



Every year members from St. Augustine's Kateri Circle make a road trip to join with other Native American Catholics from across the country for the annual National Tekakwitha Conference.

This year the conference was held from July 20-23, in Tucson, AZ.

Thirteen members from St. Augustine's, including three students from St. Augustine Indian Mission, made the 3200 mile trip in three vehicles.

The trip included a stop over with wonderful hospitality at our sister parish, St. Vincent de Paul, in Andover, Kansas.

The conference is designed to encourage Native American Catholics to embrace both their Native culture and their Catholic identity. Kateri Circle members strive to live their lives following in the footsteps of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, a young Mohawk woman who lived in the 1600's.



WINNER OF BABY STAR QUILT

Mike and Pam Weekly of Omaha, NE are this year's winners of the baby star quilt. Thank you to the 135 people who participated in this drawing by giving a donation of \$100 or more to our Phantom Fundraiser last May.

1st graders say "Pina-gi-gi" (thank you) for your support!

Left to right: Mariah, Jae, Tyrone, Casey



MACY PREPARES TO DEDICATE NEW WORSHIP CENTER

After many years of having Mass in the Tribal Council Building and various other locations in Macy, parishioners of Our Lady of Fatima Parish are finally in a building of their own. The multipurpose Worship Center serves as the permanent place for the community to gather for Mass, as well as providing a space for the members to hold meals that are an important part of their Native American culture. The community is very grateful to Msgr. Paul Lenz of the Black and Indian Mission for the grant that made the Worship Center a reality. Archbishop Elden Francis Curtiss will bless and dedicate the Center on October 30, 2005 during a noon celebration.

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ST. AUGUSTINE INDIAN MISSION the Trumpet Call

October, 2005



Fr. Dave Korth

A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

I have come to believe that the most important things in our lives are our relationships. My past two years here with the Native American people of the Winnebago and Omaha Tribes have only furthered this belief. As you read the article on our newest student, Logan Roper, you will see that it was a strong connection to family that provided a safe place here in Winnebago for these refugees from Hurricane Katrina.

As you can see, the Trumpet Call has received an "extreme makeover". This new look is actually costing us less than it did before! Thanks to my very good friend, Fr. Don Doll, SJ. Fr. Doll, a nationally renowned photographer, found two very talented and generous students at Creighton University. Courtney Britt and Katie Kelsey volunteered to help us with this newsletter. I am truly grateful for all their help! Let me know what you think of the "new look".

*Peace and blessings,
 Fr. Dave*



The Kateri Warriors drum group sang songs and students raised the American flag as St. Augustine Indian Mission marked the beginning of a new school year with an Opening Prayer Ceremony.

The prayer service included a cedar blessing by Gregg Bass and talks by elders of the Omaha and Winnebago Nations. We were further blessed when the Chairman of the Winnebago Tribe, Mr. John Blackhawk, encouraged the children to do their very best this coming school year.

Our new principal, Mr. Joe Fustos, as well as our new fifth grade teacher, Ms. Carissa Cooper, were introduced. Mr. Fustos then addressed the gathering of students, faculty, staff, and community members. He shared his goal of creating an environment which is all about the love of learning, and he encouraged all the students of St. Augustine to commit themselves to having fun by learning all that they can this coming year.

Enrollment has once again climbed, as we currently have 117 students. We started the school year with 98 in 2004, and as recent as January 2003 we only had 77 students. This increase in enrollment simply means that we have the opportunity to help more children of the Winnebago and Omaha tribes become strong leaders of tomorrow. This can only be done with the generous support of all our benefactors!

HURRICANE *brings family together*

By LISA SCHULTE • *The Catholic Voice*

It had been almost 22 years since Georgia Gomez had seen her niece when the two were reunited this summer at Gomez's home in Winnebago.

Now the two are roommates.

Gomez took her niece, Amber Roper - along with her niece's 11-year-old son, Logan, her boyfriend, Joseph, and the family cat and dog - into her home after Roper's home was washed away by Hurricane Katrina.

"I'm glad to do it," Gomez told *The Catholic Voice*. "It made me think of the blessings that I've got from the Creator. I'm lucky."

The group traveled from their home in St. Bernard Parish, La., just east of New Orleans, and arrived in Nebraska Aug. 30, the day after the hurricane hit. Roper's mother and many of her friends are still missing.

