

ST. AUGUSTINE INDIAN MISSION the Trumpet Call

SPRING 2010

CELEBRATING 101 YEARS OF EDUCATION, TRADITION AND FAITH

Finishing Strong

The Winter Olympics recently concluded, which were hosted by Canada and the First Nations People (as native people from Canada prefer to be called). These games, and the involvement of the tribal people, inspired us to look at the role sports have played in our 100 years of history, as well as the important role athletics have in the lives of the Native American youth on the Omaha and Winnebago Reservations today.

Prior to European settlement in this country, the people that inhabited this land first engaged in lots of sporting competition. The ancestors of our children used games to hone their skills as providers and protectors of the community. The welfare and security of a tribe depended on young men with excellent hand-eye coordination, stamina, and courage.

The aspects of providing and protecting are not the top priorities of sports today (although, as a bow hunter who fills his freezer with wild game, I am hanging onto a piece of that!), however sports continue to be a very important aspect of life here on the reservations and in the lives of our children at St. Augustine Indian Mission. I will share with you what I believe to be some of the more important contributions sports make here on these two reservations.

For a people who have long suffered having their self-esteem crushed and to whom an attempt was made to strip them of their identity, it is very satisfying to see the local communities come together to support and encourage their young athletes during high school sporting contests. Pride in who they are was on display in dramatic fashion earlier this winter at the District Finals basketball game, where the Winnebago Indians were one game away from earning a trip to the State Tournament. The team was led out onto the court by a boy dressed in his Fancy Dancer regalia, accompanied by a group of men singing around the Big Drum.

Even though our boys lost that game, I am very proud of two of our Mission graduates who finished their high school basketball careers that night: Aaron LaPointe and Kenny Blackhawk. Throughout the season they displayed other positive qualities that sports can teach: determination, teamwork, leadership, discipline, and self-control.



The ultimate source of these positive qualities, of course, is Jesus Christ. Sports are simply an avenue for which those qualities can be taught and put into practice. As with every aspect of the education we try provide here at St. Augustine Indian Mission, we turn to Jesus Christ and strive to have our children embrace His example.

The Christian community around the world is preparing to celebrate Easter, which contains the most important lesson of all, the Pascal Mystery: the fact that new life (victory) springs from death (loss). When we embrace this mystery, we are winners no matter what the final score of the game is!

Please continue to help us with your financial and prayerful support! We need your support so we can continue to provide these important lessons, along with a solid core of academics, to the children of the Omaha and Winnebago Reservations!

May God bless and keep you!

Fr. Dave

Death of Mission “Mom”

Lois Snyder, a long time supporter of the Mission, died at her home in Walthill, Nebraska on December 8, 2009 at the age of 92. Lois and her husband John, who died in 1976, lived and raised their family on the Mission farm north of Winnebago. They not only managed the day-to-day operations of the farm but also supervised the Mission boarding students who would go out daily to do chores. Lois always treated the students to home baked goods made daily in her kitchen. Years after leaving the Mission farm



Recent Photo of Lois Snyder

while she was working in a local store or visiting the Post Office, Lois would be greeted by a Mission alumnus with a smile and a “Hi Mom”.

Please pray for Lois, her family, and all our deceased benefactors who have generously supported the Mission over our 100-year history. May they rest in peace and may their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace.



Lois Snyder and her husband teaching 4-H at the Mission in 1954.

St. Augustine Sports: Then and Now



Far left: St. Augustine Mission 1960 Boxing Team



Left: A St. Augustine Graduate went on to play College basketball

Much of the Nation's attention has been focused on sports lately. Not long ago the world watched as athletes from all over the world competed in Vancouver, Canada during the Winter Olympics.

Attention is shifted now for many to College Basketball and the NCAA Tournament or the opening of baseball season. Whether it is watching or playing, sports for many are a favorite pastime. It is no different for the children of St. Augustine Indian Mission. Sports are an important part of the history of the Mission and continue to be an important part of many students' extra curricular activities

I recently sat down with some of the 6th and 7th grade boys and girls who play organized sports. The sports they are involved in include soccer, track, basketball, football, softball, baseball, and volleyball. When asked what sports teaches them about life there was a variety of answers: "Being on time"; "Focus on what you have to do"; "Learn how to help and motivate others"; "Teamwork" and it is also a great opportunity to "Make new friends and have fun."

