

# AUGUSTINIAN

*Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova*



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Share in Our  
Discovery

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*photo by Cher A. Rago*





# Give More. Become More.

## Augustinian Volunteers



*James White with  
fellow Augustinian  
Volunteers*

**An invitation to recent or  
soon to be college grads  
looking for an experience  
that will change your life!**

### **Perspective of James White, 2017-2018 Augustinian Volunteer**

I really had no idea what I was getting into when I joined the Augustinian Volunteers. When I decided to sign up for a year of service in late spring, I did not have a strong inclination towards any particular group. In fact, my decision to join the Augustinian Volunteers was largely based on their relatively late deadline for applying. Since then, I have been bombarded with uncomfortably different notions of community living and spirituality.

Things like group prayer, assigned nights to cook and communal budgets all felt weirdly imposed on people who were legal adults. However, I have since been impressed by the thoughtful construction of this program and Augustinian living, most prominently in the community life model. Community for the Augustinians goes far beyond living with roommates and sharing a home. Community involves a constant, evolving process by which community members are present for each other and help each other to grow spiritually by deliberately and consistently fostering connections. Each member has immense responsibility, not just to buy groceries, clean the home and cook, but also to be guardians, friends and mentors to each other.



*Apply today:*

[AugustinianVolunteers.org](http://AugustinianVolunteers.org)



**Connect with Us!**

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facebook: [@augustinianvolunteers](https://www.facebook.com/augustinianvolunteers)

instagram: [augustinianvols](https://www.instagram.com/augustinianvols)



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*Dear Friends.*

Each issue of the Augustinian offers us an opportunity to speak to you of the life and work of the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova. We are happy to present ourselves and our ministries in this forum, conscious that your interest, collaboration and support demonstrate your partnership with us in a variety of ways and your desire to share the joys of our labors as well as the challenges that sometimes confront us. In the following pages we once again recount many of the life-giving events that we have lived in recent months and share the stories of friars and lay collaborators who seek to translate the Gospel message into concrete actions day after day.

This very positive presentation of Province life and ministry stands in obvious contrast to the sad and difficult climate that characterizes the Church in large part at the present time. All of us – laity and religious – have been deeply affected by the awareness of infidelities, crimes and negligence on the part of some of the Church's members and leaders. While this reality stands as a backdrop to everything we are about presently, inviting our prayers, our compassion, our creativity and resolve, we must continue still to be and act as Church, doing the very things that our faith and our love for God and his people summon us to do. In this, we take as our guiding principle the counsel of St. Paul to the Romans, "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good" (12:21).

While we pray and work for the healing and peace of those who have been wronged and for the renewal of the Church in all its members, may we do the good within our reach and so be agents of the change we wish to see around us.

Sincerely,

Fr. Michael





# Province Life

BY FATHER MICHAEL F. DI GREGORIO, O.S.A.

## Looking Ahead

Several days following the completion of our Provincial Chapter this past June, I wrote to the friars of the Province expressing my sincere hope that nothing that had formed part of our gathering would be lost, forgotten or overlooked as we moved forward. We had come together for five days of meetings, prayer and fellowship, to celebrate our fraternity, to discuss our future and to choose members of our leadership team. We had accomplished our goals for the week and the new Provincial Council and I had received a mandate for the next four years' work. Much had been shared on the Chapter floor during our discussions, and it was important that the memory of the experience, as well as the content of the gathering, be preserved.

Interwoven into the schedule of meetings and prayer that filled our days were presentations by several individuals who collaborate with us in ministry and in the administrative responsibilities of the Province. We received the report of an actuarial study by Sr. Loretta Fernandez, a review of our Strategic Planning Process by Jim Trainer of Villanova's Office of Planning and Institutional Research, and reflections on the collaboration of lay leaders with friars in our



*Fr. John Deegan, O.S.A. and Fr. Michael Di Gregorio, O.S.A. with Lay Leaders (l-r) Lacie Michaelson, Chesley Turner and Joanna Bowen*

ministries offered by Chesley Turner, Director of St. Rita Shrine, Joanna Bowen, Director of the Augustinian Volunteers, Madonna Sutter, Director of Advancement, and Lacie Michaelson, newly appointed Director of the Augustinian Defenders of the Rights of the Poor.

The bulk of our deliberations focused on the five goals that our strategic planning process had formulated over the last four years: preserving and enhancing The Augustinian Way of Life, advancing Lay Participation in Augustinian Mission and Spirituality, prioritizing outreach for new Vocations, Commitment to the Poor and Marginalized, and Stewardship in Friars' Personal and Communal life. Utilizing the process of small group discussions followed by reports to the full body, directional statements to the Provincial and Council were eventually formulated as the basis for programming, planning and decision making in the coming years.

For each of the established goals the Chapter formulated specific strategies that will enable us to focus our time and energy in concrete ways to deepen our way of life and to advance the works of the Province. It will be the





Provincial Council's task to implement these strategies in specific initiatives, programs and proposals.

Examples of priorities delineated by the

Chapter include the establishment of a Vocation Advisory Board of friars and laity to assist the Province Vocation Director; the promotion of opportunities for lay men and women to share more extensively in Augustinian Spirituality and leadership roles in Province ministries; the enhancement of the Province Office of Justice and Peace in educating friars and our collaborators in Catholic Social Teaching; and the extension of A.D.R.O.P.'s initiatives into multiple regions of the Province, according to particular needs and opportunities.

A most significant action of the Chapter – and one which will be decisive in advancing the program that the friars

approved – was the confirmation of the candidates submitted for leadership as members of the Provincial Council. They are Frs. Frank Doyle, Rob Hagan, Arthur Purcaro, John Deary, Ray Dlugos and Craig McMahon.

Elected Secretary of the Province was Fr. Jim Mc Burney and Province Treasurer Fr. Frank Horn. Together we are charged with the task of implementation of the Chapter's decisions. Encouraged by the confidence placed in us, we trust in the help of the Lord and in the collaboration of all the members of the Province to bring the Chapter's goals to fruition. ✠



*Friars in prayer during Chapter*

#### *Provincial Council*



*“We had come together for five days of meetings, prayer and fellowship, to celebrate our fraternity...”*

— Fr. Michael F. Di Gregorio, O.S.A.



