

Saint Mary

ON THE HILL
CATHOLIC CHURCH



News and Notes from Fr. Jerry

Committed to Forming Disciples Young and Old

Dear Parish Family,

As Jesus' mission on earth drew to its close, He sent out His disciples with the words, "Go and teach!" (cf. Mt. 28:19). Ever since that moment, the Church has sought to fulfill the Lord's command by educating all people in the saving message of the Gospel.

Today, this mission continues through the devotion of parents and other educators who help our children grow, like the young Jesus Himself, in wisdom, age and grace before God and before all (cf. Lk. 2:52). As the pastor of St. Mary on the Hill Catholic Church, I express my deep gratitude first to parents, who serve a primary

and irreplaceable role in the education and formation of their children. I also thank our teachers and catechists who work assiduously to assist parents in forming our children in faith.

I believe there is no better way to give of ourselves than to form our children, youth and adults in the knowledge and love of God. Together, let us continue into the next century our commitment to Christ-centered Catholic education.

God bless you,

Fr. Jerry

Mass Schedule

Sunday, 7:45 a.m., 10:30 a.m.,
12:15 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Monday, 7:00 a.m. and 9:15 a.m.

Tuesday, 7:00 a.m. and 9:15 a.m.

Wednesday, 7:00 a.m. and 5:15 p.m.

Thursday, 7:00 a.m. and 9:15 a.m.

Friday, 7:00 a.m. and 9:15 a.m.

Saturday, 9:15 a.m.,
5:00 p.m. (Sunday Vigil)

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday, 3:45-4:45 p.m.

Perpetual Adoration Chapel

Chapel is located at the corner of
Monte Sano and Bellevue.

100 Years
of Catholic Education on the Hill Celebration
Saturday, October 19, 2013

Mass 5:00pm

Celebrant: Bishop Emeritus J. Kevin Boland

Reception immediately following

Heavy Hors d'oeuvre, Beer and Wine

St. Mary's School Gym

Dress: Church Attire

Tickets available at the Church Office

Adults only

A History of St. Mary on the Hill School

By John Scherer

A New School

The same forces that brought about the need for a new high school — aging buildings and higher enrollment — now faced the Mount St. Joseph grammar school. Soon after the girls' high school closed to become part of Aquinas High School, Msgr. Daniel J. Bourke, St. Mary's pastor, and Sr. Mary Gerald Wells, CSJ, the school's principal, recognized the need for a modern facility to meet the educational needs of the students. At this point, a major change occurred. St. Mary's Parish agreed to purchase the entire block from the Sisters and build a new school. The Sisters of St. Joseph would still provide the administrative and academic guidance of the school, but the parish would operate the school. Consequently, the school's name would be changed to St. Mary on the Hill School once the new school was built.

In January 1959, General Chairman Albert von Kamp Gary and Co-Chairman William A. Faughnan began a drive to raise funds for the construction of the school. Parishioner Gilbert J. O'Brien's architectural firm of Woodhurst and O'Brien was engaged to design the new school.

Claussen-Webster Construction Company won the construction contract and agreed to complete the school by September 1960. Bishop Thomas J. McDonough officiated at the groundbreaking on January 12, 1960. In *The Architect's Story* in the *Blue Book* history of St. Mary's, O'Brien was most prophetic as he wrote, "St. Mary School replaced inadequate school plant facilities in the parish and has made possible the future expansion of religious education in Augusta." How right he was. As the school has grown in numbers of students and the curriculum has changed to meet the academic needs of our students, major expansions of the physical plant have been achieved over the years.

Under the watchful eyes of Msgr. Bourke and Sr. Mary Gerald, the construction of the school, which is situated parallel to Helen Street, was completed on time and almost 600 students were welcomed to the new school in the fall of 1960. Bishop McDonough dedicated the school on Oct. 9, 1960. The Junior High Wing was added in 1964 and faces Monte Sano Avenue. A year later the convent and chapel — where Perpetual Adoration now occurs — were added to the complex.

