This oil on canvas painting is a vertical 36 X 24 inches. Housed in a professionally restored period frame, its overall size is L 46 X W 34 inches and it’s absolutely beautiful! Our own Bishop Emeritus Boland was the successful bidder.

Although the figures have not yet been finalized, this year’s Gala was a success and we expect to raise somewhere close to $95,000. We are most grateful to all the Gala supporters. You have helped preserve the beautiful Cathedral of St. John the Baptist for generations to come.
Pope Francis announced an extraordinary jubilee, a Holy Year of Mercy, to highlight the Catholic Church’s “mission to be a witness of mercy.”

“No one can be excluded from God’s mercy,” the Pope said on March 13th, marking the second anniversary of his pontificate by leading a Lenten penance service in St. Peter’s Basilica.

“Dear brothers and sisters, I have often thought about how the Church might make clear its mission of being a witness to mercy. It is a journey that begins with a spiritual conversion. For this reason, I have decided to call an extraordinary Jubilee that is to have the mercy of God at its center. It shall be a Holy Year of Mercy. We want to live this Year in the light of the Lord’s words: ‘Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. (cf. Lk 6:36)’

Fr. Pablo Migone recently posted some thoughts on the Year of Mercy on his blog, the Labyrinthine Mind, regarding ways each of us could commemorate the upcoming Year of Mercy, by looking for opportunities to show mercy to other individuals as follows:

• To express a glimmer of God’s unathomable love and mercy to others, especially those who do not have the ability or desire to express it back to me.
• To be merciful is to live the proverbial Golden Rule – to treat others as you would like to be treated.

Saint Thomas Aquinas defined mercy as “the compassion in our hearts for another person’s misery, a compassion which drives us to do what we can to help him or her.”

In a world that praises efficiency and timeliness, stopping to help a needy person is inconvenient. The world prefers to ignore the need or blame someone else for being irresponsible, yet Jesus calls us to be merciful. Expressions of mercy not only help their recipients, but enlarge the hearts of those who show mercy.

So if you are looking for ways to live out the Year of Mercy, consider the time-tested traditional Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. We do not have to go very far to find concrete ways to enter fully into the Year of Mercy.

### The Corporal Works of Mercy

- Feed the hungry
- Give drink to the thirsty
- Clothe the naked
- Shelter the homeless
- Visit the sick
- Visit the imprisoned
- Bury the dead

### The Spiritual Works of Mercy

- Admonish the sinner
- Instruct the ignorant
- Counsel the doubtful
- Comfort the sorrowful
- Bear wrongs patiently
- Forgive all injuries
- Pray for the living and the dead

As the Holy Father has said, “We should all try to live the upcoming Holy Year in the light of Jesus’ words in the Gospel of Luke: ‘Be merciful, just as your father is merciful.’ ”
When Peter first asked me about this year's Crèche theme it was in the middle of this past very hot summer, but I'm always thinking of Christmas throughout the entire twelve months. After we dismantled the crèche last year, I did some artistic and spiritual reflection on how to make it more beautiful and meaningful, to brighten our faith and life. Reflecting on the life of Jesus and our faith, I drew inspiration through reading, meditating and listening to the Holy Scriptures.

"And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth".

This particular scripture from the New Testament and others from the Old Testament, relating to the history and salvation of mankind, made a deep impact on this year's Crèche theme. We are going to narrate the story from the very beginning, the creation of Adam, as well as Moses coming down from Mt. Sinai with the tablets of the law, a prefiguration of Jesus Christ. It will also include the journey to Bethlehem, which in the Hebrew language, means "The House of Bread." It is appropriate that Jesus would be born there for two reasons. First, God the Father gave us Jesus as the bread of life, who came down from heaven to give eternal life to this world. If we eat this bread from heaven, we will live forever. Second, He was the descendant of his earthly great grandfather King David, who sat on the throne of Israel.

The joyous birth of Jesus was accompanied by the apparition of the angels to the shepherds in the fields. According to St. Luke: "Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping watch over their flocks. And behold an angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was a multitude of heavenly hosts with the angel, praising God and saying: 'Glory to God in the Highest and on earth peace among men of good will.' So they went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in a manger."

