

AUGUSTINIAN

Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova

Truth, Unity
and Love,
sharing the
charism.

IO

*"Love of God
and Love
of Neighbor"*



16





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Cover
Sharing the Fire

*photo by Bryce Young
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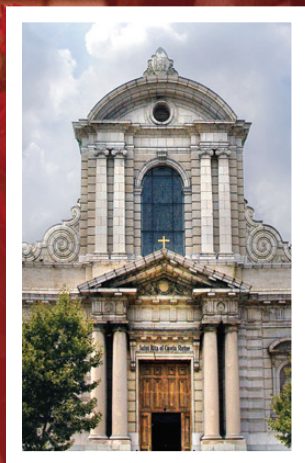




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Augustinian Province of St. Thomas of Villanova

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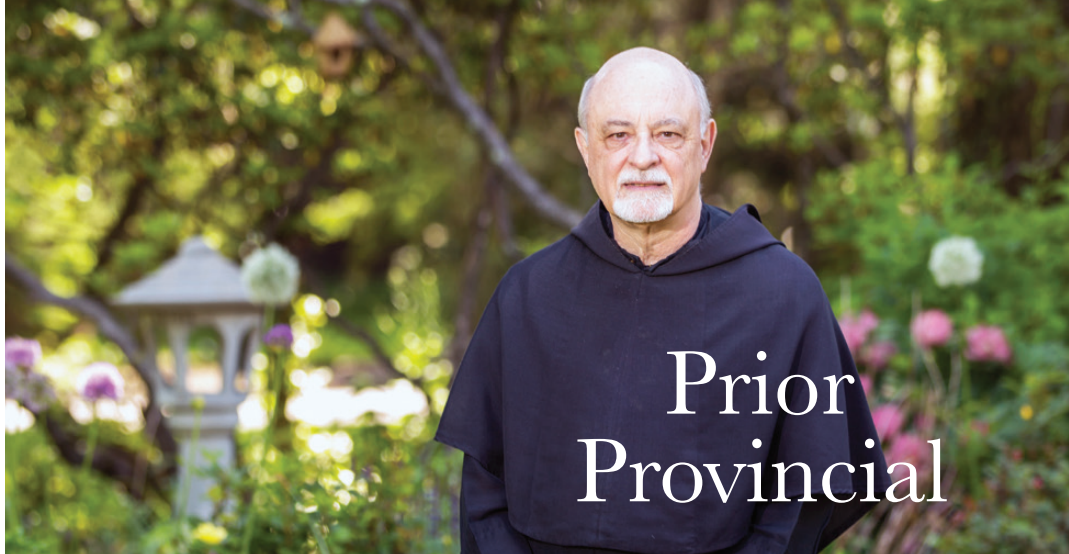
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Prior Provincial

Dear Friends,

The welcome and joy-filled sound of Easter's *Alleluia* continues to resonate in the Liturgy of the Church for fifty continuous days as an expression of the heartfelt gladness that Jesus' resurrection makes possible. Though the last of these fifty days may have passed by the time you read this message, the echo of that *Alleluia* hopefully continues on deep within each of us – precisely where it matters most. We are, after all, an Easter People, St. Augustine reminds us, and *Alleluia* is our anthem. In both days of sunlight and darkness, of tranquility and turbulence, of peace and conflict, we remain a people marked by the great Resurrection Event. We cannot be reminded of this truth too often, for the challenging circumstances of life can wear us thin at times. Our true identity as people redeemed and raised up in Christ needs constant affirmation.

Where is this affirmation found, and how is it manifest? Oftentimes in the very celebration of faith that finds us joined together in prayer, in deep reflection on God's Word, in our sharing at the Eucharistic table where the Risen Christ is our journey companion and our journey sustenance. But it is found also in the everyday events of life, in choices well-made, in gestures of hearts turned outward, in gifts received and given, in encounters that refresh and renew us. Affirmation comes without our knowing when we simply open ourselves to life-giving engagement with others.

In the pages that follow we hope you will see signs of authentic resurrection conviction and engagement – ideas and events, individuals and projects, that are life giving and life affirming. Listen, as you read, for the *Alleluia* that is being sung. ✠

Blessings,

Fr. Michael



Sharing the Fire

BY FATHER CHRISTOPHER J. DRENNEN, O.S.A.

Student Augustinian Values Institute



What is SAVI? It's more than an acronym. It's a wonderful experience for students from Augustinian Secondary Schools across North America to gather and share Augustinian values of Truth, Unity and Love. The Institute rotates hosting sites from among the member schools. Most of the participants are sophomores or juniors who are encouraged to take the SAVI experience home with them to live what they learned in their own schools.

SAVI is a child of the Augustinian Values Institute (AVI) sponsored by the leadership of the Augustinian Secondary Schools in North America. All three North American Provinces participate with students from 10 schools with an Augustinian heritage.

Almost two decades ago the schools recognized that we needed to share our charisms with those we worked with to assure the continuation of our spirit even when there were few or no friars involved in the schools anymore. Within a few years, it was suggested that the AVI should be

shared with the students as well, and SAVI was born about 10 years ago.

What happens on SAVI? It is a workshop and a conference and a retreat, with time for Christian Service and a social event. The Augustinian charisms of Truth, Unity and Love are shared through talks, discussions and actions. The six students from each school have small group experiences with participants from other schools as a chance to understand how each school lives the values. They share their own stories of their schools and demonstrate unique and common experiences that distinguish

the schools but reveal a common thread as well.

The most memorable part of the weekend experience is usually the new friendships that are made. There are alumni from the first SAVI that still keep in touch ten years later. Over the decade there are networks of SAVI alums who look each other up when they are visiting around North America.

What really makes a school Augustinian? What do all the schools find in common? A love for Augustine. An awareness of



*Students share the
Augustinian charisms
of Truth, Unity and Love*



*SAVI participants making connections with
students from Holy Name School in Camden...
Lots of fun and laughter!*

All three North American Provinces participate with students from 10 schools with an Augustinian heritage: Austin Catholic Academy, Chesterfield, Michigan; Austin Preparatory School, Reading, Massachusetts; Cascia Hall Preparatory School, Tulsa, Oklahoma; Malvern Preparatory School, Malvern, Pennsylvania; Providence Catholic High School, New Lenox, Illinois; St. Augustine High School, San Diego, California; St. Augustine Preparatory School, Richland, New Jersey; St. Rita of Cascia High School, Chicago, Illinois; St. Thomas of Villanova College, King City, Ontario; Villanova Preparatory School, Ojai, California



the life of this ancient saint is alive in young people throughout the Augustinian world. This awareness builds a sense of unity and community, a central theme for Augustinians. Some call it *Unitas*, some Brotherhood, some Family, but the appreciation of the community value of Augustinians is obvious in all the schools.