New Challenges

During the 1970s and early 1980s, St. Mary School, like many other Catholic schools, saw enrollment drop and tuition rise. The City of Augusta continued to grow and expand, but many families also began to take up residence farther and farther away from the school. Many Catholics throughout the country questioned the need for Catholic education at all. Through all the turmoil, the parish family kept the school open and vibrant.

Fr. James Costigan became St. Mary's pastor in 1982 and Sr. Ruth Butler became the school's fifth principal in 1984. Both were strong advocates of Catholic education and waged an effective campaign to increase awareness of the value of a Catholic education, and worked diligently to increase the enrollment of the school. Sister and the faculty completed a Self-Study and Assessment, an evaluative process to ensure that the school was meeting the spiritual, academic and extra-curricular needs of the students. In February 1986, the parish's Education Commission recommended that the School Board be disbanded

continued on page 3



SMCS Groundbreaking January 12, 1960.



First grade, 1960.



League Champs during the '60s.

A History of St. Mary on the Hill School *continued from page 2*

and the management of the school be transferred to the Parish Council. This arrangement provided the school with more tangible evidence of the parish's support for the school, the parish's largest single educational and evangelization effort. The Parish Council thereby assumed more responsibility for the school's policies and financial stability.

When Sr. Ruth left for her next assignment in 1989, the new principal, Sr. Kathleen Mitchell, CSJ, and the new assistant principal, Sr. Joan Kaucher, CSJ, found the enrollment was at capacity and the school once again enjoyed its outstanding reputation in the community as a school of excellence.

"A Leap of Faith"

Through the 1990s, the pressures of additional costs to operate the school put a financial strain on many families to meet tuition and other fees necessary for the school. As a Stewardship Parish, Fr. Costigan met the challenge head-on. A Stewardship Parish is called to give of its time, talent and treasure to live lives as disciples of Christ. Father and the Stewardship Committee were well aware that many parishes in the country, bolstered by a firm commitment to stewardship, began to completely fund the operation of their Catholic schools from the contributions made by parishioners each week in the offertory collection. Even though the school had established a successful endowment fund and conducted many fundraisers to help pay for the operation of the school, far too many families simply did not have the financial means to meet the tuition

requirements. It all boiled down to a simple question: could we, as a parish, fulfill our roles as disciples – to teach our Catholic faith to all of our children – if only a few could afford to pay the ever-increasing tuition costs?

Fr. Costigan had, for some time, been asking the Stewardship Committee and others to consider taking "a leap of faith" to convert the school from a tuition-based institution to one that would be funded completely through the weekly contributions of parishioners.

"I realized that I had to be the first to take 'the leap of faith' I was asking parishioners to take," said Fr. Costigan.

And so he did. Convinced that for the long-term good of our ability to form our students in the faith, Father asked all parishioners to embrace the concept. After many prayers for guidance and many meetings, the parish took the bold step, in 1995, to make a Catholic education available to all of our students.

Mr. Charles McCormack took over the reins as principal in 1998 and guided the school for seven years. Under his leadership, the school continued to thrive - so much so that additional facilities were needed to allow the school to fulfill the needs of the student body. A gymnasium and new cafeteria were added, while the old cafetorium was converted into space for art, drama, music, computer lab, and storage space. Architecturally, the renovations included designing the gymnasium and outer walkways to mirror the architecture of the church building a block away.

Today, the school offers a curriculum of religion, language arts, literature, geography, math, science, his-

tory, art, computer, P.E., Spanish, and music. The school offers a variety of sports for boys and girls, in addition to participation in the C.S.R.A. Science Fair, the PAGE Academic Bowl, Future City Competition, the Young Writers Contest, and other events.

Throughout the years, the school has been blessed to have administrators, faculty and staff who have dedicated themselves to extending the work of Jesus through the school. We have also been blessed to have parents, volunteers and friends of the school who support the administration and faculty and see to it that our students have every opportunity to succeed.

