

ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY

Dear Parishioners,

We have been good stewards. God certainly must be pleased with the way we are praying, nurturing, sharing and giving. Admittedly, though, there is always room for growth. The realization that we can do more today and tomorrow than we have done in the past comes from the Holy Spirit, who helps us to diligently and prudently move forward in order to accomplish, like Jesus, the will of the Father. In this report we will look at some of the accomplishments of our parish in light of our hearts set on “**a life well lived**”.

Father Andy & the Stewardship Committee

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PRAYING WITH GRATEFUL HEARTS

Have you ever thought what it means to be able to visit me any time you wish? Even important people can't visit heads of state like that. They must make an appointment months in advance. But I invite you to visit with me any time you wish. I do more. I will visit with you at any hour of the day or night, should you invite me. – From the book *God Calling* by A. J. Russell

Prayer may be expressed in various forms:

- **Meditation** -Thinking about God
- **Conversation** - Conversing with God
- **Contemplation** - Resting in God

The Gospel portrays Jesus praying in three settings:

- **Alone** – Mark 1:35
- **With friends** – Luke 9:28
- **With the community** – Luke 4:16

Like Jesus, we need to pray alone, to pray with family and friends, and sometimes we need the support of the total community. Prayer may take place in a variety of settings and in a variety of ways. What counts is not so much what we think or say but the love that energizes it.

In 2004 St. Augustine's celebrated many sacraments with its parishioners and friends:

- 15 children were baptized
- 24 received First Communion
- 26 were confirmed
- 2 couples were married
- 23 of our faith family were laid to their final rest

On average 784 members of our parish family regularly attend Saturday / Sunday Eucharist. Our “new” adult choir is a great addition to our weekly Eucharistic celebration!

This year liturgical celebrations included a parish Prayer for Life novena and service January 22, the anniversary of Roe vs. Wade. We honored St. Joseph's feast day by distributing loaves of bread at Mass and continue with our weekly devotion to Sts. Joseph and Jude Tuesday evenings at 7:00 PM. During this Lenten season, we celebrated additional weekly Masses. After Saturday's 8:00 AM Mass, various parishioners lead us in the rosary. Stations of the Cross with Benediction are held every Friday at 6:00 PM.

You are a child of God. Please call home.

NURTURING OUR FAMILY

Finally all of you have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart and a humble mind. - 1 Peter 3:8

Just as we care for our own families, St. Augustine of Canterbury strives to support and develop its parish family. Your active participation with your faith family will go a long way to making St Augustine a vibrant, caring parish and a greater source of support and encouragement to each other.

During the year we welcomed 13 new parish families. The Welcoming Committee continued the tradition of welcoming each new family and presenting them with a basket containing a loaf of bread and a bottle of wine.

Father Andy, the Pastoral Council, along with the Stewardship Committee, continually explore opportunities to help nurture our faith family. Our Renew Program continues to enrich our faith through group sharing, discovery, and fellowship.

Our newly formed Greeting Committee presents a warm, welcoming invitation to our Masses for our members and a wonderful first impression to our visitors.

Our recently organized adult and youth choirs, combined with our dedicated organists, provide musical leadership and enjoyment, while inspiring us to lift our voices to praise God and pronounce our faith. The extraordinary ministers, lectors, ushers, and cantors, continue to do outstanding work.

PSR has 30 students this year, 9 of whom recently made their first confession and will make their First Communion shortly.

The school continues to be a vibrant part of the parish. The faculty, staff, and students participate in numerous volunteer activities such as Annual School Covenant Project, Energy Club Bulb Planting, Student Council Food Drive, etc. This is a true example of all of us sharing our talents for the good of everyone's families.

SHARING OUR GIFTEDNESS

There are different gifts but the same spirit; different services but the same Lord; different activities but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each person the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. - 1 Cor 12:4-7

The members of St. Augustine of Canterbury Parish Church continue to be counted on to share their gifts of time and talent. Our parish's Social Ministries programs booklet published in October 2004 listed more than 100 separate ministries which offer opportunities for our members to make a difference.

