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POPE CLOSES MARIAN YEAR

'Pilgrimage Of Faith On Eve Of Third Millennium'



"CARVING FOR THE LORD" Gary Garner, of the Alleluia Community in Augusta, puts finishing touches on statue of St. Lawrence. The Statue was commissioned for St. Lawrence Catholic Church, Lawrenceville, and was blessed by Atlanta's Archbishop Eugene A. Marino, S.S.J. on Sunday, August 7. For story of sculptor's work see page 3. (Photo by John E. Markwalter)

BY GREG ERLANDSON

VATICAN CITY (NC) — Pope John Paul II brought the church's 14-month Marian year to a close Aug. 15 and described the period as a "pilgrimage of faith" on the eve of Christianity's third millennium.

Celebrated in a crowded St. Peter's Basilica, the internationally televised Mass reflected the influence of the Eastern-rite Catholic churches on the Marian year's ceremonies, with contributions from Coptic monks and Albanian Catholics in folk costumes, among others.

The two-and-a-half-hour ceremony marking the feast of the Assumption brought to a close the special period of prayer and celebrations of the Madonna and her significance for the church.

The Marian year began June 7, 1987, dur-

side the basilica it was standing room only for the closing ceremony.

The entire Mass was filmed by Italian state television and broadcast live to eight European countries via Eurovision. It was beamed to 16 other countries via satellite, including the Philippines, South Korea, Kenya, Uganda, Chile, Haiti and Mexico. It was not broadcast to the United States.

During his homily, the pope said the Marian year was a pilgrimage of faith on the eve of the third millennium after Christ.

"We have begun to walk with you; we, a generation which bears a certain resemblance to that first Advent, when on the horizon of human longing for the coming of the Messiah, a mysterious light was enkindled," he said.

Pilgrims from the Diocese of Savannah, led by Bishop Raymond W. Lessard, were in Rome to take part in the closing ceremonies of the Marian Year.

ing a Pentecost ceremony in St. Peter's Square. Its celebration has included several Eastern-rite religious ceremonies presided over by the pope.

The final such ceremony was the "Rite of Incense," a Coptic ceremony celebrated in St. Mary Major Basilica Aug. 14, the eve of the year's closure.

Despite the traditional flight of Romans from the city during the middle of August, both ceremonies were crowded. Tour buses from around Europe clogged the main road leading up to St. Peter's, and in-

Speaking beside an icon of Mary and Child that also adorned the altar during the year's opening ceremony, the pope called on Mary to "be always with your children! Help the individual, the people, the nations, to rise up."

"This cry of the Marian year" resounds throughout the earth, the pope added. The present age, "while priding itself on progress which has never before been seen, feels, nevertheless, in a particularly acute way the threats that menace the whole great human family."

"Operation Rescue" Arrests Now Total 594

BY GRETCHEN KEISER

One hundred fifty-eight more abortion protesters were arrested in Atlanta Aug. 16, bringing to 594 the number of arrests made since the protests began July 19 during the Democratic National Convention.

Of those arrested, the number jailed was estimated at between 200 and 300. Operation Rescue, the Binghamton, N.Y.-based organization leading the demonstrations, said that 284 were either in the Fulton County Jail or the Atlanta prison farm as of Aug. 16. However, the number jailed changed frequently as people posted bond.

Those in jail have identified themselves only as "Baby Jane Doe" or "Baby John Doe," and have remained in jail because they will not give their real names. Those who identified themselves have been released on bond or personal recognizance.

Atlanta SurgiCenter, 1113 Spring St., Atlanta, were charged with a felony, according to a spokeswoman for the Atlanta public safety office. Most were charged with being a party to a crime — obstruction of a law enforcement officer, she said.

Aug. 11 six people went inside an abortion clinic, an action which resulted in a felony charge against them rather than the misdemeanor charge of criminal trespass, being lodged against virtually all the earlier demonstrators.

Also, police for the first time arrested four people who drove others to the scene of a "rescue," and charged them with a felony.

Lowell Patterson, communications coordinator, said that those who went inside the clinic and sat down did not correctly follow the instructions of organizers. "We will stand by them," he said, but he added that by going inside they "clearly made a mistake," and should have sat down on the



ARRESTED — A young abortion opponent peers from behind a security screen after she was arrested outside a midtown Atlanta abortion clinic. (NC photo from UPI)

All 158 arrested Aug. 16 following a demonstration at the

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Augustan Does His Woodwork For The Lord

BY PAULA DAY

The challenge for Gary Garner, who carved the figures for the recently dedicated shrine of St. Lawrence in the Lawrenceville parish, was to portray the deeper, spiritual and universal qualities he felt compelled to depict.

The Augusta-based craftsman was commissioned to carve the figures for the shrine which was dedicated August 7. Lawrence of Rome was a third-century deacon and martyr and was one of seven deacons of the Church of Rome. One of his duties as deacon was to assist Pope St. Sixtus II with helping the needy of that city.

