The Stewardship Fair, held on the fourth weekend in September on the Cathedral plaza, provided an opportunity for people to learn more about various parish organizations and ministries. A handout containing the names and brief descriptions of our parish ministries was placed in the pews the week before the event.

According to Fr. Schreck, “A great way to feel more connected” to the Church is to volunteer. You meet some wonderful people and you have the satisfaction of knowing that you are contributing something very valuable – your time and your talents.”

If you didn’t get a chance to stop by, here is a list of some of our ministries along with who to contact if you have an interest in joining the organization.

**Adoration Chapel**
Eucharistic Adoration is available at the Cathedral for those who would like to spend time in quiet prayer with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. For more information, contact Gretchen Reese at 658-3848 or rees2192@bellsouth.net.

**Altar Servers**
In order for the Mass and other liturgies to be conducted in a dignified fashion, it is essential to have a core of dedicated altar servers. For more information please contact Deacon Dewain Smith at 912-233-4709 ext. 301 or deacon@savannahcathedral.org.

**Council of Catholic Women (CCW)**
The mission of the CCW is to provide outreach services in the church, community, nation and internationally for those in need as well as provide a sense of community and family to parishioners of the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist. For more information, contact Gigi Lacanilao at 912-655-1193 or g2lacanilao@yahoo.com.

**Cathedral Adult Choir**
The Choir of the Cathedral of Saint John the Baptist is an ensemble of about 40 professional and volunteer singers. The choir rehearses on Wednesdays from 6:00 – 8:15 PM and provides music for the 10:00 AM Solemn Mass each Sunday from September through June. To schedule an appointment for voice placement, please contact the Director of Music at music@savannahcathedral.org.

**Christian Service Committee**
The Mission of the CSC is to promote awareness of social and spiritual ministries in the parish. Activities include: Annual Food Drive, Item of the Month, Savannah Care Packets, and Personal Hygiene Packets for Social Apostolate. Contact Ann Hall at 912-507-4066 or anniehall319@gmail.com.

**Children’s Religious Education (CRE)**
Children’s Religious Education instructs children who do not attend parochial school in the Catholic Faith. CRE takes place once a week during the school year on Sunday mornings. To register your child, or help with this ministry, contact Janee Przybyl at 912-335-1852 or janeeprzybyl@comcast.net.

**Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion**
Extraordinary Ministers assist the priest and deacon with the distribution of Holy Communion during Mass and can take Holy Communion to the sick and homebound. If you are interested in this ministry contact Bill Sterritt at 912-232-1615 or bill_sterritt@msn.com.

**Lectors**
The Lectors’ ministry bears the responsibility of proclaiming God’s word to the people during the Liturgy. Lectors serve at all
Masses on the weekend, as well as 12:00 Mass each weekday. If you are interested in this ministry, please contact the Cathedral office at 912-233-4709.

Parish Life
Parish Life promotes a spirit of social communion among all parishioners by sponsoring group activities including the monthly covered-dish dinners and coffee and doughnuts receptions. If you are interested in helping with any of these activities, please contact Carol Herb at 912-658-7539.

Tour Guides Ministry
The tour guide ministry is a wonderful opportunity to not only share the beauty of our Cathedral with tourists, but also to be in the Lord’s presence while we are doing it. Morning and afternoon shifts of approximately three hours each are available on a weekly or monthly basis. Training is provided. Please contact John Pryor at tours@savannahcathedral.org.

Ushers and Greeters
The Cathedral Usher Corps is composed of men and women who volunteer their time generally every other week to act as greeters for parishioners and guests at each of the four weekend Masses, take up the collections and secure the money as well as direct people during communion. To sign up for this ministry, please contact the Cathedral parish office at 912-233-4709 or call Charlie Ganem (Head Usher) at 912-354-7297 or charlieganem@gmail.com

Please put your Faith into Action by joining one of our many ministries. We need you!
Another year of Children’s Religious Education (CRE) began smoothly on September 23 with 71 children enrolled so far and five catechists. Some of the children returned after many years of faith formation at the Cathedral and many came for the first time after reaching kindergarten or becoming a new parishioner at the Cathedral.

