

St. Augustine Indian Mission

CELEBRATING 101 YEARS OF EDUCATION, TRADITION AND FAITH

THE FACES OF ST. AUGUSTINE

This summer St. Augustine Indian Mission hosted many service groups from across the country. The groups came from as close as Omaha and as far as California. The groups are often parish and school sponsored groups. We have also been blessed to host groups affiliated with Young Neighbors in Action, which is a national service learning organization sponsored by the Catholic Church. St. Augustine Indian Mission provides a unique experience for the many young people who travel to the Winnebago and Omaha Reservations. As part of their experience they visit with community members and learn about the culture. They also witness some of the challenges facing the Winnebago and Omaha People first hand.

The work these service groups provide infuses the communities with the much-needed resource of manpower. As many of the young people who participate in these



experiences can attest, there is no shortage of hard work that must be completed.

This summer the groups taught two summer Bible camps. One was on the Omaha Reservation and the other on the Winnebago Reservation. The groups also helped with repairing homes in disrepair and community beautification



Taking time to smile for the camera



Hard at work, scrubbing the kitchen

projects to help instill pride within the communities. They worked tirelessly to repair the ceremonial Pow-Wow grounds on both reservations and volunteered at the food pantry.

The volunteers handed out food to the hungry and had a kind word for those who came seeking assistance.

Every year we are blessed to have these wonderful groups donate their gift of time and talent to help us in our Mission to improve the lives of those we serve. Thank you to those who continue to keep our volunteers and us in their prayers.

SAINT AUGUSTINE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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How to contact us at the Saint Augustine Indian Mission:

www.staugustinemission.org

St. Augustine Indian Mission

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

ST. AUGUSTINE INDIAN MISSION the Trumpet Call

FALL 2011

CELEBRATING 101 YEARS OF EDUCATION, TRADITION AND FAITH

A Letter From Father Dave

The fall semester is once again upon us. Personally, I feel a little bit like I am in a game of “hide and seek” when the seeker finishes counting and says, “Ready or not, here I come!” It appears our students and teachers were ready to come back, but the rest of our staff, who are here all summer, are feeling like we could use a little more time to get ready. Summers here at the Mission are not a time of rest and relaxation. In this issue you can read about all the volunteers that come through here in the summer. Week after week wonderful groups of high energy, hard working, and good-hearted youth, come here to give of their time and talent to make things a little better for the people living on Omaha and Winnebago Indian Reservations. They leave with a better understanding and awareness of life here. They also learn the important lesson of how the giver usually ends up being the receiver.

You can also read about our new staff this fall. We would like to welcome new teachers Rebecca Gerrity and Cody Jorgensen. Along with these new teachers, we are also excited to have Fr. Dan Wittrock as our new Pastor of the 4 parishes and Associate Director of the Mission. Dwight Howe has also joined us as our new Cultural Mentor/Omaha Language instructor. Our Mission Secretary, Kim Reising, resigned for personal reasons after 17 years of outstanding service to St. Augustine Indian Mission. She is the one who handled all your donations, processed your thank you letters, kept our data base up to date, as well as tried to bring a

semblance of order to my chaos. As is the case in many institutions, it is the people behind the scenes that really keep things running. Not only was she invaluable with her organization skills, she was also one of the most Christ-like people I have ever met. She will be deeply missed at the Mission, and we wish her all the best!



As you read through this issue of the Trumpet Call, I ask that you say a prayer for all of us as we strive to continue the work begun by St. Katharine Drexel of educating these special children of God – body, mind, and spirit. I also ask that you prayerfully consider supporting our efforts once again with your financial contribution. May God continue to bless and keep you! Blessings,

Father Dave Korth

ANOTHER NEW START.....

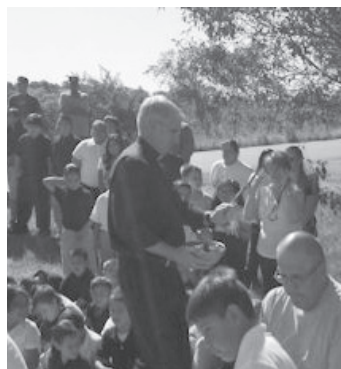
The students arrived at St. Augustine on Wednesday, August 17th, for their first day of the 2011-2012 school year. It proved to be a beautiful August day, filled with excitement for the new year. It was fun to look around and greet many familiar faces, as well as several new ones. Not only did 19 new students join us, but we were also joined by new staff members this year. We have a new middle school science and social studies teacher and a new music teacher. Our new middle school teacher is Ms. Rebecca Gerrity. Last year, Rebecca taught at St. Elizabeth Seton School in Rapid City South Dakota. She is enrolled in the Magis Teacher Corp program at Creighton University. Our music teacher is Mr. Cody Jorgensen and comes to us through the generosity of the Omaha Conservatory of Music in Omaha Nebraska. Finally, Fr. Dan Wittrock is the new Pastor of the 4 parishes associated with the Mission, as well as the Associate Director of the Mission. Fr. Dan was previously the pastor of St. Michael's Parish and School in South Sioux City Nebraska.