*Chapter photographs by  
Fr. Daniel J. McLaughlin, O.S.A.*



# Father Bill Atkinson, O.S.A.

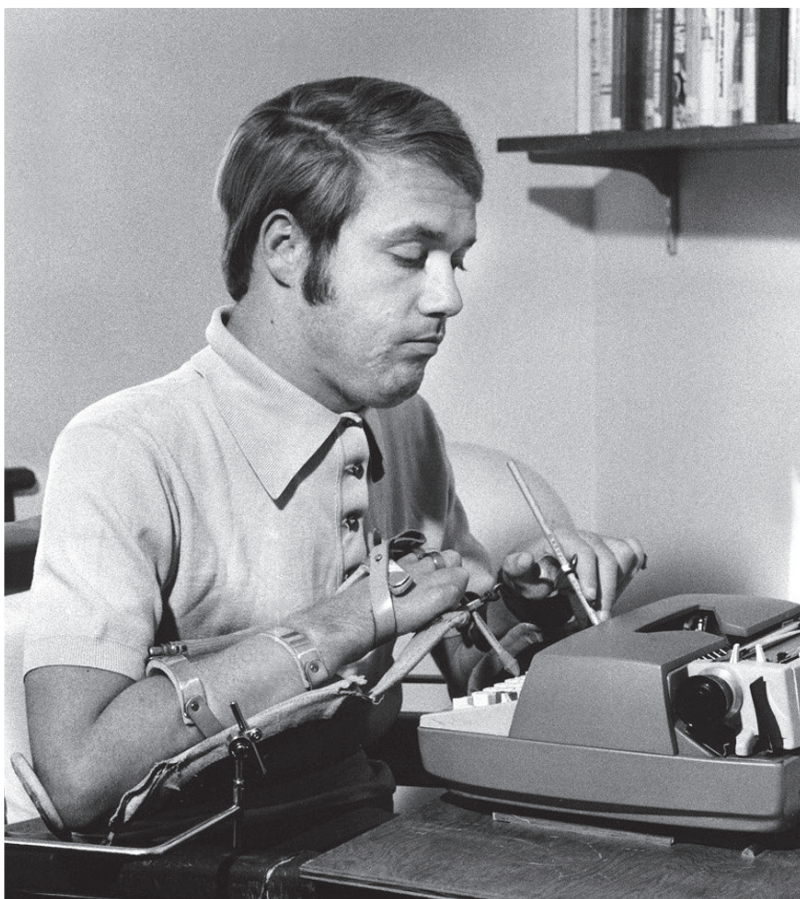
## His Story



Open your camera on your smartphone device and focus the camera on the code to scan.

**Share Today!**

In 1965, an accident confined Bill Atkinson to a wheelchair. Tragedy gave way to an incredible journey. He touched countless lives and became the first quadriplegic priest in the 2,000-year history of the Catholic Church. Help us tell the world about this Augustinian Friar's life in The Father Bill Atkinson, O.S.A. Story.



## Father Bill's

BY FATHER FRANCIS J. HORN, O.S.A.

September 15, 2018, marked the 12th anniversary of the death of Father Bill Atkinson, O.S.A. For many family members and friends, it is hard to believe that it has been this long since Bill returned home to the Lord. Although he is greatly missed, Bill is very much in our thoughts and prayers as we recall how he profoundly touched our lives and the lives of so many people by his friendship, example and ministry.





## Cause for Beatification

These memories continue to be retold as the Cause for his beatification and, hopefully canonization, proceeds through the Church's process to determine whether his extraordinary life demonstrates a sanctity that should be held up for imitation. Those who knew Bill have testified to his deep faith and trust in the Lord, his acceptance of the suffering he endured, his compassion and empathy for others, and his profound witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ as an Augustinian religious and priest. What remains for the Cause to proceed further is a miracle attributed to Fr. Bill's intercession.

The Augustinians have commissioned a video that will help tell the story of this remarkable Servant of God. His inspirational life can offer hope to many, especially those who suffer from physical disability. Please help us to promote The Father Bill Atkinson, O.S.A. Story by recommending it to as many people as possible. ✠

*“We know we are traveling together.”*

— Saint Augustine Sermon on a New Canticle 4,4



# Bryan Joseph Kerns, O.S.A.

## Ordination



Can you recall a perfect day experience? . . . One of a sun-filled, blue sky with an abundance of clouds continuously floating in the air, a day that holds with it a contagious sense of happiness that follows your every step.

Friday, June 15, 2018, was such a day as Br. Bryan Kerns became Fr. Bryan Kerns. His Augustinian family and loved ones gathered as he was ordained to the Priesthood through the laying on of hands and invocation of the Holy Spirit by Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap., Archbishop of Philadelphia at St. Thomas of Villanova Church in Villanova, PA. The very next day all returned to St. Thomas of Villanova Church in delight as Fr. Bryan celebrated his first Mass. If you missed it, below are a bit of the highlights from his first homily. Even if you didn't miss it, perhaps your mind and heart might like to absorb these words once more.

## First Homily

Thank you all for being here. I am deeply grateful for and fortified by the outpouring of joy that this weekend has brought, though I confess that I am not at all sure why this has all played out as it did. Which is to say that I'm nowhere near clear on why the Lord has chosen me for the gift of priesthood and religious life, except to say that this has been a road on which I've been traveling for a long time now and it has always felt right and true.

There was a seed planted somewhere in the mystery of eternity. And I hope my ministry will bear much fruit, ripened and beautiful. Though experience tells me already that with the ripe fruit I will have to accept the rotten fruit. With the joys, I'll have to accept the sorrows. With the rewards, I'll have to accept the failures.

For as St. Paul tells us, one day I'll have to face the judgment seat of Christ and answer for what I did here at home in the body, walking by faith, trying to trust in what I take to be the Lord's will for my life.

And I think that is the opportunity for all of us. To, like the prophet Ezekiel tells us the Lord said to him, be the tender shoot, planted to grow and bear fruit and be a place of shade and refuge; to become an example of the Lord's glory in our own lives.

The seeds that the Lord plants; the seeds that we are responsible in ways large and small for bringing to fruition; the seeds that, as they grow and develop, can give us a glimpse of the kingdom of God.







We have glimpses of the kingdom of God before us. We might see it in statues of Christ, or interactions with our children. We can cultivate its seeds within ourselves as we grow in virtue. And we glimpse it in the very presence of the Body of Christ here in this Eucharist and in Christ's Church. We need only open ourselves to the possibility, to the great act of surrender.

I wrap up with words from a homily given on the anniversary of his ordination; St. Augustine offered some reflections on his own ministry with a profound acknowledgment of both the pitfalls of the authority that comes with being ordained and an earnest desire for the gifts of humility that ministry can bring.

As I conclude, I ask for your prayers and I offer Augustine's words as hopes for my own ministry, with some adaptations.

"While I'm terrified by what I am for you, I am given comfort by what I am with you. For you I am a priest, with you, after all, I am a Christian. The first is the name of an office undertaken, the second a name of grace; that one means danger, this one salvation. Finally, as if in the open sea, I am being tossed about by the stormy activity involved in that one; but as I recall by whose blood I have been redeemed, I enter a safe harbor in the tranquil recollection of this one; and thus while toiling away at my own proper office, I take my rest in the marvelous benefit conferred on all of us in common." ✠



## Words of Gratitude

from our Editor,  
Cher A. Rago

Words like inspirational and peaceful come to mind when I engage with an Augustinian Friar. As many of you may experience when in the presence of an Augustinian, there is a sense of calm that sneaks up on you followed by a satisfying level of gratitude for his commitment to God's people and the Church. At the end of a meeting or a short interaction with a friar, I'm usually left with a good poke in my heart that I believe is the light of Christ that willingly and easily shines through his being and is for the greater good of my path.

