THE TWIN SPIRES
The Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Savannah, GA
November 2011
Over the summer the CCW worked tirelessly on the Sixth Annual “Cathedral Rummage Sale”. Mary Downs and Gloria Keane took the lead as the “Co-Chairs” of the event. CCW members worked all summer gathering, storing, and finally setting up the Parish Hall for the Rummage Sale. Our Parishioners were most generous, donating wonderful things from their homes, including everything from a mermaid costume to furniture.

On Saturday morning September 12, people started lining up at 7AM! The doors opened at 8 AM and, believe it or not, by 1PM the room was completely empty. There are always some truly unusual items donated which keep the ladies laughing all summer. The most unusual item was the Mermaid costume which they think came from the Pirates Day Parade on Tybee. It was the most successful Rummage Sale ever, as the CCW raised $5,748 to support their many projects to beautify and improve our parish. The Cathedral Rummage Sale has raised a total of $17,273 in six years! A special thank you to Monsignor O’Neill who supports and guides us in our many endeavors.
The end of summer means cooler weather, football as well as friends coming home to Savannah and getting together again. So it was, on September 26, 2011 when we all gathered for our first Parish “Pot Luck” Supper of the season. It was a great success with more than 100 people in attendance as extra tables had to be set up. A special thank you to Norene Buckstine, our Parish Life Representative who organizes our suppers, ably assisted by all the CCW members, who have a great time helping her. It was wonderful to see everyone again. Our then Bishop Elect Gregory Hartmayer attended along with Bishop Boland and Monsignor O’Neil. It was great that the incoming bishop was able to meet so many parishioners in a truly special setting. Father Chris played his guitar which made the evening more enjoyable and Sister John brought her FAMOUS Cheesecake which was quickly consumed.
Michael Coren, a convert from Judaism, in his book, Why Catholics Are Right, said that life is “the subject Catholics talk about a great deal and the one that they are criticized for talking about a great deal.” In fact, we are sometimes accused of being obsessed with the life issue. Actually, we talk about issues of life and sexuality because they matter. Today’s world leaves it to Christians, and to the Roman Catholic Church in particular, to speak up for the most vulnerable of people—the unborn, the elderly, the ill, the dying and the disabled, the most marginalized of our citizens—someday it will even be YOU and ME! Catholics believe that life begins at conception and ends at natural death, and we know that this belief runs contrary to the thinking of many in contemporary Western society.

All rights are important but the most fundamental is the right to life. We were all created by God. Our very lives were the first gift that God gave us, and he expects us to use that life wisely. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus tells us, “Whatever you do for the least of my brothers, you do for me.” Jesus called us to be responsible for life, for our own and our neighbor’s, and Jesus was very specific: our neighbor is everyone, especially the most helpless. In the parable of the Good Samaritan He explains that the neighbor is not just people who are most like us, but the Samaritan, an outcast, and the sick or injured man found on the road whose life was saved.

October is Respect Life month. It is a time set aside to reflect, educate, encourage, and inspire us to help, to love, and to protect all life, at all stages. During Respect Life Month, there were many opportunities to grow in knowledge of various life issues and to participate in life-promoting events. Cathedral parishioners were invited to come and pray for an end to abortion during the local observance of the National Life Chain, on October 2. They were also invited to participate in the “40 Days for Life” prayer vigil which began in Savannah on September 28 and will not end until November 6. If you cannot participate in the 40 Days for Life vigil, please consider coming out to pray on Thursday mornings between 9:30 a.m. and noon, which is the regular day and time Cathedral parishioners gather on 34th Street to pray at the abortion clinic. If you think you could sacrifice one hour once a week or even once a month for the prolife cause, contact Gretchen Reese at 232-2192.

Our society is fixated on a culture of death. If we follow Our Blessed Savior, we turn from death and become fixated on life. Please, become part of the effort to build a Culture of Life in Savannah, in Georgia, and in the world.

This article contains excerpts from a talk given by James Hough, a former member of Cathedral Parish. The pictures in this article were taken locally at the 40 Days for Life vigil.
The Children’s Religious Education (CRE) program started the new school year with a Children’s Mass on October 2. The Mission of the Children’s Religious Education Program at the Cathedral is to assist parents with the faith formation of their children to make lifelong disciples of Jesus.

Attending and understanding the Catholic Mass is a central part of their faith formation. The children were involved with the Mass by taking up the gifts and helping as servers to support the priest.

The 11 children who took up the gifts are preparing to receive the sacraments of Communion and Reconciliation in May of 2012 under the guidance of Leslee Holtzclaw.