Augustine's thoughts on Truth are also present in Augustinian schools. Augustine knew that real Truth is centered in Christ. He is the true glue



to Augustinian education. We find that Truth by looking inward and finding God who is closer to us than we are to ourselves.

The third value of Love is revealed through a strong sense of Christian Service that every Augustinian school focuses on. It is more than just community service. It is true love for Christ as found in our sisters and brothers throughout our communities and around the world.

Each year at SAVI the core values of Truth, Unity, and Love are lived and developed. We learn from one another how we can strengthen these values. In sharing a few days together, for everyone – from students to chaperones to host schools and visitors – Augustine is alive and thriving. ☩



Augustine and Friendship

By Father Bryan Kerns, O.S.A.

As a relatively recent beneficiary of Augustinian education at the secondary level, it was a great honor to be able to speak to the participants at the tenth Student Augustinian Values Institute (SAVI-X), especially on the topic of Augustine and friendship. And so much of what we take to be friendship in this contemporary moment, mediated by social media, is not at all what Augustine would think friendship is. My students – and those at SAVI-X – seem to know this. But they also seem to feel trapped by the demands of the age: leaving social media would take them out of the space where their peers are, requiring a willing surrender of social capital.

Yet there is another, doubtless better, way. The three Augustinian values of truth, love, and unity offer us a framework for Augustinian friendship. Truth in friendship requires a willingness to be candid and honest, even perhaps at the cost of conflict; this is hard-won and develops over time. Friendship also requires love, which is to say that we ought to desire the good for those we call friends; that desire for the good of another is an engine. It generates force and feeling. It motivates action. When we fuel the engine of love towards one friend, we tap into a well of energy that enables us to keep the engine firing towards others. And born of these is unity, the bond that transcends time and distance. Unity is the evidence of meaningful friendship, and the strength and stay by which friendship can withstand the winds and storms of time and life, solidifying authentic Augustinian friendship.

Unity + Truth + Charity

BY SHIVANI VORA, VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY STUDENT



Shivani Vora, a student of Villanova University's School of Business was recently recognized as one of 2019 Best & Brightest from the Poets and Quants for Undergrads Social Network. She has many outstanding achievements for which she has been noticed for by Villanova; however, an award of which she is most proud, is Villanova's Living Our Values Award. Shivani embodies the university's Augustinian values of *Veritas*, *Unitas*, and *Caritas*. Here she shares the importance of living them out and the fullness they bring to her life!

I was drawn to Villanova's Augustinian values of *Unitas*, *Veritas*, and *Caritas*. The institution strives to embody these values in all forms whether it is education or recreation. *Unitas*, meaning unity, is the sense of community. In all simplicity, *Unitas* is important to me because the happiness you get from bringing people together is unlike any other happiness. I knew that coming to Villanova meant I was part of a family, and becoming president of clubs or being on the Executive Board of organizations meant being

able to impact a community for future generations. I want to be able to bring this large world a little closer together. *Veritas*, meaning truth, is finding meaning in yourself, your actions, and in others. As I've gotten older, I have understood the importance of being honest with myself and letting myself express what I am feeling. To be truthful in all that you do means giving your whole self to your community. It is inspiring how opening yourself up to your environment and becoming vulnerable makes you stronger in the end. I hope to always find meaning in my future work as well as truth and honesty with whom I surround myself. Lastly, *Caritas*, meaning compassion and



charity, is a desire for service. I was raised on the idea of putting others before yourself and recognizing that there is always something you can do for someone else. Ranging from meaningful discussions with those unlike myself or participating in community service opportunities, I want to give help where help is needed and understand what is left to be understood. Villanova has provided me with endless service opportunities both on campus and in surrounding areas, and I hope to create new opportunities for myself as I graduate. —



Give More. Become More.

Julia Shults Ventura, CA 2018-2019

"Willingness to jump into all sorts of unexpected situations." Though perhaps included as a catch-all in most job descriptions, as I look back at the description for my AV position at HELP of Ojai, it strikes me that this line captures an important theme – the unexpected – that has underscored my entire experience as an Augustinian Volunteer.

Coming into this program as a 22-year-old recent college graduate, I expected that I would spend most of my time with young adults going through similar life experiences. I never would have guessed that one of my closest relationships would be with the 86-year-old man with whom I co-managed the HELP's Thanksgiving food program. I first met Len when he dropped into the office one September afternoon to see how things were going. What I had expected to be a courteous professional relationship evolved into a wonderful friendship. After a long morning on the day of the Thanksgiving meal deliveries, he gave me a hug and said, "You've done really good work. I'm proud of you." He and his wife graciously invited our community to spend Thanksgiving dinner with their family, since they knew our families were thousands of miles away.

The hospitality that Len and his wife demonstrated reflects another unexpected dimension of my AV experience: the generosity of heart and resources that the local communities have offered us. The head of school at Villanova Prep, where my community member, Claire, serves, sometimes makes extra food on Sunday nights for Claire to take home to us for dinner. One of the volunteers at HELP invited us to her home, where her daughter taught us how to ride horses and let us gawk over their goats, miniature horses, and chickens. The people at Our Lady of the Assumption Parish noticed our new presence, asked us our names and our stories, and welcomed us with open arms. All of these people have demonstrated hospitality and generosity that I never expected, but for which I am incredibly grateful.

Perhaps one of the greatest surprises this year has been how seemingly insignificant moments have offered the greatest opportunities for fellowship and bonding within our AV community. My favorite example of this is washing dishes. After eating dinner together and sharing laughter and stories from that day, the three of us make our way to the kitchen, where the magic begins. As I begin scrubbing dishes and Kat puts away leftovers, Claire turns on the speaker and gets the music started. Before long, what could be a dull, yet necessary, task becomes a joyful moment during which we bond, laugh, and belt out "No Air" by Jordin Sparks.

Jumping into the unexpected is challenging and sometimes frightening, but, in my experience, the unexpected rewards prove worth the risk.