Thank you to all who have reached out to me in various ways with positive feedback about the changes in the AUGUSTINIAN magazine. I am grateful for your acceptance of the goal to tell our stories in a different way and to be seen through a wider lens. As your hand flips through these pages, I hope to serve you by connecting you to our friars and perhaps, with this means of interaction, your heart may feel a good poke.



# AUGUSTINIAN Spirituality Course

BY CHER A. RAGO

Community, friendship, restlessness, interiority and love are words that these Augustinian theologians hear and speak numerous times daily and are an integral part of the spirit of St. Augustine. Eleven Augustinian Friars — each of them working to discern whether he is called to the Order of St. Augustine — took another step on that journey this past summer in a course taught at Villanova University. Coming together from two Augustinian Provinces, from the East: Brs. Atsushi Kuwahara, Daniel Madden, Elizandro Contreras, Jeremy Hiers, Javier Aguilar and Bill Gabriel; and from the Midwest: Jack Tierney, Jeff Rath, Joe Roccasalva, Nicholas Mullarkey and Sam Joutras, spent three weeks studying Augustinian Spirituality.

This course surfaced from a discussion that Fr. Joseph Mostardi, O.S.A., Director of Formation, pursued with Augustinian Frs. Arthur Purcaro, Kevin DePrinzio and Allan Fitzgerald, to develop a three-week, team-taught course with distinct weekly intentions. Different from other theology courses, this graduate course was aimed at exposing our friars in initial formation to a unique opportunity to deepen their understanding of St. Augustine by providing them a framework to read and dialogue using the “signs of the times” methodology promoted in the Church actively since Vatican II. This course was accredited by both Villanova University and the Chicago Theological Union (CTU), the primary institution where our friars study in preparation for ministry.

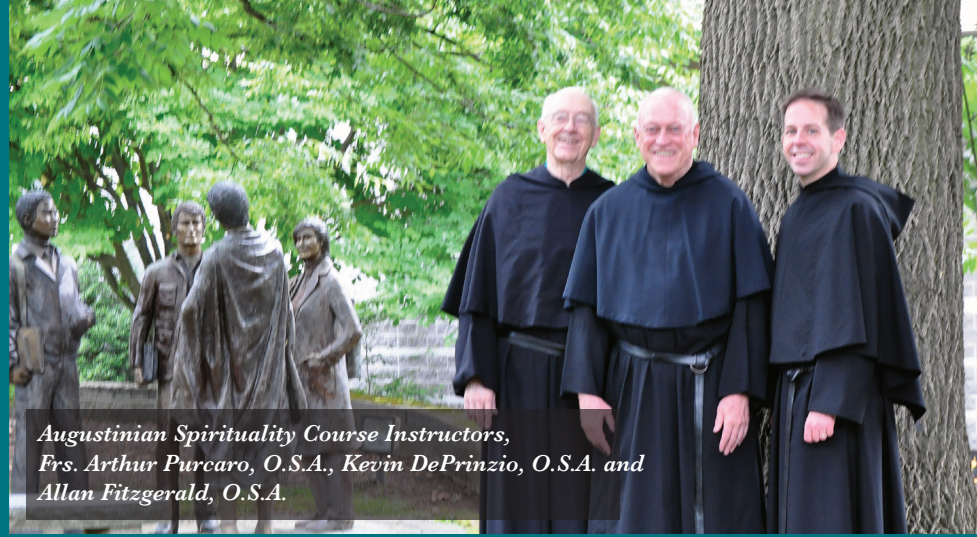


*“The Lord grant that you may observe all these precepts in a spirit of charity, as lovers of spiritual beauty ... not as slaves living under the law but as those who live in freedom under grace.” (Augustine, Rule 8)*





# A Step Forward



*Augustinian Spirituality Course Instructors, Frs. Arthur Purcaro, O.S.A., Kevin DePrinzio, O.S.A. and Allan Fitzgerald, O.S.A.*

## Week One

The first week, led by Fr. Art, focused on the *Rule* of St. Augustine and Catholic Social Thought. The course considered each of the four basic principles of Catholic Social Teaching as defined in the Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church: the dignity of



*Fr. Joseph Mostardi, O.S.A., Director of Formation*

every person, the common good, subsidiarity and solidarity. Our theologians searched for the roots of these principles by delving into the *Rule* of St. Augustine to fully understand their meaning. Br. Javier highlighted Augustine's embrace of human dignity as he tried to meet the needs of his people. To see, to judge and to act were the elements of a simple method for helping others see the way to God. Action alone is tricky, but Br. Javier saw how important it is to see as God sees and to love as God loves so that deciding how to act can be clearer.







preparing to take final vows, identified with Augustine's role as a preacher and how the call to meet the needs of the moment evolved in him as a preacher. Augustine, within a presentation of a homily, modified his religious message by his call to the moment and reminds us of this in his *Confessions*; to listen with the "ears of our hearts." Br. Nicholas concedes, "No matter where I am assigned, I, like Augustine, will meet the needs of the moment."

## Week Three

The third week, facilitated by Fr. Kevin, centered on the way Augustine experienced, remembered and shared his story. One of Fr. Kevin's goals was to integrate and pull together the discussions of the first two weeks, using the spiritual practice of *Lectio Divina*, which involves a method of repetition and deep listening. He suggested, too, that this

method creates deeper connections of understanding Augustine's telling of his conversion in the *Confessions*, with the way the friars tell their own stories. Br. Bill remarks, "Augustine's story invites us to return to our own hearts in a way that will transform our witness as friars and our ministry for years to come."

*"What began as normal topics we may have already covered in other courses ended by giving us a lens in which we see Augustine and ourselves, as well as what it means to be an Augustinian and to act in the spirit of Augustine, ultimately deepening our sense of who we are as we take these actions."*

— Br. Joe Roccasalva, O.S.A.

## Week Two

Led by Fr. Allan, the second week turned to the preaching in the spirit of St. Augustine's thought on Jesus Christ as it relates to the life and actions of the Christian community. Fr. Allan explains his process: "I felt that a practical way of taking another look at the study of theology would be to situate the work of the second week within a preaching context, that is, to think about how Augustine spoke to his people about theological matters like grace and freedom, community and friendship, as well as inspiration and Scripture. One goal of the week was to see how theological issues — seen from the point of view of the spirit of St. Augustine — can be applied today both to personal reflection and to pastoral needs."

Br. Nicholas, who has completed the theological course work and is

SET LOVE AS THE CRITERION OF ALL THAT YOU SAY, AND WHATEVER YOU TEACH, TEACH IN SUCH A WAY THAT THE PERSON TO WHOM YOU SPEAK, BY HEARING MAY BELIEVE, BY BELIEVING HOPE, AND BY HOPING LOVE.