As we celebrate this Year of Faith, we are indeed fortunate to have a school that strives to live up to its mission. We have a rich history, and the school has undergone many changes and faced even more challenges. Through it all, the school and parish have accepted the responsibility to develop the potential of each child – spiritually, intellectually, physically, emotionally, morally and socially. We pray that God will continue to guide and bless us as we continue to do His work on earth.



Fifty balloons were released for the St. Mary School 50th anniversary.

A History of Mount St. Joseph

By Sr. Laura Ann Grady, CSJ

This year, 2013, we celebrate the 100th year that Catholic education has been a cornerstone of St. Mary on the Hill. It is a story of success and hardship, setbacks and dedication, and survival and growth. The partnership between the citizens of Augusta and the Sisters of St. Joseph working with the parish and others shows that by working together, we can achieve great things.



Mount St. Joseph Academy.

The Beginnings

Bishop Augustin Verot, Bishop of Savannah and the Vicar Apostolic of St. Augustine, Fla., visited his native France in 1866 seeking religious to minister in his missionary diocese, which was recovering from the scars of the Civil War. He appealed to the Sisters of St. Joseph in Le Puy, in southern France, to help care for the spiritual needs of his people. Eight Sisters volunteered, and arrived in St. Augustine, Fla. of that year. In April, 1867, four Sisters moved to Savannah, where they taught the emancipated slaves, both adults and children, religious and basic academic subjects. Eight months later, after locating a suitable house, the Bishop assigned the care of orphaned boys to them. This mission lasted nine years.

In 1876, yellow fever raged in Savannah. In order to save the Sisters and their charges from the disease, Bishop William Gross, then the bishop of Savannah, transferred the Sisters and boys to Washington, Ga. in Wilkes County. At that time, Washington and nearby Locust Grove were thriving centers of Catholicity due to the influx years earlier of wealthy farmers from Maryland. The Sisters established a boarding school for boys in Locust Grove, as Atlanta at that time had no Catholic

schools for boys. The school remained open until 1946. The orphanage remained in Washington until it moved to Atlanta in the mid-'60s.

The Sisters immediately opened an Academy for young ladies on their property, as the only Catholic education available to young girls was St. Vincent's Academy in Savannah run by the Sisters of Mercy. Many present-day parishioners can tell of their grandmothers, perhaps even mothers who graduated from the Washington Academy. In 1910, under Sr. Sacred Heart's direction, the Academy was accredited by the University of Georgia, the first Catholic school in the state to achieve that distinction. In 1912, it was affiliated with the Catholic University in Washington, D.C. The future seemed full of promise.

However, it seems that Divine Providence had other plans. After 36 years of achievement and prosperity, a fire destroyed the Academy, along with the convent. Only the stone foundation, the brick chimneys and the chapel walls remained standing as witness to what had once been. The inferno took only two hours to demolish the work of 36 years. No lives were lost, for which all were profoundly grateful. There were 90 girls enrolled in

continued on page 5

A History of Mount St. Joseph *continued from page 4*

the Academy. Despite the tragedy, the Sisters were able to make plans for the future. They moved the Academy to Augusta on five acres of property on Wrightsboro Road offered to them by the Chamber of Commerce, together with financial assistance. The boys' orphanage remained in Washington.

In Augusta, a very large and eye-pleasing structure resulted. The cornerstone was laid on July 6, 1913 – 100 years ago. This became Mount St. Joseph, a name befitting its patron as well as its location. This building still stands on its original site as part of the Uptown Veterans Hospital.

On Dec. 26, 1912, Mother Aloysius Burke, with Sisters Sacred Heart Trout, Mary Louis Wiltz, Raphael Mulroy and Ambrose Finnegan, moved into the Dickey Cottage on Monte Sano Avenue where the United Methodist Church now stands. In January, 18 girls of high school age joined the Sisters at Dickey Cottage to continue their education. The first graduating class, the class of 1913, was composed of the following young ladies – Leta Bricken, Kathleen Clark, Susie Cullar, Jennie Hollingshead, Ruth Moss, Elizabeth Miller, Maude Peters, Cecilia Sheridan and Mary Shipp.

