

RENAISSANCE REVISITED

St. Augustine Parish Building Campaign

October, 2009

PLEDGE TIME IS HERE

AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

As the pledge drive begins you will find in this newsletter personal expressions of gratitude felt by Deacon Eric, Eileen Brown, Anne Re-David and a special memorial thank you to a little known couple who left a sizable bequest to the St. Augustine Building Fund because of their grateful heart.

Over the last several weeks we have sponsored a number of events and activities designed to prepare us to meet our stewardship obligation in support of the new Parish Pastoral Center. We published pastoral letters, distributed our first newsletter, delivered advocacy messages from the ambo, made appeals, offered testimonials, conducted briefings, and, most recently, two weeks ago launched our filmed skit. We have now arrived at that point where we need your commitment.

These are difficult economic times for many of our parishioners. There is still a great deal of uncertainty associated with the short-term viability of the economy and concern, even for those who are still employed, about keeping their job. We ask only that your sacrifice in supporting this vital parish initiative be made in the context of a genuine recognition that the mission of St Augustine embraces the universality

of our Catholic Faith and that, only with a viable infrastructure can we best achieve the goals to which our Faith commits us. Please do your best.

The pledge drive to secure funds for the building of the new Parish Pastoral Center will be imple-



mented at the Sunday Masses on the weekend of October 24 & 25, all Masses on the weekend of October 31 & November 1, and the 5:30 PM Mass on Saturday, November 7. We ask that you come to Mass on those weekends prepared to fulfill your pledge. You will recall from our earlier message that our financial plan is founded upon a need for \$50 a month for thirty-six months from each parish

family. We at St Augustine have always risen to a challenge and been inspired by the Holy Spirit when called upon. We will do no less this time. Of critical importance, notwithstanding the focus on this drive, is the need for you to continue your weekly offerings at the same level. Only by doing this can we ensure the long term viability of parish operations and the programs that comprise the core of our mission.

You may expect to receive in the mail within the next few weeks a special increment of envelopes specifically for your *Renaissance Revisited* pledge contributions. The current building fund collections will cease on the second weekend in November and be replaced by the pledge offerings.

*Rick Brennan, Chair
Renaissance Revisited
Working Group*

AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

MIRACLES OF HEALING HAPPEN TODAY—

Anne ReDavid

Over the years I have been involved in many activities and ministries at St. Augustine. You name it and I have probably done it — from weekly cleaning of the church, serving on the Parish Council, to writing the prayers of the faithful for Sunday liturgies. For the past few years, I have not been very active, but maybe it is time for me to get busy and participate more fully in parish activities.

St. Augustine is my home, and you are my family. We have supported one another in good times and bad; mourned our losses and celebrated the happy occasions. We have been blessed in many ways and I have been especially blessed God chose me to receive a special miracle.

In the Spring I was diagnosed with advanced lung cancer and the prognosis was extremely bleak. I began to take a powerful and expensive cancer drug with the hope that the cancer might shrink so eventually radiation could be used. I realized that more was needed than this medicine, so I started praying for a miracle.

For months you prayed for me at mass. I have been on countless prayer lists and prayer chains. Internet friends around the world joined in.

I took the medicine for four months and then had another PET scan. The report indicated the cancer was gone. All areas involved were clear and there was no sign of cancer. The doctor was pleased that the drug worked so well, but I knew it was the prayers that brought about this healing.

Remember prayers do get answered. The Lord is with us, right here in Chesterfield County, performing miracles of healing just as he did 2000 years ago. I am truly blessed.

Many of you love this church as I do. St. Augustine's is a special place. That is why we need to work together in our Renaissance Revisited building campaign. We have come a long way since we started in 1973. Some of us don't like

change, but change is part of life and we need to accept that.

Let us move forward together in making our building expansion happen. Father Mike's letter in the last newsletter outlined in detail our current and future needs. Let us all pledge to share our time, talent and treasure in this endeavor.

We must continue to praise God by providing adequate facilities so we can grow and serve the community. And may we be blessed with more miracles in our midst.

Thank you for your prayers on my behalf. Let us continue to pray for one another and for St. Augustine parish. And never doubt the power of prayer.

BUILDING COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

September & October – **Lacy Gray**

We executed the contract with **Balzer and Associates**, Architects on 9/1/09. Since then they have been working to finalize the application for the Site Plan for submission to Chesterfield. We expect approval by mid-October. This will give us County approval to move forward with construction.

We are presently active with Balzer to verify specifications for construction which will result in construction blue prints. We will use these to ask for building quotes from four prospective building contractors no later than early November.



A LEGACY OF LOVE

Over the years, St. Augustine has received many bequests from parishioners. These faithful gifts have almost always come quietly, if not anonymously. One such gift was received in late 2000 from an understated, devoted couple, known to few but bright shining stars in God's Universe. **Robert J. and Agnes W. Boyce** inquired on numerous occasions... "why don't we have our own Catholic school at St. Augustine's". Having grown up in Brooklyn, NY in the 1920's and 1930's, there was a parochial school on every other corner. They met as school aged children, attending Catholic school and Mass daily. They spent their young adult years after serving their country, caring for their respective parents and siblings afflicted with common diseases of polio and diphtheria. When the opportunity to move South presented itself, Bob and Agnes decided to relocate, marry and become part of the Richmond Diocese. Having devoted their lives to family, they had no children of their own.