In preparation for the project Garner had studied a number of paintings of Lawrence helping poor people. "It bothered me — Lawrence was sort of doling out money — the soup kitchen approach," he explained. His wife, Nancy, and he had worked in soup kitchens and Garner is convinced that such help, while necessary, does not get to the root of people's needs.

"I felt we should depict Lawrence ministering the power of Jesus flowing through him to these broken people for their deeper needs, so I left out of the carvings all that dealt with money and goods. My effort was to reflect in their faces their distraught condition."

"If he could just get his hands on these people, their problems are going to begin to dissipate — the opposite of the woman

Gary and Nancy Garner, who moved to Augusta in 1984 to join the "Alleluia Community," are members of the church of the Most Holy Trinity, Augusta. Their address is 2333 Norton Dr., Augusta 30906.

wanting to touch Jesus and be cured," Garner explained.

The six-month artistic effort produced three figures carved from jelutong wood from Malaysia. The figures, two-thirds of life-size, occupy space on a seven-and-a-half foot hexagonal platform dividing the church's gathering space and place of worship. The central figure of Lawrence is finished in a lustrous paint and depicts a man vested in the dalmatic of the deacon. The surrounding characters, four in all when the shrine is completed, will have a dull finish.

One completed figure is that of a beggar, the other is of a mother and son with a sheet wrapped about them. The beggar has a broken nose which could have occurred when he fell in a drunken stupor, according to Garner. The woman's arms are folded around the shoulders of the boy who stands directly in front of her.

Garner explained his concept: "It's not just a beggar, but a Broad Street beggar. It's a composite of myself and a friend and the street people who come in and watch me carve." Garner's Augusta shop, Images of the Cross, is in the 500 block of Broad Street, "the worst block in Augusta," according to Garner, "with

discos, bars, strip joints and tattoo parlors."

The artist's plan for the figure of the mother and son was to depict a traumatic loss. "My guess is that they lost the husband/father and maybe their home. The mother has the sheet wrapped around her and her son trying to shelter and protect him."

The figure of Lawrence is extending empty hands. "I tried to reflect physical strength, yet caring, ministering hands," Garner explained. "I tried to depict Lawrence as a strong man of God who can deal with these people, whatever they come to him with."

Two other figures are to be added to the group. One will represent the woman caught in adultery from the Gospel account; the other will be a lame man on a pallet. The entire ensemble will crowd the area and give a sense of ministering to a multitude. Garner hopes the remaining figures will be completed by the end of September.

The artist's avocation and then vocation as a carver of religious figures has evolved. He has been working with wood for over 30 years. Initially he made reproductions of and built furniture. The work developed into making custom-designed houses and commercial woodwork.

"It always bothered us that you couldn't find a good wood cross to compliment your home decor," Nancy Garner explained. "There were plenty of plastic and molded metal crosses."

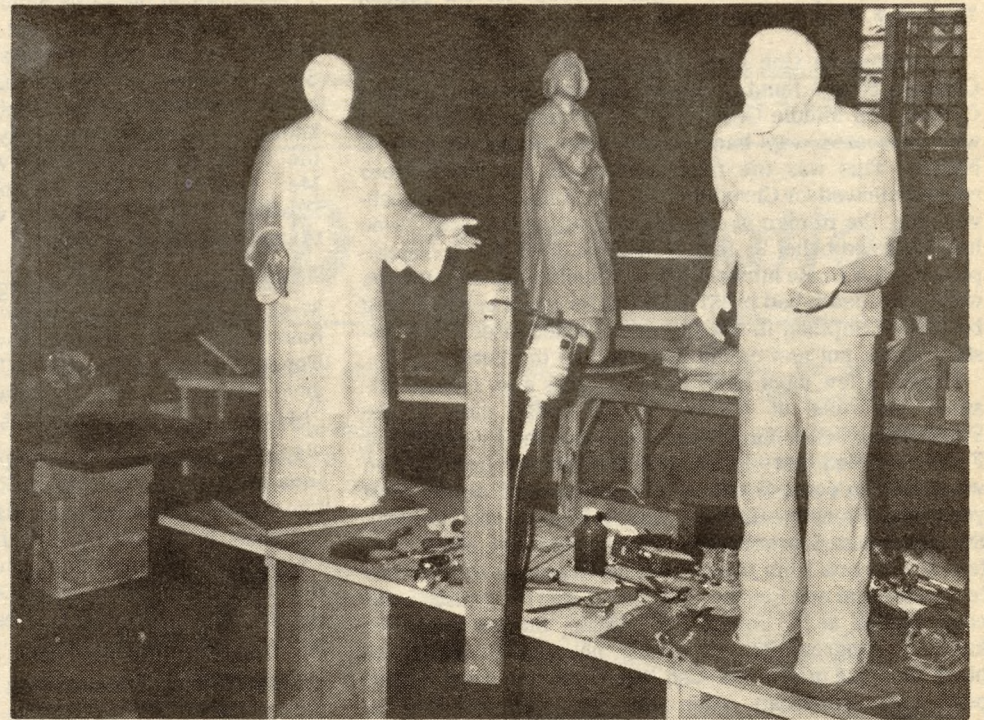
This concern prompted the next stage in Gary Garner's efforts in wood. He began making crosses from over 30 different kinds of wood to equal or surpass the quality of home furnishings. In 1982 he started "Woodworks for Jesus," and his work since then has been dedicated to "getting across the message of Christ."

