

RENAISSANCE REVISITED

St. Augustine Parish Building Campaign

July, 2010

GROUNDDBREAKING

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MAY 10, 2010

Feast of Pentecost

The Spirit brought us to this moment and will see us through to completion.



Let us open our minds and hearts to the wonder and joy of what the Holy Spirit can do through a community of believers.

BUILDING COMMITTEE UPDATE

The final building permit was approved by the County on July 20! The building is progressing rapidly thanks to the dry weather and a good general contractor, (Century).

Most underground plumbing and electrical is complete. The floor was poured on Saturday (July 17). Construction of above grade walls is in progress. Electrical work to tie into the existing building is underway. Next week, the interior metal stud wall installation should begin. The next big job is installation of the roof trusses when the load bearing walls are complete.

The Construction Area is clearly marked and hard hats are required inside the fenced area. This area should be entered only on business.

Don Stage
Parish Vol. Building Site Manager



RENAISSANCE REVISITED WORKING GROUP

We are well on our way to the opening of our new Parish Pastoral Center. Since ground breaking in May, construction has kept pace with schedule and great progress has been made toward the planned December 2010 completion date. *The RRWG's focus has been to plan and administer the pledge campaign, encourage fund raising activities and coordinate with the project building committee in order to stay within diocesan building guidelines.*



Our financial goal at the outset of the campaign was to secure \$700,000 in pledges. To date we have received almost \$500,000 dollars in pledges. Not all pledges are current, however. If you are behind, please do your best to get caught up and honor

your pledge commitment. Numerous other families, while not making a formal pledge, have consistently given to the fund. *We are grateful to all who have given in any amount and in any form.* Now that we are eight (8) months into the campaign we have some consistency in giving and can do some very important planning. A significant number of families that pledged have not been heard from and we would welcome your much needed support. It is never too late to get on board and support our new pastoral center.

With construction costs, permits, fees and furnishings nearing 1.4 million dollars, we are currently forecasting about a \$450,000 mortgage to be negotiated in January 2012.

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FUND RAISING

STEWARDS SHARING THEIR CREATIVITY, TIME, TALENT AND TREASURE

AN INSTITUTION WITHIN THE PARISH

St. Augustine Women's Guild (SAWG)

First, we were a new congregation meeting in the Bensley School auditorium with the need to raise money for a new church complex. Next, we were a settled congregation, happy in our new St. Augustine Church with a need to raise money for dishes, pots, and utensils for our new kitchen.

Our first pastor, Msgr. John McMahon, asked that the parish women find a way to furnish the kitchen; and so St. Augustine Women's Guild was formed (and will be the "we" of this article).

We started small with bake sales to provide seed money, for "we" have never been subsidized by parish funds. The first try for big money was a church bazaar. All the women of the parish were considered members of the Guild – still are. Many of the women donated items for sale. There was a table of plants, many hand made items, some of fabric, some of stained glass, some to celebrate Christmas, some religious; some secular.

The bazaar was a success! It has become an annual event.

As time passed we changed. There was always another need. We realized that we could raise more money if we met weekly and produced projects as a group; for we are a group with varied talents. Some of us are artistic, some creative, some can organize, some sew well, some crochet or knit, or paint, or just follow directions well. We need each of these talents.

For example, when we make Easter chocolate the entire Guild is involved. A few take orders and payments. A team of six or seven works in the kitchen melting chocolate, filling molds, and cooling candy; a second team works in Room 13/14 wrapping and packaging the finished candy; a

third fills and boxes the orders.

Everyone is involved in your chocolate bunny.

Group production and the desire of people to own hand made items gave us many years of very profitable bazaars. An annual raffle was well received. Our pastors asked us to provide a variety of items for the church – a table and lamp for the vestibule, an outer replacement door for Room 13/14, an additional speaker for the organ, three wise men, a shepherd, and a sheep for the nativity scene and many contributions to debt reduction.

Horace Scott asked us to replace the kitchen stove. That was a two bazaar job because safety regulations required that we relocate the propane tank. We requested that the American flag be illuminated at night. Fr. Mike agreed, and the American and Papal flag display was our second two bazaar effort.

In addition to preparing for money raising events, we are involved in many parish activities. We provide food and labor at many parish and funeral receptions, provide bag lunches for CARITAS guests each day, and contribute money towards the annual scholarship for graduating high school seniors. We have made plain and ornate altar cloths and still replenish serving dishes and table cloths for the kitchen.

