

RENAISSANCE REVISITED

St. Augustine Parish Building Campaign
March, 2010

PARISH PASTORAL CENTER ~ MORE THAN A DREAM

In raising Lazarus, Jesus illustrated his power to give life to the dead. The word of Jesus gives life; those who live by it, even if they die, will live.



Hope abounds this fifth Sunday of Lent. Let us all come out of the darkness of winter and rejoice in the budding of new life all around us. Let us look forward in faith and joy to the coming of the Easter season and a fresh, new beginning...the long anticipated groundbreaking for our new Parish Pastoral Center.

KUDOS TO THE BUILDING COMMITTEE

We are very excited about achieving a milestone on 3/10; our Committee has signed-off on all construction designs and specifications!!! This has been about a four month process, but the time and detailed reviews have value in the long-run in eliminating costly change orders during construction.

We have agreed with Balzer, our architectural firm, on a set short-term map that will lead us through bids from and selection of a General Construction Contractor and obtaining the necessary Chesterfield County permits. A lot of upfront work with the County has been achieved not only by us but by Balzer in the past four months as well, which enables going for County permits and Contractor selection simultaneously.

In addition, we have approval from the Bishop on a construction loan that will be available upon our request to coincide with construction commencing.

Due to all the background work, we feel confident our plan is solid and with

prayers being answered, we plan to break ground on the Pastoral Center 5/1/10. During Construction Contract negotiations we will tie-down the exact timing of completion, for now we are expecting to be completed with this 6,900 square foot addition by 12/31/10.

The Committee appreciates the



patience from all fellow parishioners and we ask for your continued prayers and support through the Renaissance Revisited pledge program so that we can have a successful implementation of the planning that has been achieved.....what a great way to celebrate New Year's Day 1/1/11!!!!

By Lacy Gray for the Building Committee

A word from the RR Working Group ...

As we stated in our message on the weekend of March 6 & 7, we have secured more than 75% of our original goal in pledges since the inception of the pledge drive in the fall. The real story is more ambiguous. The weather of recent weeks and the consequent impact on attendance at all Masses has dealt a severe blow to the *Renaissance Revisited* collections. Fifty-five percent of those

pledging since the fall campaign are behind in satisfying their pledge commitment. We understand that much of this is attributable to the weather. We ask all those who have been unable to remain abreast of their pledge commitment to please catch up if you missed collection Sundays in December, January and/or February. We need to know what revenues we can count on. Consider the potential impact on planning and, ultimately on our mortgage, of not being able to

Let Samaritan women drink deeply, Blind men see clearly and the Dying live forever.

Continued from page 1...

reliably predict and measure our pledge income.

Are you using your yellow Renaissance Revisited envelopes? We're grateful if you are and if you're not, we urge you to consider using them. The easily identifiable yellow envelope assures that your pledge payment is credited to the correct fund. The next complement of parishioner envelopes, that will be mailed to you this month, will include the *Renaissance Revisited* collection yellow envelopes among them. This will continue throughout the pledge drive. Remember, it's never too late to pledge. We extend our thanks to all who have participated in the pledge drive as well as those who yet will.

Beyond the pledge drive, our Hispanic parishioners have been busy planning and conducting fundraisers and are actively engaged in planning more over the coming months; these harness the vibrant communal spirit of the Hispanic community, their energy, and their commitment to seeing the Pastoral Center become a reality. These activities are multipliers in feeding regularly the coffers of the *Renaissance Revisited* fund.

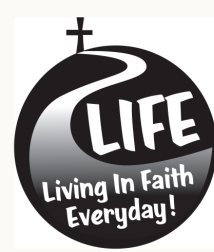
Notwithstanding the challenges outlined above, our community continues to demonstrate, even in these trying and uncertain times, that we possess the resolve, the focus, the will to serve a purpose larger than ourselves... a purpose that draws from the lessons of the Gospel.

We will build this building and pay for it (ahead of schedule as we have always done)...not an idle boast!

God bless you, our parish family, and thank you for validating our collective and abiding Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ!!

AN INTERGENERATIONAL PERSPECTIVE...

