

It consisted of 14 hand-carved mahogany panels. The "Way" begins to the left of the altar and proceeds around the church, culminating with the burial station to the right of the ambo. The burial, therefore leads directly to the proclamation of the empty tomb, which directs us to the resurrected Christ in Eucharist. It reminded the community not only of Israel's slavery in Egypt, but also the African-American experience of slavery. Christ was depicted strong, yet accepting weakness. He was humble yet not humiliated.

October 13, 1991 was a truly historic day at St. Augustine. The church building was beautiful but came with a cost that required us to ask for a 15-year loan from the Diocese of Little Rock with the hope of paying it off as soon as possible in order not to have to pay a high amount of interest on the principal. Bishop Andrew J. McDonald wrote: "On the occasion of the dedication, the little parish accepted a payout schedule to cover the remainder of the debt. The people of the parish and the stewardship of the priest and sisters have made this happen." Sister Carol had managed the finances well and everyone sacrificed so that payment was made in three years.

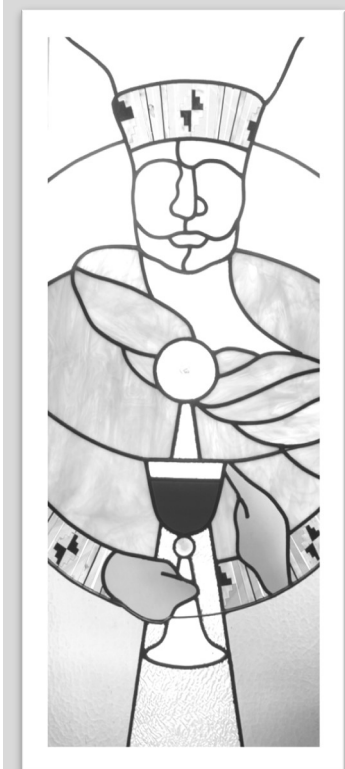


AFRICAN WAY: 14 hand carved panels depicting the Stations of the Cross were created in 1990.

September 27, 1992 the beautiful sanctuary was completed with the dedication of the stained glass windows. George Hoelzeman designed the windows and they were constructed by SOOS Stained Glass Co. In the introduction to the service, Fr. Warren Harvey wrote: "Art is the noblest expression of human genius. Through art, we share in the creative activity of our God. Through art, the faithful are better able to know and feel the presence of God. Thus, sacred art is an external sign of internal grace." We invoked God's blessings upon these stained glass windows in hopes that whoever prays in their light may feel the warmth of Divine Light. We invoked God's blessing upon these windows in hope that we may not pray to them, but that we might pray through them.

In 1999, Bishop McDonald made changes to Fr. Warren's duties. He was appointed pastor of St. Mary's, St. Patrick's, and St. Augustine. To assist Fr. Warren in his duties with St. Augustine, Nigerian born Father Oliver Ochieze was appointed associate pastor in October until he was assigned to Holy Cross Catholic Church in Sheridan in 2007.

Women religious have served at St. Augustine since it began on September 8, 1929. We used the occasion of Sister Sylvia Provost's 50th Golden Jubilee as a nun to celebrate her life and service and to remember the service of all the women who have served at St. Augustine on Oct. 5, 2003. A wonderful liturgy and formal dinner at St. Mary's gym was planned.



STAINED GLASS: George Hoelzeman's beautiful art depiction of the Stations of the Cross created in 1992.

Pictures of Sisters Sylvia's life were displayed and Sister Carol showed a PowerPoint presentation of Sister Sylvia's life. It was a wonderful day of celebration.

To celebrate the 75th anniversary of the parish, a special banquet was planned at the new Holiday Inn Presidential Suite in Little Rock on October 3, 2004. Fr. Warren who was the longest serving priest for the parish was reassigned to a church in Pine Bluff. After serving 18 years at St. Augustine, Fr. Warren was replaced by Monsignor Jack Harris in 2007.



50TH GOLDEN JUBILEE: Parishioners helped celebrate Sister Sylvia's life and service as a nun.