The mission of the CRE program is to assist the parents in preparing children to be disciples of Jesus in a safe and caring environment. The Cathedral’s religious education for children starts when children are in kindergarten and continues through confirmation which could be up to the eleventh grade.

The five well-trained and enthusiastic catechists are Julie Estvander for kindergarten and first grade students, Shannon Lancaster for the students preparing for the sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation, Christine Wacta for the third and fourth graders, Bill Schuler for the fifth and sixth graders and Amy Schuler for the students preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation. Our Sunday school program builds on the Catholic faith teachings during each year of religious education.

As is customary, during the second Sunday of CRE we celebrated the return of Sunday school by way of a Children’s Mass held during the 10:00 AM Mass. This year we filled up the first four rows of the Cathedral with CRE families.

The children paid very close attention to the Mass surrounded by their parents and grandparents, parishioners and catechists. One of our students, Vivian Burns from our sixth grade classroom did a terrific job of reading the second reading, a letter of Saint James 5:1-6, while the McChesney twins; Camden and Sean along with their dad took up the gifts.

Father Schreck celebrated the Mass and thanked the parents for bringing their children to religious education and seriously taking on the responsibility of taking care of the little ones. In fact, Father Schreck stressed the need for the entire Cathedral parish to take on the responsibility of taking care of the little ones.

Father Schreck said that the most important education of our children is to educate them on the teachings and life story of Jesus Christ and our Catholic faith.

The Children’s Religious Education program thanks all Cathedral parishioners who support our program through participation, time, talent and prayers for a suc-
cessful school year.

If you have Cathedral parish children who are not enrolled in a Catholic School program and are between the age of kindergarten and confirmation please enroll them in our well established Sunday school program. It does not matter if your children have ever been in a faith formation program. Call the parish office at 912-233-4709 or go to the Cathedral website www.savannahcathedral.org to register your children. We will get them on their way to be disciples of Jesus and adult Catholics who are then responsible to take care of the next generation of little ones.
Famous Paintings Inspire Cathedral Murals

By Peter Paolucci with Tiffani Taylor

In the course of our research at the Diocesan Archives on the Cathedral Murals in support of our Basilica Application, I ran across the thesis written by well known Savannah artist Tiffani Taylor for her Masters of Arts Degree at Savannah College of Art and Design. In her thesis she cites the “Famous Paintings Adorn Cathedral” article published in the Savannah Morning News article, dated May 25, 1912, on the occasion of the dedication of the Cathedral murals on Pentecost Sunday. I was particularly intrigued that Tiffani highlighted that several of the transept murals were inspired by masterpieces done by famous painters as follows:

“Two panels in the transept were inspired by seventeenth century Spanish Baroque painter, Bartolomé Esteban Murillo. The panel on the southeast transept wall, next to the scene of the first Pentecost, is the mural of St. Anthony of Padua. The Murillo-inspired Apparition of the Infant Jesus to St. Anthony of Padua (1660) contains lilies, which symbolize purity, and a dove, the symbol of an inspired theologian. This masterpiece, containing the kneeling figure of St. Anthony of Padua and plump cherubs placed on clouds ascending to Heaven, is replicated in Gutsche’s panel of St. Anthony. There are only slight variations in Gutsche’s interpretation, including one compositional element in which the angel standing on an open book propped up on top of a rock in Murillo’s version is replaced by Gutsche with an angel sitting on the ground, whose eyes are looking down at the book he holds open for St. Anthony.”

(Ed note: It is interesting to note that Gutsche’s mural is almost an exact copy of Murillo’s study for his St. Anthony masterpiece.)
“The Flight into Egypt mural on the east wall of the north transept, next to the Sermon on the Mount scene, is also an imitation of a Murillo work. The painting contains the figures of Mary, Joseph, and the Christ Child, fleeing to Egypt to protect Jesus from Herod. Gutsche did not incorporate the hovering cherubs seen in Murillo’s painting and although there are similarities, including the naturalistic setting of the scenes, the composition of the Holy Family and the donkey in Gutsche’s panel are oriented to the opposite corner of the image when compared to Murillo’s. This may be because Gutsche wanted to draw the viewer’s eyes towards the sanctuary, which would mean the heads and figures of Christ, Mary, and Joseph must be turned opposite that of Murillo’s version.”

