



Purple Knight Alumni, Students, Parents, Family, Benefactors, and Friends:

Greetings in the Name of Our Good and Great God!

It is with great joy and enthusiasm that I address you as I begin my new journey as the third president of St. Augustine High School. I begin by expressing deep gratitude to Almighty God who has allowed me to serve our Alma Mater in this capacity.

I also thank in a special way, my predecessor, Fr. Joseph M. Doyle, SSJ, who served as president of St. Augustine for eighteen years. The St. Augustine community is truly appreciative of his dedication to St. Augustine and his ongoing commitment to remain an active participant in the development and enhancement of our school.

I must also give a very special and personal thanks to the first president of St. Augustine, who, as you all know, was also the first principal of St. Augustine, the legendary Fr. Matthew J. O'Rourke, SSJ (The Chief)! At ninety-two, Fr. O'Rourke remains an avid follower of all things St. Aug and he is truly our number one supporter and a principal advisor to yours truly.

The academic year 2010-2011 is a year of hope and change for St. Augustine. We welcome our eleventh principal (and my old Physics teacher!), Don A. Boucree '76, as we begin the sixtieth year of academic, athletic, musical, and extra-curricular excellence at 2600 A. P. Tureaud Ave (London Avenue to our cornerstone graduates)!

Our theme for this anniversary year is "From Recovery to Renaissance!" We are celebrating our rise from the ashes of Katrina (strange metaphor for a flood!) to a revitalized school and mission. The post-Katrina years have revealed to us the true strength which underlies the Purple Knight experience. We have emerged a stronger school, a better school, a wiser school. We look forward to the challenges that the future will bring to us and to our students.

What we need is YOU!!! We want each of you to partner with us and to invest in the future of St. Augustine High School. We want you to invest in the young men whose parents have chosen this great institution to educate their sons; we want you to invest in the next generation of leaders in our city, state, nation, and world, who are currently students of St. Augustine High School.

With your help and under the patronage of St. Joseph and St. Augustine, the mission of St. Augustine to produce Men of God who are intellectually sharp, academically competitive, socially confident, spiritually rooted and grounded, and socially conscious, cannot but be a success.

May Our Lord Jesus Christ bless you and may his Mother Mary intercede for you!

Sincerely,

Rev. John J. Raphael, SSJ
President
St. Augustine High School