ST. AUGUSTINE, THE INSTRUCTION OF BEGINNERS 8





*Gathered outside Villanova University's St. Augustine Center for the Liberal Arts this past July, the theologians and their instructors:*

*Back Row L-R:  
Brs. William Gabriel, O.S.A.,  
Joe Roccasalva, O.S.A.,  
Elizandro Contreras, O.S.A.,  
Samuel Joutras, O.S.A.,  
Nicholas Mullarkey, O.S.A.,  
Javier Alejandro,  
Aguilar Rivera, O.S.A.,  
Jack Tierney, O.S.A.,  
Jeremy Hiers, O.S.A.,  
Atsushi Kuwahara, O.S.A.,  
Daniel Madden, O.S.A.,*

*Front Row L-R:  
Br. Jeff Rath, O.S.A.,  
Frs. Arthur Purcaro, O.S.A.,  
Kevin DePrinzio, O.S.A.,  
Allan Fitzgerald, O.S.A.*

*“The course really helped us relate our lives and our Augustinian spirituality more deeply to St. Augustine, whose whole life story is about a journey to God and his realization that he cannot take the journey alone.”*

— Br. Jeremy Hiers, O.S.A.

Fr. Kevin also delved into the purpose of their daily practice of prayer and using the “Augustinian” language as they converse with their brothers and the world. Br. Dan, who is beginning his pastoral year, received thoughtful insight from Fr. Kevin and reflected on praying the Psalms with his community. “The more I repeat the words of Christ with my brothers, the more we are being conformed as the Body of Christ. Repeating the words that Christ has said are words that are deep within ourselves, which we may not know or fully understand yet and are the words that Christ is yearning to speak through us. As we speak them together we are building the Body of Christ.” ✠

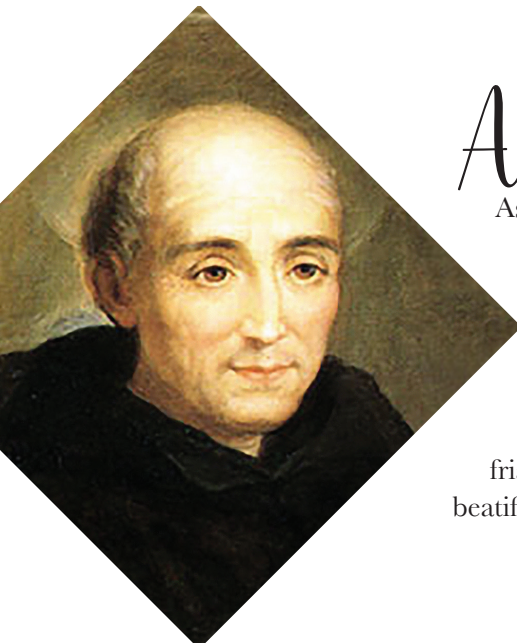






# WISDOM OF THE AUGUSTINIAN TRADITION

*The Courage to Be Prophetic in One's Own Time*



Alonso de Orozco was born in 1500 in Oropesa, Toledo, Spain, to deeply Christian parents. When he and his brother Francisco attended the University of Salamanca they were drawn by the preaching of Thomas of Villanova to join the Augustinians. As a friar, Alonso was assigned to preach and served as prior in various friaries. He volunteered for the missions in Mexico but was forced to return home due to illness.

In 1554 he was named preacher of the Spanish Royal Court, but lived always as a simple friar, in absolute poverty and in the humblest of conditions, attentive to the poor, the sick and the imprisoned. Alonso was also a prolific writer, publishing about 50 books, including a commentary on the *Rule* of St. Augustine and the saints of the Order, and his own *Confessions*. He founded several friaries and convents of contemplative nuns and died on September 19, 1591. He was beatified by Leo XIII in 1882 and canonized on May 19, 2002.



# Excerpt

It is right that we follow the example of John the Baptist and listen to the outstanding works Christ has done, even when we are bound by the chains of our sins. So powerful is the word of God that we shall be set free by its efficacy and sing triumphantly with the prophet: Lord, you have broken my bonds; I will offer you the sacrifice of praise.

Let us bind ourselves to Christ as his disciples and with ardent desire and constant prayer humbly beg him to be our true teacher, so that, taught by him, we may believe in him as true Messiah and, as believers, may love him with pure hearts as we ought.

St. Alonso de Orozco, O.S.A.

Father Aldo Potencio, O.S.A.

# Contemplation

In a world thirsting for Christian values, we could ask ourselves: “Who has the courage to be a prophet in our midst?”

To understand the role of a prophet in one’s own time, we reflect on the words of St. Alonso de Orozco:

“It is right that we follow the example of John the Baptist” (Sermon 3). As a prophet, John proclaimed a

message of repentance. He was able to call out what he saw to be displeasing to God, and heralded a message of hope through conversion and return to God. The role of a prophet, following the steps of John, is more than the proclamation of repentance. It is about pointing to Jesus and announcing Christ to all. As John said: “One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals” (Mk 1:7b). He proclaimed this with all his being, even to the point of martyrdom.

Alonso de Orozco may not have died a martyr, yet in many ways he followed the example of John the Baptist. He proclaimed a message of hope that through the word of God, “even when we are bound by the chains of our sins, we shall be set free” (Sermon 3). Even when he was surrounded by opulence and wealth in the Spanish court as the court preacher, he did not lose sight of who he was. He lived his life of simplicity and humility — living in a small cell in the friary. Alonso was able to point to Christ, through his preaching and his manner of living by being true to his Augustinian vocation. As Thomas Martin, O.S.A. said: “to know Augustine is above all to recognize that Jesus Christ is at the foundation and core of all he did and wrote” (Our Restless Heart).

The need for courageous prophets, just like John and Alonso, continues in our present time. Their example reminds us of who we are as people called by God. Many times, the comfort of the world is powerful so that we often fail to remember our prophetic role. But in the many different ways we live our vocation, we are to be prophets who have the courage to proclaim Christ and his message, not just in the words we speak but in how we live our lives. Let us remember that in a world thirsting for Christian values, we are to become courageous prophets and witnesses in our own time. ✠



Fr. Aldo Potencio, O.S.A.



# Vocation Motivation

BY FATHER JOSEPH NAROG, O.S.A.

When looking at the Augustinian vocations landscape today in the United States, it's noteworthy that men are coming to us in two primary ways: through our Vocation website or through an Augustinian contact. Although our presence on the web and social media is critical, we shouldn't underestimate the continuing significance of personal contact. For example, the latest survey of those being ordained in the U.S. this year shows, once again, that encouragement from others was a key factor in their discernment. In fact, 86% reported being inspired to consider or answer the call by someone in their life – usually a priest, brother or sister, or a family member or friend. And, I think this is quite interesting: on average, respondents to the survey said about four different people in their lives encouraged them to consider a vocation. The role of encouragement holds true for both diocesan and religious candidates and is reflected in what we're seeing. Asking and inviting are still important some 2,000 years after Jesus called his first disciples. He speaks through us. So please encourage, ask and invite those men whom you think might be called to be an Augustinian!



*Fr. Joseph L. Narog, O.S.A.  
Director of Vocations*

## Reflections

How was I attracted to the Augustinians  
and where did it lead me?

