

the Trumpet Call

ST. AUGUSTINE INDIAN MISSION

SPRING 2017

CELEBRATING 108 YEARS OF EDUCATION, TRADITION AND FAITH

Behind these Humble Doors... educating future leaders of tomorrow

St. Augustine Indian Mission is housed in a very non-descript building with only a small wooden sign naming the school. But as you walk into the building you get a sense that this is a very special place to those who attend the school each day. The halls and walls are filled with the students' art work. Walking in the halls a visitor would see and hear the children busy at their desks, studying hard and participating in their classroom discussions. Pete Soby, our video photographer, is very good at persuading the students and teachers to share with him how they feel and what they think about their school.

"When you walk in the building there is something unique about St. Augustine's; the children and teachers really care about each other," said Second grade teacher, Paula Kuebler.

"The students exhibit warm and loving hearts and unsolicited kindness daily, they are eager to learn and do whatever we ask of them," shared Sheryl Ashley, 5th grade teacher.

Principal Don Blackbird says that every day is a unique day; you never know what's going to come through the door with the children. "They bring stuff in with them, things they have dealt with at home or things they dealt with the night before. When they come through the door the first thing we do is make sure they know someone cares for them."

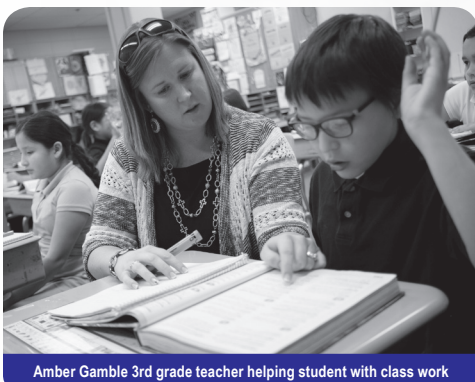
Pete met with a few of the students and asked them why they love their school. Caly a student at St. Augustine shouted out "The teachers are awesome!" Darian expressed, "The school teaches us really good stuff." Sage and Ava talked about the math they were learning and the fun game show they are playing in Religion class. (*continued page 2*)



St. Augustine Indian Mission School



Pete Soby shooting video with the students



Amber Gamble 3rd grade teacher helping student with class work



Sheryl Ashley - teacher with 5th grade class



Deanna Palmer 1st grade teacher with student

A Message From Father Mark - *Director of St. Augustine Indian Mission*

Dear Friends,

With this Trumpet Call I have now gone through an entire year of writing to you. It has been a tremendous joy to connect with you and to get to know the people who make St. Augustine Indian Mission possible. A year ago, I had no idea how many people felt a deep love for the people of the Omaha and Winnebago reservations and who shared a commitment to furthering our efforts of educating children here. Our staff, benefactors, organizations who work with us, and service groups are only some of the people who help carry on the legacy of St. Katharine Drexel. I want to highlight a few of these.

Among the most dedicated supporters of the Mission are the Missionary Benedictine sisters. In the last Trumpet Call and at our recent Circle of Dreams event, we highlighted Sr. Frances. She is one of the four Missionary Benedictines who work on our staff. They have been a part of St. Augustine for over 50 years. From teaching our school children, to reaching out to elderly parishioners, to praying for all of us, the Sisters are a big part of what we do. They are continuing the service of religious women that began with St. Katharine and her order, the Blessed Sacrament Sisters, who founded the Mission in 1909.



Sr. Frances, Sr. Jane & Sr. Deana

The many service groups who visit continue to be a big part of our community. In the summer, we have groups of up to 100 high school kids. During the school year, smaller groups of high school and college students spend their Fall and Spring breaks here, doing service and experiencing Native American life and culture. These students will all tell you that they receive more than they give. Their visits provide the people in our community the opportunity to share their experiences and traditions with people from around the country. This interaction between groups creates a bond that benefits everyone.

The biggest group that helps the Mission is YOU! All gifts, large and small, go toward helping our school become the place of learning, faith, and Native American culture that we want it to be. Never underestimate the power of your generosity and prayers! If you ever want to learn more about the Mission, come for a visit, or talk about ways you can help our efforts, please contact the Mission office at 402-878-2402.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Mark J. Beran



Students attending mass

Behind these Humble Doors... *(continued from cover)*



3rd Grade Class - reading

Fr. Mark Beran, new director to St. Augustine Indian Mission, wants the school to be a beacon of hope for the students and to help all who attend the school to understand who God made them to be. "We want the students to reach their full potential and develop their natural talents and gifts."

St. Augustine is truly a very special place to so many from past alumna to present day students. There is so much history here and there is also a bright future here for the students attending the school. "At St. Augustine's we are trying to lay the groundwork for developing successful leaders of the Winnebago and Omaha people of tomorrow." Don Blackbird is hopeful about that as is teacher Sheryl Ashley who adds, "I hope we can have a small impact on their lives in a positive way, educating them not only in reading, writing and arithmetic but in the whole person."