Augustinian Volunteers

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Vocation Motivation

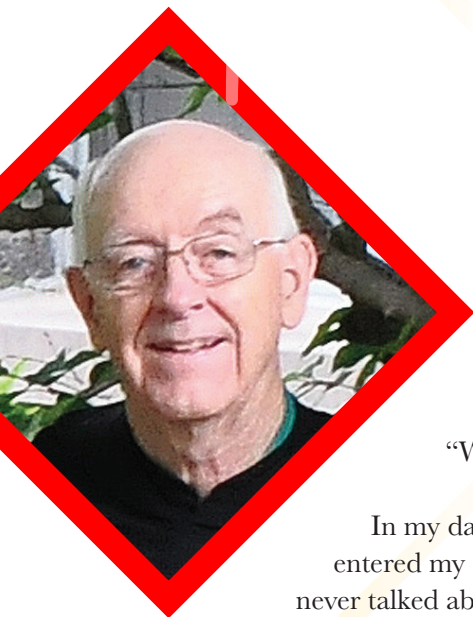
When considering what attracts someone to a religious institute, high on the list is the community's spirituality and prayer life. The National Religious Vocation Conference, in conjunction with the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, continues to find that those joining religious life today are looking forward to living, working, and praying together, with a focus on the Eucharist, Liturgy of the Hours, and spiritual practices of their particular community. This definitely is borne out by those in vocational discernment with us. Almost every individual expresses a desire to learn more about Augustinian spirituality and to connect with us in our prayer life in some way. We are blessed with a rich tradition that extends back to our Holy Father, St. Augustine. This is reflected in the new pocket prayer fold that we initially designed for our discerners, but are making available to the broader Augustinian family. May we join together in praying for one another and especially for those discerning a call to our way of life. As Pope Francis reminds us, "Vocations are born in prayer and from prayer; and only in prayer can they persevere and bear fruit." And a wonderful thing is that praying is something we all can do, no matter our age or circumstances.



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

My Augustinian Inspiration

by Father Allan Fitzgerald, O.S.A.

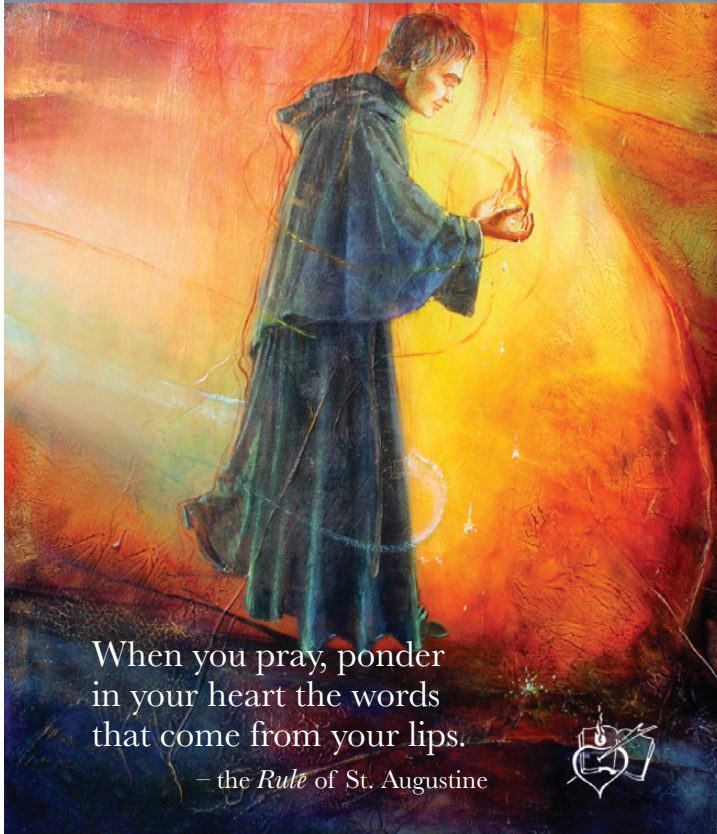


It was 1955 when I entered Archbishop Carroll High School in Washington, DC. I met a couple of Augustinians that day – in spite of the fact that there had to have been more than 200 new students coming to check out the school and their upcoming semester. Little did I know how impressed I was with a couple of things about my choice to go to Carroll: the Augustinians I came to have in class and to run into in the bookstore, the library or the corridors seemed comfortable with themselves – and they seemed to like one another. It's that second fact that – years later – I asked them about it. "Was it really as good a community as I thought back then?" I asked. They all said yes.

In my days at Carroll, however, I was not thinking about becoming an Augustinian. It really never entered my mind until a good friend and classmate decided to do that – even though the two of us never talked about it. We used to play ping pong in my basement, and our homes were about 500 yards from one another. It just never came up. He went to the novitiate; I went to Villanova, majoring in physics.

After about two months at Villanova, my physics teacher from Carroll crossed paths with me on campus. He said: "Hey, Fitz. When are you going to become an Augustinian?" I remember his question clearly and how shocked I was at my answer: "I don't know, one of these days." It was only in that moment that I came to realize that – deep within – I had been thinking about how impressed I was with the Augustinians who taught at Carroll: 35 of them. Now – 60 years later – I'm still a believer in the value of our friendships as Augustinians. ✠

PRAYER IN THE AUGUSTINIAN TRADITION



**Click to View and
Download Prayer Fold**

This pocket prayer fold initially was conceived as something we could give to those discerning an Augustinian vocation. However, as it was being developed, it became clear that the prayer fold also should be made available for much wider use. As its title indicates, it allows us to share in some of the rich prayer in our Augustinian tradition. The hard part, frankly, was deciding what to include. We're especially grateful to Fr. Allan Fitzgerald, O.S.A. for assisting in that effort and for composing the new Prayer of Discernment. Having been coordinated among the three Augustinian Provinces in the United States, the fold is designed to be user friendly - something that can be slipped in a pocket or placed inside a book. We hope that you enjoy the copy provided here.

If you would like additional prayer folds,
please contact: vocations@augustinian.org

Contact Us!

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email: vocations@augustinian.org

Staying Connected

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

*Our Lady of Good Counsel
Celebration of the Augustinian
Legacy in Staten Island, NY*

A number of years ago, Augustinian Press published a collection of biographical sketches of about thirty notable friars of the Province which were published in two volumes under the title, *Men of Heart*. Friars were invited to research these deceased brothers of ours and to offer brief resumés of their life and ministry in order to convey “the courage, the persistence, the sacrifice ... with which they strove to extend the kingdom.” I was assigned to write an entry on a former Provincial who led the Province for eight years during the first quarter of the 20th Century. Fr. Nicholas Vasey, O.S.A. lived and labored during a period of great growth and expansion of our

Order in the
United States.

During the first five years of his two-term incumbency, the number of friars had increased from 123 to 170; the number of postulants had grown from 23 to 151 and the number of friaries,



and Engaged

churches and institutions increased almost 50 percent, from 24 to 34. This was the era in which all our friars were members of a single Augustinian Province in the United States and Fr. Vasey's responsibility stretched from coast to coast.

