



SHIFTING SANDS



Grand Commander's Message

Porto 104 Membership Drive

“The higher your structure is to be, the deeper must be its foundation.”

The author of the quote is St. Augustine who lived from 354 to 430. As you may know, St. Augustine was an early Christian theologian and philosopher who was considered by many to be a preeminent Doctor of the Church. He was a prolific writer whose works are still relevant today. This quote is particularly popular since it is applicable to numerous situations.

In a literal sense, the quote suggests that if you intend to build a tall building you first need to pour a strong foundation that is built on solid ground and not on porous sand. While few tall buildings existed in the fourth century, this basic principle of structural engineering is followed today.

Saint Augustine's words are also relevant in the field of education. Parents go to great lengths to ensure that their children begin to learn at an early age so that they are prepared to successfully enter the educational system. Few people graduate from college without first having the benefit of a solid learning experience from elementary through high school.

Saint Augustine's remarks are also relevant to sports. Children and adults join sports clubs or go to summer camps to learn the fundamentals of the sport they want to play at a competitive level. We know that learning the fundamentals of any sport through practice transfers to success on the field or on the court. Coaches tell their players “how you

practice will determine how you will play in the game”.

Are Saint Augustine's words relevant to our Porto members today? I think they are.

Porto 104 has made tremendous progress since it was chartered in February 1956. Our ability to assist those with intellectual or developmental disabilities has improved over the years. Our fundraising efforts have grown and have allowed us to financially support the three high schools and two parish schools in the Diocese that offer special education programs.

We expect that the need of our financial support will grow as the number of special education programs in the Diocese is expected to double over the next two years. I'm confident that we will meet this challenge by insuring that we have a solid foundation of motivated members.

Part of our strategy to build a sound foundation is to recruit new members that share our passion of supporting the population that we serve. It's especially important that we encourage young families to join Porto 104 since they will provide the future leaders that will take us to the next level of success.

Membership Success Begins With The Next New Member!

—Porto 104 Grand Commander Bill Mundy