The new “Mount” opened on Sept. 9, 1915. It prospered, but its glory was brief, as again tragedy struck. In 1916, the Augusta Irish-American Bank failed. The Sisters lost their finances and were left with a hefty

debt “largely because of an unscrupulous man who stole all the money,” according to Sr. Rose Margaret Schweers. The Mercantile Trust Company of St. Louis now owned the Wrightsboro building. Its cost neared \$300,000 in 1913 money.

That year, our Phoenix rose again. This time, it was in the person of Mrs. Katie Flannery Semmes. Mrs. Semmes purchased the Chateau LeVert, the beautiful home of Octavia Walton LeVert, niece of George Walton, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and presented it as a gift to the Sisters. On June 2, 1916, the Sisters transformed the large Chateau at 1218 Monte Sano Ave. into a convent and Mount St. Joseph Academy.

The Growing Years

In 1930, an additional building graced the Mount St. Joseph Campus. A two-story building that faced Monte Sano Avenue was erected, giving the campus a more spacious auditorium on the first floor, and a beautiful chapel on the second floor. Four guest rooms with baths for visitors and retreats were also on the second floor. The auditorium boasted a raised stage with a pulley curtain! Many parishioners recall the cultural and academic events presented there. Who could forget Mrs. Buckley's – mother of Patricia Boerner –

continued on page 6



May Festival, 1934.



Eighth grade graduation, 1948.

A History of Mount St. Joseph *continued from page 5*

book reviews? Many say that much more than books was discussed during these sessions!

By 1932, Mount St. Joseph had outgrown Clemence Hall and needed additional space. Once again Mrs. Katie Flannery Semmes bought property for the Sisters. She purchased the Claussen home on the corner of Monte Sano and Helen Streets, which was situated immediately next to the existing school. This large building was re-named Flannery Hall and became the high school, thus separating the grade school students of both boys and girls from the high school all-girls academy. In 1949, a spacious cafeteria was added to the campus, and in 1955, a separate kindergarten, built by Mr. Johnny McDonald, accommodated the increasing number of young children coming to the school.

Classes remained quite small during the 1920s and 1930s, but with the coming of WWII, the expansion of Fort Gordon, industry moving in, and the Hill becoming a popular residential section, that was about to change. Growth continued.

The 1940s saw Mount St. Joseph students involved in the many civic projects in the area to help the war effort. In the high school, the traditional gym classes and sports programs were replaced with exacting periods of physical training and military style drills that had the girls stepping out in their uniforms adapted to more current styles. The group was known as The Victory Corps. They wore their regular school skirt with a long-sleeve white blouse that was adorned with insignia, a blue tie, and a blue overseas hat sporting a bright red "V." The girls looked forward to working once a week with their drill instructor, a handsome young soldier from Fort Gordon.

Additionally, the high school girls attended a weekly course in nursing given by Mrs. Claude Burpee, an experienced nurse from University Hospital. They were trained in assisting nurses, and after the completion of the course, some of the MSJ girls actually worked as aides at University Hospital. They proudly wore their white jumpers and their Red Cross pins. Others went to the downtown Red Cross building to cut and roll bandages for wounded troops.

Augusta grew rapidly during the post-war years of the late '40s and the '50s, and it was not long before the existing schools, both public and private, began to feel



First grade class of 1952-53.

the impact of crowded classrooms. Boys Catholic High School, Mount St. Joseph Academy, both the girls' high school and the grammar school, were overcrowded and housed students in less-than-adequate buildings. As a result, plans were in the making for some time to replace all three facilities.

Consequently, a new school was erected on Highland Avenue. The new school would house high school students from Mount St. Joseph and Boys Catholic, and was eventually named Aquinas High School. Simultaneously, at St. Mary's, there had been talk of a new parochial school since the middle 1950s. The decision was made for the parish to purchase the Mount St. Joseph property from the Sisters and erect the new St. Mary's Parochial Elementary School.

Mount St. Joseph graduated its last senior class in 1957. Sr. Marie Cecile Bennett, the principal, would move with the Academy to its new location on Highland Avenue, where it would join the young men of Boys Catholic, who were there a semester before the merger.

