

The St. Augustine Catholic Will Have A New Look in the New Year

By Bishop Victor Galeone

As the *St. Augustine Catholic* marks its 15th year of publication, it gives me great pleasure to announce that beginning in February the magazine will be published monthly ten times a year. And it will be mailed directly to the homes of all registered Catholics in our diocese.

The *St. Augustine Catholic* is a membership publication, which means if you are registered in your parish, you will receive a copy of this award-winning magazine each month.

Many Catholics attend Mass weekly and are active participants in the life of the church. However, many busy families and individuals find themselves participating less and less. Still others may have had a negative experience, become lukewarm or fallen away altogether. This magazine is part of our local answer to Pope John Paul II's call for a "new evangelization."

It is our goal to further strengthen the bond of faith for those who already maintain strong ties to the church and to rekindle the fire for those who have strayed from the practice of their faith.

The *St. Augustine Catholic* was established in 1991 to reach out to all Catholics in the diocese with stories of inspiration. Our stories define us, as people, as friends, as parents or as spouses. It's our faith - "as reflected in our personal stories - " that helps all of us make sense of our lives.

It is my strong hope that the *St. Augustine Catholic* will be placed on your coffee table, on the arm of your chair, or on your nightstand; and that you will read every issue next year - that your children will read them and that you will let God's word come to you through this excellent publication.

Our diocese is teaming up with *Faith Magazine*, a publication of the Diocese of Lansing in Michigan. By joining the team at Faith Magazine, the *St. Augustine Catholic* will be produced more economically and will include more features and columns on a variety of subjects. All in all, there should be something for everyone!

You will find that the major feature stories will continue to be produced in the diocese and will feature the faith stories of our people. We will also continue to produce popular columns such as *Parish Profile* and *Around the Diocese*, and yes, I will continue to provide you a monthly message. But new to our publication will be *Theology 101*, *Work Life*, *Spiritual Fitness*, *In the Know with Father Joe*, *Marriage Matters* and a featured *Saint of the Month*.

The September issue of the new *St. Augustine Catholic* will focus on our youth. It will be dedicated to telling the stories of our young people. In addition, teens in the diocese will receive a monthly newsletter via email to continue to inspire them on their faith journey. A database will be developed by gathering the email addresses of our young people: those participating in religious education and youth programs, those attending Catholic schools, and anyone who wants to receive the electronic publication.

Couples who are preparing for marriage in the church will also receive an electronic version of the popular column *Marriage Matters* - a column that addresses the everyday joys and challenges of married life.

In the coming months, I ask that you contact your parish office to update your mailing information. In order to remain good stewards of the contributions you make to the church, I ask that you register in only one parish. If you have moved or you attend more than one church, please check to make sure your name and address appears only on the rolls of your home parish.

I hope the stories in the *St. Augustine Catholic* will remind you of your own stories, and that you'll share your reactions to the features in the magazine with our editorial staff and me. We will evaluate the overall effectiveness of the magazine in one year with a readership survey. Your comments and suggestions will be invaluable in helping us make an objective assessment. You can share your comments at any time by writing to the *St. Augustine Catholic*, 11625 Old St. Augustine Road, Jacksonville, FL 32258 or email: diocese@dosaf1.com.

This magazine allows me to speak directly to the people of the diocese. While I cannot preach in every parish every Sunday, I can communicate my thoughts and feelings through the *St. Augustine Catholic*, knowing that the magazine will reach our people, thereby bringing Jesus' message of faith, hope and love to everyone who reads it.