Over the course of the last two decades, we have watched our children grow and mature from newborns to young adults. The faith family at St. Augustine's, along with three generations of our own family, have played



a huge role in shaping our lives. Not only do we share weekly Sunday Mass with my in-laws and our own children, but it is often the topic of conversation over the dinner table that night. We are fortunate that our children can get perspectives from relatives who have had over 70 years of Catholic experiences. This has been an invaluable resource for our children. I often marvel at the knowledge of the Catholic faith that I gain listening to them speak of their experiences. This also provides the whole family with a great frame of reference to see what changes have transpired over the years. During our semi-annual family gatherings, my in-laws often talk about what a pleasure, what a blessing it is to see three daughters and one son and three of their spouses and all of their nine grandchildren at Mass at St. Augustine's, and all of them receiving Holy Communion. What a joy it is to look down the one or two pews it takes to seat us and see the children being attentive, prayerful and happy to be with the family at Mass. For my in laws, Martin and Nancy McNulty, in their late 70s, to hear that all the grandchildren go to weekly Mass and participate in so many ways; serving altar, pantry, Sunday School/LIFE instructors, lector, Eucharistic Ministers, is a source of pride. And then to talk to their nine respective grandchildren about how important their faith has been for them and how much it will mean to them as they age and mature. Their ultimate joy is when their own children relay to them, Grandpa and Grandma, what a great example of being a devoted Catholic they have been to their children.

Through three generations, cradle Catholics and converts, ages from 8 to 78, our Catholic faith and the ability to share it with family is a treasure that we are thankful for every day.

by **David Ellena**

STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION

My family and I have been a member of St. Augustine Church since 2003. I am married to Juan Manuel Ayala. We have four children, thank God. They are Leticia, 15, Juan Manuel Jr., 11, Jesus Tadeo, 9, and Isaias Angel, 7. As a volunteer, I participate in Children's Liturgy and the L.I.F.E. program as a catechist for children of preschool age, 3-5 years old. It's beautiful, as a Catholic Christian, to share my knowledge with children who want to learn and know more every day about God's Word and the life of our Lord Jesus Christ. Each child is special. They are cooperative, listen attentively and understand. Some want to finish their work early to go play or to talk about what happens at home with their brothers and sisters or talk about school. It has been a wonderful experience for me. God loves us unconditionally and every day we wait with open arms to receive his guidance and support for our journey. I would like to do more. Helping these children is like a tiny grain of sand in comparison to how much God has given me. He has blessed me with my four children and asked me to care for them, guide and educate them as part of my daily life.

by **Yolanda Ayala**

ON-LINE BANKING

Quick fix for timely payments of contributions:
Offertory and RR Pledge

Do you currently pay your household bills on-line but never thought about setting your parish contributions up for payment? You never have to miss your weekly contribution again; even if you're on vacation or it snows and you can't come to church.

Set up two payee accounts (at no cost to you) to St. Augustine's so that the church receives two checks; one for offertory and one for your pledge to Renaissance Revisited for the new Pastoral Center.

To assist the collection counters in making sure the checks are credited to the correct fund, **in the memo line** put OFFERTORY and your envelope number for your regular weekly donation. **In the memo line** for your Renaissance Revisited pledge payment, put RR PLEDGE and your envelope number. If you are already using on-line banking to make your parish contributions, please make sure the memo line on each of your checks reads as suggested above.

Haven't taken the leap to pay your bills on-line? Talk to your banker and let him or her walk you through the process. You even have the option to set up payments on a recurring basis. For example your parish contributions could be paid on the 1st or 15th of each month or whatever date you choose. You can give a beginning date and an ending date if you wish; i.e., RR Bldg. Fund Pledge comes out of your account on the 15th of every month for three years.



WHY WOULD OR SHOULD YOU CONSIDER THIS METHOD OF PAYMENT?

1. For your convenience;
2. To assure you are keeping your financial commitment;
3. So that donations are timely even when you cannot be present.
4. So the church can depend on your financial stewardship;
5. Because you recognize that this House of God, just like your own house, has bills to pay each month.
6. And, last but not least, because you are aware that without consistent, timely financial contributions the ministry and mission to which we've been called as a parish family cannot continue to happen.

On-line Banking is just another option for your consideration.

by Mary Lou Marple



L.I.F.E.: Living In Faith Everyday.
What *is* Faith?
Merriam-

Webster defines it as a belief, trust and loyalty to God. We aren't born with faith; we learn about it through our parents, our church, our teachers and our own lives. We create it within ourselves as we grow older. It's up to us to open up to God and build on our *Faith*.