“Across from it on the west wall of the north transept is a mural inspired by Bernard Plockhorst. The composition of Plockhorst’s Consoling Christ is perfectly imitated by Gutsche in the Prodigal Son, strategically located above the Confessional, but the architectural background of Plockhorst’s work is replaced with a natural setting of greenery and trees. The marble flooring, statuesque columns, and arch in Plockhorst’s Consoling Christ are of great contrast to the apparently earthen ground and rock of Gutsche’s mural. One marked similarity is the depiction of a hat and walking cane, found in the lower right corner of Plockhorst’s work, that is strikingly imitated by Gutsche in the Prodigal Son.”
Tiffani describes another mural as follows:

“There is one other mural, located on the southwest transept wall across from the St. Anthony mural which features the Madonna with the infant Jesus and reverent persons surrounding her. In this image, the Madonna is featured in a naturalistic landscape with rays of light shining down from the heavens. Cherubs hover above her and winged angels dressed in white flowing dresses fly by her side while she proudly holds the infant Jesus”

Although not specifically mentioned as a copy of a famous masterpiece by Tiffani in her thesis, the “Famous Paintings Adorn Cathedral” article published in the Savannah Morning News does refer to this painting as the Comforter of the Afflicted. It seems that Gutsche or Murphy had a reason for labeling it that way.

Starting in the 2nd century, Catholics venerated Mary as “Our Lady of Consolation” or “Consoler of the Afflicted”, one of her earliest titles of honor, given to the Blessed Virgin because, having endured suffering, she is able to console those who are afflicted.

There are numerous paintings of her both with and without the Christ Child plus cherubs hovering above and suppliants seeking comfort below, elements that are present in Gutsche’s mural. The Madonna della Consolazione (Our Lady of Consolation), painted by Perugino, is but one example.

It has always been curious to me that this mural was located on the southwest transept wall along with other the Old Testament scenes. In 1984-1985 extensive repairs of the Cathedral were undertaken by Bishop Lessard. In addition to structural changes, revisions were made to bring the Cathedral into line with the new liturgical norms promulgated by the Second Vatican Council. And all four of the Confessionals were also removed including two in the rear of the Cathedral on either side of the central entry doors, one in the north transept below the Prodigal Son mural and one below the Comforter of the Afflicted mural in the southwest transept to make way for the handicapped elevator. During the restoration in 1999-2000 the new Confessional in the north transept under the Prodigal Son mural was installed however the mural Our Lady of Consolation is but a vestige of the Confessional that was located below it in the southwest transept, emblematic of the consolation afforded by the Sacrament of Penance.

Now it makes perfect sense.
The 98th Annual Convention of the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) was held in Pittsburg, PA August 29 —September 1, 2018. Over 500 women and 42 priests gathered together to celebrate the theme, **NCCW Reflecting God’s Joy: Missionary Disciples – Mission Possible!**

The Diocese of Savannah was well represented, with eight attendees representing the Deaneries of Savannah, Columbus, Macon and Valdosta/ Brunswick, including three Cathedral parish members, Gigi Lacanilao, CCCW President; Alizon McLaughlin, Savannah Deanery CCW President and Kate Haase, Savannah Diocesan CCW President.

The Keynote speaker was Most Reverend Frank Caggiano, Bishop of Bridgeport CT. and his topic was *Disciples Called to be Joyful Signs of Contradiction in the World*. He opened by saying that “This topic remained our destination, but the route has changed, given the gravity, hurt, anger and disappointment many feel. The promise given to all disciples is to live a joyful life in Christ, as a harbinger of the glory that awaits us in heaven. Despite the grave challenges before us, this remains our destiny in Christ”. It was a powerful presentation.

Other speakers included Holly Joy McIlwain, who spoke on *A Mission of Joy*, Gina Loehr whose presentation was titled: *Blessed is She who believed: Embracing the Impossible Mission*, and Bob Rice spoke and sang on: *Owed to Joy: Sharing the Gifts of Love.*

**The Mission of the NCCW is to support, empower and educate all Catholic Women in Spirituality, Leadership and Service.**

To further these ideals, we had presentations from each of the Commissions:

- **Leadership** focused on what the NCCW is doing to raise awareness of, and help alleviate the scourge of Human Trafficking.
- **Spirituality** brought our attention to the many prayer resources provided by the Council, including three newly designed Retreats and a monthly call-in Rosary.
- **Service** spotlighted a program which connects our Catholic school students with their counterparts in the Holy Land. This has been very successful.