Students in class



Student working on project

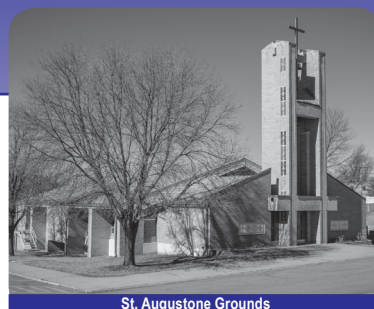


Special Wish List and Needs:

As the weather is getting warmer our maintenance crew is realizing we have some items we need to keep the grounds of St. Augustine Indian Mission in decent shape and welcoming to our community and volunteer groups that come and help us out each summer.

We are in need of:

- Riding Lawnmower
- Push Mower
- Weed Eater
- Power Washer



St. Augustine Grounds



Please consider a donation or if you have one of these items which is fairly new and good shape and would like to donate to the Mission. Please call Kathy Foley at 402-878-2402.

Message From the Principal - Don Blackbird

Good Friends,

I want to take this opportunity to once again say thank you for your prayers and financial support. Please know that the children and their families as well as our teachers are very grateful and pray for you, too.

We have come to the end of another school year. Soon summer will be upon us and the children will be running free and playing outdoors enjoying the natural beauty here in Winnebago and the surrounding countryside. We are truly blessed to have such a beautiful homeland.

Even though the school doors will soon close for the summer that does not mean the work of the Mission slows down. While our primary focus has always been our educational ministry to the children and families of the Winnebago and Omaha reservation, we also focus on helping the communities with other needs as well.

Some of our other ministries include hosting service groups during the school year and summer who come to learn about the Native American Culture and the Catholic Church's Social Justice teachings. These service group volunteers come from across the United States and range in age from high school students to adult professionals. The services the volunteers provide run a spectrum from summer learning projects for local community children, to working with local housing improvement projects, to special summer ministry to help local elders with basic home maintenance and improvements. Many of our volunteers also spend time helping at the local food pantry which serves three reservation communities and our local thrift store that provides quality items at very low cost. These items include clothing, home goods and furnishings as well as basic toiletries and cleaning supplies.

Your ongoing support makes it possible to provide for the local needs of our people while also helping us to form young people to be future leaders and volunteers when they return home to their own communities.

Thank you for your continued support!

God Bless, Don Blackbird



Sr. Frances helping student



Chess Club



The Macy Thrift Shop serving the Omaha Reservation is open twice a month on the first and third Saturday of each month. If you have any gently used clothing or household items you would like to donate please contact Jeff Foley or Sr. Deana at the St. Augustine Indian Mission at 402-878-2402.

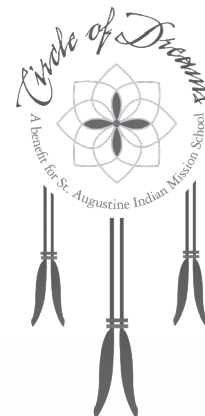
Circle of Dreams 2017 - Inspirational Evening

Circle of Dreams 2017 was held on Saturday March 25th at A View on State, in Omaha, Ne. The event, which included a cocktail hour, dinner and a Live Auction, was attended by 340 guests. Honorary Co-Chairs and St. Augustine Board of Advisors members Ryan Schroer and Justine Vossen and their wives, Rachel Schroer and Nicole Vossen. Emcee Jim Schaben kept the evening moving along.

Another board member, Kellie Snow from Winnebago, was one of our guest speakers. She spoke about her years at St. Augustine as a student, sharing that St. Augustine prepared her for success as a leader in the Winnebago community and provided the groundwork for her dedication to her Catholic faith.

Anna Berridge and Virginia Snake-Bumann, 2016 graduates of St. Augustine now finishing their Freshman year at Duchesne Academy in Omaha, shared with the guests about their first year, their activities and that they felt St. Augustine's teachers helped prepare them for the rigorous curriculum at Duchesne.

Special awards were presented to Jack and Emma LaMere and Mary Ann Nipp who received the St. Kateri Tekawitha Award and the St. Katharine Drexel Award respectively by Fr. Mark Beran. It was with great gratitude that we recognized them for all they have done and continue to do for St. Augustine's.



Honorary Chairs – Justin and Nicole Vossen & Rachel and Ryan Schroer



Guest at Circle of Dreams

Thank you to all who attended Circle of Dreams 2017 and to Jim Schaben our Emcee for the evening along with Charlie Moon our Auctioneer.

(Please see insert for all those who supported Circle of Dreams with their time, talent and treasure).



St. Kateri Award winners – Jack and Emma LaMere

Donations are still coming in, and to date the Circle of Dreams 2017 event has raised just over \$192,000. Please help us reach our goal of \$300,000 which goes to support the St. Augustine Indian Mission School.

St. Augustine Board of Advisors

- Archbishop George Lucas • Rev. Mark Beran • Rev. Dan Wittrock • Dave Baumert • James Bausch • Anne Burnett • Steve Burroughs • Dr. Robert P. Cox •
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**denotes tribal representative*

Mission Staff

- Don Blackbird, Principal • Kelly Vazquez, Director of Development • Kathy Foley, Business Manager •
- Sheri Norris, Mission Secretary • Barb McCauley, School Secretary •



How to contact us at the St. Augustine Indian Mission: www.staugustinemission.org

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