Times have changed, and so have the conditions of religious life. Numerically, there are more Augustinians, more friaries, more churches and schools cared for by us today throughout the United States than there were in 1925. However, the number of friars has been in steady decline since the mid-sixties, stretching those who are available for ministry thin and necessitating the Province's departure from some of the parishes, schools and other works we undertook when we were growing and expanding. If the present trend continues, we will have to make additional withdrawals from ministries and from the people



Fr. Michael Di Gregorio, O.S.A., Prior Provincial, gathers with parishioners from former Augustinian parishes in Naples, FL.



Fr. Michael P. Sullivan, O.S.A. and Fran Massimino catching up at the Celebration of the Augustinian Charism in Naples, FL



Fr. John Deary, O.S.A., Director of Augustinian Laity, socializing during dinner



Fr. Frank Doyle, O.S.A. (center), Kathy Cornell Head (l) and Margaret Cornell Murphy (r), sisters of the late Fr. William Cornell, O.S.A. (Staten Island, NY)

even more, it requires that we make choices between oftentimes equally valued and important ministries. It means closing chapters of our history in some places, and most importantly, it means leaving people with whom we have forged relationships collectively over many decades.

Most recently we have been trying to find a remedy to this last challenge: how to maintain an institutional relationship with people and places where we are no longer present? In the month of February, several friars traveled to Florida to reunite with parishioners from three parishes we had left in the past several years. Invitations

went out from the Provincial Office, the message spread by word of mouth, and on February 28th, 150 former parishioners of ours gathered with us at St. Agnes Church in Naples to celebrate Mass and enjoy one another's company at an evening meal. It was a very positive and enjoyable experience for friars and parishioners alike, and the question repeated throughout the evening was not surprising, "how can we do more of this?"

On April 25th we returned to Staten Island, New York, where the friars had ministered for over a century in the Parish of Our Lady of Good Counsel which we had founded, and at Augustinian Academy, a high school and minor seminary which we



Fr. David Cregan, O.S.A. at the Celebration of the Augustinian Legacy in Staten Island, NY

whom we are serving in order to provide quality service in places where we choose to remain, while maintaining the community dimension which is an essential aspect of Augustinian religious life.

None of this is easy. Admitting, even to ourselves, that we cannot continue to do everything that the Province had been doing over many decades when we were friar-rich, is humbling for sure, but



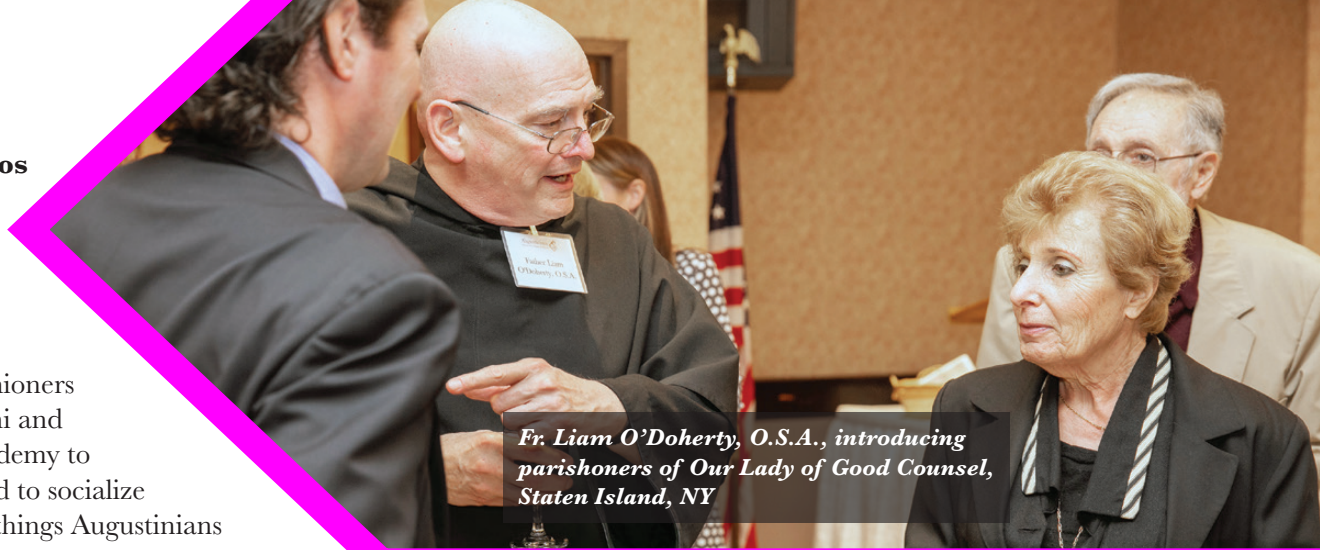
Rosemarie McLaughlin and Fr. William Donnelly, O.S.A. (Naples, FL)



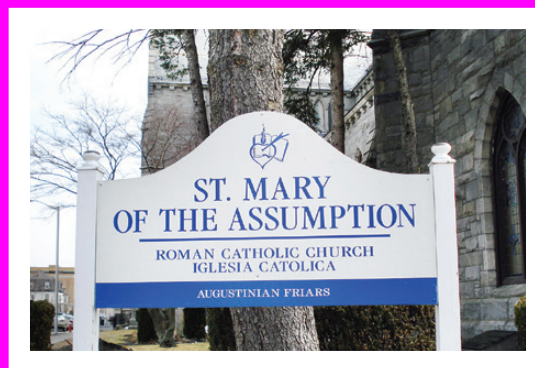
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conducted up until 1968. Here, too, we gathered with former parishioners of ours and alumni and friends of the Academy to celebrate Mass and to socialize over dinner - two things Augustinians like to do!

In both instances we pledged to think creatively and to work sincerely and collaboratively in order that the Augustinian legacy which had taken root among people with whom we had been associated, might find new ways of continuing on without the stable physical presence of the friars. From the very positive response of parishioners and alumni, they would welcome this as well. And so, we will hold to our promise and do what we can in this regard until such a time, God willing, that the opportunities for new growth and expansion that Fr. Vasey experienced almost a century ago now, might present themselves once again. ✠



Fr. Liam O'Doherty, O.S.A., introducing parishioners of Our Lady of Good Counsel, Staten Island, NY



Thank you and Farewell

*Father Michael Di Gregorio, O.S.A.,
Prior Provincial*

At the beginning of April 2019, the parishioners of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Lawrence, Massachusetts, were informed that the Augustinians had made the sad and difficult decision to leave the parish and entrust its pastoral care to the Cardinal Archbishop of Boston. St. Mary's, one of the oldest parishes in the history of the Province, is the most recent in a line of parishes from which we have found it necessary to withdraw due to a diminishment in the number of friars qualified to minister in a large, bi-lingual, multi-ethnic community. Fr. James O'Donnell, O.S.A. had founded the parish in 1848 and over the scores of decades since, other parishes were founded and served well the diverse immigrant population of Lawrence and its surroundings. The departure of the community of five friars in June 2019, will mark the close of a uniquely significant chapter in the history of the Augustinians in the United States. We are grateful for the opportunity to have served St. Mary's for such a long period of time and we are indebted to the people, past and present, who have supported and befriended us.



