

RENAISSANCE REVISITED

St. Augustine Parish Building Campaign

January, 2011

Wow! What a Christmas Gift! Thank you with all our hearts!

“BEFORE ALL ELSE
LIVE TOGETHER
ONE IN HEART
AND MIND
AND HONOR GOD
IN ONE
ANOTHER”

St. Augustine of Hippo
†430 A.D.
St. Augustine Church
1973

“*And in those days in Bethlehem...there was no room in the inn!*” But now after 3 & 1/2 years of praying, planning, and fundraising **there is room**—dedicated, beautiful, efficient, handicap-accessible reception, administrative, educational and gathering space—our parish **Pastoral Center**. Thanks to God, your generous stewardship, our Pastoral and Finance Councils, our Building Committee and **Renaissance Revisited** Working Group, our parish family indeed now has a very fine **house for the Church**, with “plenty good room”!

Our dedication and blessing of the Pastoral Center **January 22-23, 2011**, brings to fruition the **Parish Master Plan of 1994**, which called for expanded education, social, outreach and office space. How fitting that **Bishop Walter Sullivan** who dedicated the church and old hall in June, **1975**, and the new hall and renovated education wing in June, **1998**, was able to be with us for the dedication liturgy. He ordained me almost 40 years ago in May, **1971**, and assigned me here almost 15 years ago in May, **1996**. One of my first tasks was to get involved with that **Renaissance** pledge campaign and building committee and support its great work. At the same time Bishop Sullivan assigned Father Ricardo Seidel as parochial vicar to work with me in opening our area parishes to the rapidly growing Hispanic immigrant commu-

nity. The rest is history! And it's a great Catholic and American and Virginia history—the story of **you** and so many faithful, generous and hardworking members of St. Augustine parish who since the **foundation year in 1973**, 38 years ago, have helped to build this **house for the Church**, founded upon the Apostles, whose cornerstone is Christ.



For whatever reason, when the church was dedicated in 1975, there was no traditional **cornerstone** for the building. Now, when you enter at the steepled entrance to the Pastoral Center and church campus from the Hopkins Rd. side, you will cross over a handsome new **dedication stone**, dated 1973, and will be greeted by St. Augustine himself! His words were challenging in the 4/5th century turmoil of North Africa, and are just as poignant for everyone who enters St. Augustine's Church today: **“Before all else, live together one in heart and mind, and honor God in one another.”**

Every Sunday, every litur-

gical year, in good times and in bad, we gather in the sanctuary for Eucharist, the sacramental heart of the Body of Christ; afterwards we are sent **to love and serve the Lord and one another**. From Monday through Saturday our new **Pastoral Center**, along with our present hall and education wing, will be the nerve center of the **pastoral ministry** of St. Augustine Church, the Body of Christ.....because it will be filled and shared by you and our pastoral/administrative staff whose only work/ministry is to love and serve the Lord and one another. **“The Mission of St. Augustine Church is to be a parish family inspired by the love of Jesus Christ, celebrating the Goodness of Life, bringing the Good News and ministering to the needs of All.”** (Parish Mission Statement)

So, good and generous stewards of God's Good News, let's continue on with good and great works of Christian education, charity, justice, hospitality, outreach and service just as Jesus would have us do!

Once settled into the Pastoral Center, our task force on Outreach Ministry will begin to implement its vision and plans for the old parish office, the original parish rectory. This will allow our parish Food Pantry, presently located in the ushers'/bride's room off the vestibule, to be moved to and expanded

CONTINUED from Page 1

in the old office, and be much more fully stocked with delectable, nutritious necessities for the needy of our parish and community. And let that shopping cart at each mass be filled with your care and concern and canned goods! And look for ways in which you can share your time and talent in the **Outreach Center**. It will be here that we meet Bishop St. Augustine's challenge: **"Here, then, let the hungry Christ be fed; let the naked Christ be clothed; let the stranger Christ be sheltered; let the sick Christ be visited."**

Hats off to, heartfelt thanks and hugs, accolades and God's choicest blessings to you special folks who have helped bring our master plan to master fulfillment:

BUILDING COMMITTEE

(since October 2007):

Fred Howland, Chairman
Andy Kushma

Lacy Gray, Co-chairman
Vic Owen

Eileen Brown, Parish Staff
John Setaro

Charles Gregory
Don Stage Site Manager

Donna Guza

Dick Thackston, Finance Council

Caroline Honings, Staff Business Manager
Alberto Torres

RENAISSANCE REVISITED

WORKING GROUP

Barbara Earley, Co-chairwoman

Rick Brennan, Co-chairman

Steve O'Leary

Ismael Leon

Oscar Cordova

MaryLou Marple, RR Newsletter editor

Corey Simonpietri

PASTORAL COUNCIL, the visioning

FINANCE COUNCIL, the budgeting

EVERY PARISHIONER CONTRIBUTOR TO THE RR BUILDING FUND

\$50 per family per month for 3 years, beginning November, 2909, \$1,800... or more!