The city, the crucifixion, the descent from the cross, burial and glorious resurrection, including the shroud in symbolism through the use of a white cloth on the crucifix similar to Easter, will all be present in the Crèche scene. But the viewer must look closely to find these elements, like the great Renaissance allegorical paintings. We want to give the viewer a sense of the history of salvation from past to present to future. Mankind was created to love, please and serve God on earth. Human beings came from God and will return to God, who is Love, Mercy and Justice. Jesus is the way, the life and the truth. Everyone comes to the Father through his only Son. The resurrection of Jesus is the foreshadowing of the resurrection of our physical bodies at the end of the world.
The Friends of Cathedral Music sponsored the second concert in our Sacred Music Series, a Solemn Vespers on Sunday, November 1 at 5:00 p.m. Bishop Hartmayer and our Cathedral Choir led the service in Commemoration of All Souls. Over 400 people were in attendance to pray for their departed loved ones and to listen to the Cathedral Choir and Soloists perform Gregorian chants, and three movements from Mozart’s Requiem.

As Bishop Hartmayer, assisted by five servers, solemnly processed up the center aisle of the candle-lit Cathedral, the choir sang the Introit from the Requiem: “Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine on them.”

The Requiem, unfinished at Mozart’s death, has been surrounded by multiple myths since its premier. The most recent myth was presented in Peter Shaffer’s play and movie, Amadeus. Most probably, Mozart’s widow, Constanze, secretly had a fellow composer finish the piece, in order to receive final payment from Count Walsegg, who had commissioned the Requiem.

Following several Gregorian chants and a reading, Bishop Hartmayer offered the Reflection. “We are here tonight to remember in a special way those who have died. Before Jesus, scripture tells us that it is good and holy to pray for the dead, that way they are freed from their sins. So as Catholics, we pray for the repose of their souls. They are the beneficiaries of our prayers tonight. May the souls of all those who have gone through the journey from life to death rest in peace.”

The service ended with the stirring hymn For All the Saints, followed by an organ postlude written by the famous 19th century Notre Dame organist Charles Marie Widor (1844-1937), the famous Toccata.

Cathedral Gartland Award Winners

The Gartland Award was established in 2000 to recognize distinguished service over a period of years to the Church community and the Diocese of Savannah in the tradition of our first Bishop, Francis Xavier Gartland.

A native of Dublin, Ireland, Gartland was ordained for the Diocese of Philadelphia and served there as a priest and later vicar general.

The pope appointed Father Gartland to the new See of Savannah in July 1850 where he was ordained a bishop on November 10.

Bishop Gartland died on September 20, 1854 of yellow fever contracted from those to whom he ministered. He was 49 years old.

Every year since 2000, the Diocese of Savannah has recognized long-standing service to the Catholic Church in South Georgia by conferring the Bishop Francis X. Gartland Service Award on honorees nominated by their pastors.

Anna Kaluzne and Jim Golden of the Cathedral Parish were among this year’s recipients of the Gartland Service Awards presented by Bishop Hartmayer on November 22, 2015, the Solemnity of Christ the King, in the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist.

Congratulations to Anna and Jim on this well-deserved award and thank you for many years of service to the Cathedral.
The Stewardship Committee’s 2015 Volunteer Drive ended in great fashion after Sunday Masses on October 25th with a Ministry Fair on the plaza. Thirteen ministries were represented by smiling faces and good information. The ministry fair followed several weeks of canvassing, general information offered in the bulletin and announcements by our priests encouraging the commitment of volunteers.

Continuing with the theme of “We Fall to Pieces without Our Volunteers,” many parishioners accepted the challenge and completed the talent and skills inventory form offered the weekend of October 17-18. Over 150 forms have been returned and we are continuing to receive more. The forms are being entered into a database and each volunteer will be contacted to personally assess the best volunteer opportunity to match specific skills, talents, and experience. We have been overwhelmed with the outpouring of generosity and support. Many of the Cathedral activities will be enriched by the involvement of these new volunteers.

The weather held as the breeze bounced colorful balloons around the plaza. Ministry representatives staffed each table and many offered printed information for interested parishioners. “Pieces” of candy and puzzle “pieces” were offered at each ministry table and a contest for creative design of the pieces was detailed in instructions accompanying the pieces. One family swept the prizes with first place going to Amalia Brenton, nine years old and second place going to John Brenton, seven years old. With this type of promise from future volunteers, the Cathedral will be rich for years to come.

The ministries represented at the fair were just a sampling of some of the activities for parishioners to become more involved in the Cathedral parish. If you didn’t get a chance to participate, forms are available at the back of the church. To know more, please contact Moira at threenovacks@gmail.com or Melanie at brooks508@aol.com.

2016 is going to be a very exciting year at the Cathedral. The fantastic response to this volunteer campaign means we can provide new outreach programs and grow current ones. Getting involved in the church is going to be fun and rewarding.
“Puzzle Pieces” Winners

Amalia Brenton, 9 yrs old

John Brenton, 7 yrs old

NACA

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