Our activities reach beyond the parish. We cut, sew, stuff and sell frustration-releasing "dammit-dolls" -- over 1300 sold in multiple states and some foreign countries. They are now available in



In the past two years we have reached out to sick and troubled parishioners and friends and families of parishioners outside the parish through the praying hands' ministry. With love and prayers, we knit or crochet prayer shawls to provide a "hug of prayer" for the sick, and often a "hug of hope" for the caregiver. We knit prayer squares for members of the military to remind them that they stay in our prayers. We count on parishioners to let us know where help is needed. The Knights of Columbus have been a great help.

Msgr. Schmied, Fr. Mike, has given our work a more personal tone. He has asked us to expand our membership, if possible, realizing that family and work obligations often make this difficult. He has asked us to continue the work we do to raise money for the Renaissance Revisited Building Campaign. He has asked us to make scapulars for the RCIA program, to make a pall for infant funerals, and to make a stole for each child baptized in St. Augustine Parish. His requests and our participating in the Praying Hands' Ministry has strengthened the spiritual side of our work. And so, the forty plus active members of "SAWG" (we) will continue to serve. We hope that many St. Augustine women will join us in the church hall on September 8 to share our Bar-B-Q Supper. We pray that the Renaissance Revisited Building Campaign will encourage many to join their ideas to ours and enrich the St. Augustine Women's Guild.

ALL ARE WELCOME!!!

By Jeanne Evans, Member,
St. Augustine Women's Guild

Spanish speaking members working to raise funds for building campaign.

VENTA COMIDA (food sale) takes place the first and third Sundays of each month after the 1pm and 6pm masses. *Beginning August 1 (and each first Sunday thereafter) food will also be sold after the 11am mass.* Each of the Hispanic ministries take a turn; Hispanic Committee, Young Adults, RCIA, etc. Some of the food choices are Tacos, Chicken and Beef Fajitas, Pupusas, cheese or meat with a delicious coleslaw, soup, meals such as chicken, rice and beans, etc. Everything mentioned above is not available every month, but there is always a good selection and plenty of it. Remember, you have cooks from Mexico, Central and South America. The culinary delights are endless. Cost: between \$5 and \$6 per plate. *Mark your Calendars:* 1st Sunday, after the 11am mass, Venta Comida.

On the third Sunday, there is a team led by José Calderon which prepares the food for the Venta Comida. On the 3rd Sunday, food is sold after the 1pm and 6pm masses only. Funds raised on the first Sunday go to the Building Fund (July 4 they made \$892); funds raised on the third Sunday go into the General Fund.

All of us know that it takes time, energy and commitment to provide food twice a month on an ongoing basis. People who have not been able to pledge to the building campaign make a commitment of time and talent. We are so grateful for their commitment to the parish. These folks know how important it is for every family to participate and they want to do their part.

HAIR CUTS—\$6 or a donation. Every Saturday morning from 8am to 12pm, in the parish hall, skilled beauticians are available to cut hair. The proceeds from the hair cuts go to the Building Fund. July 3rd they raised \$151.

CHARISMATIC GROUP meets every Saturday night at 7pm in the church for prayer and praise. They take up a collection weekly and the money goes into the General Fund. Once a year they have a retreat and the collection goes to the Building Fund. This year they donated \$1720.

Rodrigo Palencia, a member of the charismatic group, is a presenter. His talks are recorded and he sells the DVDs for \$5.00 each. Proceeds go to the Building Fund. Another creative way of raising funds for the Building Fund Campaign.

Fidel Rubio
Pastoral Associate for Hispanic Ministry

REV. RICARDO SEIDEL BOOK STORE

As the new coordinator of the Rev. Ricardo Seidel Book Store, elected on April 6, 2010, it is my pleasure to update you about the book store which has approximately 15 volunteers who work each weekend in this ministry. The book store is open to the entire community on Saturdays during the Charismatic Renewal meetings, from 7:00-9:00pm and on Sundays after the 1:00pm and 6:00pm masses. We plan to expand the hours to include the 3rd Sunday of each month (Poor Box Breakfast weekend) after the 9:00am and 11:00am masses beginning in September.

In our new Parish Pastoral Center, we hope to have a place where we can display a more comprehensive variety of products, especially religious literature, beginning with the Holy Bible, which serves as a form of Evangelization for the whole community. Profits gained from the book store have been and will continue to support the Building Fund Campaign.

On November 11, 2009 the book store made a donation of \$6,000 to the Building Fund.

