

January 2017

The Saint Augustine Messenger



Here is our first attempt to bring to all who visit what is happening here at Saint Augustine's. Thanks for supporting us.

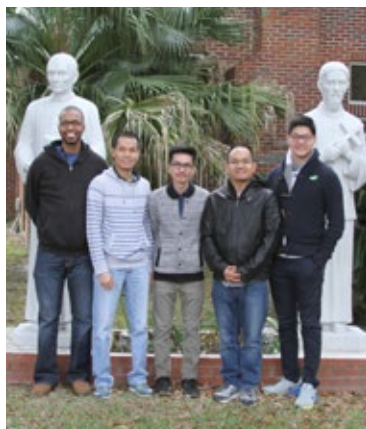


The staffs of our Residence, Retreat Center and Province offices gathered December 20 to share a Christmas celebration. We also bade a sad farewell to our own Dionne Whavers who after 40 years of service is retiring. We will miss her untiring service, dedication and care. God bless you, Dionne!



Dionne Whavers with her children and grandchildren

Our wonderful flower committee has truly blessed us during the Christmas season. Thank you, Ladies. Many thanks to all who contributed to the purchase of the flowers.



Pictured above are our Divine Word Novices from Techny, Illinois who will begin their 30 day retreat on January 2. In this year's class there are 5 who will be discerning a call to join religious life. Keep them in your prayers.



On January 6, 2017, St. Stanislaus College community members will gather in the St. Augustine chapel to commemorate the historic 50th anniversary of SSC's integration. Brother Bernie Couvillon, SD, noted in remarks last fall that St. Augustine's contribution to St. Stanislaus' integration efforts had such impact because the Society of the Divine Word had already "walked the walk" of racial equality. Taking a stand against racism entrenched in educational institutions and families was a challenge St. Augustine and St. Stanislaus met together. Please see the back page for more of Brother Bernie's reflections.



On January 6, 2017 Bishop Terry Steib, SVD will remember his 50th anniversary to the priesthood. Congratulations Bishop Steib!

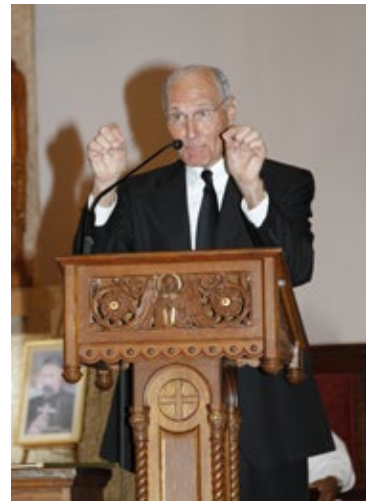


WELCOME TO
SAINT AUGUSTINE'S RESIDENCE
Home for the Southern Province of St. Augustine
www.svdsouth.com - Mass every Sunday at 9am - daily mass at 7:15 in small chapel
We are happy you are here!

**Here is a part of a talk given to the Divine Word Missionaries
by Brother Bernie Couvillian, SC,
September 8, 2016
St. Augustine Chapel, Bay Saint Louis, MS**

Part II: Humbled

As the Society of the Divine Word, you are so much more than a Society of Divine Talk! At a critical time in our history and the history of the Church – the decade of the 1960s – you walked the Walk. You were for us the “Society of the Divine Walk” during a time we could not have walked alone. It was time to end the racial segregation of our Province schools. Specifically 1966. This year—2016— is the 50th anniversary of the integration of St. Stanislaus. We would not have been able to do it without you.



Our story of segregation is a shameful one in the story of the Church and of our province. Other schools in the province had serious issues and bad blood. Two school principals would not desegregate. The province had to replace them. It was hard to go against our segregationist clientele, a long history of institutional racism in education, fears of a white backlash, deeply ingrained family prejudice.

Because of you and who you are, everything was different here. You had long ago walked the walk of racial equality and integration. You showed us how Saint Augustine minor seminary and St. Stanislaus could merge seamlessly into one school in August of 1966.

I don't know exactly how it happened. In those days I wasn't part of this parish. Brother Lee Barker was here. What an amazing grace it was for him and the school to have you walking by his side. I went back to the yearbooks of those years. I saw the pictures of you walking the walk with St. Augustine seminarians, who became class officers, honor society members and star athletes.

There were Fathers Charles Burns, Byron Lasalle, Leonard Olivier, Terry Steib, Gerhard Vogel, Wilbert White. And Jerome Ledoux. Fr. Ledoux, I don't know if you remember founding a club called OLVA: it was an advocate organization for lowering the voting age.

The yearbook of 74-75 sports a photo of a young priest named Walter Bracken smiling through his goatee.

By walking the walk side by side with us, your community transformed our school and our hearts. During the same period you transformed St. Rose Parish into a sanctuary of African American spirituality and an enduring welcome center of Gospel communion between races.

On this feast of Mary, I celebrate Saint Augustine Seminary's long-standing *Fiat* to your vocation to be an attractive and contagious Society of Divine Talk and Walk. There is nothing like it in the world.

Brother Bernard Couvillian, SC
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