The servers are attending CRE in the 5th and 6th grade classrooms taught by Betsy Blalock. All children in her class are encouraged to be servers to better understand and closely take part in the Mass.

The children also participated in the Mass by sitting in the first four rows of the Cathedral. This gave them the opportunity to closely observe every aspect of the Mass to enhance their classroom discussions.

Father Chris Ortega celebrated the Mass. At the conclusion of the Mass, he blessed all the CRE children and their parents. He indicated that without the support of the parents the children would not be involved with the CRE program.

He stated that it is critical that the parents, students and religious educators work closely together to form lifelong followers of Christ. We are a family together in Jesus.

The CRE program has increased enrollment by 40% this school year, but there is still room for more. If parents are interested in enrolling their children, please call the Cathedral administrative office at 233-4709.
On Tuesday afternoon, October 18, 2011 people began streaming into the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist to attend the Episcopal Ordination and Installation of His Excellency The Most Reverend Gregory John Hartmayer as the Fourteenth Bishop of Savannah. Over 1000 people crammed into the upper church, while a substantial overflow crowd witnessed the event on closed circuit TV in the lower chapel.

A lengthy procession consisting of 21 bishops, 5 Abbots and 6 Provincials plus a couple of hundred priests and deacons took over 20 minutes to come into the Cathedral and process up the center aisle to the strains of “O God Beyond All Praising.” A large number of Bishop Hartmayer’s family members including his mother and siblings, many former parishioners, religious sisters and the lay faithful from the Diocese of Savannah filled almost every seat in the church.

The Most Reverend Wilton D. Gregory, Archbishop of Atlanta, presided over the ceremony as the principal celebrant and consecrator assisted by the Most Reverend J. Kevin Boland and the Most Reverend Luis Rafael Zarama as co-consecrators. Adam Cardinal Maida, retired Archbishop of Detroit, was also in attendance.

The Rite of Ordination of a Bishop, which has roots in ancient tradition, occurs immediately after the reading of the Gospel. The choir began to sing Veni, Creator Spiritus (Come Holy Spirit) invoking the Holy Spirit upon this special occasion as we prayed that the gift of the Holy Spirit will be on this community and especially on Gregory John Hartmayer as he assumes this high office of the church.

Next Bishop Boland asked “Most Reverend Father, the church in Savannah asks you to ordain Gregory John Hartmayer as Bishop of Savannah. Subsequently, Msgr. Jean-Francois Lantheaume, Charge d’Affaires of the Apostolic Nunciature in Washington, read the Apostolic Letter from Pope Benedict XVI naming Bishop-elect Hartmayer as the Fourteenth Bishop of Savannah. After the letter was read, it was witnessed by the College of Consulters and then shown to the congregation to confirm that Pope Benedict has indeed appointed Gregory John Hartmayer as the 14th Bishop of Savannah.

In his homily, Archbishop Wilton Gregory urged Bishop Hartmayer to “Embrace the threefold responsibility of a bishop, to teach, govern and sanctify the people entrusted to your care. From this day forward may you be known by your motto Pax et Bonum, Peace and Good, the

Photo credits: Msgr. Lantheaume, Jonas N. Jordan All others, Paul H. Camp
words by St. Francis in his greetings to others, as they embody the simplicity and goodness he saw in all of God’s Creation.”

After the homily, Bishop Elect Hartmayer, standing before Archbishop Gregory, was questioned in front of the people about his resolve to discharge his duties and made nine solemn promises regarding the office he was about to assume. In conclusion, Archbishop Gregory said, “May God who had begun the good work in you Gregory, bring it to fulfillment.”

As Bishop Hartmayer knelt before him, while the Book of the Gospels was held over his head as a sign of the power and presence of the Holy Spirit, Archbishop Gregory prayed for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, proclaiming the prayer of consecration saying: “Pour out now upon the chosen one that power which is from you, the Spirit of governance whom you gave to your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, the Spirit whom he bestowed upon the holy Apostles.”

Next Archbishop Gregory took the chrism, anointed the head of Bishop Hartmayer, saying: “God has brought you to share the high priesthood of Christ, may he pour out on you the oil of mystical anointing and enrich you with spiritual blessings.”

Then he presented the Book of the Gospels to Bishop Hartmayer saying: “Receive the Gospel and preach the word of God with unfailing patience and sound teaching.”