*Father Stephen J. Baker, O.S.A.*

My journey to the Augustinian way of life was not what I would call “dramatic.” On the contrary, it was quite ordinary. I came from a typical Catholic family in the Philadelphia suburbs. I was thinking about a vocation to the diocesan priesthood when I began as a student at Monsignor Bonner High School in the late 70s.

The Augustinian Friars at Bonner showed me a different side to the priesthood of which I had never been aware — priest as teacher and educator. I was also awakened to the possibility of religious life from the priests and brothers who served at Bonner. They seemed down to earth and enthusiastic about helping us young students grow into faith-centered young men. An invitation to attend a vocation retreat at Mount Augustine in Staten Island, NY sealed the deal for me. The young friars who led the retreat were inspiring to me and were so welcoming and helpful in my discernment. Because of this experience, I decided to test my call to the Augustinians and the priesthood and showed up at Villanova University to begin my initial formation and undergraduate studies. I wound my way through formation and learned a lot about myself and my desire to teach and to serve.



*Fr. Stephen J. Baker, O.S.A. teaching at Villanova*



I have been blessed to serve as an Augustinian Friar and priest in parishes in Upstate New York, Massachusetts and New York City. I also served as a teacher and campus minister back at Bonner and Malvern Prep. It was while teaching at Malvern Prep that I began my studies for a doctorate in Education at St. Joseph's University (yes, a Wildcat on Hawk Hill). I was a high school teacher by day and a doctoral student by night. Upon finishing my Ed.D., I began my ministry to the students and staff at Villanova University. I am presently working at Villanova serving as a teacher in the Education and Counseling Department, as an Academic Advisor for Liberal Arts students in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and assisting in the sacramental life of the University and the good people of St. Agnes in West Chester, PA. I reside in St. Thomas Monastery on campus, where I serve as the community treasurer and the academic advisor to our Pre-Novitiate students living in Bellesini Friary in Ardmore. To those who might be discerning a call to the religious life and/or priesthood, my advice would be to keep your antenna up as God works through the daily experiences and people in your life to let you know God's will for you. Look and Listen. ☩

#### Contact Us!

Augustinian Vocation Office  
 web: [Augustinian.org/vocations](http://Augustinian.org/vocations)  
 phone: 610.519.4674  
 email: [vocations@augustinian.org](mailto:vocations@augustinian.org)

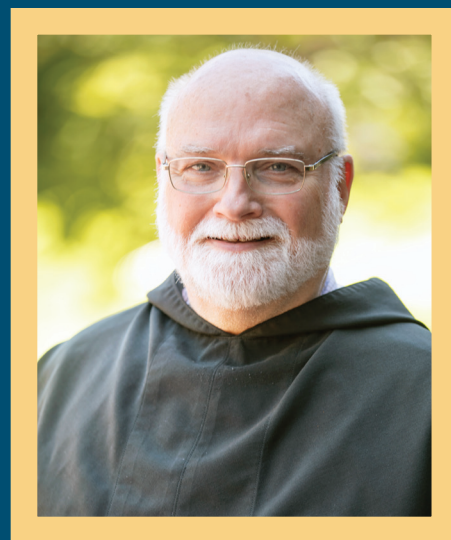
#### Our Newest Candidates in our Pre-Novitiate Program



*Eastern Province: Johannes Schmidt and Matt Riggio*



*Midwest Province: David Relstab and Ken Zesso*



## My Augustinian Inspiration

*Father Gary McCloskey, O.S.A.*

The first Augustinian I met was Fr. Bob Andrews, who was mowing the lawn at Augustinian Academy on Staten Island. I was accompanying my father as he was meeting with Fr. Jim McGrane about a Fathers' Club event. At the time, my brother Bill and my cousin, Mickey Genovese, were in high school at the Academy. While those Augustinians were very different personalities, as were all the other Augustinians I met at that time, they impressed me with their "down to earth" quality as well as their interest in working together for the good of others and the Church. These were qualities I found in the Presentation Sisters who taught me but did not find in the diocesan priests in our parish. As I was thinking I might have a vocation, their spirit invited me to enter Augustinian Academy in the minor seminary program.

In the more than 50 years since then, some of those Augustinians have left us and others have passed on. Augustinian Academy and high school formation programs are no longer part of our Augustinian life, but the down to earth spirit and the willingness to minister together for the good of others and the Church still inspires me. I hope that I am now inspiring these qualities for others. I find it thriving in those who are joining the Augustinians and creating our new future.



# Augustinian at the Heart of the Order Laity



Augustinian Secular Groups are the fourth branch of the Augustinian family, made up of lay people who are called to live the Christian faith by following the inspiration of Augustinian spirituality. A Secular Augustinian shares the Religious Order's spirit and is governed by the Order and collaborates in its work. Yet, its members do not take public vows nor live community life. Their rule is designed for people "living in the world."

The Whole Augustinian Family, in accordance with the Apostolic See, is composed of four branches or parts:

1. Augustinian Friars, under the jurisdiction of the Prior General
2. Sisters of Contemplative Life
3. Religious Congregations of Apostolic Life
4. Secular Augustinians

One of the happiest times in the life of St. Augustine was after his conversion and before he was baptized when he went off to a villa called Cassiciacum with a small community of men and women. There they spent time in prayer, reflection and discussion. Augustine also did some writing there as well. *Confessions IX.7*

The Augustinian Seculars in Cape Coral, FL of the St. Katharine Drexel Parish also come together in the spirit of St. Augustine to pray and to reach out to each other in friendship and love, being of one mind and heart intent on God.



*Augustinian Seculars in Cape Coral, FL*

## Florida Augustinian Seculars Mission Statement

We are a community of people who, although different in some ways, are united in seeking a closer, more personal relationship with God through holy scripture, and the teachings and spirit of St. Augustine. With that thought in mind, our mission as a community is to take the charism of St. Augustine to the other communities to which we belong.

## Our Meetings

Our group gathers the second and fourth Wednesday of the month with objectives to:

1. Read the weekly Gospel and St. Augustine's Sermon on that Gospel
2. Study one of the works of St. Augustine
3. Pray the Liturgy of the hours



## Living an Augustinian Life

Each one of us will be a living witness to Jesus Christ and will participate in the life of St. Katharine Drexel Parish as Lectors, Greeters, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist Education, Bible study, RCIA, Catechists, small faith groups and addressing the needs of the poor especially those in our parish community and wherever we are called to serve and share the Good news of Jesus Christ. ✠

*The Secular Augustinian Chapter is open to practicing Catholic lay men and women who are willing to receive a Christian formation according to the Augustinian spirit and accept the responsibility of participating in the life of the Chapter.*



### Want to begin or join a group?

Contact  
Fr. John Deary, O.S.A.  
Director of Augustinian  
Laity at  
jfdosa@yahoo.com



*St. Katherine Drexel, Cape Coral FL*



On August 27, 2018, St. Monica's Feast Day, ten new lay members were admitted to the Augustinian Lay Associations by the Prior Provincial, Fr. Michael Di Gregorio, O.S.A., at Our Mother of Good Counsel in Bryn Mawr, PA. They were presented with the COR UNUM IN DEUM cross, meaning One Heart in God, to symbolize their membership.

