Catholics Honor Priests in Nationwide Event

On Sunday, Oct. 26, 2008, Catholic parishes throughout the United States will show support for their priests with prayer, celebration and dialogue. The last Sunday of October is designated as Priesthood Sunday, a one-day celebration of the priesthood organized by parish lay leaders and coordinated by the USA Council of Serra International. “The purpose of Priesthood Sunday is to engage every level of the church in the United States in a national conversation about the priesthood,” said Rev. Richard Vega, President of the National Federation of Priests’ Councils. NFPC represents more than 26,000 U.S. priests.

Priesthood Sunday was established in 2003 to provide a way for Catholic communities to express appreciation for the devoted priests who serve them so faithfully despite recent negative attention in the media. Such a celebration is increasingly relevant in light of the declining number of priests in the U.S. Only about 4,000 of the 19,000 parishes in this country currently have more than one priest. Many priests serve two or more parishes by themselves. On Priesthood Sunday, we are all asked to thank our parish priests for the great job they do.

These men have given their lives in service to God and to you, their parishioners, so they certainly deserve a day of thanks! So remember to honor your priests this Sunday and take an extra moment to thank them for the job they do. They deserve our respect and thanks for giving so much that we may grow closer to God! The lay faithful of each parish, school or other ministry are asked to develop their own special way of marking the day and honoring both priesthood and their own priests. Special liturgies, Priesthood Sunday celebrations and the opening of a dialogue between priests and parishioners are encouraged. Priesthood Sunday is traditionally celebrated on the last Sunday of October. Lay parish leaders are invited to visit www.priestsunday.org for suggested liturgies, social celebrations, reflections, and downloadable graphics, guides and posters.

In his message this year on the occasion of the World Day for Prayer for Vocations, Pope Benedict XVI said, “Among those totally dedicated to the service of the Gospel, are priests, called to preach the word of God, administer the sacraments, especially the Eucharist and Reconciliation, committed to helping the lowly, the sick, the suffering, the poor, and those who experience hardship in areas of the world where there are, at times, many who still have not had a real encounter with Jesus Christ. Statistics show that the number of baptized persons

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Increases every year thanks to the pastoral work of these priests, who are wholly consecrated to the salvation of their brothers and sisters. A special word of thanks must be expressed to the priests who work faithfully and generously at building up the community by proclaiming the word of God and breaking the Bread of Life, devoting all their energy to serving the mission of the Church. Let us thank God for all the priests who have suffered even to the sacrifice of their lives in order to serve Christ.”

“Affirming and supporting our priests are some of the most important things that we can do,” says Gary Davis, past president of the USA Council of Serra International, the non-profit organization coordinating Priesthood Sunday. The USA Council is responsible for disseminating information to parishes interested in honoring their priests on this very special day. “Our priests give of themselves every day in so many different ways. It is an honor to recognize them in a manner in which entire parishes may join together in an outpouring of appreciation,” said Davis.

Here at the Cathedral, we will honor our priests once again this year at the October Parish Supper on October 15, 2008 saying thank you to Bishop Boland, Monsignor O’Neill, Fr. Clark and Fr. Firmin, for all that they do for the Cathedral Parish. In addition, will also have the opportunity to gift our priests with spiritual bouquets of family prayer offerings and notes of appreciation. Boxes will be placed in the vestibule of the Cathedral from October 19th through 26th to deposit your notes for each priest.

Cathedral Garage Sale Brings Fun, Fellowship and Funding!
By Anna Kaluzne

Minutes before the Parish Center doors were opened, the CCW members gathered in a circle with Cathedral aprons on and said a prayer. With each purchase, we thanked our shoppers for supporting our wonderful church. The Garage Sale made $1,951 and proceeds will be used to pay off the debt for the new kitchen appliances. Everyone walked out with a treasure and a smile of appreciation.

The CCW meets on the last Wednesday of every month. Before each meeting sandwiches are made for the Social Apostolate. The CCW sponsors a child in Guatemala, and helps Monsignor O’Neill in whatever needs to be done in the parish. The CCW also assists Brother Robert decorate at Christmas and other times of the year. All women of the parish are invited to join at anytime of the year.