Sr. Marie Cecile Bennett remained as principal for the girls for one year, and Br. Norbert Cote as principal for the boys also for one year.

The grade school graduated its last eighth grade in June 1960. On Sept. 8 of that year, St. Mary's Parochial Elementary School, "beautiful in appearance and splendidly equipped," opened its doors to 552 students with Sr. Mary Gerald Wells, CSJ, as its first principal.

A History of Aquinas High School

by Sr. Laura Ann Grady, CSJ

Aquinas High School officially opened in September 1957, after it had been made clear that the facilities at both Mount St. Joseph and Boys Catholic High School were inadequate. The bishop, the Deanery pastors, and the Catholic community all agreed that a new school housing both the boys of Boys Catholic and the girls of Mount St. Joseph was sorely needed. So began a search for a location. A suitable property was found on Highland Avenue, about two miles from St. Mary on the Hill Church, and a mortgage was obtained so that building could begin immediately.

In January 1957, Boys Catholic students transferred from their downtown location to the new building. Fr. Ralph E. Seikel served as priest moderator, and Br. Norbert Cote served as principal. In September 1957, the Mount St. Joseph Academy students followed. The school was designed to be co-institutional, so the girls occupied the north end of the building, while the boys occupied the south end. This arrangement lasted for just a few years. Sr. Marie Cecile Bennett moved with students from Mount St. Joseph as principal for the girls.

In September 1958, Sr. Mary James McDonald was appointed principal for the girls, and Br. Claude Swallow as principal for the boys.

The most significant event of the year was the evaluation of the school by the Southern Association of Secondary Schools. Commendations praised the competence of the faculty, the working relationship of

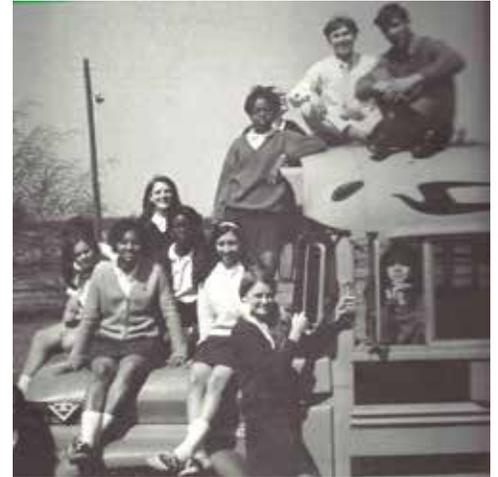
the faculty and the student body, and the physical plant.

As the 1960s progressed, so did the school. In 1962, there were 100 freshmen – tuition was increased to \$200 per year for Catholic families, \$250 for families in the Charleston Diocese of North Augusta, and \$300 for non-Catholic families. During this decade of change, Aquinas enrolled the first African-American student, thus being the first school in the city to integrate before the Supreme Court mandate. As enrollment grew, additional classrooms and lavatories were added to each end of the building in 1966. It was during this year that the School Board together with the bishop made the decision to close the ninth grade of Immaculate Conception Academy and move all students to Aquinas. Enrollment passed the 400 mark.

Years of Change

As the 1960s drew to a close, Fr. Ralph Seikel, the first moderator of Aquinas, was appointed superintendent of schools for the Savannah Diocese. Discussion soon began to reorganize the co-institutional model of Aquinas into one integrated student body. The bishop approved, and in 1969 Aquinas ended an era with Sr. Mary James McDonald as principal and Br. Luke as assistant. Marist Brothers continued to be on the faculty. That year there were 122 graduates.

The 1970s began with changes in the nation, the church, the city, and so in Aquinas. The teachings



Aquinas students gather for a photo on the bus.

from the Second Vatican Council joined the traditional religion curriculum, causing some parents concern as rumors flew that Aquinas was teaching heresy! Parent meetings and a visit from the director of Christian Formation from the bishop's office assured them that the Religion Department was in full compliance with Catholic teaching. To add to the trauma of the times, it was in 1970 that the city of Augusta suffered a devastating race riot. Downtown buildings were burned, people were injured, the National Guard patrolled the city, and a curfew was imposed. Our Aquinas African-American students coming up the Hill to school were delayed and questioned. We are proud to say that they responded to police officers with respect.