Father Dave Korth, executive director of the St. Augustine Indian Mission in Winnebago, said Gomez's welcoming response is common in the Native American culture.

"The way that Native Americans reach out to one another and the generosity of this family, that's the typical Native American response," he said. "If a family member is in need, they have this understanding that what I have is yours. It's a beautiful lesson they've been teaching me."

He also said the opportunity to have Roper and her son participate in parish and school activities "brings the tragedy that happened down there closer to home for our community here."

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Fr. Dave, Joe Fustos, with Logan who stands before his parents, Joe Catanses and Amber Roper, and Jack LaMere, Winnebago elder.

"HE IS SO EXCITED FOR MASS AND CATHOLIC SCHOOL," SAID ROPER, WHO PLANS TO DONATE HER TIME AT THE SCHOOL AND CHURCH TO HELP OFFSET THE COSTS.

It also gives them the ability to make a hands-on difference for the hurricane victims.

"Things are better for us here," Roper, 31, said.

St. Augustine School in Winnebago waved tuition and uniform costs for her son, who is attending fifth grade at the Catholic school. He is already active on the school's football team and at the parish.

"He is so excited for Mass and Catholic school," said Roper, who plans to donate her time at the school and church to help offset the costs.

"I just hope that I can do as much for this community as they have done for me," she said.

"Back home I was usually the one people came to for this and for that and I raised other people's children and helped the kids who needed

extra help in Logan's class, so it's really hard for me to take help from other people."

With Roper's hometown devastated and water in the area full of spilled oil from the neighboring oil plants, she plans to stay in Winnebago until school ends. She doesn't, however, intend to return to New Orleans. Instead, she is considering getting a house and staying close to her aunt. "Some people I've talked to say they're moving back and I think they're crazy," she said. "Even if it is 10 years from now, who wants to see everything they've worked for wiped out?"

"This is a tragedy, but it's the best thing that could have happened to me. My son is here in a better school, I'm with family, and it's a more positive environment," she said. "We're going to have a better life out here."

NEW PRINCIPAL SHARES HIS LOVE OF EDUCATION

Everyone has heard of a person who whistles while they work, but it's not very often that you hear of a singing principal at a Catholic Grade School!

Joe Fustos, the newest edition to St. Augustine, brings much experience as the new principal. After growing up in Mont Damon, Iowa, Mr. Fustos decided to attend Dana College where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in K-12 Instrumental and Vocal Musical education. Only a year after graduating, he received a position at Omaha North as the music director from 1998 to 1999. At this time, Mr. Fustos was offered a spot in a touring vocal entertainment group. Though it was a tough decision, he chose to refuse the offer of traveling and instead turned to the Des Moines Public Schools for a position as a substitute teacher for one year. From 2000 to May



Mr. Fustos helps Aspen with a math assignment.

of 2005, he worked as a teacher for grades 7 to 12 at PACT alternative school in Council Bluffs, Iowa, while working towards his Master's degree in Education at the University of Nebraska- Omaha. After finishing his degree, he went on to pursue a position as principal, and found Winnebago to be just the right place. Mr. Fustos lives in Missouri

Valley with his wife, Tonya, and two children, Ethan, 4, and Rayden, 2. When asked what he looks forward to for the 2005-2006 academic year he commented, "It will be great to be able to steer a program for this school. The staff is supportive and fun and I can't wait to see what the year will bring us all."

FRIENDLY FACULTY AND STAFF ATTRACT NEW TEACHER

Carissa Cooper's father served as superintendent for many years. "My dad, as well as the teachers I had in school, inspired me to be a teacher. I grew up playing teacher," Cooper said. It seems some people might think she is still "playing" teacher, as she had an elder in the community ask her on the first day of school if she was a new student!

Carissa graduated from Wayne State College in December of 2004 and substituted at different schools throughout the Spring. She found herself at St. Augustine's seven or eight times last Spring. "I was very

interested in applying for the new position here because of the friendly faculty and staff I met here last Spring," Cooper said. "Now they are being very helpful in checking in on me and providing resources."

Cooper also likes being part of a Catholic school, "I like praying, going to Mass, and talking about our faith in school. You can't do that in a public school." She is also learning lots about the Native American culture and how strong it is in the community.



While looking for a teacher because of the need to split the 5th and 6th grades due to increased enrollment, the Mission found a teacher with education in her blood.