The program of L.I.F.E. has helped me learn more in depth about the Catholic faith and how we should live a Christian life. Being Catholic isn't just something we practice four times a month; it's a lifestyle. It defines every move we make, how we act, how we think. In our loyalty to God, we have a duty to correct what is wrong and against His will, to serve others, to pray and connect to God everyday and spread the word of God.

Matthew 7:24

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the

RESURRECTION...RENAISSANCE REVISITED

EARTHSHAKING...EARTHMOVING

"Happy Days Are Here Again!" Laetare! Rejoice! Winter is surely transfiguring into spring. Our Lenten journey rapidly advances. Catechumens, candidates and ashed penitents all—we Jews and Samaritans, Americans, Anglos, Africans, Asians, Indians and Hispanics, oldest and newest members of St. Augustine's have met at Jacob's well. With Jesus we have drunk deeply of Life and Love, right here at the corner of Hopkins and Beulah, where this church was dedicated in 1975, with many of you youngsters present! With Daylight Savings Time returned and *The Man Born Blind* at Siloam's pool we can now see more clearly Christ's vision for us His beloved community of disciples and friends. His dear friend Lazarus is now raised and restored to once grieving, now rejoicing sisters. In two weeks we sing *Alleluia* and celebrate *earthshaking* Easter. Late in the Paschal season *earthmovers* will arrive to help us break ground for our new parish *PASTORAL CENTER*. Hopefully, there will be "room in the inn" by Christmas!

My deepest gratitude goes out to anyone and everyone at St. Augustine's who has responded to and invested in our *RENAISSANCE REVISITED* campaign, the implementation of *Phase II* of our *parish master plan of 1994*. Thank you, thank you, thank you, and thank God!

When I arrived as pastor in May of 1996, I began attending *Renaissance Building Committee* meetings, made my own 3 year financial pledge, and began to encourage those parishioners who had not pledged to join the journey. We broke ground in April, 1997, dedicated our new parish hall in June 1998, blessed the renovated education wing in 1999, and, with income from the continuing, monthly Building Fund collection and bingo, happily and gratefully paid off the mortgage in 2005. God bless you wonderful, tireless bingo volunteers!

Now we're at it again—exciting and efficient Building Committee meetings since October, 2007, a challenging financial pledge campaign since November, 2009, ongoing faithful worship and flourishing ministries and programs, weathering the best beautiful snow and surviving the worst economic recession in decades, and now Lent about to become Easter...again!

We're "at it" again because we have continued to grow and are again bursting at the seams. For years we have yearned and planned for a more accessible and integrated parish complex by means of the new pastoral center. As well, our very active parish outreach ministries and food pantry will be able to be centralized and expanded into the present office space (the original rectory/residence of the priests).

All of this is happening because of who you—St. Augustine Catholic Church are: a welcoming community, a hard-working pastoral people, a hard-loving parish family, beloved disciples, servant leaders, friends.

I am so grateful for the almost fourteen years that I have pastored this community with you, assuring that Baptismal waters and Chrism anointings flow warmly and generously, Eucharistic bread and wine are shared joyfully and gratefully, sins are forgiven and Reconciliation celebrated, the sick are comforted and cared for, preaching and catechesis are Good News and L.F.F.E., and *C.A.R.I.T.A.S* and Freedom House, and seeking God's peace and justice for all—unborn, disabled, incarcerated and immigrant alike, are precious and powerful parts of our pastoral care, the work of your pastoral staff—whose heart and home will be our new *PASTORAL CENTER!*

A most special and personal and pastoral hats off, and hearts out to Fred Howland who has so effectively chaired our RR Building Committee, and Rick Brennan who has so energetically chaired the RR Working Group/pledge campaign process. Your names are going to the Vatican soon for canonization! And so should the name of every St. Augustine member who faithfully participates in our *liturgy*—"the work of God's people," and who leaves this church "in joy and peace to love and serve the Lord and one another!"

May every Lenten sacrifice, and your all year round sacrifices on behalf of St. Augustine Church, bring you every Easter blessing, all year round!

God loves you, and so do I (and so does Mac)!

Sincerely and gratefully,

Father Mike

Rev. Msgr. Michael SC Schmied, Pastor