## Our Province Lay Groups:

St. Katherine Drexel, Cape Coral, FL  
Coordinators: Russ Summerton and Teri Idler

St. Mary in Waterford, NY and St. Augustine in Troy, NY  
Coordinator: Anne Marie La Valley / Fr. Jack MacAttee, O.S.A., Spiritual Guide

St. Nicholas of Tolentine, Bronx, NY  
Coordinator: Jesus Delarosa / Fr. Luis Vera, O. S.A., Spiritual Guide

Our Mother of Good Counsel, Bryn Mawr, PA  
Coordinators: Dutch and Gerry Wernet/ Fr. John Deary, O.S.A.

Our Lady of Good Counsel, Staten Island, NY  
Coordinators: Fran Busch and Pat Odessa

*Upcoming Event: Annual Augustinian Lay Retreat at Ocean City, NJ – November 9-11*

**Read and Download the Guide:** Join or Build an Augustinian Secular Group in Your Area





# Adeodatus Prison

BY FATHER PAUL MORRISEY, O.S.A.  
WITH CHER A. RAGO

Founded by Fr. Paul Morrissey, O.S.A., Adeodatus Prison Ministry, a program of the Augustinian Defenders of the Rights of the Poor, began ministering to those affected by crime and poverty in the Philadelphia area in 2007. It is a Catholic-based ecumenical outreach program that tends to the spiritual needs of those who are in prison, those recently released from prison, those who are recovering from addiction and the family members of these groups.

Adeodatus was given his name by his father St. Augustine. It means "Gift from God" and represents all of our young people who are at risk from the turbulence of today's world. Many, born into poor and single parent families, use and sell drugs, which ultimately leads to imprisonment. George Munyan, the Administrator of Adeodatus and an affiliate of the Augustinian Province of St. Thomas of Villanova, is dedicated to breaking this cycle by offering a path of support to heal broken relationships of victims and offenders, their families and society as a whole by focusing on restorative justice rather than punitive justice.

## Educating Our Youth



### Drugs to Prison Pipeline

The Drugs to Prison Pipeline presentation is an interactive seminar that is raising youth awareness about the link drugs have to prison and the poverty that spawns this pattern, and the eventual mass incarceration situation in our country that is its devastating conclusion.

The presenters, Fr. Paul Morrissey, O.S.A., George Munyan, Jimmy Cialella (the founder and operator of a drug recovery house, The Open Door), and Kelsey Rode, a 2017-2018 Augustinian Volunteer, initiated their work at St. Augustine Prep in

Richland, established by the Augustinians in 1959. Currently, Adeodatus is visiting high schools and universities in Philadelphia and its suburbs, as well as New Jersey, and the Newman Center of Drexel and Penn.

At St. Augustine Prep High School, Jimmy Cialella, the main presenter, caught the attention of four classes of seniors with his harrowing story of descending into the world of drugs. Mr. Cialella's stories opened the minds of the students when he bravely conveyed that he didn't even think he was becoming an addict and how he was only saved by God's Grace. Fr. Paul spoke about the prisoners of his chaplaincy ministry at the Philadelphia Prison, which left a positive imprint for change. "Many inmates,



# Ministry



*Fr. Paul Morrissey, O.S.A.  
at Roman Catholic*



*George Munyan and  
Fr. Paul Morrissey, O.S.A.*



*Jimmy Cialella presenting to  
St. Augustine Prep seniors*

having grown up in poverty in Kensington and South Philly, cannot read beyond the third-grade level. It breaks my heart to see these tough guys and girls, especially when they go to confession, weeping over their children whom they have let down. But it gives me hope to see the light glimmer in their eyes when they hear the Word of God and sense that God is longing for their freedom.” He also invited the students into dialogue by initiating a conversation based on the following questions: With a high percentage of incarcerated criminals repeating their actions upon their release from prison, how can you, as future leaders in our country, become a part of breaking this repetitive cycle? How can we discover the difference between a punitive system, one that seeks punishment, and a restorative system, one that

can rehabilitate and break the poverty to drugs to prison pipeline? What action can you take to influence a particular law that needs to change to accomplish this rehabilitation?

The Drugs to Prison Pipeline program provides insight into a need for healing and systematic change in the criminal justice system. For more information or to bring this program to your school:

## Contact Us!

Adeodatus Prison Ministry  
email: [adropinfo@augustinian.org](mailto:adropinfo@augustinian.org)  
website: [RightsofthePoor.org](http://RightsofthePoor.org)  
instagram: [Youth4PrisonReform](https://www.instagram.com/Youth4PrisonReform)  
facebook: [@ADROPPhilly](https://www.facebook.com/ADROPPhilly)



## Improve a Life: Write a Letter

Our Pen Pal Program, administered by Susan and John Killeen in the “Mary Mother of Captives Program” is a communications link between inmates and people on the outside.

By writing one-on-one to a Pal in prison, we visit the imprisoned by sharing and caring in a life via the mail.

Join our secure, safe writers’ group. All of the pen pal letters go through our office so that your address is never shared with your pen pal.

Simply email us at [Susan\\_MMOC@comcast.net](mailto:Susan_MMOC@comcast.net) or call 610.259.3178.



# Spreading the Augustinian Spirit

## A Profile in Leadership

May 3, 2018



*Fr. Frank Chambers, O.S.A. reminisces with his good friends Bob DeConcini (left) and Paul Tramontano (right)*



*"Family, faith, friendship and fun will always be at the core of our mission in athletics. These principles blend well and support our overriding Augustinian values of Truth, Unity and Love. It was truly an honor for Tricia and me to be a part of this wonderful event and to share the positive impact the Augustinian community has had on our personal and professional lives. We truly love being a part of this community and cannot thank Fr. Michael enough for asking us to be involved."*

— Mark W. Jackson, Director of Athletics, Villanova University



*Enjoying the open air terrace reception with the magnificent St. Patrick's Cathedral in the background*

[View Photo Gallery >](#)



*Fr. Rob Hagan, O.S.A. catches up with Dan McKiernan (left) and John Di Loreto (right)*



# Celebrating in the Merrimack Valley

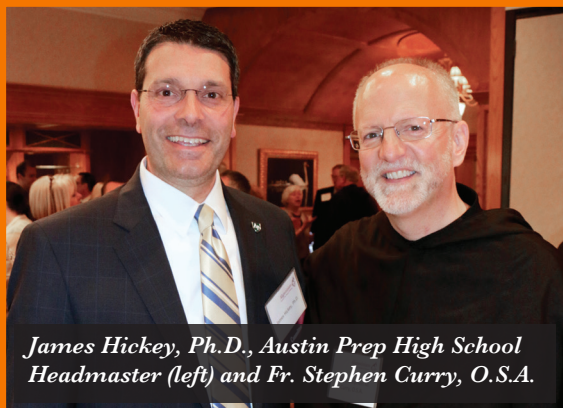
May 7, 2018

*"I was happy to participate in the recent event in Andover, MA that celebrated the Augustinians' long presence in the Merrimack Valley. It provided my family, and scores of other families, with an opportunity to express our gratitude to the Augustinian Friars. As their mission continues, may they always enjoy the support they so richly deserve."*