THE WILLS/LEGACIES OF:

Maureen Bolger, Agnes & Robert Boyce, Josephine Brown, Catherine De Neville, Virginia Duchene

MASTERPLANNERS OF 1994

BINGO & KITCHEN TEAMS

WOMEN'S GUILD

REV. RICARDO SEIDEL BOOKSTORE

ST. AUGUSTINE 2010 FESTIVAL: MANY FACES IN GOD'S HOUSE, Hispanic Committee

HERMANDADES GUADALUPE Y SENOR DE LOS MILAGROS

FOOD SALES, CAR RAFFLES, HAIRCUTS

GRUPO CARISMATICO

PARISH STAFF & MAC who've celebrated, survived, and protected the overcrowded, outdated office all these years

BALZER & ASSOCIATES /ARCHITECTS CENTURY CONSTRUCTION CO.

To you all I offer the deepest and sincerest thanks, in God's name, and my own!

With grateful and joyful love,

Rev. Msgr. Michael SC Schmied, Pastor

A Special Stewardship Story

As we dedicate our new Pastoral Center this weekend, it is fitting that we, as a Faith community, recognize and celebrate the selfless contributions of those whose commitment, stewardship, perseverance, and skills made all this possible.

They are the members of our building committee whose investment of countless hours over more than three years brought this dream to realization. It is not possible to detail here in this small space, the full story of their labors but a summary of what each individually as well as the group brought to the program should convey a sense of both the enormity and complexity of the task.

At the outset, it was recognized that a comprehensive set of specifications was needed both to produce a quality outcome as well as to control project costs over the long run. It was critical to fully define the requirement in detail. Requirements definition is invariably the most elusive and difficult part of any enterprise undertaking.

Eileen Brown coordinated and managed parish staff input during this pre-specification period as well as defined and refined staff needs as early planning unfolded. Donna Guza possesses a keen business acumen and practical day-to-day executive management experience. This is put to use in reviewing, refining, and defining office specifications and soft cost requirements to produce a best-value result. Alberto Torres is the liaison with the members of the Hispanic community. He is attentive to the particular needs of our Hispanic parishioners, is able to effectively articulate the integration of those needs, and performs effective advocacy in leveraging the strengths of the community in emphasizing the fundraising needs of the program.

Throughout the entire effort Charles Gregory, as he had done for Phase I of the program during the 90's with his knowledge of building codes, provided invaluable insights into the county building

code and approval system.

Charles provided the observations, reassurances, and continuing liaison with the county on a routine basis as progress on planning and construction moved forward. His involvement provided the "insurance" required to keep the technical specifications and compliance on the proper track. In the language of sport, an analogy might describe Charles as the "impact player" on the team; his presence made everybody else better.

The committee remained constantly aware throughout that affordability of the structure, progress in the fundraising, and compliance with diocesan guidelines and our published financial plan provided the parameters for the program. Dick Thackston and Vic Owen are vital in this effort of providing visibility and counsel. Dick has knowledge of parish financing and a mastery of detail as well as the interrelationships between and among all aspects of parish fiscal needs. Vic Owen's appreciates those things that work and those that do not in the preparation and planning for the center. His computer skills, in combination with Dick Thackston's insights, enable us to develop, array, and analyze fiscal and pledge data to great benefit.

Caroline Honings day-to-day detailed management and accounting is both responsive to committee needs and attendant to the stewardship focus that is demanded in controlling costs. She is the perfect complement to committee management in tracking revenues and expenses, monitoring, screening, and paying invoices and otherwise ensuring detailed accountability and the trust and confidence of the committee. She displays great "antennae" in shopping for bargains to get the most mileage from our soft cost purchases and campus capital upgrade project costs.

Don Stage is our site manager whose engineering skills were developed over many years with Dupont. He possesses knowledge and savvy that complements the others on the committee with related skills; his on-site oversight combines with the skills of his associates in the minimization of contract change orders. Don is self-assured but not arrogant, professional but not patronizing, and confident but not overbearing...the perfect recipe for effective oversight. Working closely with Don in monitoring and overseeing the contractor's site work is John Setaro with a resume' in engineering. Andy Kushma provides invaluable focus on the interior and exterior signs required as well as the planning and implementation for campus landscaping.