Br. Luke, the assistant principal, was transferred to Switzerland by his Marist community to direct a program for young Marists throughout the world, and Br. Paul Phillipp

continued on page 8

A History of Aquinas High School *continued from page 7*

took his place as assistant principal. At this point, after months of discussion about building a new and larger library, an anonymous donor offered to give the material and labor if Br. Paul would oversee the construction. The donor turned out to be Mr. Johnny McDonald, the same who had gifted the 1955 kindergarten building to the then-Mount St. Joseph.

In 1977, Sr. Mary James McDonald announced her resignation as principal. Her tenure of 19 years saw the school grow from 240 students to over 400, old buildings enlarged and new ones built, racial integration, and the addition of lay faculty.

Following Sr. Mary James' resignation, Br. Paul became principal and Sr. Clara Francis Mongin became assistant principal. In September 1977, the Aquinas Football Team played its first home game in its own stadium on the Aquinas campus. Bishop Lesnard blessed the new structure and responded to the members of the civic community who were present for the ceremony. A special tribute went to the Boosters, and in particular to Mr. Jack Johannsen, Mr. Leland Malchow and Mr. Richard Bowles, who were the primary promoters of the project.

The new decade of the 1980s opened with new assistant principal Sr. Laura Ann Grady and the return of Sr. Mary James McDonald as guidance counselor. Fr. John Fitzpatrick led the Aquinas Masquers to the State Title for the musical *Man of La Mancha*, and the Aquinas Alumni Association became a reality spurred on by 1973 alumni David Knapp and Carroll Kelly Bowers. The celebration of Aquinas' 25th year roared into a

joyous celebration through the efforts of a committee headed by Mary Lou Roberts Garren, class of 1958.

In 1982, Aquinas opened with 356 students, five Sisters of St. Joseph, five Marist Brothers, one Sister of St. Helena (Episcopal) and one diocesan priest. Administration moved into a team approach with Br. Paul as administrative principal and Sr. Laura Ann as academic principal. These titles better explained the duties and lines of authority of the administrative team. In this era, the first Aquinas Auction, spearheaded by the energetic Mrs. Molly Osteen, netted \$3,386. It was considered a triumph!

In September 1987, Mr. John Myers became the first lay principal, while Br. James Brady assumed the duties of assistant. The decades continue to roll. In 1990, Fr. John Fitzpatrick assumed the role of principal. In this decade, Aquinas grew "in age and grace." Students continued to excel both in academics and sports, especially golf and tennis. The procession of principals continued as Mr. John Albert assumed the administrative chair in 1994. Plans were forthcoming for the renovation and expansion of the gym. The school now had its own website, and the library housed at least 15 computers.

The new millennium saw 303 students enrolled, and with Bishop Kevin Boland, the Aquinas community celebrated the new additions and renovated areas of the school. Mr. Robert Larcher became principal in 2003, with Kelly Culver as assistant. The 50th anniversary of Aquinas in 2007

saw a school flourishing as a witness to the values of the Gospel held by the parents who have sustained it.

In 2010, Ms. Christine Paul became principal. Aquinas alumni continued to be even more involved in supporting the school. In 2012, tuition rose to \$7,365 for Catholic families and \$9,167 for non-Catholic families. Enrollment was 241 students.

Administration changed drastically in the 2012-1013 school year due to the resignation of Ms. Paul, and since there was insufficient time for a search for her replacement, Mrs. Shannon Williams, the assistant principal, assumed most of her duties. Other faculty helped as needed.

As Catholic education in Augusta, in St. Mary's Parish, and the Augusta Deanery starts its second century, Mrs. Maureen Grady Lewis ('84) became the school's new principal. Aquinas looks to continue the legacy left to it by Boys Catholic High School and Mount St. Joseph Academy of developing well-rounded Catholic leaders, involved citizens, and adults who cherish the privilege of having a Catholic education – a privilege denied to many. The school continues to stand as a beacon of Catholicity in the Augusta community and with the grace of God, financial support, and involvement of alumni, will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2057.