For more information, please contact Sarah Aliffi–Baez at 912-282-7810.
THE CATHEDRAL HERITAGE BALL
THE CELEBRATION CONTINUES
by Joan Schaaf

On a cold and nippy December 1st evening in 2001, the doors of the Wilmington Island Golf Club swung open to reveal a celebration of beauty and warmth. The members of the Ball Committee greeted the guests with crystal champagne glasses inscribed to commemorate the event. Inside the ballroom were numerous tables and tempting finger foods. The Denny Phillips Band provided lively music. Since 2001 this annual event has moved to other various locations and has provided the majority of the revenue for the Cathedral Endowment Fund.

The goal, then and now, was two-fold: to please the guests and to benefit the Cathedral Endowment Fund. The original goal was to reach a specific sum. Once the Endowment Fund was fully vested, the interest from the money would be utilized to maintain the Mother Church of the Diocese of Savannah. The heart of the matter was, and still is, to sustain the purpose underlying this celebration. “The mission of the Cathedral Heritage Committee was to develop a means to fund the Cathedral Heritage Trust which preserved the architectural soundness, integrity, and beauty of the Cathedral of Saint John the Baptist as a symbol of our faith for future generations”.

Since 2001 the Ball has matured. A four course seated dinner has evolved, along with a Silent Auction, a Live Auction, and a 50/50 Raffle. This year something else will be new. The Live Auction will cease to be and a Reverse Raffle will take its place. Tickets for the exciting Reverse Raffle will be $100 each, sold in advance, and winners need not be present at the Ball. The drawings for the Raffle will begin at approximately 6:40 P.M. and will continue until around 10:30 P.M. So, please accept the following invitation and join in the fun!

THE 8TH ANNUAL CATHEDRAL HERITAGE BALL, to benefit the Cathedral of Saint John the Baptist, will be held on NOVEMBER 22 in the HILTON SAVANNAH DeSOTO HOTEL at 15 East Liberty Street in Savannah. The black-tie party starts at 6:30 P.M. with a Silent Auction and cocktail hour. Purchase 50/50 Raffle tickets up until 9:00 P.M. (the winner must be present at the 10:00 P.M. announcement). Everyone will be seated for a four-course dinner at 8:00 P.M. followed by dancing until midnight to the music of the Swing-time Orchestra. The exciting Reverse Raffle will follow a tentative 10-minute schedule from 6:40 to 10:30 P.M. for the drawings (winner does not need to be present). Individual tickets for the Ball will be $125 and tables of 10 can be reserved. Special hotel room rates are being offered, so book early.
POPE ANNOUNCES PAULINE YEAR

Pope Benedict XVI announced a special jubilee year dedicated to St. Paul, running from June 28, 2008 to June 29, 2009, to mark the approximate 2,000th anniversary of the saint’s birth. In his announcement, Pope Benedict XVI said “As in its early days, the church today needs modern Christians who will be witnesses and martyrs like St. Paul, imitating the apostle’s missionary energy and spirit of sacrifice and ready to sacrifice themselves.”

St. Paul was born in Tarsus, in what is now Turkey, at the start of the Christian era, sometime between AD 7 and 10, according to church historians. After his conversion on the road to Damascus, he became one of the church’s foremost evangelizers, first among Jews, then among Gentiles.

The Pauline year will feature numerous special liturgies and events will also be ecumenical, reflecting the saint’s commitment to the unity and harmony among all Christians. It will include symposiums and special publications devoted to the writings of St. Paul. His letters are a primary source of information about the life of the early church and have strongly influenced church thinking through the centuries. St. Paul’s success as an evangelizer was a result of his extraordinary personal involvement in announcing the Gospel and his total dedication to Christ, despite problems and persecutions.

Pope Benedict has also authorized that every truly repentant member of the Christian faithful, duly absolved through the Sacrament of Reconciliation and restored with Holy Communion (who prays for the Supreme Pontiff’s intentions and in a spirit of total detachment from any inclination to sin), will be granted the Plenary Indulgence from temporal punishment for his/her sins, once sacramental forgiveness and pardon for any shortcomings have been obtained.

“St. Paul’s life holds a lesson for modern Christians. The action of the church is credible and effective only to the extent that Christians are willing to pay personally for their faith in Christ. Where this commitment is lacking, the appeal of the Gospel will be weaker. Although St. Paul was once a violent persecutor of Christians who experienced a lasting personal conversion, he lived and worked for Christ and suffered and died for him. His is still a lasting example for us today,” the Pontiff concluded.