

ST. AUGUSTINE INDIAN MISSION the Trumpet Call

SPRING 2009

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF EDUCATION, TRADITION AND FAITH

A Letter From Father Dave

Spring has not yet sprung here in Winnebago. Mother Earth has not yet fully awoken from her winter nap. **The landscape is still drab and dreary.** But I am confident that signs of new life are not far off. I have faith that soon the flowers will bloom, the trees will bud and be filled with leaves before long.

Similar things could be said about our financial situation.

Our donations are significantly down from last year. But this is not the first time in our 100-year history that we have been in this situation. God has always brought us through difficult times, and I have faith it will happen again.

My determination to make sure we make it through these difficult economic times was renewed just the other day.

It came through a conversation with one of our students. I will change her name to "Kateri" to protect her identity. I saw Kateri in the lunch room sitting off by herself with her head down. I went over to her to see what was the matter. She told me that nobody liked her. I spent several minutes assuring her that lots of other students liked her, but more importantly Jesus loved her, I loved her, and that lots of people loved her. But she remained unconsolated. I called another student over and shared with her that Kateri was having a bad day, that she didn't think anyone liked her. The student said, "I like you Kateri!" But Kateri wouldn't even lift her head. So the other student said, "I'll be right back." **She ran off and soon returned with several other students who went up to Kateri and told her they liked her and were her friends.** But still, no change in Kateri. I thanked the kind-hearted students and asked them to give us a minute.

When we once again had privacy, we finally got to the root of her sadness. **She looked up at me and said with tears in her eyes, "I want to live with my mom."** Like many of our students, this little girl's mother is not present in her life. She is being raised by her grandmother. **I realized**

my limitations and took her to see our counselor, Dr. Jan. I was confident she was now in the best care we could provide her.

I used to wonder if it was a luxury to have a full-time school counselor who is also a licensed therapist on staff, but I have come to realize that it is actually more of a necessity. Many of our students have similar or worse situations to deal with in their lives.



Before Kateri left for home at the end of the school day, she came to my office with a smile on her face and gave me a big hug. She said, "I feel better now." Dr. Jan had once again worked her magic.

Spring arrived in that smile and hug! They were more beautiful than all the flowers in the world. **These children need what we are offering here at St. Augustine's! Please help us continue to provide the loving, caring environment these children need with a donation today so that they can be more productive members of society in the future.** You can either use the envelope we provide, or you can donate online at www.staugustinemission.org.

Thank you for your gift.

Fa. Dave

Embracing the Past & Celebrating the Future. St. Augustine kicks off 100-year celebration.

Photo by Ashlee R. Schuette



St. Augustine alums, Sarah Snake and Winona LaPointe, offer the Lord's Prayer in Winnebago sign language at the centennial celebration on March 15, 2009.

On February 22nd, St. Augustine Indian Mission kicked off the commemoration of its 100-year anniversary with a healing and reconciliation prayer service. Over 100 people from Winnebago and surrounding communities attended this service. The evening service served as an opportunity to acknowledge and pray for any past hurts caused by the Mission during its 100-year history.

The celebration of the centennial began on March 13th with a special Mass and guest speaker Sister Consolata Beecher, a member of Blessed Sacrament Sisters. It was the 100th anniversary to the day when Mother Katharine Drexel arrived in Winnebago to personally oversee the construction of the school and church.

On Sunday, March 15th Archbishop Elden Francis Curtiss joined the community for the Centennial Mass. "You are blessed to be members of the Omaha and Winnebago tribes

with your elders who continue the tradition and preserve your history," the Archbishop said. One of many highlights of the service was the performance of the Our Father in native Winnebago sign language.

The Centennial celebration provides an opportunity to show the Mission's commitment to integrating elements of Native American culture with the liturgy and curriculum of the Mission, as well as strengthen the relationship between the Mission and the community.

"We're trying to turn the tide and help our young people embrace who they are as Native Americans," Father Korth said.

The Mass was followed by a luncheon attended by over 250 people. "We are celebrating such an important milestone in the history of our archdiocese," Mission Director Father Korth said.

Wish List for St. Augustine Teachers

The dedicated staff of teachers at St. Augustine was recently asked to come up with some items that they would like to put on a wish list. Donations are requested to help purchase a variety of items to help advance the student learning process including the following:

- New science and social studies textbook series - \$1500
- Math software - \$100 • LCD projector - \$650
- New laptop computers - \$800 • TV's - \$500 each,
- DVD players - \$60 • Printer ink - \$30 • Dry erase markers - \$15
- Paper - \$29 per carton • Yard sticks - \$1.50
- We also need to replace the hot water heater for the school lunchroom - \$800. *Any assistance with these items is greatly appreciated.*

Sister Agnes Receives Women of Excellence Award.



Office co-workers, Tricia and Kim, pay homage to our "Queen for the Day", Sr. Agnes, after she received her Women of Excellence Award. Sr. Agnes shows what a good sport she is by wearing the little princess crown on top of her veil.

In March, Sister Agnes Salber was honored for her leadership, character and contributions during the 25th annual Women of Excellence recognition banquet in Sioux City. The banquet is a fundraiser for Women Aware. Sister was one of seven women honored at the dinner.

Pastor Fr. Mike Eckley and Director Fr. Dave Korth nominated Sister Agnes in the category of *Women Taking Risks*.