— Thomas F. Caffrey, Esq., Guest Speaker



*Merrimack Valley Event Committee*



*James Hickey, Ph.D., Austin Prep High School Headmaster (left) and Fr. Stephen Curry, O.S.A.*



*Merrimack College President Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D., and Vice President of Mission and Ministry Fr. Ray Dlugos, O.S.A.*



*Fr. Rich Platt, O.S.A., shares a light moment with Advancement Council member Katie LeBlanc*

[View Photo Gallery >](#)



# Roses, Prayers and Praise!

May 22, 2018



*Bishop Louis DeSimone, 2018 St. Augustine Medal recipient, giving a blessing*

As the National Shrine of St. Rita of Cascia celebrated its Patronal Saint, six Masses were held throughout the day. The celebrants included: Bishop Michael Fitzgerald, Fr. Michael Di Gregorio, O.S.A., Bishop Louis DeSimone, Fr. Richard Antonucci, O. Praem, Bishop Edward Deliman and Fr. James Spenard, O.S.A. The faithful gathered to thank St. Rita for her intercession, and each Mass included the procession with the statue of St. Rita and the blessing of the roses. Mark your calendars for next year's feast day! Wednesday, May 22, 2019.



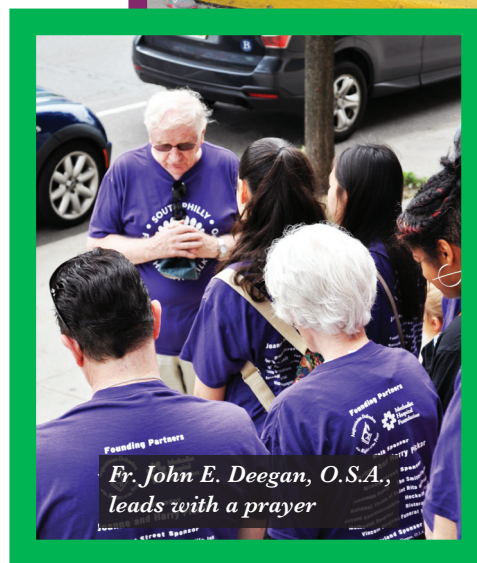
*First grader John K's answer to the question, How can I be a peacemaker?*



# Walking for Change

June 2, 2018

Augustinian Defenders of the Rights of the Poor (A.D.R.O.P.) partnered with Methodist Hospital Foundation in a Walk for Change to raise awareness about the A.D.R.O.P. Unity Clinic. The walkers began with a prayer at the Province's National Shrine of Saint Rita of Cascia, and ended at Methodist Hospital to join the health fair of free screenings and good food. The event raised approximately \$3,500, which will provide primary healthcare services to members of the South Philadelphia community who cannot afford physician services and are not eligible for government assistance.



## Commissioning Mass

August 26, 2018

The 19th class of Augustinian Volunteers was commissioned at St. Augustine Church in Philadelphia, PA. The Augustinian Volunteers are recent college graduates who feel called to spend a year in service to others while living in an intentional community. Currently, volunteers serve in Lawrence, MA, Philadelphia, PA, San Diego, CA, Ventura, CA and internationally in Chulucanas, Peru. The commissioning Mass concluded an eight-day orientation where volunteers had the opportunity to learn about Augustinian spirituality, interact with Augustinian Friars, and connect with program alumni. The Augustinian Volunteers will begin accepting applications for its 20th year in mid-November at [AugustinianVolunteers.org/apply](http://AugustinianVolunteers.org/apply)





# Celebrating

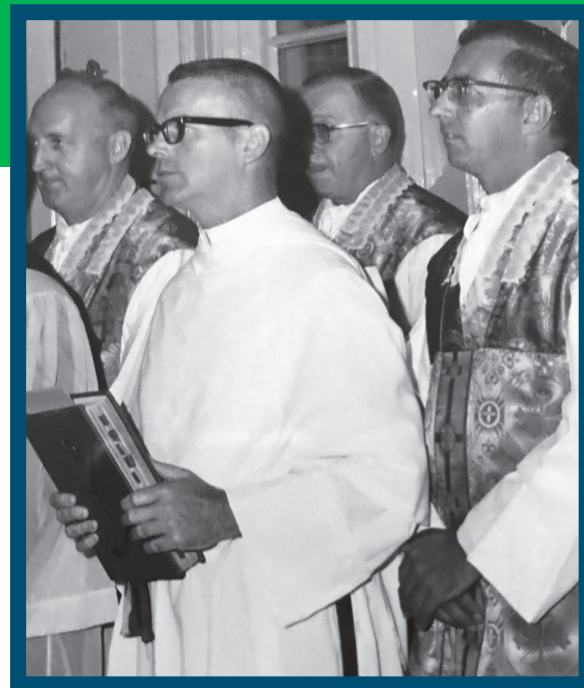
## 50 Years in Peru

By Fr. John Lydon, O.S.A.

This past August, the Dioceses of Chulucanas and the Augustinians of the Vicariate of Chulucanas celebrated the 50th anniversary of the parish of San José Obrero (St. Joseph the Worker)! The parish was the first mission presence of the Augustinian Province of St. Thomas of Villanova in Peru and was founded by Frs. Frank Kelly, O.S.A., Dick Appicci, O.S.A., and Br. John Sheridan, O.S.A. Today the parish has a population of 40,000 people and includes a school devoted to educating the poor, as well as health and social services that was initiated and guided by the caring hands of Fr. Appicci.

Over 1,000 people of San José Obrero parish attended Mass, which was celebrated by Bishop Daniel Turley, O.S.A., who emphasized the importance of the parish being one of the first parishes to embrace the active promotion of lay ministries.

Biblical readings and major milestones in the history of the parish were recited as everyone processed through the streets of Chulucanas. Many shared testimonials of the Augustinian witness in the parish and remembered each Augustinian by name in prayerful gratitude for their service. ✠



*October 7, 1967 - Front to Back, Fr. Frank Kelly, O.S.A., Br. John Sheridan, O.S.A., and Fr. Richard Appicci, O.S.A., assembling for the start of the Commissioning Ceremony for their departure to Peru at the Villanova Field House, now known as the Jake Nevin Field House*



*St. Joseph statue, donated by the family of Fr. Art Purcaro, O.S.A., being carried through the streets of Chulucanas*



*Bishop Daniel Turley, O.S.A. and Fr. John Lydon, O.S.A.*



# In Paradisum

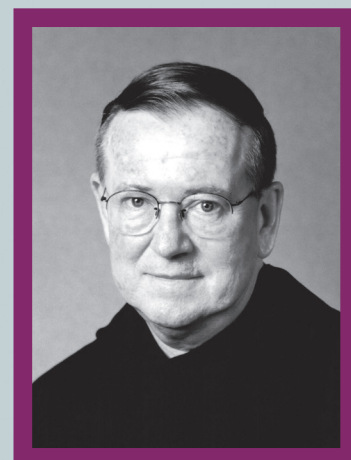
## Fr. Michael Joseph Scanlon, O.S.A.