As the years past, health declining, all they desired was to receive the Blessed Sacrament and "hear a little" of what was happening at St. Augustine's. Befriended by a few parishioners, their needs became greater with doctors appointments, food and clothing shopping and eventual assisted living needs. This couple of God passed away quietly within 12 months of each other. They hadn't been apart in nearly 50 years. With very little family living, and none in Richmond, their St. Augustine family saw to it that a proper, dignified final Mass was said for both. Today they lie in rest at the Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Amelia, VA.

Robert and Agnes Boyce are the largest benefactors of any single gift given to St. Augustine. Their generous bequest is today a large portion of the current building funds intended for our new building campaign. They would be very happy knowing that their love for St. Augustine and the Blessed Sacrament was being perpetuated.

May the peace of Christ be with you always, Bob and Agnes.

Your St. Augustine Parish Family

CALLED AND GRATEFUL

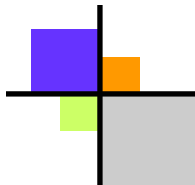
- Deacon Eric

There are a handful of movies that I love to watch that never seem to get old. One of my favorites is the movie, "Camelot". I love the story and I love the music, but I love the closing scene the most. It's the scene where Arthur is talking with the young boy, a page, who wants to become a knight. He challenges him to go to every village and town and tell the story of Camelot. As the boy takes off, Arthur calls out to him, "Run boy, run!"

As a young boy, it was (and still is) an inspiring story. Arthur was so strongly committed to his beliefs and values and he defended them to the end. Despite how his dreams for love and justice failed, he persevered. He used his life, more especially his gifts, for a greater cause and greater good.

You've heard me say periodically how much I love St. Augustine Church – and I do for so many reasons. I am constantly amazed at and grateful for the "giftedness" of our parish family. I am grateful for those who like Arthur, persevere in faith each day (good days and bad) in helping St. Augustine realize its mission. I am grateful for those who run (and walk) with great faith and hope - much like the young page in Camelot.

But most of all, I am grateful for the opportunity to be the "Number 2" Deacon at St. Augustine. You give me an opportunity to use the gifts that God has blest me with in service and ministry. You help me realize that our gifts don't belong to us and they are not ours to keep. All we have and all we are come from a loving and caring God. The next time you have a few minutes of quiet time in church, take a moment to pray through the words of Hymn #601 – All That We Have.



"GRATEFUL" IS THE WORD

Eileen Brown, Pastoral Associate

For Christian Formation

Grateful. That's the word I often use when referring to the eight wonderful rooms in our education space. Having been in the parish for so long, I've had the dubious honor of meeting or teaching in almost every nook and cranny of the "campus". And along with many others, I've "schlepped" materials across parking lots, dragged resources up and down the creaky old attic steps, used walkie-talkies to communicate between buildings and escorted children in the rain, heat and cold to the bathrooms in the office from the converted space in the garage known as the "auxiliary building". So when in 1999 we dedicated the newly renovated hall/education wing, I thanked God and the St. Augustine Parish family.

Grateful continues to be the word as we embark on this new adventure together. Our family is growing and with that growth our seams are bulging. I am so grateful for that but some days the only quiet place to meet and greet parishioners is in the office back yard at a picnic table. Works great on a nice day!!!!!! I've always been grateful for my lovely, albeit small, corner office with **two** large windows. It has occurred to many people who venture into my lovely, but small corner, that there is no place to sit, or even stand for that matter. The overflowing bookshelves have spilled their contents on to the floor creating an interesting obstacle course leading to my desk. Fortunately I have always loved children, which is advantageous to the many young ones who wander into my office weekly. Since it is difficult to close my door (due to the aforementioned spilling over of contents), I welcome them in, share stickers and allow Mac to hide under my desk!!!!!! He usually leaves when the coast is clear and he gets spooked by the flushing of the toilet in the bathroom directly over my office which sounds like Niagara Falls in the spring.

And still I am grateful: grateful for the hard work done so far by the members of the building committee and the "Renaissance Revisited" folks, grateful to Fr. Mike for being a strong spiritual leader in good times and bad, grateful to be part of this parish. In gratitude, I look forward to a new place in which the other members of the staff and I can continue the work for which we have been called. And finally, I am grateful that in response to God's call, the members of this parish family seek a place to meet.

I am pleased to support St. Augustine Parish's
Renaissance Revisited Building Campaign for
New Parish Pastoral Center.

Name: _____ Envelope #: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Total three year Gift/Pledge: \$ _____

Total Gift enclosed: \$ _____

My three year commitment is to be paid as follows:

- Monthly
- Quarterly
- Semi-annually
- Annually

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Pictured above is the Pledge Card which we
will be asking you to complete during mass
starting next weekend.

Financial Stewardship

RENAISSANCE REVISITED BUILDING FUND
for NEW PARISH PASTORAL CENTER

Balance	\$	403,097
Collections		530
Ending Balance	\$	403,627