In 1961, Sister Agnes began missionary work in Daegu, Korea. There she helped build a hospital that served the poor. During her twenty years there, she oversaw the hospital's growth from a clinic with 2 doctors to a Specialty Clinic and Hospital with 750 beds and 300 physicians.

Since coming to St. Augustine in 2003, Sister has served as bookkeeper and currently, at age 80, serves as the office business manager.

"I am quite certain the majority of the people Sister Agnes comes in contact with on a daily basis; the children at the school and the people of the community, have no idea that this humble, unassuming, Benedictine sister used to "rub shoulders: with the highest officials in Korea, including the President," Fr. Dave Korth said. "I attribute much of my happiness and peacefulness to her presence. I don't know what life would be like here without her daily example to encourage and support me, and the entire staff of St. Augustine," Korth continued.

Sister Agnes shows no signs of slowing down. She wants to continue to take risks not only for herself, but also for the children of St. Augustine. She continues to be a role model for all the children at the Mission.

The entire staff at St. Augustine and the community of Winnebago, Nebraska congratulates Sister Agnes on the Women of Excellence Award.

Program at St. Augustine Continues to Build Lasting Relationships.



The sixth annual Sponsor-A-Child luncheon was held on April 22, 2009 at Happy Hollow Country Club in Omaha, NE. The luncheon provided the opportunity for sponsors to reconnect and spend quality time with the children they sponsor.

Marsha Poole, Director of *The Betty Strong Encounter Center; Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center* in Sioux City, Iowa was the featured speaker during the lunch.

Poole, a longtime friend and supporter of the Mission, has been working extensively with the Mission over the last several months on many projects in honor of St. Augustine's 100-year anniversary. Among them is a play written by her husband commemorating the historic celebration.

The title of her talk was "Who Are These Beautiful Children?" "More than lovely images, the portraits photographed by Fr. Don Doll are a daily inspiration to me," Poole said. "From October 2006 to the present, an annual exhibition of the portraits has been at the Center – reminding me and every visitor that each of us has a story, each of us has the promise of doing something beautiful for our world."

"I am so grateful for all that Marcia does for the children of St. Augustine." Fr. Korth said, "Not only does she introduce them to all the visitors of the Center, but her love and compassion for all children made her the ideal speaker for the luncheon."

Our work is not done, however. We have not yet reached our goal of one hundred percent student sponsorship. With your generous support, we can continue to build upon this success. Please contact Fr. Dave Korth, Director at 402.878.2402 or dmkorth@archomaha.org for information on becoming a sponsor.



Check out our new website that's up and running!
www.staugustinemission.org

ST. AUGUSTINE INDIAN MISSION

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF EDUCATION, TRADITION AND FAITH

Photo exhibit tells the story of St. Augustine Indian Mission.

Every year portraits of St. Augustine Indian Mission children are among the most popular exhibits at the Betty Strong Encounter Center in Sioux City, Iowa.

On April 19 the exhibit "Who Are These Beautiful Children?" debuted at the Center. The photo exhibit consists of contemporary images by Fr. Don Doll, S.J.; archival Mission photographs, and text by Marcia Poole, Director of The Betty Strong Encounter Center, Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center. Fr. Doll and Carol McCabe of Magis Productions designed the exhibit.

"This exhibit was inspired by thousands of visitors who've spent time looking at the St. Augustine children's portraits and who've asked, 'Who are these beautiful children?'" Poole said. "In this centennial year of St. Augustine, it's time to bring greater cultural and historical context to the children's story," she added.

The April 19 opening included a program about St. Augustine with historian Pat Kennedy, Mission Director Fr. Dave Korth, and school principal Don Blackbird. Fr. Doll discussed the annual St. Augustine portraits.

"Photographs reveal cultures and help other people see those cultures," Fr. Doll said. "When you make these pictures larger than life, it says 'These people are special. We treasure them.'"

"This Centennial exhibition is the result of institutions working together to illuminate the rich heritage and promise



St. Augustine celebrates 100 years of service to the children and families of the Winnebago community.

of St. Augustine," Fr. Korth said. "The exhibit encourages us to honor the unique gifts of all children and to nurture families, communities, and a world that support their dignity," Korth said.

Please take the opportunity to see this wonderful exhibit. It is currently on display through 2009. The Betty Strong Encounter Center and adjoining Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center comprise a private, non-profit complex built and sustained by Missouri River Historical Development, Inc. and located on the Missouri Riverfront, exit 149 off I-29. Admissions and all programs are free. For more information visit their website at www.siouxcitylcic.com

St. Augustine Board of Directors

Archbishop Elden Francis Curtis • Rev. Dave Korth, Director • Rev. Mike Eckley, Assistant Director
Stephen Bruckner, President • Jane Huerter Weekly, President Elect • Mark Weber, Secretary • Wayne Ibarolle, Treasurer

Ted Bridges • Jim Czyz • Sid Dillon, Sr. • Dennis Esch • Judy Haney • Melissa Henscheid • Dr. Anne M. Hubbard
Steve Knolla • Tim McGill • Fr. Tom Merkel, S.J. • Erin Morgan • Mary Ann Nipp • Charles Rowse
Dr. Mike Sketch • Sarah Snake • Kellie Snow • Martha Stofko • Joseph Twidwell • Elaine Wilwerding

.....

How to contact us at the Saint Augustine Indian Mission:

www.staugustinemission.com

St. Augustine Indian Mission

P.O. Box GG • Winnebago, NE 68071 • (402)-878-2402