

St. Augustine Progress Report from the Parish Staff

In the last year, St. Augustine Catholic Church faced special challenges within our parish community. However, despite these challenges, our parish has continued to function as Church to this community of believers, through **Word, Worship, Community** and **Service**.

Recently, our pastor, Fr. Marlon Portillo Muñoz and Administrator pro-tem Deacon Bob Griffin, along with Deacons Eric Broughton, Chris Corrigan and Al Hallatt, and the office staff met with Bishop Francis X. DiLorenzo at the Pastoral Center to give a parish progress report.

In the past year, our parish family struggled to address concerns among some parishioners about personnel issues within the Hispanic ministry, as well as the retirement of Msgr. Michael Schmied. However, in the midst of these difficulties, the parish has not ceased to serve the people of the parish and our surrounding community. We'd like to share with you the following report, which we provided to Bishop DiLorenzo.

Word:

- 13 adults and children were fully initiated into the Catholic faith at our Easter Vigil.
- 36 teens celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation on May 3, 2016 with Bishop DiLorenzo.
- 6 adults were received into Full Communion in April-May of 2016, along with 11 teens celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation and First Eucharist.
- More than 80 children have received their First Eucharist since March of this year.
- 144 children have been actively involved with St. Augustine Parish's Elementary Religious Education L.I.F.E. (Living In Faith Everyday) in grades K-5th. They meet 3 times month, September-May.
- 120 teens participate in our parishes EDGE and LIFETEEN middle school and high school religious education program.
- Vacation Bible School took place June 20th – 24th at St. Augustine along with our neighbors Beulah United Methodist.
- Our English and Spanish RCIA Teams continue to meet with those who wish to become members of the Catholic Church.

Worship:

- Our 9 a.m. Tuesday – Thursday daily Masses attract a healthy contingent, with as many as 40 on Tuesday.
- 200 people, on average, gather at the newly added Thursday evening Mass in Spanish with Eucharistic Adoration.
- A new group of parishioners has stepped up to be trained for liturgical ministries that serve at our English Mass, with six Eucharistic Ministers, 10 altar servers and two lectors trained in the last six months.
- Sacramental preparation has continued for English and Spanish-speaking families alike.
- In addition to celebrations of the sacraments of Baptism, First Communion, First Penance, and Confirmation, couples have entered into Marriage.
- Parishioners have received the Anointing of the Sick as needed. Funerals have continued through the Mass for the Christian Burial of the Dead.
- Visitation of those who are homebound or hospitalized has continued.

Community:

- Children's Liturgy of the Word has continued at most Sunday Masses.
- The narration during the Christmas Eve and Epiphany Masses both in English and Spanish, had many children participate, representing the Holy Family, the Inn Keeper, the Angel Gabriel, the Three Kings, and angels.
- 38 children and their families, numbering more than 70 people, attended the last Elementary Family Night with guessing candy jar games, balloon quiz, and raffles with prizes of a Bible, a Jesus Picture, and Fun Fact Books.
- Adult L.I.F.E. (Living In Faith Everyday) has continued to meet on the second Sunday of the month with over 100 adults registered in both English and Spanish.
- WINGS continues to meet on a weekly basis (during the school year) with more than 50 women registered.
- Different adult Bible studies meet weekly. More than 40 adults attend the Tuesday morning sessions and another 20+ adults attend the evening session in Spanish.

- The Diocesan Office of Hispanic Ministry has been training new leaders and building a new ministry called: Outreach Ministry/Called to Serve (Llamados para Servir) as well as identifying and building a leadership team for Youth Ministry (14-18 yrs) to implement the Latino Youth Project: RESPETO
- The “SASSY” group (St. Augustine Seniors Staying Young) gathers once a month for fellowship and fun.
- The Women’s Guild continues to meet twice a week along with having Bazaars, selling their wonderful crafts and creations for the benefit of St. Augustine.
- The JPC (Jóvenes Para Cristo) is a vibrant Young Adult Group in our Hispanic community.
- Many programs have been able to continue even though the DRE position is still vacant with the help of dedicated volunteers. Staff members have stepped up to help support them to make sure that these ministries continue to thrive.
- The parish celebrated our 2016 High School Graduates at our Parish Picnic in June.
- The parish picnic was held the first Sunday in June with an outdoor bilingual Mass followed by food and fun.

Service:

- The parish is holding its yearly clothing drive for our friends in Big Stone Gap scheduled for June 25th and 26th.
- Parishioners continue to donate food at all Masses for our Food Pantry that feeds the needy of our community through our association with CCHASM.
- Bon Secours continues to come with its Care-A-Van every Tuesday to serve the uninsured of our community.
- Our Outreach Center continues to offer family and individual counseling, by appointment and in association with Catholic Charities and James House.
- “Poor Box Breakfast” continues on the 3rd Sunday of the month with the proceeds going to our Outreach Center; this ministry is actively supported by our Knights of Columbus.
- CARITAS is scheduled for October of this year.

- The Christian Formation programs continue to support a sponsored child through Unbound.