Marist Brothers – the end of an era.

A History of Our CCD Program



C.C.D. STAFF CONFERENCE – Conferences between Father Gerard Murphy, C.C.D. Director of Augusta's St. Mary's on-the-Hill, Augusta, and his C.C.D. teaching staff have been held every other week during the summer months. Shown at one such meeting (l. to r.) are: Sgt. James Galvin, Mrs. Eugenio Leog, Mrs. Paul McLeod, Father Murphy, Mrs. Darrell L. Davis, John Myers, Major Thomas McGreevy and Mrs. Stanley Jurat.

CCD Staff Conference, summer 1970.

In this Year of Faith, St. Mary on the Hill Parish is celebrating 100 years of the faith formation of our young parishioners. Chief among these efforts is the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, one of the parish's largest, long-sustained programs to provide Catholic faith formation to the youth of our parish.

Did you know the first school of Christian Doctrine was in Milan, Italy in 1536? It was 1905 when Pope St. Pius X, in an encyclical, ordered that the CCD be canonically erected in all the parishes throughout the world. When Msgr. Daniel J. Bourke was appointed pastor of St. Mary on the Hill in 1957, there were six religious education teachers and a handful of students.

In 1966, the title of Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) was officially given to the religious education program at St. Mary's by Bishop McDonough. Msgr. Bourke set high standards and established solid ground for CCD. Sr. Camille Collini was appointed by Bishop Gerard L. Frey as the first Religious Education director, and a big part of her job was to direct CCD. Under Sr. Camille's supervision, CCD received its Certificate of Accreditation on May 7, 1971. When Sister left in 1974, Martha Scott took over the task of director and served in this capacity until 1977. Then, from June 1977 to June 1978, Cecilia Cohen served as director, and Cecilia Kemp served as director from July 1978 through June 1979.

Having previously been at St. Mary's at various times, Sr. Mary Gerald Wells became director of CCD in 1979, and she was here until 1988. Once again a lay



CCD Gathering, fall 2005.

person, Nancy Williams, stepped up to the plate to direct the program, serving as director until 1993.

In the spring of 1993, Pat Oehrlein became director, serving until June of 1998. When Pat's family moved to Columbus, Ga., Barbara Kareis and Joan Purucker became co-directors.

The program has grown from the six teachers and a handful of students to over 250 students. Not only has the enrollment grown, but so have the responsibilities. Along with Sunday morning classes, there are off-site retreats, parent meetings, the yearly Vacation Bible School programs, and preparation for the reception of the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation.

There have been so many people over the years who have volunteered their time and talent to be catechists to our students. As of this 2013-14 school year, there are several who have been with the ministry for over 15 years. Pam Rosema is in her 16th year, while Patty Maleck, Jesse Murga and Cheryl Werrick are each starting their 18th year. Joan Purucker her 20th, and Barbara Kareis her 28th.

Not only do we have long-term catechists, but families as well. Martha Scott was CCD director for three years, and her daughters attended CCD. Jennifer Bovitz, Martha's daughter, is now starting her ninth year as a catechist. Chandler Bovitz, Jennifer's son and Martha's grandson, has gone through the program and is starting his second year volunteering with CCD. As you see, being involved in CCD can really be a "family affair."

The History of Boys Catholic High School 1939-1958

Boys Catholic High School consisted of a six-year junior and senior high school operated by the Marist Brothers of the School of the Diocese of Savannah-Atlanta in Augusta. It began operation in 1939 and held its final commencement at the end of the 1958 term. The school counted among its alumni some of the most promising young businessmen in the area at that time.

The realization of this school actually began in Savannah. The Marist Brothers, at the request of Bishop Gerald O'Hara, agreed to discontinue the Marist grammar school in Savannah and transfer their teaching activities toward a high school in Augusta. Br. Nicholas came to

the Garden City as the first principal and was accompanied by three other pioneers in Brs. Francis Michael, Hildebert, and Paul Celestin. The humble number of 54 students comprised the first student body and an even more humble 11 comprised the first graduating class.

