

A NEW SPRING FOR ST. AUGUSTINE'S

In January 1980, Bishop McDonald assigned a young idealistic priest, Father Michael Aureli, to St. Augustine's as his first pastorate. Father Aureli began his services on June 16, 1980. With a regular mass attendance of 32 people and an average collection of \$60 each week, the bishop charged Father Aureli to evangelize the community. The Bishop also assigned Sister Theresa Knable, SCN to help Fr. Aureli in his quest. Together Father Aureli and Sister Theresa began to meet with the parishioners to discuss ways the parish could grow.

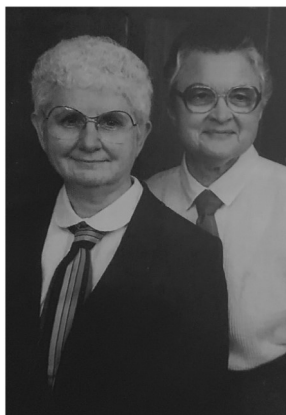
The National Office for Black Catholics agreed to sponsor a revival at St. Augustine's. Since the church building was too small, Father Aureli decided to have the revival in a tent next to the church building. Father George Stallings from Washington, D.C. was the guest speaker. It turned out to be an overwhelmingly inspirational event. The first night an estimated 120 people attended and by the event end, over 500 people attended. For a church with only 45 adults in it, the parishioners had to be inspired by the result of their work or perhaps the result of God's spirit. Revivals were then held approximately every other year. A total of 4 tent revivals were held in all. Each one was a joyful event. Not only did they attract other people to the Catholic Church, but also they had a strong effect on reviving the faith of the people within the parish. Several who had drifted away from the church began once again attending St. Augustine's.



IDEALISTIC PRIEST: Father Aureli with First Communion candidates in 1985.

NEW CHURCH

In February of 1985, a huge birch tree behind the little St. Augustine Church fell on the church. It really did not do much damage, only about \$250 worth of roof damage, but the pastor took it as a frozen nudge from God. The message he heard and mentioned to the parishioners was that perhaps God is saying it's time to burst out of our little church and to grow into a bigger community. By this time, the church was pretty well full each Sunday. There were also two new sisters serving at St. Augustine's, Sister Carol Nishke and Sister Sylvia Provost, SSND. With two sisters working in the parish, many more actions toward developing lay leadership were able to take place, and as a result of their continued dedication and hard work, lay leadership reached what seemed to be an all time high at St. Augustine's. Many confident laity had begun their own particular ministry within the parish. The ushers group was formed in 1987. Eucharistic ministers, lectors, acolytes, all functioned well. The Altar Society also developed in 1987, and as of fall, 1988, an RCIA Team was being prepared to help bring adults into the Catholic Church.



Sister Carol Nishke and Sister Sylvia Provost, SSND

One of the encouragements towards developing all these ministries was the realization that a new church would soon be completed for St. Augustine's. The parish not only wanted to grow in the size of its building, but also wanted to grow in its spirit and in number. Therefore, the laity as well as the religious and priests who served here were working hard to make St. Augustine Church a fitting home for people to find a strong presence of Jesus Christ.



MINISTRIES FORMED: Ushers group along with other ministries are established in 1987.