

BLESSING OF THE REACH OUT; BEING ABOUT THE MISSION OF JESUS  
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In the third chapter of the book of Proverbs, we are reminded not to withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in our power to act. St. Augustine's, having been richly blessed over the years, has continually accepted the role which the Proverbs challenge all of us to follow. It has been and will continue to be here for the people of this community.

But our story has not been written overnight; for God's timing is not usually our own, but that which is done in accordance with the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

Augustine's has been blessed through faith, and by its works, this parish has shown to its neighbors a faith which is truly alive, yesterday and today.

We have heard how many were touched in the past by the simple and selfless acts of a parish priest, Father O'Brien -- how he reached out to others, providing food and warmth for those of less fortunate means.

More recently, when our school and convent ceased to exist as they had been for so many years, fervent prayer dispelled anxiety, and today the buildings are used to assist refugees seeking a new life in our country, and homeless women and children.

As partners in the faith, we worked for understanding and unity within the Church toward those who felt prejudiced because of their race. As hosts of a Black Revival, Augustine's stood in the gap, listening to the concerns, which brought renewed hope and real blessings to all those who participated.

A Covenant, signed and blessed in this church by the Roman Catholic and Episcopal dioceses, sought unity with other Christians who shared the same Lord, the same basic faith, and the same baptism in Christ Jesus.

Our mission of wholeness, however, extends beyond spirituality, to the physical well-being of the community. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are alive and well on the streets: through evangelization with Project Hope and the Martin Luther King Jr. Medical Center; in home visits to the sick and shut-in by the Legion of Mary; and in a very visible way at Elisha House for the terminally ill, co-sponsored by our neighbors at St. Stephen's and our own parish.

Because care of the poor, the sick, and the disabled remains a high priority for St. Augustine's, we set aside ten percent of our income, our blessings, for their needs.

We have acted by faith and in a fervency of prayer. God's grace, freely given through countless blessings, has changed lives through the years in this community. And by faith, we know that the future holds much, much more.