



RENAISSANCE REVISITED

St. Augustine Parish Building Campaign
August, 2009

RENAISSANCE ???

Special points of interest:

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our parish family in communion with Christ
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Renaissance was the name of our campaign when we began building Phase I of our building plan in 1994 and dedicated our parish hall in 1998. New meeting rooms were completed in January, 1999. Simply stated, Renaissance means “rebirth.” And that’s what’s happening at St. Augustine Parish.

We have experienced “rebirth” several times during our parish history. Our rectory (priests’ residence) was moved from the parish grounds to a house just a few miles away so that our priests could have rest and privacy. The existing rectory was converted into parish offices. We have expanded and reno-

vated our church buildings. We now have a large, bright parish hall and kitchen; a huge improvement over the original. We added 7 meeting rooms and a kitchenette (which is now our education wing). As a result, we have space to schedule the many meetings, educational opportunities and other activities that represent our thriving parish life. We built a commons area, more rest rooms and a nursery. We have been rebirthed by the cultural diversity that came with the Hispanic community ten years ago. And now we’re on the brink of rebirthing with a modified version of Phase II of our building plan. So you see our building campaign

is aptly named Renaissance Revisited.

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|| *This Newsletter is a* ||

|| *collaborative effort by the* ||

|| *Building, Finance and* ||

|| *Stewardship Committees* ||

|| *and the Renaissance* ||

|| *Revisited Working Group.* ||

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WHY DO WE NEED TO EXPAND...?

A letter from the Pastor

Dear St. Augustine Parishioners,

As we **celebrate the annual feast** of our great parish patron, St. Augustine of Hippo, I am so happy to announce such Good News! Big News! **Great News!** After 2 years of hard work by our Building Committee, in fulfillment of the parish **MASTER PLAN STUDY OF 1994**, and with Bishop DiLorenzo's approval, **we are going to grow our church home AGAIN!**

Established by Msgr. MacMahon with worship at "Saint" Bensley School in 1973, with 450 families, **Dedicated** on this beautiful site by Bishop Russell in June, 1975, **Expanded** (new parish hall and kitchen) and **renovated** (education wing and sanctuary) in 1998-2000 with 1,000 families, **Grown** to 1,700 families and still **growing...**

Because our parishioners' love for our **Faith** and **Church** is strong and generous,

Because our parish finances are **sound**, **Because** we **paid off** the expansion/renovation mortgage in 2005, **Because** of the integration of Father Ricardo Seidel's **Centro Católico Guadalupe** into the parish in 1999, **Because** our parish offices are overcrowded, inefficient, not handicap accessible, and **not integrated** into the parish complex, **Because** classroom and meeting spaces are too **frequently overcrowded**, **Because** our food pantry and community outreach space are **severely limited**, **Because** the 1994 Master Plan included **PHASE II** to accommodate anticipated growth, and a fully integrated parish complex, **Because** we keep trying to become Christ's **beloved community** of faithful disciples,

NOW IS THE TIME TO STEP OUT IN FAITH AGAIN!

I urge all of our parish members to join the founding fathers and mothers of St. Augustine Church who first pledged in 1973, and who pledged again with successive parishioners in **RENAISSANCE 1994**, and **PLEDGE NOW!** Be part of a community of Catholic Faith which wants to continue to grow and live and share that faith here in Southside Richmond and Chesterfield County. Please join me, Father Jim, Deacon Eric and our Pastoral Staff, and all of your fellow parishioners who serve on the Pastoral and Finance Councils, the Building, Fundraising and Hispanic Committees and in all of the other life giving and serving ministries of our parish in **RENAISSANCE REVISITED**. Let us all make a joyful and generous pledge and so fulfill our parish mission "**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)

Sincerely and gratefully,

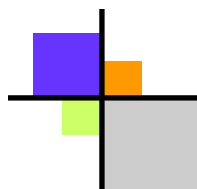
Rev. Msgr. Michael SC Schmied, Pastor

WHY BUILD NOW?