*Susan Little and Fr. Joseph Mostardi, O.S.A.,
reunite (Staten Island, NY)*

Learn



English language learner and Lacie Ann Michaelson, Executive Director of A.D.R.O.P.

This moment was so special to me because only a month before Marta, and the other women in the class, were hesitant to correct their English speaking counterparts. The philosophy of *Intercambio* is that no single person is either teacher or student; instead, each individual has something to share and learn. This mindset, however, is not an easy one to step into and it has taken much encouragement and relationship building to provide the space where each person feels and understands that she plays both of these roles. For Marta to correct a white, English speaking, college educated man is a testament to the relationship of trust that they have built together and for one another.

There are many accessible programs in South Philadelphia that already offer ESL classes. I advertised these classes and asked if people found them accessible; the response was inspiration for our program – what they needed was practice.

It is overwhelming to live in a foreign (and often hostile) culture and have language barriers. Attempting to speak a difficult language is not only uncomfortable but also frightening. Additionally, it can be an issue in multi-lingual parishes that speakers of different languages do not interact with one another across those languages. As an Augustinian community, building bridges across a linguistic and cultural divide is the natural, ultimate goal that we strive for.

to encourage her friend and offer her help when needed. Volunteers from Villanova University also attend these sessions and Marta is often paired with Will, a senior. Will is fairly advanced in Spanish and he and Marta enjoy switching between the two languages, correcting one another's grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation. This is where I see the most success in this program. It is not how many English words Marta has learned or how Will's Spanish pronunciation has improved.

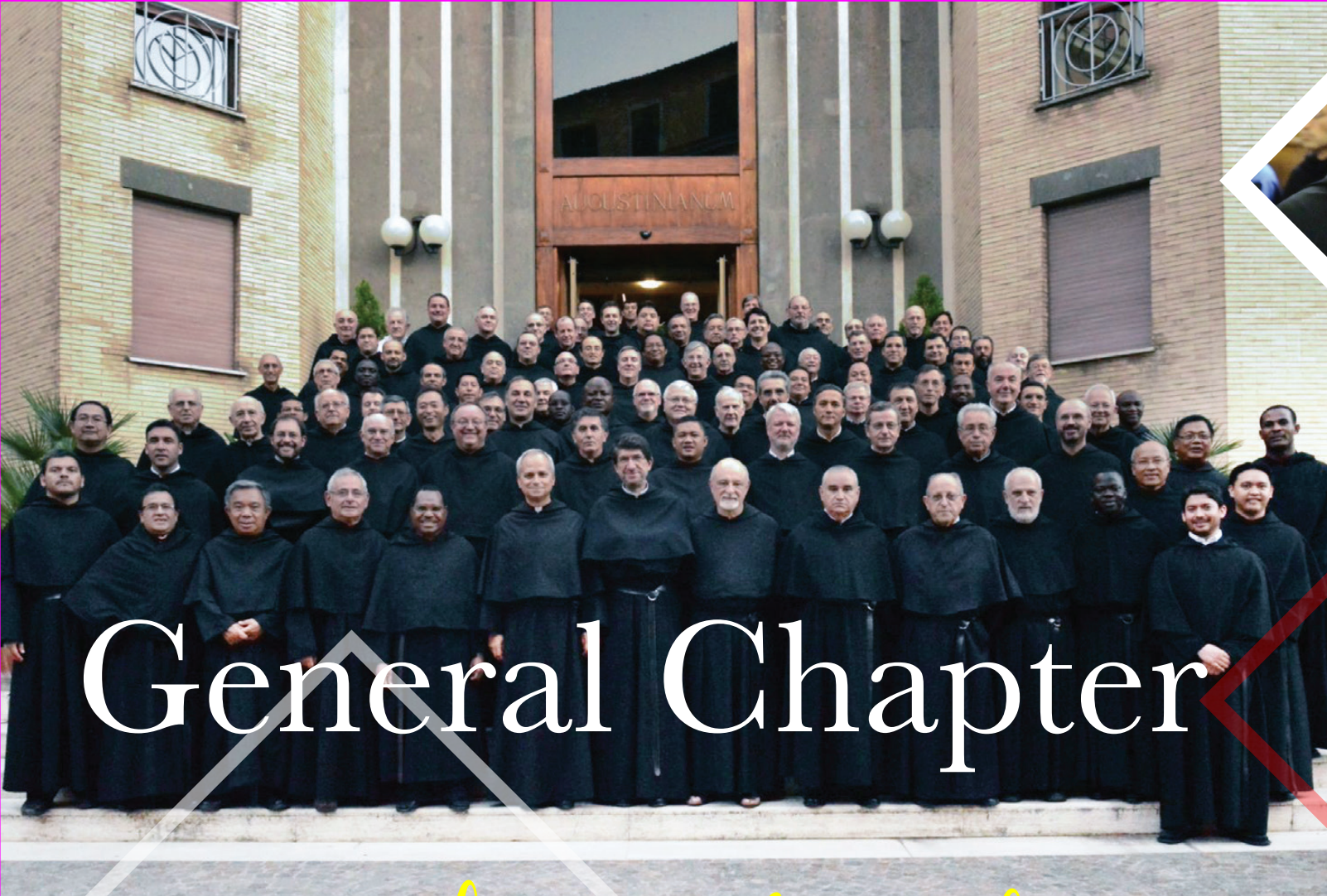


From the moment I met Marta, I knew that she was smart and determined. She has been working on her English proficiency for years and seeks out any opportunity for improvement that she can find. She attends the sessions with a friend who is not as advanced in English and Marta is always quick

Instead, I am overjoyed by the sharing between them. Their comfort with one another, their friendship, provides a safe space where they can try out new words or phrases and build their intercultural confidence. ✠

Augustinian Defenders of the Rights of the Poor (A.D.R.O.P.) is the Province's primary social ministry founded in 2004 by Fr. Jack Deegan, O.S.A. A.D.R.O.P. is a charitable branch of the Province which directs a number of programs that take a holistic approach to mending both the symptoms and causes of poverty.