And he placed the ring on the ring finger of the new bishop’s right hand, saying: “Gregory receive this ring, the seal of your fidelity. With faith and love protect the bride of God, his holy Church.” This ring was originally worn by Bishop Gartland, the first Bishop of Savannah, who died in the yellow fever epidemic in 1854.

Then he placed the miter on the head of Bishop Hartmayer and lastly, gave him the pastoral staff saying: “Take this crosier as a sign of your pastoral office. Keep watch over the whole flock in which the Holy Spirit has appointed you to shepherd the Church of God.”

Bishop Gregory was led to the cathedra, (chair symbolic to being the seat of the diocese) to occupy the chair, taking the first seat among all the bishops present.

The newly ordained Bishop then set aside his staff and received the kiss of peace from the principal consecrator and all his brother bishops, as a sign of welcome into the order of bishops.

Afterwards, as Bishop Gregory walked throughout the cathedral, giving his blessing to all assembled, the entire congregation joyfully offered praise and thanksgiving to God for this moment of grace.
Motto: Pax et Bonum – Peace and Good – are the words that were used by St. Francis in his greetings to others. It embodied the simplicity and goodness he saw in all of God’s Creation.

The bishop’s coat of arms, is composed of a shield, with its charges, a motto scroll, and the external ornaments indicating office. When a Bishop becomes the Ordinary of a Diocese, the arms of his jurisdiction are joined with his personal coat of arms. The Coat of Arms of the Diocese of Savannah appears in the left side for the viewer, while that of Bishop Hartmayer appears in right side for the viewer. This custom of combining the two is meant to show the spiritual unity shared between the Bishop as Shepherd and the Diocese as his Flock – so core to the theology of being a Bishop – that he also wears a ring on his right hand as a symbol of this union.

The Coat of Arms for the Diocese of Savannah is a cross of red on silver background. The cross is in fact the Cross of St. George. This symbolizes the state of Georgia, which was named for King George II. The four blue stars signify that Georgia was the fourth state to ratify the Constitution of United States. The gold rose found in the middle of the cross is the Cherokee rose, the state flower of Georgia, and is also associated with the Rose of Sharon as well as Mary, the Mystical Rose.

The personal Coat of Arms of Bishop Hartmayer is intended to symbolically represent the Bishop’s heritage and vocation as a Conventual Franciscan Friar. The background of wavy blue and white is a heraldic symbol for water. The Bishop is a native of Buffalo, NY, the Queen City of the Great Lakes. Water is also the key symbol of Baptism, the first Sacrament of Initiation as a Christian. This helps recall the Bishop’s ministry as the primary sacramental minister of his diocese. The eagle serves as a two-fold symbol of both the Bishop’s German heritage and of St. John the Evangelist. The Bishop’s father was named John and this is the Bishop’s middle name. The Celtic Knot, known as a Triquetra, represents the Bishop’s Irish heritage on his maternal side. And finally, the Tau is a reference to Bishop Hartmayer’s vocation as a Conventual Franciscan Friar. St. Francis would sign his writing with a Tau, often painted it on the walls and doors of places he stayed, and would remind his friars that their habit was in the shape of a Tau cross illustrating to them that they must go into the world wearing this cross like an incarnation of Christ.

Behind the shield is placed a gold processional cross, the symbol of Episcopal office. For the processional cross, Bishop Hartmayer has selected the Cross of San Damiano. The entire Franciscan movement began when St. Francis, whilst praying at the Chapel of San Damiano, heard the crucifix speak to him and say, “Francis, go rebuild my Church for it is falling to ruins.” St. Francis thought this was a literal command to rebuild the chapel that was in disrepair. Soon, however, he realized God was asking more of him.

Surrounding the shield and processional cross is the pontifical hat with six tassels on each side disposed in three rows, all in green. These are the heraldic insignia of a prelate of the rank of bishop. Before 1870, the pontifical hat, known as a galero, was worn at solemn cavalcades held in conjunction with papal ceremonies. The color of the hat and the number of tassels were signs of the rank of the prelate, a custom still preserved in ecclesiastical heraldry.
It was a cool crisp morning on October 2, 2011 when a band of hardy volunteers began setting up for the 4th Ministry Fair. In the previous weeks, bulletin notices announced this event as a unique opportunity to learn first-hand about all the ministries at the Cathedral. Representatives of the 24 Cathedral Ministries were on hand at booths set up on the terrace after all Masses to share the many exciting opportunities to serve our parish. Although some people did walk by and hurry home, many picked up a doughnut and glass of OJ provided by the Parish Life Ministry, ably assisted by the CCW. These folks took the time to stop by a booth. Fourteen people signed up to join a ministry and 6 individuals previously showed interest through word of mouth. May God bless those who are willing to put their talents to work in the service of the Lord.
Pick up your Pew Cards and Embrace the Change

