Visiting the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament

Slideshow by Denise Fracchia, Cathedral Docent
Bishop Patrick Manogue was the bishop who built the Cathedral. He was a gold miner turned bishop.

He put himself through the seminary at St. Sulpice in Paris using the money he earned in the gold mines.

He was instrumental in changing the diocesan headquarter from Grass Valley to Sacramento.
Bishop Manogue deliberately chose the location of the Cathedral to be close to the State Capitol.

The Cathedral opened on June 30, 1889
The juxtaposition of these two important institutions gave the message: Church and State, two important institutions, each pursuing the common good for society, but from different angles.
Bishop Manogue loved the Church of the Holy Trinity in Paris, France.

With the exception of the Cathedral’s dome, the two churches are very similar.
In memory of
The Most Rev
Patrick
Manogue
first bishop of
this diocese.
And founder of
this Cathedral.
His successor
placed this
stone
as a memorial
of his dutiful
service.

Bishop Patrick Manogue

IN MEMORIAM
RVDI PATRICII
MANOGUE
HUJUS
DIOCESEOS
EPISCOPI PRIMI.

HUJUSQUE
CATHEDRALIS
CONDITORIS.

HUNC LAPIDEM
OFICII MEMOR
SUCCEEDOR
POSUIT.
The two cartouches in the vestibule are in memory of two other important figures in the history of Sacramento.
The 39-year-old Spanish explorer Gabriel Moraga "discovered" and named the Sacramento Valley and the Sacramento River after the Spanish term for "sacrament", specifically referring to the Eucharist.
A cartouche of Fr. Peter Anderson commemorates the Dominican priest who founded St. Rose of Lima Church, the first Catholic Church in Sacramento.
Margaret Crocker was a good friend of Bishop Manogue and wanted to see the Cathedral become a place of art and culture.

She donated all the lower windows in the nave.

She also donated a large window in the transept.
The Sistine Madonna is a reproduction of a famous painting by Raphael Sanzio (1488-1520). It was donated to the Cathedral by Jane Stanford, the wife of Governor Leland Stanford.

Jane Stanford also wanted to see the Cathedral become a place of art and culture.
The angels above the Last Supper stained glass window have stood the test of time. They were here when the Cathedral opened in 1889 and were restored in 2005. These angels represent the best examples of the original trompe d'oeil art work.

Bishop Manogue’s niece modeled for the angel on the right.
The Chapel of Our Lady
The north altar is a western interpretation of Byzantine art inspired by 13th century artist Giotto.

Much of the painting done for the 2005 restoration was prepared in New York on canvas.
Our Lady of Guadalupe is not only the patron saint of Sacramento Diocese but also the patron saint of the Americas. The saints depicted in this mural represent saints from the Americas.

The empty niche is a reminder that anyone among us can be a saint.
The inspiration for the mural on the south side is from a painting in the Vatican by Renaissance artist Pietro Perugino.

**The Chapel of the Martyrs**
The Chapel of the Martyrs

The martyrs in the upper part of the mural suffered during the persecution of the early Church.

The martyrs in the lower portion are from later centuries and represent the ethnic diversity of our diocese.
The dome was closed in 1932.
Over seventy years later, in 2005, the inner dome was rebuilt using the scant records available.
The oculus at the top of the dome is 24 feet in diameter.
The wingspan of the dove in the oculus is 7 feet and a dramatic reminder of the Holy Spirit’s presence in the celebration of the Eucharist.
The roundels at the 4 cardinal points (NSEW) are scenes from the New Testament. The secondary points depict scenes from Revelation and the Old Testament. All are examples of nourishment from God. They signify the past (Old Testament), present (New Testament), and future (Revelation). The Scripture verse is below each roundel.
Each roundel is 5 feet in diameter
Over the altar, in four pendentives, are the authors of the Gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.
Pendentives
Symbols of the seven sacraments are on each of the pillars.
“This is my body that is for you.”

The crucifix suspended above the altar reminds us that the Eucharist makes present both Christ’s sacrifice and his Last Supper.
The altar is the focus of the Cathedral.
Sealed into the back of the altar is a relic of Saint Toribio Romo.
Toribio was killed during the Cristero rebellion of 1927-29. At that time, the president of Mexico had enacted anticlerical laws because the church was seen as too closely related to Spain. Thousands were persecuted.
The relic was placed in the altar during the rededication of the building on November 20, 2005.
The Eucharistic Chapel

This is a place for private prayer, a place to sit in silence and reflect on the mystery of faith, in particular, the gift of the Eucharist.
The restored tabernacle was modeled from the 1937 Eucharistic Congress in the Philippines.

The Latin inscription reads in English: “You have given them bread from Heaven, containing in itself all sweetness.”
Hanging before the tabernacle is an antique lamp with a perpetually burning light that signals the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.
The Latin verses on the grille around the chapel are taken from the famous hymn “Pange Lingua” by Thomas Aquinas.
The prominence of the Baptismal Font reflects the importance placed upon this sacrament in the liturgical reforms of the Vatican II Council.
The present location symbolizes that Baptism is the sacrament of entrance into the church.
The two deer in the mosaic recall Psalm 42:

“Like a deer that yearns for flowing water, so my soul is yearning for you, my God”
The 12 Apostles are depicted in the roundels on the side walls.
The stained glass windows are not only inspirational but a record of our historic past.
East Windows over the Tabernacle

Nativity
(Mrs. T. Dwyer)

Last Supper
(Anthony Coolot)

Ascension
(Daniel McCarthy)
North Wall
in the Sanctuary

St. Matthew  St. Mark

(Elizabeth Harley Hooker)

St. John  St. Luke

(James McNasser)
The Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament is the mother church for the Sacramento Diocese.
When we teach our students about the Cathedral we give them ownership to our shared heritage.

For our children are not only the future church but the keepers of our treasure, the Cathedral.