Some of the students compete on teams sponsored by the community. Since there is a co-op agreement with Winnebago Public School some of the students choose to play for them. This is especially true for those who play volleyball, basketball and run track. A few students will travel to play in Sioux City, IA on league or select teams.

As we looked at Trumpet Call articles about football, basketball and boxing from the 1950's and 1960's they were surprised that there were no girls teams in the past. They did have cheerleaders but most of the girls now said they would much rather play a sport than cheer at a game. As we looked at pictures of some of the earliest football teams the boys were in agreement that they

would not have wanted to play in the old uniforms. "The helmets don't have facemasks", one student remarked.

One question that all the students asked was, "Why don't we have school teams now?" They thought we could easily field a basketball and a volleyball team. Perhaps as St. Augustine's enrollment stabilizes in the junior high grades, this may be a possibility in the future. In the past the school team was known as the St. Augustine School Braves. As for school colors they were what was available to them at the time. When asked what school colors they would chose today the students came to a consensus that Blue and Gold would be the best. They also would drop the Braves and want to be known as the St. Augustine Warriors.

Leland Parker, and alumnus of St. Augustine from the early 1960's and a parishioner at Our Lady of Fatima in Macy, NE, shared some of his memories of competing for St. Augustine. He said that while he was here the football team was not very good. They had to have many younger students play just to fill a team. They would pull up for a game in a van and the other teams would show up in two buses. Although, they did not win much, they played hard.

Leland also boxed for St. Augustine. His most vivid memory was that of training. Their coach, Tom Harden who was a graduate of St. Augustine and then for many years employed by the Mission, would drop them off after school down by the Missouri River and tell them, "See you at supper." They then would have to run the 6 miles, mostly up hill to the Mission. Some of today's students thought they would be able to make this run but most said they would prefer not to even try.

Although the uniforms may be different and some of the training methods may have changed, some things do not change. Many children love sports and it is a great way for them to stay active and healthy.

Sacraments Celebrated with Mission Students

As the celebration of Easter approaches a number of students at the Mission are preparing to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation. Recently a First Reconciliation Service was held with 7 of the 2nd Graders who will be receiving their First Communion on Sunday, April 11th. "It is always exciting to celebrate the Sacraments but it is especially joyful when you are celebrating Reconciliation or Eucharist with someone for their first time," said Fr. Mike Eckley, Pastor and Associate Director. The 2nd Graders are learning and practicing their prayers at home with their parents. Their teacher, Paula Kuebler, and Sr. Frances Betz are also preparing them in the classroom to receive their First Communion.

At the Easter Vigil on April 3rd five Mission students from two families will be baptized and receive their First Communion. Over the years there have been many students who have asked to be received into the Catholic Church.

On March 14th Archbishop George Lucas made his second visit to St. Augustine since his installation as Archbishop of Omaha last summer. The occasion was to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation with adults and students from the four parishes that are served by St. Augustine Mission. This was the first time in many years that the Archbishop of Omaha has been here for the Sacrament of Confirmation. In recent years we have joined with a parish 25 miles north for the celebration of Confirmation. It was very special to have the Archbishop here this year, especially since we are nearing the end of the Mission's Centennial Celebration. It was a very special day for one of our 8th graders, Shannon, who was Confirmed along with her brother Charles and mom Sunshine. Our congratulations go out to all those who received the Sacrament of Confirmation and all those who are preparing to receive the Sacraments in the coming days.



Archbishop George Lucas poses for a photo with the group he confirmed on March 14th

St. Augustine "Wish List"

- Swing seats.....\$27.00
- 120 Textbooks.....\$65.00
- Commercial Weed Eater.....\$150.00
- Wireless routers for 3 Mobile Buildings.....\$150.00
- Push Mower.....\$200.00
- Commercial Vacuum Cleaners.....\$350.00

- Stairwell Lights (to save on electricity costs):
 - Replace present lamps with five 2-lamp 4' T8 fluorescent wrap around fixtures.....\$185.00

- Gym Relighting (to save on electricity costs):
 - 24 New Lamps – Materials & Installation costs..... \$370.00

- Playground Equipment – Funnel Ball.....\$750.00
- Playground Equipment – Slide.....\$2,500.00
- Install bathroom in 2 mobile classrooms.....\$1,000.00
- Replacement of broken sidewalk at School entrance.....\$1,500.00
- Retaining walls for proper drainage.....\$2,000.00
- 3 Handicap Ramps to Mobile classrooms..... \$3,300.00

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