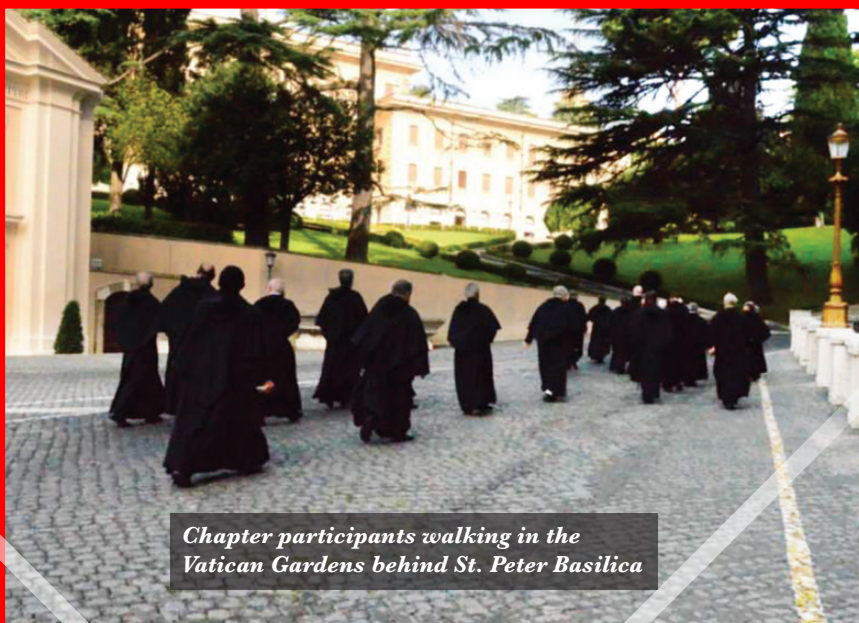




General Chapter

BY FATHER JOSEPH L. FARRELL, O.S.A.

Life of the Order



Chapter participants walking in the Vatican Gardens behind St. Peter Basilica

Augustinian Friars from around the world will be gathering at the General Curia and Collegio Santa Monica in Rome from September 1-18, 2019 to participate in our Ordinary General Chapter. According to our *Constitutions*, the General Chapter is: the chief event in the life of the Order; for it should offer witness to the Augustinian spirit and demonstrate clearly the unity of minds and hearts (*Const.* 408). The General Chapter is conducted every six years and provides an opportunity for the major superiors and delegates to gather for presentations, proposals, discussions and decisions which create the road-map on which the Order will travel for the following six years. Not only is the General Chapter an opportunity to elect leadership and make



As a way of holding ourselves accountable, the General Chapter offers the opportunity to review decisions and determinations that were made at the previous General and Intermediate Chapters. These accountability reports are an important aspect of the Chapters as they create a method of insuring continuity from one Chapter to the next.

The proposals that are presented and discussed are to help the Order as a whole to navigate our Augustinian mission into the future.

Proposals cover a variety of topics such as our common life, initial formation, prayer and liturgy, economy, vocation promotion,

decisions, but it is also an occasion to celebrate our international Augustinian presence, common life, and ministries.

Since our first General Chapter in 1244, these gatherings have mandated the participating friars to accept the responsibility to seek the common good of the Order in all proposals that are put forward and all decisions that are made. The major superiors and the elected delegates come together in fraternal communion to share in prayer and the Eucharist, meals, presentations, discussions, elections, proposals and decisions. There is also both formal and informal time dedicated to share and learn from each other about our new initiatives and ministry in the Order.

Both the Intermediate and the Ordinary General Chapters allow for the opportunity to review the direction of the Order and determine whether we are actually doing what we agreed to do at the previous Chapter.

Along with reviewing past decisions, the General Chapter provides the opportunity to look toward the future. While always keeping in mind the

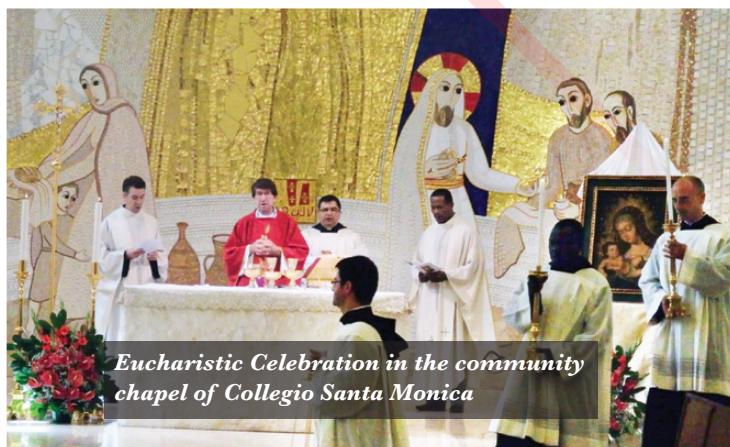
good of the Order, the Chapter participants can create a vision for how we, as Augustinians, continue our mission for the next six years and beyond.

structures, missions, parochial ministry, justice and peace, collaboration with our lay brothers and sisters, youth ministry, educational ministry, new initiatives, etc...

As we prepare for the upcoming General Chapter, we pray for the ability to listen well to what we are being asked by the Lord, the various circumscriptions, the Order, the Church and the world. We invite all of you to join us in prayer so that we may be open to the working of God's Spirit to inspire all of those preparing for the General Chapter 2019 and all who will participate in the days of meetings in Rome. ☩



Friars listening to translated presentations in the auditorium of the Augustinian Patristic Institute, Rome



Eucharistic Celebration in the community chapel of Collegio Santa Monica

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

Progresses Toward

While on earth, Jesus brought healing and hope to the poor while proclaiming God's love for all. Over the years, the Augustinians have continued that mission among the poor in Peru. In addition to providing spiritual nourishment, our friars have been instrumental in improving the plight of people living in extreme poverty by introducing modern methods of irrigation to grow crops, cooperatives to raise chickens and other animals, as well as to pool resources, and initiatives to improve health care and disease prevention. These efforts have improved the quality of life for many, but the cycle of poverty continues to exist.

Today, good education is recognized as a way of breaking that cycle. In recent years, the Augustinians have supported educational efforts among the poor they serve. For example, in the mountain village of Pacaipampa, the Augustinian parish established a free lunch program for students who come from the outlying areas to attend the only regional school, which is located in the town.

The original missionary efforts of the American friars were in the Diocese of Chulucanas, where they continue to serve the poor in several parishes along with the many native Augustinians who now form the Chulucanas



Vicariate. In 1988, the vicariate formation program for new friars moved to Trujillo, a city on the Pacific coast, where friars also minister in parishes and Fr. John Lydon, O.S.A., is the rector of the Catholic University of Trujillo. In 2013, the Vicariate opened its first school on the grounds of the parish they administered since they arrived in the city. As enrollment in the elementary grades grew, land was purchased in 2014 as a permanent site for a school which will eventually include grades 1-12.