At the present time only five percent of his commissions are for crosses. Much of the rest of his work is producing church furnishings for sanctuaries, an ecumenical effort which includes Catholic, Episcopal, Methodist and Lutheran churches in Atlanta, Dalton and Augusta. "All are sacramental, liturgical churches," Garner pointed out.

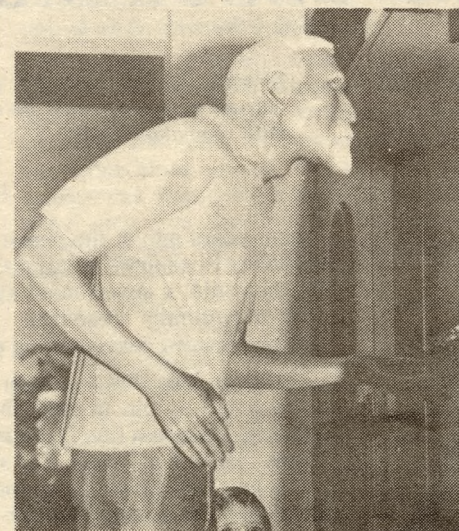
Most recently he has begun carving wood sculptures. The shrine carvings for St. Lawrence Church are the most extensive project he has undertaken.

Garner does not know whether this aspect of his talent for working in wood will expand. "I think it's important in this work, as in any work, to be ready to give it up — to do what the Lord wills. His will is more important than any of our ambitions or plans. Really, the bottom line is we're not woodworkers, we're sons of the Lord."

A place for the shrine was part of the



STATUES for St. Lawrence Church shown on worktable of Gary Garner's shop "Images of the Cross" in Augusta. The picture was taken as the artist was finishing his work prior to transporting them to Lawrenceville. (Photo by John E. Markwalter)



BROAD STREET BEGGAR — Completed statue after becoming part of the Shrine in St. Lawrence Church. PHOTOS BY PAULA DAY

original plan for the church of St. Lawrence which was completed in the fall of 1987 and dedicated November 21 of that year. In the process of planning the structure, Father Ken Bayer, pastor, had met Garner.

"We wanted to use his talent with wood in the church," Father Bayer recalled. "Gary's sketches for the figures exceeded our expectations 1000 percent. The idea was that Lawrence would welcome those entering the worship area. The figures could represent contemporary types — the lame, blind, sinners — anyone in need. If we adopt him (Lawrence) as our patron, we have to welcome them, too."

Around the base of the completed shrine will be words attributed to Lawrence when he was asked to turn over the treasures of



ARCHBISHOP EUGENE MARINO, S.S.J. with Gary Garner and his wife Nancy at Lawrenceville dedication.

the church to Roman authorities. The legend says he pointed to the outcasts of Roman society whom he had gathered together and said, "These are the treasures of the church."

"Whatsoever you do to the least of these, you do to me," will complete the inscription on the shrine, according to Father Bayer.

"The greatest compliment is imitation," Father Bayer commented. "We want to honor St. Lawrence, but to honor him in such a way that calls us to imitate his actions. The real question is not whether people like it (the shrine) but whether it touches their lives."

(Paula Day is a staff member of The Georgia Bulletin, Atlanta.)

"Operation Rescue" Arrests Now Total 594—

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outside of the door. Nonetheless, he argued that the felony charge of "terroristic acts" was "certainly ridiculous."

Asked if the demonstrations were now being planned to be silent, without signs or remarks made to women trying to enter the clinics, Patterson said Operation Rescue was trying to emphasize the "spiritual content" of what they were doing.

At the Fulton County Jail, authorities refused to let Father John Adamski, pastor of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, celebrate Mass for Catholics among the prisoners Aug. 7, citing a prohibition against alcoholic beverages and objecting to the Eucharistic wine. Father Adamski was able to distribute Communion the next day. By Aug. 12, an agreement had been worked out between jail and archdiocesan officials to allow Mass to be celebrated for Sunday and the feast of the Assumption. But a "lock-

down" at the jail Aug. 14, because of a disturbance by other inmates, prevented Father Adamski's entering the jail. He was able to celebrate Mass Aug. 15.

Originally segregated from other prisoners, the abortion protesters were placed in prison dormitories with other misdemeanor offenders Aug. 9 and moved from the new Fulton County Jail back to the old jail.

(Gretchen Keiser is editor of The Georgia Bulletin, Atlanta.)