Plans are being made for a Book Fair during Hispanic Heritage Month where religious items will be sold with the goal of raising funds for the new construction; dates and times to be announced.

José Ayala
Coordinator



RRWG Continued from page 1...

Our challenge over the next 18 months is to do everything possible to limit the mortgage to as small a number as possible. In the past we have done a good job of paying down our Parish Hall and Rectory mortgages early. Debt commitments, however, detract from our ability to minister to our community. It is our goal and purpose to limit the amount of debt we incur to enable us to turn our attention to God's work.

As our patron saint, Augustine of Hippo said, "*God provides the wind, We must raise the sail.*" Let's raise the sail and continue St. Augustine's dream.

Steve O'Leary, Co-Chair

B-I-N-G-O

FUND RAISING AT ITS BEST

Do you ever drive by the church on Friday evening and wonder what all those cars are doing in the parking lot? Have you ever wondered what is happening in the church hall Friday evening after Friday evening?

Almost from the beginning bingo has been a part of parish life at Saint Augustine Church. With over 30 years of operation, we have a story to tell.

Bingo is held every Friday evening, rain or shine, week after week with a few exceptions such as Good Friday, CARITAS and Christmas. The customers primarily live in the communities surrounding the church and many have been regulars for years!

Over the years, the bingo proceeds have been donated to a variety of charities, most notably the building fund. These proceeds allowed the parish to pay off the mortgage for the "new" hall and renovated education wing ahead of schedule as well as contribute to the fund for future expansion. Along with Sheila Callear, John Callear and Rick Brennan, we have coordinated bingo operations for the past 15 years during which time bingo has donated approximately \$950,000 to the church.

Consistent plan, the broken moved for-realizing the ing and appropriate office with much space. This support the of ministries a vital part work done by so many amongst us.



with the master parish has now ground and has ward towards dream of building more appropriate along needed meeting will allow us to growth and host which are such of the good

Key to the success of bingo is the dedication and commitment of the volunteers, either in the operation of the bingo games or in the kitchen snack bar during the games. If you have not heard about the very Catholic "bingo ministry", please know that it is alive at St. Augustine Church. It is an easy way to get involved in parish life, to meet other parishioners and to help contribute to our fundraising efforts to build the new pastoral center. The time commitment is only once every five weeks from 5:45p until 10:15p. When calendar conflicts arise, volunteers can "trade" with other volunteers. Previous experience is not required and on-the-job training is provided. We need cashiers, callers and floor workers.

Bingo has not been immune to the recent difficult economic times. Now, more than ever, we need to be more creative and resourceful to attract new customers. We need new volunteers and new ideas. After taking into account what has already been collected to-date in our fundraising efforts plus outstanding pledges (as noted on our fund-raising thermometer), we are still approximately \$600,000 short of the amount needed to fully pay for the new pastoral center. One of the ways we can partially close that gap is through further fundraising – and bingo falls into this category. We encourage you to consider being a part of the bingo team!

Donna Guza and Barbara Earley (the Earley Girls)



The Importance of LIFE in a Community of Faith

St. Augustine's Catholic Church has provided the Catholic community a great opportunity to strengthen its faith and togetherness with LIFE classes. LIFE classes offer church members from all ages a chance to come together and discuss faith. Through these classes, students grow collectively as they journey through life. It is a great way for members to express themselves and discover how to become a tighter community. In becoming a tighter community, members also make new and better relationships with friends and God. LIFE classes bring St. Augustine's members closer to God and teaches them how to Live In Faith Everyday (LIFE).

For myself, LIFE classes have helped me live in faith everyday. I am always learning in class from not only my teachers, but from those around me. I feel that this is the most important part of attending classes. LIFE classes are not just other classes I have to attend such as those in school, but they are opportunities for me to learn and grow with other members of the church. The values of life cannot be taught from textbooks, but can only be learned once we stand still, open our hearts to one another and listen to what everyone has to offer. Every time I attend LIFE class I learn something new from my teachers and peers; it has helped me grow stronger as a catholic and as a person in my journey through faith.

I believe that the ideas of being wise and living in faith are directly connected. The wise man is not wise because he knows the meaning of life; he is wise because he is open to new knowledge from everyone around him. Faith is not something you can force yourself to learn, it is something you learn when you least expect it. Through LIFE classes I have learned to stay open to the world and my faith. I am now well assured that during the times of life when learning opportunities are thrust upon me, I will be prepared for them. I will be there with my heart and mind open, willing to take a leap of faith.



Austin Angulo