After two years of obtaining government permissions, ground was broken to begin construction in January 2016, with the hope that the school would be ready for the expanding grades by

Completion

March 2017. The wall surrounding the site was completed and blessed in November 2016, but more permit delays and infrastructure problems have postponed completion of the project. Steady progress is now being made on the classroom buildings, with the hope of completion for December of this year and move-in early in 2020.

Colegio San Agustin, as the new school will be called, has been made possible through financial grants from the Augustinian provinces in North America and other benefactors. The Province of St. Thomas of Villanova has committed \$1 million from the Father Richard Appicci, O.S.A., Endowment Fund, which was established in honor of the Augustinian priest who devoted many years of his ministry to the Peruvian missions.

The hope is that the new school will provide the quality education for its students that will lead to opportunities to break the cycle of poverty that still entraps so many in Peru. ✠



Progress of construction, as of May 3, 2019



The Mayor of Trujillo presents the Medal of the City to Fr. John Lydon, O.S.A., as the band from the local Civil Defense Department plays in the background

In December 27, 2018, Fr. John Lydon, O.S.A., presided at a Liturgy of the Word for the closing of the year for the Civil Defense department of the city government of Trujillo, Peru. After the service, the Mayor of Trujillo presented Fr. Lydon with the Medal of the City Award recognizing his "contribution to the field of education and culture in the City of Trujillo and the State of La Libertad."

Since April 2016, Fr. Lydon has served as Rector of the Catholic University of Trujillo. He was one of two general coordinators for the visit of Pope Francis to Trujillo in January 2018, and he had the privilege of presenting to the pope a wood carving of the Virgin of the Door, the patroness of the State of La Libertad. He has served in Peru since 1983 as a parish priest, formation director, and regional superior of the Vicariate of Chulucanas. He has also been involved internationally in the Church in Latin America.

Servant of God

Bill and I



Danny Jackson

While the small miracles of countless acts of random kindness are part of Catholic Worker life, there is also the need to note how extraordinary some people are. That is because, from time to time, saintly women and men do appear in everyday places.

Those following the progress of Servant of God Father Bill Atkinson's (1944-2006) journey toward possible canonization sense the process will be long, slow and serious. They may recall a valiant quadriplegic priest who taught high school from a wheelchair near his hometown outside Philadelphia but there certainly was a lighter side to Bill. I remember him first as a boy my own age whose sense of humor, infectious smile and rock-like faith sustained him well for many years. In any of the places we lived together or met over the years, Bill's deep humanity seemed almost unchanged by circumstances. I remember him as an ordinary man with an extraordinary burden.

When I first learned of his possible canonization, I asked "Him, a saint?" Like others who knew him long ago, I balked and wondered. But if life is indeed a divine comedy, then I can see Bill being the drum major in God's parade. He will lead the festivities with that inimitable smile as the saints come rolling in.

We met in August of 1964 on Staten Island at a ten day run-up for a year in silence. Then it was off to Villanova for an Augustinian profession ceremony. There are photos of us standing with parents who were reluctantly forsaking us for the twelve months we'd spend in New

Hamburg, New York. Back then, it seemed appropriate to use a year in prayer, removed from the maddening crowd, from the news cycle, from money, from the many distractions that beset women and men and keep us from being focused on God alone.

We didn't talk much, that's for sure. At Matins, Lauds or Vespers, we met to meditate, to pray or sing in the chapel. Bill teased me about being first antiphonarian, the one who breaks the Great Silence overnight by starting our morning chants at 5 a.m. "They don't let you sing first, Bronx boy, because you're the youngest (he was a year older and I was seventeen) but because you have the worst voice."

At recreation we played ball. He was swift footed. He had good hands. I didn't know that his brother Al was then ending his college football days before starting a career as an all-pro linebacker for the New York Jets. But I did know that if I threw quick buttonhooks or lobbed long bombs to Bill during recreation, he'd catch most of my tosses.

I left the novitiate before the toboggan accident that shattered his spine. I always thought I would have been on that sled with him had I stayed. My brother Ray (Catholic Worker, December, 2017) was ordained an Augustinian that year. He kept me informed of Bill's slow medical progress and explained the papal dispensation that allowed Bill to return to the seminary prior to his eventual ordination years later.

When I met Bill occasionally over the years, we picked up exactly where we left off. He still called me "Deacon Dan." We both taught high school. If I'd visit him at his school, we'd talk shop a bit. Bill wasn't bookish. We both wrote poetry. But we enjoyed watching football or having a beer more than analyzing the adolescent crisis of faith.

With me, at least, he was never sentimental. He seemed patient, not judgmental. Augustinian. As hard as it is to say, he seemed touched by God in the way some friends have told me they perceived Dorothy Day to be.

And self-effacing too. Once, at his sister's place in Ocean City, New Jersey's fantastic beach gem, he introduced me to one of his nephews. "This is Dan," he told the teen. "He knew me when I could stand up and was able to kick a sorry butt like yours." We all laughed. Another time, we sat watching

"These guys should hire me," he announced, "because they need someone to pray for lost causes."

In the years since Bill's death, I've been back to where we spent time together. Now on the boardwalk in Ocean City at a pavilion on 21st Street there's a plaque telling his story to passersby. It ends with a quote from a book about him, *Green Bananas*. "I may not be able to touch your hands or heads. But my thoughts can reach your hearts."

And I've also been back several times recently to the property where we lived in that silence "which can communicate so much." As I walk the wind-swept hills overlooking the Hudson, my thoughts return to all I learned there in a short time. I resist being mawkish. I recall strict rules fondly. I remember how much I loved the place, how refreshing it was in contrast to the Bronx (though I loved it too).

Naturally, I think of Bill. Like TS. Eliot, I do not know much about the gods. But I suspect that fate sometimes moves in mysterious ways and that fortune puts heroes in special circumstances for reasons unknown to them.

Maybe Bill will someday be canonized. Maybe his life's witness ought to be brought to the attention of a world that's finding it harder these days to believe in a God who sometimes appears to be absent. Maybe it's time for us to have a good laugh with him during the Divine Comedy we call life. ✠



Fr. Bill Atkinson, with his parents Allen and Mary, after his reception as a novice at St. Mary's Hall, Villanova, in 1964

his beloved Eagles lose a close game in a particularly awful season. This annoyed Bill more than most since he coached football at his high school.



WISDOM OF THE AUGUSTINIAN TRADITION

Are you willing to sacrifice your personal good in order to achieve the common good?



Jerome Seripando was born in Troja, Apulia, Italy on May 6, 1493. He joined the Augustinian Order in one of its more observant congregations in 1507 and rose to become an able theologian, reformer and preacher.