Four new resolutions were adopted by the Council this year: Mentoring at Risk youth, Treatment of those affected by Mental Disorders, Building our Future, and The Environment - Reduction in Plastic Use.

His Eminence Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, President of the USCCB and Archbishop of Galveston-Houston presided at the closing liturgy.

Finally, next year, the 99th Convention will be held in Atlanta! This is a great opportunity for many more local ladies to attend a national event.

At the close of the business meeting, the Province of Atlanta, which includes Savannah and South Carolina, extended an invitation to everyone to join us in Georgia next year. We were dressed as Georgia Bulldogs, Delta Flight Attendants, Peaches, Vidalia Onions, Braves, Falcons, Traffic Cops and a Chic-Fil-A Cow to highlight Georgia attractions. The invitation was delivered by the President of South Carolina CCW, Chris Segars dressed as Scarlett O’Hara (in Carol Burnett – Went with the Wind attire) and Fr. Tim Gadziala as Rhett Butler.

We learned a lot and are looking forward to being co-hosts of next year’s convention!

Cardinal DiNardo’s and Bishop Caggiano’s remarks are available in audio format on the NCCW.ORG website.
The fourth annual Stewardship Appreciation Dinner was held on Sunday, September 30, 2018 in Lafayette Square. Although the weather was threatening earlier in the day, the sun reappeared in the late afternoon sky as parishioners gathered in the Square to enjoy the sounds of music, food, and engaging conversations with fellow church members.

The food was prepared by a group of volunteers from the Knights of Columbus, Council 631. This year, the menu included BBQ pork, grilled chicken, cole slaw, and baked beans with dessert served out of Bruster’s Ice Cream truck parked on the Square. Many thanks to Knight Dwight Sheley for organizing the food service end of the dinner and the dedicated ladies of the CCW who, as always, were on hand throughout most of the day and into the late evening to ensure the event went off without a hitch.

A small combo from The Fabulous Equinox Orchestra provided music fashioned in the style and swagger of the legendary entertainer Frank Sinatra with touches of Motown, Ray Charles, Johnny Mercer, Elvis, and more.

Many thanks to Fr. Schreck for hosting this enjoyable evening under the sprawling oaks of Lafayette Square in thoughtful recognition of the generosity and giving spirit of Cathedral’s parishioners. In his remarks, Fr. Schreck reflected on the generous nature of the Cathedral parishioners and his deep appreciation for all that they do as Christian stewards of the church.

“There are so many people who give generously of
their time, talent, and treasure for the good of the Cathedral. They often do so with no recognition, nor do they seek recognition. This annual parish picnic in Lafayette Square is a way for the parish to celebrate all of those many hidden and unseen gifts and sacrifices that our parishioners make. It is good for us to get together at least once a year to celebrate all of that.

It’s funny…we take a risk each year that the weather will cooperate and we will be able to be outside in the Square. Once we were washed out by a hurricane, but for the most part we have been able to gather in the Square and look up at our magnificent Cathedral, which our Great-grandfathers and Great-grandmothers built and left for us. It always gives me a great sense of pride to know that I am part of the Catholic community of Savannah and the Cathedral Parish.”
ROSARY COAST TO COAST

Almost 100 Savannah Deanery parishioners, as well as two priests and two deacons, including Fr. Pablo and our own Deacon Smith, participated in the ROSARY COAST TO COAST event held on the front steps of the church at 4:00 PM on October 7th in communion with over 1,100 sites across the United States of America and the world.

At this special rally on the Feast Day of Our Lady of the Rosary and also Respect Life Sunday, attendees prayed a public rosary, sang several Marian hymns and beseeched our gracious Blessed Mother to help bring unity and peace in the wake of current events in the Church and in the World.

Following the event, Catholics were encouraged to reinstate the practice of the Family Rosary in their homes.