

## **PERSONAL RECOLLECTIONS OF PARISH LIFE**

Your Centennial Committee has been hard at work for several months now, but we need your help. Would you please take a few moments to answer the questions listed below.

### **WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE OR MOST SIGNIFICANT MEMORY OF ST. AUGUSTINE'S?**

1. My wedding day
2. Going caroling at Danforth Tower and doing a solo of "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer"
3. Receiving the Sacraments
4. It's impossible to choose between so many sacred and joyful events: my and my daughter, Trina's, reception as converts into the church; the blessing of my marriage; Trina and Bernie's wedding; baptism of Benjamin, Joseph, Mary and Peter; Fr. Trott's funeral; Miss White's funeral Mass. All unforgettable !
5. The St Augustine Festivals. Every year my children and I looked forward to it.
6. The Baptism of our young child. The others were baptized at Our Lady of Lourdes before we lived in this parish.
7. The breakfast served in the basement hall of the old church/school. It was sliced hard boiled eggs in a cream sauce over toast. Yummy for kids. Also the blanket booth my father worked in during the festivals.(1915 - 1938)
8. Our children's sacraments throughout 43 years. Our son's marriage. Our 40th wedding anniversary and renewal of vows- 1986. Mass of Thanksgiving for 50th wedding anniversary. Corpus Christi Feast Day - 1996. Our children's graduations. Our grandchildren's baptisms. Father Ring's magnificent voice. The dedicated and loving service of all our priests, deacons nuns and laity in every capacity.
9. Every moment is significant and life changing at St Augustine. Father O'Brien. Forty Hours processions with the children marching in front of the Blessed Sacrament. First Communion breakfast with Father. School days. Those wonderful turkey dinners. Going to the first Mass in the new church when Bishop Hickey came to bless the new altars. Bringing flowers from my grandmother's garden to the convent for the sister to place on the altar for Sunday mass. So many things, it is hard to remember them all.

### **WHAT DO YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT ST. AUGUSTINE'S ?**

1. Beautiful church
2. The 40 Week Club dinners
3. Cherished memories
4. Walking Into the quiet darkness before the house lights are turned up, to kneel in thankful prayer before Mass - the feeling of closeness to God - the myriad ways the ? of the church blesses our souls and lives and makes one so grateful to be Catholic.
5. The bell tower, the bells do not ring as often, but the tower is very unique. It seems to have adapted well to the realities of the 19th ward. Also it has become less formal and rigid and more profoundly human & humane (all to the good, in my view).Our priests and nuns. Our large building, beautiful statuary, stained windows. Keeping the Holy consecrated Eucharist front and center. Of the three churches, ours is the most adequate.
6. (A)The songs sung by the choir, especially the one about "God taking away all the sins of the world." (B)How the church uses the talents of members (focus on community e.g. members of the church in the audience bringing the bread and wine to the priest. (C) Sermons - focus on human/divine interventions.

7. It is home.

**WHAT FUTURE WOULD YOU ENVISION FOR ST. AUGUSTINE'S?**

1. Stay opened
2. A deeper spirituality which would enliven and empower present members and attract those hungry for God, to join our numbers.
3. Unless we get more young people to join, I can not see staying open.
4. Sadly I hope that won't be the case.
5. Not much. Like the rest of the area, everything is moving to the suburbs leaving only the hopeless, the aged and the tired like myself.
6. Please have a Sunday Mass at 5:00 pm or at least 12 noon. Consider those who are medically limited in the morning, but fine later.