During Renaissance planning and execution in 1994, it was decided we needed a future project to move the Administrative offices into dedicated space within the new educational wing of our physical space. The logic for this underscored the inadequacies of our present space in accommodating the growing needs of our Parish; additionally, the building built in 1975, was built not to accommodate offices but as a residence. We elected, at that time, to delay this move to Phase II, and now, in 2009, we are offering the plan to realize this Phase II project. The plan is to combine our administrative operations with added meeting space in a ~6,800 sq ft addition, and having this space operational by the 4th quarter of 2010. Forward looking data for office and meeting space indicates this addition is “right sized” to meet those needs for our growth and potential Diocesan consolidation planning.

The Building Committee firmly believes now is the best time for implementation. Interest rates for capital projects are at a three year low, and early, refined estimates we’ve received from prospective contractors indicate we can get construction cost savings in the area of \$20/sq ft (~\$135,000). If we delay, we can expect to see increases in both the cost of money and construction costs as building activity begins to escalate later this year.

We have the team in place to move ahead. We have selected Balzer Architects for all planning. Balzer will work with us to select a building contractor, a parishioner has agreed to be our day-to-day liaison during construction, and there are volunteers in place to administer fund raising. With pledged support from each family, we can better provide the Parish facilities to meet your family’s needs.



HOW WE PAY...

Each parish must present a briefing to the Diocesan Building and Renovations Council in which the need is justified and an architectural plan outlined to address that need. Additionally, the parish is required to submit a financial plan outlining how the program will be funded. We are pleased to announce that both of these steps have been completed successfully in the case of our current expansion plan.

The diocese issues certain guidelines and parameters designed to ensure that parishes are careful and prudent in their judgment when deciding to proceed with a building program. Funds equal to one third of the total building cost must be on-hand before construction can begin. Thanks to the generosity and good stewardship of all of you over the last several years, we have met that goal.

As ground is broken and building commences shortly after the first of

the calendar year, we will put a line of credit (LOC) in place with a local bank; this LOC becomes our construction loan. The loan will likely be for an amount equal to approximately 50% of the total building cost. This loan may run for a period of no more than two years. At the end of this two-year period, we will convert the remaining balance owed on the building to a fifteen-year mortgage. The mortgage can be no more than one third of the total building cost. This brings us to the role we ask you to prayerfully consider in fulfilling the promise of the new facility.

Initial funding for the project will come from the resources in our building fund. The balance of the revenue we expect to raise from a parish pledge drive to commence in October. Each parish family will be asked to contribute \$50 a month to the building pledge drive over a thirty-six month period. We recognize that these are severe economic times and some of our parishioners have suffered even the loss of a job. We believe, however, that

for most, this relatively modest amount should not be seen as too onerous a sum. For others who have been particularly victimized by the recession, we ask that you give what you are able.

THE PLEDGE DRIVE

While we will not launch the formal pledge drive until October, we will begin to see this month and in September several indicators and activities designed to further raise parishioner awareness of the need and how we plan to meet it. Among these are this *Renaissance Revisited* newsletter, the first of several, the pledge drive thermometer that you may have seen in the church commons as you came to Mass today, and brief ambo presentations and announcements at all Saturday and Sunday Masses.

On the weekend of October 10 & 11, we will begin a series of *Renaissance Revisited* pledge events around the weekend Mass schedule to include short presentations

from the ambo and briefings in the parish hall that will acquaint parishioners with the Building Phase II program rationale, discussions on building architecture, facility use, and financing. Members of those committees involved in the planning and execution of all facets of the program will be available to moderate parishioner discussions and to answer your questions. These include members from the Building Committee, Stewardship, Finance, and the *Renaissance Revisited Working Group* (RRWG).

Pledge cards will be distributed to all parishioners on several successive weekends in October and all will be asked to sign and return these at the time of their distribution. Additional details on the mechanics involved in the fulfillment of the pledges will be available, published, and presented over the next several weeks.