*August 1, 1937 - August 26, 2018*

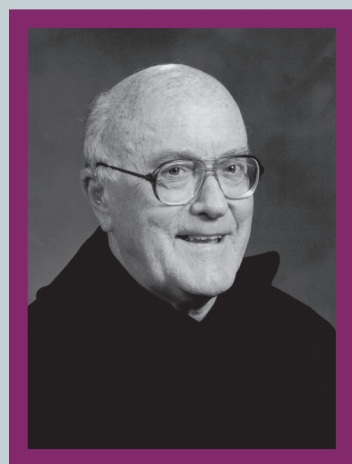
Fr. Michael Joseph Scanlon was born on August 1, 1937, in New York City, where he attended St. Nicholas of Tolentine Parochial School from 1943 until 1951. He enrolled in Augustinian Academy, Staten Island, as a postulant for the Order, was received as a novice in 1955, and professed simple vows on September 10, 1956 and solemn vows in 1959. Following reception of his BA degree in Philosophy from Villanova University in 1960, he pursued theological studies at the Catholic University of America and obtained a STD in 1969. He was ordained to the priesthood on February 1, 1964.

Fr. Scanlon's first assignment was as teacher of Latin at Archbishop Carroll High School, Washington, DC. In 1965 he was assigned to Augustinian College, Washington, where he taught theology and became a founding faculty member of the Washington

Theological Coalition. He served from 1988 to 1989, as President of the Catholic Theological Society of America. In 1992, he was appointed the Josephine C. Connelly Professor of Christian Theology at Villanova University. In 2012 he moved to St. Thomas Monastery, Villanova, where he remained until his death on August 25, 2018.



Fr. Scanlon was a lecturer and contributor to journals and conferences in his field. His most significant contribution, however, was to the theological education of countless religious and lay students throughout his ministry, especially during his 27 years in Washington, DC.



## Fr. Robert Martin Burke, O.S.A.

*April 18, 1927 -*

*September 20, 2018*

Fr. Robert Burke was born on April 18, 1927, in Atlantic City, NJ. He received his early education in South Jersey and then entered the United States Navy.

In 1946, he entered Villanova College and studied civil engineering for three years. In 1950, he applied to the Order and was received as a novice on September 9, 1950. He professed vows on September 10, 1951 and returned to Villanova College to complete his BS in Physics in June 1952. He then pursued theological

studies at Augustinian College, Washington, DC, professed solemn vows in 1954, and was ordained to the priesthood on June 4, 1955. He earned an MS degree in Physics from the Catholic University of America, Washington, DC, in 1954, and later completed a BS degree in Civil Engineering from Villanova University in 1959.

Fr. Burke taught at Msgr. Bonner High School, Drexel Hill, from 1956 to 1959 and from 1963 to 1974. He also taught at Villanova University from 1959 until 1963 and in 1974 was appointed Assistant Director of Admissions there. After one year at Malvern Preparatory School, he was assigned in 1981 to the Admissions Office at Biscayne College. From 1988 until 2003, Fr. Burke was stationed at Merrimack College, North Andover, where he worked in the Office of Admissions and Financial Aid. In 2003, Fr. Burke was assigned to St. Thomas Monastery, Villanova. Despite multiple cancer surgeries, and a severe hearing impairment in his later years, he maintained a very positive attitude and friendly demeanor. He passed away on September 20, 2018, at St. Thomas Monastery, Villanova.





# Our Sister in Augustine

By MADONNA SUTTER

## Generosity and Friendship



**M**. Louise Fitzpatrick, former dean of Villanova University's College of Nursing, which now bears her name, passed away in September of 2017. She was an Affiliate of the Order of St. Augustine and a parishioner of St. Thomas of Villanova for nearly 40 years. Louise had many close relationships with Augustinian Friars and ensured that Augustinian values were woven into every aspect of Villanova's nursing educational experience. Her professional, personal and spiritual life were rooted in the Catholic Augustinian tradition. The Augustinians were family to Louise. Fr. Kail Ellis, O.S.A. commented at her funeral Mass, "She was in every sense our sister in Augustine."

As I reflect on Louise's life and on her death, it is clear that Louise left an impressive legacy at Villanova University. It is also clear that she cared deeply for the Augustinians, and while supportive to the friars in her lifetime, she made specific plans in her estate to leave



the Augustinians a very generous gift. This gift was restricted to the Province's Support Trust Fund for the care of the elderly and infirm friars, many of whom are close personal friends of Louise.

**The Augustinian Fund** strengthens the mission of the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova. Generous benefactors sustain the Augustinian way of life through support for the care of elderly and infirm friars and the education and training of future Augustinians. The Fund also provides support for Augustinian ministries that serve the poor and marginalized in foreign missions in Japan and Peru, the Augustinian Volunteer program and the Province's Justice and Peace Initiatives. ✠



#GIVINGTUESDAYOSA

Mark your Calendar

**Tuesday  
November 27  
2018**

#GivingTuesday is a global giving movement where millions of individuals come together to support their favorite charities and causes in which they believe. The #GivingTuesdayOSA campaign is an online campaign.

If you'd like to participate and don't already receive emails from us, please email Julia Phifer, Assistant Director of Advancement at [julia.phifer@augustinian.org](mailto:julia.phifer@augustinian.org) to join the movement to support one of your favorite charities, the Augustinian Fund.



**Connect with Us!**

[madonna.sutter@augustinian.org](mailto:madonna.sutter@augustinian.org)

## M. Louise Fitzpatrick Formation Fund



To honor Louise Fitzpatrick and to make certain that her legacy and memory lives on in perpetuity at the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova, Prior Provincial, Fr. Michael Di Gregorio, O.S.A. approved the establishment of the M. Louise Fitzpatrick Formation Fund. This Fund will support the education and training of Augustinians into the future, an important priority for Louise and the Province. Join us in her honor. Your support will provide extensive holistic training for our friars who have been called to the Augustinian Way of Life.

To contribute to the Formation Fund, please contact: Madonna Sutter, Director of Advancement at 610.527.3330, ext. 265 or by email [madonna.sutter@augustinian.org](mailto:madonna.sutter@augustinian.org)





## THE AUGUSTINIANS ARE COMING TO FLORIDA!

Augustinian Friars will travel to Florida in late February 2019 to reconnect with friends in the Naples area. Invitations will be mailed right after the Christmas holiday. If you winter in Florida and would like to join us, or if you have any questions, please contact

Madonna Sutter at [madonna.sutter@augustinian.org](mailto:madonna.sutter@augustinian.org) or call 610.527.3330, ext. 265.

