

I AM MARY McMAHON, A LIFE LONG MEMBER OF ST. AUGUSTINE'S PARISH.

YEARS AGO A GOOD SIZE GROUP OF PORTUGESE SETTLED IN OUR AREA. FATHER O'BRIEN MADE THEM FEEL AT HOME AND HE SAW TO IT THAT THEY HAD A PORTUGESE MISSION EVERY YEAR. HE WAS ALWAYS AWARE OF THEIR NEEDS AND OFTEN PROVIDED THEM AND OTHERS IN NEED WITH FOOD AND SOMETIMES EVEN COAL.

OUR PARISH HAS CONTINUED TO WELCOME NEW GROUPS. OUR NEIGHBORHOOD HAS CHANGED AND WE HAVE MANY BLACK NEIGHBORS. FATHER TROTT AND FATHER RING HAVE ENDEAVORED TO INVITE THEM TO JOIN US AND IT HAS BEEN GOOD TO SEE THAT SOME ARE RESPONDING TO THE INVITATION. SISTER CAMPION, DIRECTOR OF EVANGELIZATION, AND HER TEAM REGULARLY RING DOORBELLS TO FIND THE UNCHURCHED AND TO WELCOME OUR NEIGHBORS TO ST. AUGUSTINE'S. OUR PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE PROVIDES GET TOGETHERS WHERE WE CAN WELCOME NEW MEMBERS AND WE HAVE GREETERS AT ALL THE MASSES.



OUR SOCIAL GATHERINGS DATE BACK TO THE ICE CREAM AND CAKE SOCIALS ON THE RECTORY FRONT LAWN IN THE 1930'S. IT WAS THE ONLY TIME WE COULD SET FOOT ON THAT GRASS!! NOW WE CONTINUE TO HAVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR GETTING TOGETHER.

THE YOUNGER OLDER GROUP IS VERY POPULAR. IT HAS A SOCIAL GET TOGETHER ONCE A MONTH. WE HAVE CHURCH SUPPERS, COFFEE HOURS AFTER MASS, FIRST FRIDAY BREAKFASTS, THANK YOU PARTIES, PARISH PICNICS AND YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITIES - TO NAME A FEW. THERE IS ALWAYS AN EXCUSE FOR A PARTY.

WE ALSO HAVE PRAYER GROUPS AND BIBLE GROUPS THAT NOURISH AND SUPPORT US.

BECAUSE OF THE BLESSING OF A SPIRIT OF HOSPITALITY AND WELCOME, MANY PEOPLE WHO HAVE MOVED AWAY COME BACK REGULARLY TO BE CONNECTED WITH ST. AUGUSTINE'S COMMUNITY. NEW NEIGHBORS WILL ALSO FIND A WARM WELCOME AS THEY JOIN OUR COMMUNITY.



I AM BETTY GRANT. AS A MEMBER OF ST. AUGUSTINE'S FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS, I HAVE WITNESSES MANY CHANGES AND BLESSINGS IN OUR PARISH FAMILY. I WOULD LIKE TO RECALL AND SHARE THESE REMEMBRANCES AND FACTS WITH YOU.

WHEN I ATTENDED SCHOOL HERE FATHER JOHN O'BRIEN WAS THE PASTOR. HE WAS THE FIRST PASTOR OF ST. AUGUSTINE'S IN 1906 AND HE REMAINED PASTOR OF ST. AUGUSTINE'S UNTIL HIS DEATH IN 1945. IT WAS DURING HIS PASTORATE THAT THE FIRST MAJOR BLESSINGS AND CHANGES OCCURRED. FROM A MISSION CHAPEL PLANS WERE INITIATED FOR THE BUILDING OF THIS PRESENT BEAUTIFUL ENGLISH GOTHIC STYLE CHURCH IN THE 1920'S. TWENTY FIVE FAMILIES WHO HAD ATTENDED EXPANDED TO 700. THE PRESENT RECTORY WAS BUILT IN 1909 AND A HOME WAS PURCHASED ON HOBART ST. WHICH SERVED AS A CONVENT FOR SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH. THIS OPENED IN 1913. THE SCHOOL HAD ALREADY BEEN BUILT AND WAS DEDICATED IN 1907. SO THUS LIES THE ROOTS FOR A VERY STRONG, LOVING AND ACTIVE PARISH COMMUNITY.

THE SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH PROVIDED US WITH A WONDERFUL EDUCATION. IT WAS THROUGH THEIR TOTAL DEDICATION THAT OUR LIVES BECAME ENRICHED AND MORE BLESSINGS FAVORED OUR PARISH.

FOLLOWING FR. O'BRIEN WE HAD MANY MORE SPIRITUAL LEADERS. MSGR. JOHN DUFFY, OUR SECOND PASTOR WAS ALWAYS CONCERNED ABOUT THE PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL NEEDS OF HIS PEOPLE. HE SHARED OUR JOYS AND CELEBRATIONS AS WELL AS OUR SORROWS AND TROUBLES. AS SUPERINTENDENT OF THE SCHOOLS IN THE DIOCESE, HE WAS DEEPLY INTERESTED IN THE WELFARE OF THE STUDENTS.



THERE ARE SO MANY GOOD THINGS TO REMEMBER ABOUT EACH AND EVERY ONE OF OUR PASTORS BUT TIME DOES NOT PERMIT THE RECALL OF ALL THE BLESSINGS THEIR PRESENCE HAS BROUGHT. HOWEVER, THE MANY VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD AND RELIGIOUS LIFE FROM ST. AUGUSTINE'S BEAR WITNESS TO THEIR STRONG LEADERSHIP AND WE ARE GRATEFUL TO THE SISTERS WHO HELPED PLANT AND NURTURE THIS SEED OF FAITH.

THROUGH THE MANY CHANGES IN OUR PASTORS THAT HAVE SINCE OCCURRED, WE THE LAITY HAVE BECOME MORE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN OUR PARISH. WE HAVE COME TO REALIZE THAT WE ARE THE CHURCH, IT IS OUR FAMILY AND WE MUST WORK TOGETHER. WE ARE GRATEFUL AS WE KNOW THAT CHANGE STIMULATES GROWTH AND GROWTH ENRICHES OUR LIVES AND EXPERIENCES. WE WILL ALWAYS BE RECOGNIZED FOR OUR DEEP FAITH AND GENEROUS LOVE FOR OUR CHURCH AND FOR ALL PEOPLE.