Much has been written and said about the forthcoming implementation of the revised translation of the Roman Missal. We have been preparing for this change for some time. Parish leaders and other interested parties have attended orientation sessions; booklets and pew cards have been sent out to all parishioners to further help familiarize them with the changes. For those of you who have taken the time to read through the booklet, particularly reviewing the changes side by side with the current version, you should see that the revised responses for parishioners are relatively minor. And now, here at the Cathedral, on the First Sunday of Advent, November 27, 2011, we will have to just do it.

Like anything else that is new, it may seem a little different in the beginning, which is understandable. Our priests, who have many more changes to learn, will remind us to pick up one of the pew cards which will be in all the racks and follow along with the responses. The first change will be apparent to us early in the Introductory Rite when the priest says “The Lord be with you.” Our response, which for the past 40 years or so has been the familiar “And also with you”, will now change to “And with your spirit,” to be more true to passages in both the Old and New Testaments. Although this is a minor revision, it may seem odd in the beginning. As we proceed through the Mass there will be similar slight changes with which we will have to become accustomed. We may stumble and say the wrong words now and then, but this is to be expected. Don’t get frustrated! Just read along and by Easter we should all be on the same page, saying the responses without the help of the pew card.

The entire Church in the United States has been blessed with this opportunity to deepen its understanding of the Sacred Liturgy and to appreciate its meaning and importance in our lives. Please join me in embracing this new translation, which should deepen our faith through the renewal of our worship and the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy.

—Peter Paolucci
In 2000, Bishop J. Kevin Boland initiated an endowment fund and a ball for the sole purpose of ensuring the preservation of our beautiful Cathedral of Saint John the Baptist. On the tenth anniversary of the Cathedral Heritage Ball, Bishop Boland served as the Honorary Chairman. And now, during the 11th annual celebration of the ball, our Catholic community will wish Bishop Boland a fond farewell, while sharing in a unique opportunity to honor him by supporting the Deanery Raffle at this year’s celebration.

It was to honor Bishop Boland and to thank him for his service that Ellen Pinckney created a beautiful baptismal gown. This gown is one of a kind: pristine linen, majestic organza, along with delicate Swiss and English cotton laces. It was created along a Celtic theme – to remind us of the Bishop’s homeland and the contributions that Ireland has made to this diocese. The hallmark of the dress is a large Celtic cross on the skirt which is framed in delicate lace.

The words “The Bishop Boland Baptismal Gown – 2010” are embroidered on the back of the gown. The lettering is white tone on tone. On the bodice, there is a small, lace, Trinity Knot. Narrow lace edges the neckline. There are eight smaller Celtic crosses embroidered in shades of white and ecru on teardrop shaped organza panels, framed with elegant lace.

These crosses encircle the skirt above the scallops of an organza band forming the hem of the dress. The sleeves are edged with deep lace and are adjustable to size, using satin ribbons. Golden pins instead of buttons are used to fasten the dress, so that it will provide a custom fit for the many children who will wear this special gown. A full slip of fine cotton batiste and a linen bonnet complete the ensemble.

This lovely, one of a kind creation can be seen throughout the final weeks preceding the ball by visiting Saints and Shamrocks across from the Hilton in downtown Savannah. There one may purchase tickets for the raffle which will be held at this year’s Heritage Ball on November 19, 2011. Tickets are $3.00 each or 4 for $10.00. Don’t miss out on a chance for your family to own and use this rare treasure for generations to come!
On October 30, 2011, we celebrated Priesthood Sunday, a special day set aside to celebrate the Priesthood, honor Christ as Priest and the men who were called to be his priests, as well as all religious and focus on the importance of vocations. Catholic parishes throughout the country rallied in support of their priests in a celebration of the American priesthood, honoring both the priesthood and their own priests.

The Serra Club again sponsored the “Say Thank You to Our Priests” project throughout the Savannah Deanery for parishioners to write expressions of appreciation and support to their priests. Hopefully, each you were able to make your appreciation personally known to our priests for faithfully serving our spiritual needs all these years.

Also, here at the Cathedral, we again marked this special occasion by coming together as a parish community to show appreciation for our priests at the Parish Covered Dish Supper. Many parishioners came out to make their gratitude personally known by attending the supper. If you didn’t get a chance to express your feelings yet, please stop by after Mass next week and say “Thank You”.

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