The St Augustine Queenship of Mary Sodality & Mothers' Club sponsors a variety of vital groups which directly support our parish, our communities and other needs around the world. Volunteers giving of their time aid in the collection of school supplies for the Don Bosco Center. Project Linus twice a year comes together to create "security blankets" for distribution to needy children. Crop walk raises money for persons in poverty in the USA and worldwide. Fish Fry workers come together to support parish, social and community needs. Meals on Wheels, Baby Shower for Pregnancy Care, Breakfast for Retired Priests, Apostolic Committee who send cards to fellow members sick or who have lost a loved one, Guatemalan Mission Appeal, Helping Hands Funeral Luncheon, our Nursing Home Christmas Giving Tree Appeal are some of the many programs and events available.

Many adults and youth within the parish are also ac-

tively involved with programs and events including the Parish Food Pantry, BEACON of Belleville support, Blood drive, Box tops for Education, Bereavement ministry, Meals for the Homeless and Poor via the Belleville Christian Center, Ministry to the Sick & Aged, our very busy BINGO workers, Eucharistic ministers, Servers, Church Choir, Musicians, Lectors, Ushers and more.

Witness of true Stewardship is abundant within our parish with so many freely giving of their time and talent to make such a positive difference.

GIVING BACK TO GOD THE FIRST FRUITS OF OUR LABORS

For everything is from you, and we only give you what we have received from you - 1 Chronicles 29:14

Just as we are called to share our gifts of time and talent, St. Augustine's Parish and its parishioners generously shared their financial resources. Last year, the Sunday collections along with the Holy Day collections were \$414,935, comprising 79.45% of the total parish income. Through envelopes and contributions we added \$22,415 to our Building Fund.

Our parish family also contributed \$34,271 to the Annual Bishop's Appeal, and another \$10,006 to various special collections such as Propagation of the Faith, Peter's Pence, The Campaign for Human Development, and Black and Indian Missions.

As a parish family we demonstrated our Commitment to stewardship by giving the following amounts in support of Catholic education for our children: \$442,884 to our grade school. In addition Bingo monies in the amount of \$91,094 went to our grade school. Another \$20,124.84 was assessed by Althoff Catholic High School. Additionally, \$1,398 was used for religious education.

By December 2004 unpaid bills consisting of unbilled raffle bonds, health insurance premiums, unemployment assessments, Clergymen's Aid Society, Hincke Home for Retired Priests and Althoff Catholic High School Assessments had accumulated to nearly \$80,000. It was determined to borrow money from the Diocese and pay our debts. By recommendation of the Diocese we borrowed \$90,000 with payments of \$711.71 per month for 180 months (15 years) at a 5% variable rate adjusted in February and August. Our first loan payment was due and made on February 1, 2005.

Financial Report Summary for Fiscal Year 2003/2004

Operating Receipts

Offerings – Envelope and Loose Collections	\$384,224	
Special Collections – Holy Days	30,711	
Donations (Memorials and Major Donor Gift Campaign)	40,000	
Fundraising Activities (Net) – Picnic, Quilt/Cash Bingo, Wurstmarkt, and Ash Wednesday Fish Fry	44,141	
Rental Income	4,050	
Fees/Votive Candles/Misc. Interest	9,669	
Misc. Income	<u>9,462</u>	
Total Operating Receipts	\$522,257	
Diocesan Receipts (Annual Bishops' Overseas Appeal, Holy Land, Propagation of the Faith, Peter's Pence, Campaign for Human Development, Special Christmas Coll., etc.)		<u>10,006</u>
Total Receipts		\$532,263

Operating Expenditures

Salaries and Professional Development	41,466	
Health/Life Insurance	(1,192)	
Church Supplies	15,427	
Religious Education/Formation	1,398	
Office Supplies	5,988	
Household Supplies	-0-	
Utilities (Church and Rectory)	23,169	
Insurance (Property, Liability, Workmen's Comp.)	11,008	
Real Estate Sales Tax	3,050	
Repairs and Maintenance	18,441	
Althoff High School Assessment – *Partial Payment	11,308	
Parish Grade School Subsidy and Tuition Assistance	442,884	
Miscellaneous Expense & Donations	<u>19,753</u>	
Total Operating Expenditures	\$595,892	
Transfer of Diocesan Funds to Chancery		10,006
(Deficit)	(73,635)	
Unpaid Althoff Subsidy, Diocesan Tax, and Current Bills (On 6/30)	50,001	
(Total Deficit)	(\$123,636)	

A LIFE WELL LIVED



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