Overseeing, directing, managing and coordinating this effort is a tandem of managers whose skills and abilities complement one another and



Continued from page 2

ensure continued focus on effective, intelligible, and consistent forward progress. These are Fred Howland and Lacy Gray. Fred, as committee chair, brought experience with FASmart as a facility renovator and new construction builder in his every day job. He possesses a vision and an understanding of building and construction that enabled him to apply insight, logic, and an understanding essential to technical management and oversight of both the committee and the project. He exhibits a ready mastery of details that enables him to easily grasp and place in context what he is being told by other members of the group. Lacy, as the committee co-chair, brings a structure, discipline and continuity to the program serving as an effective complement to Fred from program inception. He has a capacity to "cut to the chase" and avoid distractions. Lacy brings a hands-on management style and an awareness of the need to control costs and remain within budget.

The larger message here is that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. While each committee member optimized in his or her role, the cooperative spirit of the group and its leadership enabled the entire committee to optimize as well. We have witnessed great sensitivity to painstaking planning always with the need to ensure that the firm fixed price construction specifications would withstand any potential "assault" by the prime contractor in a post award/operational environment. We could have no better stewards of the parish's money or a greater testament to excellence than that exhibited by this group of committed servants of our parish community. They have served our parish well.

CELEBRATING OUR SUCCESS

By Rick Brennan

We have our new Parish Pastoral Center!! We may be justly proud of what we have all accomplished together over the past months. We should take this moment to thank Jesus Christ for sustaining us in our belief in ourselves and our commitment undertaken for the love of Our Savior and the work He would have us do here. This achievement is celebrated not for us, for the diocese, for the parish, or for our Pastor, Father Mike..... it was a labor of love for Him arising from a spirituality and commitment to our Faith.

This was possible only with the special commitment made by those of you who have always "stepped up" in times of need and whose vision of, and commitment to, stewardship sustains us as a parish family. We are blessed to have so many selfless members in that family. We understand that there were (are) risks whenever we undertake parish expansion projects ...this is particu-

larly true in an uncertain economic climate. We had no idea at the outset how much we could (or yet can) raise under these conditions since the pledge drive period is less than half way to the finish line. Our fund-raising target was based not upon any carefully fashioned and tested arithmetic algorithm but on a defined need as we saw it. We hoped, prayed, and expected that we'd come out of the construction period with a mortgage of some size that was equal to or less than one-third of total project cost. This appears to be borne out by the current set of facts.

We must still sustain our efforts in meeting our financial obligations. We have conformed to diocesan guidelines on financing new construction but now have a continuing challenge in sustaining our pledge drive. Over the holiday period we lost three bingo weekends and lost considerable operating revenue as a result of the bad weather as you've been regularly reminded at Mass over the last few weeks. We again remind everyone that those pledging are asked to meet their pledge commitments. We will continue to seek new pledges from new parishioners and those who, for whatever reason, were disinclined or unable to pledge and give at the outset.

We have an additional challenge which will sorely test our resolve as a parish...meeting the maintenance costs of an expanded facility. You will see a continuing effort in the months ahead in concert with our 2011 stewardship appeal to consolidate the gains we've made, a renewed emphasis on seeking out new pledges, and a focus on paying down the mortgage as well as the repair and maintenance of the existing physical plant. Given the current anticipated direction of interest rates, we expect to soon explore the option of converting our construction loan to a mortgage to reduce our dependency on the "cost of money" over the long term; good stewardship demands that we examine this option.

We, in the *Renaissance Revisited Working Group*, will continue to meet and, in concert with the Finance Council, the Hispanic Committee and those overseeing parish stewardship initiatives, ensure that there is seamless planning associated with all revenue enhancement efforts going forward. We're going to be dependent on "a long tough slog" to bring this building program to a successful closure while, at the same time, not ushering in a period of large and sustained operating deficits. Together we can do this!!

BUILDING AND CAPITAL PROJECTS STATUS...THE "HOME STRETCH"

By Lacy Gray, Building Committee Co-Chair

As one can clearly see we've laid the sod and spread the mulch for shrubs to be planted in the Spring across the front and in the courtyard section between the buildings. Asphalt is scheduled for 1/17 at the entrance which will wrap-up all of the outside tasks for building completion.

On the inside we have conducted a walk-through inspection with the contractor and architect and will have those items completed by 1/21. The county has been requested to make the final inspections on our various permits. When these are successfully completed, we will obtain our Certificate of Occupancy required for us to move in!!!

We have extensive sanctuary upgrades in progress and hopefully they will be completed at the time you read this newsletter. Items include HVAC duct cleaning/sealing, ceiling repairs and painting, replacing the carpet on the altar steps with tile, and installing hand rails, and lastly replacing the sanctuary carpet.