After two years, Br. Nicholas was named Superior of a large New York boarding school and was replaced by Br. Benedict Henry. Brother directed the school for six years which, despite the dark clouds of war, saw Boys Catholic grow into an efficient, accredited institution. In turn, Br. Benedict was replaced by Br. Ignatius Robert.

Br. John Arthur would serve as principal, having served in this capacity at St. Ann's Academy in New York. Under his guiding hand, the school's academic life emphasized an atmosphere of industry and aggressive intelligence.

A diocesan school, Boys Catholic was supported by the Catholic parishes of the city. It was essentially a Catholic institution and Catholic life and teaching permeated the classroom. The student body was largely, but by no means exclusively, Catholic. In keeping with the

continued on page 8

AFTER-GAME FROLIC



Players and youthful fans meet at the "Triple C" for a Dance after each game.

Photo by Earl Rhode

GOLF SQUAD



—Photo by Forsmark.

Top Row: Mickie Gallagher, No. 1; Dick Odenweller, Matt Lyons; Middle: Alfred Gallagher, No. 3; Claude Burpee, Harry Lawless, No. 4; Louis Mulherin, No. 2; Front: Bill Boatwright, Dick Brotherton, Jack Markwalter, Gene Howerdd.



Brother Benedict, Principal, presents Most Valuable Player Award to Jack Healy, while Magr. Grady and Coach Leonard look on. (Courtesy of Augusta Herald)

The History of Boys Catholic High School *continued from page 10*

wishes of the Most Reverend Bishop and the spirit of Catholic principles, the doors of Boys Catholic were open to all, and many fine, young non-Catholics were among the student body and alumni.

Boys Catholic High School was a fully recognized Secondary School, and was accredited by the Southern Association of High Schools and Colleges and the Georgia High School Association. This entitled the school's graduates to enter any college in the Southeast.

Among the outstanding extracurricular activities of Boys Catholic was the Sodality of Our Lady. The first and foremost idea of this society was complemented by a strong inter-scholastic program made possible by the untiring zeal of the Athletic Association, a group formed by the fathers of the students. This phase of school life featured football, basketball, baseball and golf. The Mothers' Club was in charge of



BOYS' CATHOLIC CHEER LEADERS

the social work among the boys. The dining room and special outings were arranged for the students by these devoted mothers.

Ad Placement



Saint Mary ON THE HILL

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Augusta, GA
Permit No. 475

1420 Monte Sano Avenue
Augusta, GA 30904
Phone 706-733-6627
www.stmaryonthehill.org

Recent Donations to St. Mary on the Hill

St. Mary on the Hill Church

In memory of Dick Westbrook

Clembake Golf Group

St. Mary Church Kairos Prison Ministry

In honor of Mr. and Mrs. Ron Walling

Renee Strunk and Franklin Barefield

St. Mary on the Hill School

In memory of Mary Selzler

Ronald and Helen Selzler

Louis and Marie O'Brien

Helen Smiegocki

Marvin Weinnmann

Daniel and Rosemary Dombkowski

Larry and Korella Selzler

Pat Christy

J.H. and Ann Beggs

William and Carol Ferguson

Donald and Dori Thorstad

Katherine Beck

Susan Beck

Baptisms

John Wells Gaudin

Joshua & Leah Gaudin

Nash Bogdan Malzi

Luke & Svitlana Malzi

Rose Marie Janiak

Bennett & Elizabeth Janiak

Evelyn Grace Wright

Eric & Jenna Wright

Joseph Michael Platte

William & Terese Platte

Skylar Claire Speering

Justin & Marie Speering

Delaney Alyse Hardison

Erik & Lauren Hardison

Mary Claiborne Hall

Barry & Holly Hall

Caroline Therese Dial

Brandon & Maura Dial

Easton James Faires

Kevin & Denise Faires