We celebrated our first Mass of the school year and then proceeded to the flag pole for our annual flag raising. Fr. Dave offered a word of prayer and a cedar blessing for all those in attendance. Two 8th grade students hoisted the flag while the Kateri Warrior Drum group sang the Winnebago flag song.



Raising the flag



Father Dave offering a cedar blessing

Ms. Sarah Snake, a graduate of St. Augustine's and a member of the Winnebago Tribal Council, offered a word of encouragement for the students and spoke about the benefits of working hard in school and all the opportunities that education provides. After Sarah spoke to the students, Mr. Jack LaMere, an elder and veteran from the Winnebago Tribe and Mr. Donald Blackbird Sr., an elder and a veteran from the Omaha Tribe spoke to the students and wished them well for the coming school year.

Once the flag raising was completed, the students returned to their classrooms eager to start their first day.



Kateri Drum Warriors



Mr. Jack LaMere, speaking to the students

St. Augustine Wish List

LCD Projector • Smart Board • Teacher Laptops •
Printers • PE Equipment • DVD Player • Software •
Audio Centers for the reading program • TV Cart •
Adjustable Overhead Cart

Large Building Ideas:
New Lunchroom and Kitchen attached to building
(the kitchen currently doubles as a performing arts hall)
New Library

ACCREDITATION

On July 13, 2011, the Nebraska State Board of Education voted to classify St. Augustine Indian Mission School as a Rule 10 accredited school. St. Augustine School had been operating under the umbrella of a Rule 14 approved school system. Rule 14 is a set of requirements establishing minimum standards for the operation of nonpublic schools and supports the missions and goals of nonpublic education in Nebraska, while insuring a level of quality and equality of educational opportunity. Rule 10 is a higher level of accreditation with more stringent requirements set by the State of Nebraska and indicates that St. Augustine School provides a high level of quality education programming. We are very proud of this achievement that was only made possible by the continued support of our donors and the collaborations we have formed with other agencies. We look forward to your continued support as we continue to expand the programming and resources available to our students. When asked how he felt about this achievement, Principal Don Blackbird said, "I am very proud that we are able to take this exciting step. I look forward to St. Augustine's teachers and students striving for even higher levels of excellence in the coming years". Father Dave Korth also added, "The accreditation is a formal recognition of the hard work our staff has been doing for continual improvement of the education we strive to provide these beautiful children of God. I am also keenly aware that it would not have been possible without the generous support of our benefactors! So this is a recognition of what they are doing as well".



CIRCLE OF DREAMS: UNDER CONSTRUCTION

For the past several years, the *Circle of Dreams* has been an integral part of the on-going success of St. Augustine Indian Mission. This annual fundraising event always proves to be an evening of fun and cultural exchange, with Native American dances and songs shared by current students, alumni, and parents from Saint Augustine.

Over time, every good thing deserves to be refreshed and reinvigorated, and such is the case with the 4th

Annual *Circle of Dreams*. Our vision is to be able to invite our benefactors to attend an event that is unique and different from others of its kind. That means that this year the *Circle of Dreams* is Under Construction as we work towards

an innovative and inspiring event to be held in October 2012.

The 2011 Circle of Dreams still needs you!!!

This year, the *Circle of Dreams: Under Construction* will be held the entire month of October. Festivities will begin whenever you like, but must conclude at midnight on October 31st. Because the *Circle of Dreams: Under Construction* is being held in your own home, feel free to put on your pj's, pop some popcorn, listen to music or relax in your favorite chair as you attend the event!! We hope that you will join the Circle of Friends as they work to secure the dreams of these wonderful children of God.

The work of St. Augustine Indian Mission would not be possible without the continued support from individuals like you. We would like to request your non-attendance to this year's event.

The cost of 1 ticket is \$125.

- An example of how this can benefit our students:
- ~ One ticket would heat/cool one classroom for a month
 - ~ Two tickets would provide electricity for one classroom for one month

Become a Sponsor:

- \$5,000 ~ Architect
 - Recognition with Name and logo on SAIM's webpage for 1 year
 - Recognition in the Catholic Voice
 - Recognition in the Trumpet Call
 - Receive a Dream Catcher
 - Sponsors 1 child
- \$2,500 ~ General Contractor
 - Recognition with Name and logo on SAIM's webpage for 1 year
 - Recognition in the Trumpet Call
 - Receive a Dream Catcher
 - Embrace A Child for one year
- \$1,000 ~ Sub Contractor
 - Recognition with Name on SAIM's webpage for 1 year
 - Recognition in the Trumpet Call
 - Receive a Dream Catcher
- \$500 ~ Inspector
 - Recognition with Name on SAIM's webpage for 1 year
 - Receive a Dream Catcher

We look forward to hearing from you during October's *Circle of Dreams: Under Construction*, and we eagerly anticipate seeing you at the new *Circle of Dreams* in October 2012.

PLEASE visit our website or call Julie Corbett @ 402.679.6752 to learn more and find out how you can help!