Other capital items include replacing and repairing two sidewalks, roof leak repair, overall roof cleaning, and new signs throughout the entire campus.

Our thanks to all you fellow parishioners for your financial and moral support as well as the confidence you've shown in us over these last few years.



THROUGH THE BLESSINGS AND GRACE OF OUR LORD, JESUS CHRIST

Our parish is blessed with a dedicated staff who work for the greater glory of Jesus Christ. They certainly have not labored, in some individual cases for many years, for “big bucks” or because of a stimulating office environment. Their work and service to the parish is a labor of love. They labor in an atmosphere largely unseen by most parishioners and their “return on investment” can be measured only by the satisfaction they realize from the good that they do and the betterment of the lives they seek to affect. We in the parish at large have, at long last, had the opportunity and challenge to act on a recognition of these undervalued, but vital, members, of our parish community in our, now completed, construction of the new Parish Pastoral Center.

While the impact of the new Pastoral Center on the quality of life for our St Augustine parish staff cannot come to full realization until they have taken occupancy of the new premises and worked in the new environment for days and weeks, there is already an anticipation of a better work life in the offing.

We who are involved in the program to bring the new Pastoral Center to fruition have had discussions with individual staff members over the past few weeks concerning their views of how the new Center might improve their work day and enhance the productivity, efficiency, and quality of their work. Each has offered observations in response to our inquiries.

The larger office space can accommodate a small conference table with better visitor seating and workspace, a substantial improvement over the past. Additional storage rooms provide for a place to accommodate file cabinets in a secure room. The cramped conditions of the past will give way to more spacious office and work areas. The new office layout provides for controlled access to the office area. This will result in fewer interruptions as well as provide for the ability to concentrate

on a task. Undisturbed phone calls and uninterrupted meetings will be better ensured. Privacy in consultations, a critical component of pastoral care, is immeasurably enhanced by the new building configuration.

A healthier environment is created by special ventilation and individual temperature controls. An air-conditioned server room better guarantees the operational life of the computer equipment.

The new conference room will have the most updated technology improving both productivity and efficiency; it will also be in close proximity to the workroom, copy machines, faxes, kitchenette and rest-rooms. Most importantly, all this will be contiguous to the church, the hall, and the educational wing offering a facility compactness and access that heretofore was not available. It has the very considerable advantage of avoiding routine exposure by the staff to the summer heat and the inhospitable elements of winter. It offers a more secure environment especially in the evening. The new connecting building will make it safer also for the money counters to operate in a secure area.

As Father Mike has said in his message of gratitude to all who have contributed their time, talent and money, this long standing need of the parish is brought finally to fulfillment and provides yet another occasion to thank the Lord for sustaining us and encouraging our perseverance to this most worthy end.

Our Outreach Mission at a New Level

Perhaps no ministry in the parish has such far reaching impact in so many ways as that composite of initiatives found within the Outreach “umbrella”. With the release of much-needed space resulting from the relocation of the parish staff to the new Pastoral Center, our Outreach program is seeking a multiplier effect with an infusion of talent, resources, and energy that will take it to a new level. A committee, chaired by Mary Lou Marple, and comprised of several parishioners, are meeting currently with the guid-



ance of Katharine Anderson, and are crafting an Outreach vision going forward for the parish. An implementation plan with accompanying timetable will follow.

Father Mike has alluded to the expansion of the food pantry and its enhanced value to those in need. There is an urgent need to expand that value in making the pantry more accessible by expanding its operating hours. Albeit an important one, the pantry is but one of the programs either currently underway or in the planning stage.

Many of we parishioners recognize the many programs and ministries that bear the Outreach stamp but know them by other names.....soup suppers, Caritas, the summer paper bag campaign, the giving and angel trees, the Red Cross shelter, Care-a-Van, Richmond smiles, the bread ministry, poor box breakfast, Freedom House, Bigstone Gap clothing drive..... the list goes on and is impressive.

The expanded Outreach vision anticipates an infusion of new talent and seeks a new level of active involvement and participation by parishioners in fulfilling a compelling community service need in these particularly difficult economic times. Volunteers will be sought who can assist in moving to the new Outreach center and in preparing that facility for service by painting, repairs, and essential minor modifications.

New and aspiring program initiatives are in planning to provide access to counseling services through referrals to counselors provided by Catholic Charities. Emphasis is to be placed on furnishing clothing for infants and children.

All this will come at a price and prompts a need to seek out sources of funding through both grants and continued parish fundraising. There's a continuing, even increased, competition for scarce resources and so a major thrust will soon be underway with the goal in mind to provide the fiscal underpinning for this ambitious and expanded Outreach program.