He was elected Prior General of the Order in 1539, and held this position for 12 years, during which he undertook an extensive visitation of the friaries of the Order as a measure of extensive reform. He was later named Archbishop of Salerno, Cardinal, and Papal Legate and President of the Council of Trent. It was during the Council that he died at Trent on March 17, 1563 at the age of 59.

Excerpt

"The teaching on patience in tribulation could not be more clearly explained than Christ explained it when he was asked by the sons of Zebedee, his apostles, or by their mother, to grant them the first places in his kingdom. He replied by asking them whether they could drink the chalice he would have to drink. It is though he were saying: You must first reflect on whether desire for my kingdom is so much a part of you and has taken such a deep hold on you that you are ready to suffer and bear, patiently and freely, the adversities and torments of this world in order to win that kingdom."

Le prediche salernitanae,
Sermon 7, 161-162

Father Arthur Purcaro, O.S.A.

Contemplation

Sermon 7 of Girolamo Seripando, reflecting on Jesus' reply to the sons of Zebedee who had asked the Lord to grant them the first places in the Kingdom, offers advice on patience in tribulation. "Can you drink the chalice that I have to drink?" Jesús inquired.



A more contemporary translation of that question might be: are you willing to sacrifice your personal good in order to achieve the common good? The "common good" can provide a handle on understanding the Reign of God.

Collaborating with God in building up God's reign involves simple, ordinary gestures which give daily witness to our love and consideration for others over self-indulgence; for instance:

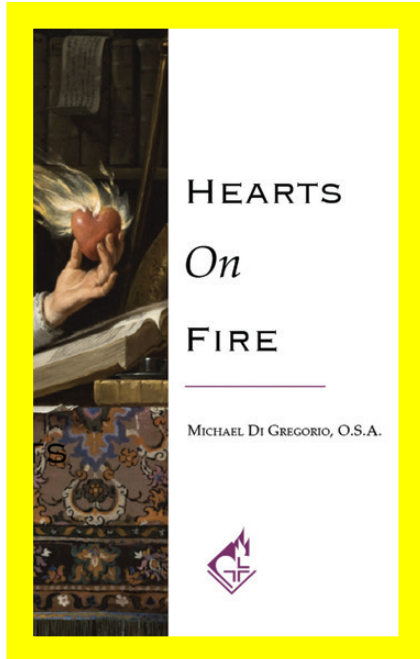
- Will you empty the dishwasher out of love and without complaint?
- Will you spend time looking for food items you know that others like?
- Will you leave sufficient detergent for the next person to wash his or her laundry?
- Will you wait up for someone coming in late on a rainy, foggy night?

These humble, unpretentious gestures testify to our willingness to empty ourselves – as Christ did – for the benefit of others. They serve to encourage us to grow in the Christian virtue of placing the common good before our own personal good in small, less significant matters so that when weighty matters arise, we will be prepared for greater sacrifice for the common good.

Just so in the case of Elias del Socorro Nieves, Augustinian martyr in Mexico during the civil war there. And, also, Servant of God John McKniff, O.S.A., an Augustinian friar who spent several decades serving during the dictatorship in Cuba, sharing his skimpy rationed food items, with others whom he felt needed them more than he.

In all this it is important to understand that it is not so much WHAT we do but WHY we do it: not in order to win God's love, which is already freely given, never merited nor deserved, but rather as an expression of gratitude for the unconditional and unlimited love showered upon us by our merciful and bountiful Creator. ✠

Around the



HEARTS ON FIRE by Fr. Michael Di Gregorio, O.S.A., Prior Provincial

Hearts On Fire is a collection of short biographical sketches of saintly men and women venerated by the Augustinians. The entries follow the general calendar of the Order in 307 pages and recount the lives of 94 Saints, Blesseds and Servants of God who practiced Augustinian Spirituality in the pursuit of holiness. This volume is a valuable companion for those who celebrate the Liturgy of the Hours according to the Augustinian calendar. The best sources available have been used to present profiles which are historically accurate, clear and up-to-date. \$15; to order go to: www.augustinian.org or email: communications@augustinian.org



Pictured from left to right back row: Fr. Joe Narog, O.S.A., Director of Vocations; Chesley Turner, Director of St. Rita's Shrine; Sr. Charlene Diorka, S.S.J.; Fr. Aldo Potencio, O.S.A.; Mr. Dennis Murphy; Mr. Michael Cunningham; Br. William Gabriel, O.S.A. Pictured front from left to right front row: Mrs. Nancy Costello; Sr. Ivette Diaz, R.S.M.

Update on Province Vocation Advisory Board

The Province's new Vocation Advisory Board, as mandated by the Provincial Chapter of 2018, has been formed and is now operational. Its eight members reflect a diversity of gender, age, ethnicity, and background, including representatives from the single, married, and religious states of life. At its inaugural gathering on January 31, 2019, the Board agreed to meet on a quarterly basis and affirmed its role in supporting the Province's Vocation Director and the Vocation Office. This support will cover reviewing existing initiatives and engaging in creative dialogue regarding the enhancement and development of future vocation promotion.

Province

A New Augustinian Community in South Philadelphia

On the evening of March 5, 2019, the eve of Ash Wednesday and the start of the Liturgical Season of Lent, a new initiative of the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova quietly commenced in South Philadelphia. Gathered in the recently refurbished rectory of Annunciation Parish at 10th and Dickinson Streets, eight friars gathered in prayer in the house chapel to celebrate Evening Prayer of the Church and to ask God's blessing on their community, gathered together for the first time under one roof. Our Lady of Good Counsel Friary was now a reality after many months of planning, meetings, reconstruction, and relocation. Five friars from St. Rita of Cascia Friary and two from St. Nicholas of Tolentine Friary had, over recent days, moved from their respective residences into their new common residence to begin a new chapter in the Order's long-standing presence and ministry in South Philadelphia. They were joined by the Prior Provincial who led them in prayer, in the blessing of their new home and in breaking bread together around a common table as they will continue to do from this point forward. From this friary, the seven members of the community will continue to serve the parishes of Annunciation and St. Nicholas of Tolentine under the pastoral leadership of Fr. Nick Martorano, O.S.A., as well as the Shrine of St. Rita of Cascia. Fr. Bob Guesetto, O.S.A., is the prior of the community and the other members are Fr. Bill Recchutti, O.S.A., Fr. Jim Spenard, O.S.A., Fr. Bob Terranova, O.S.A., Fr. Dan McLaughlin, O.S.A., and Fr. Juan Alberto Cardenas, O.S.A. The friars had chosen as patroness of the new community, Our Lady of Good Counsel, in commemoration of the first parish established by the Augustinians in South Philadelphia under this title in 1898.



A Walk Down South Broad Street

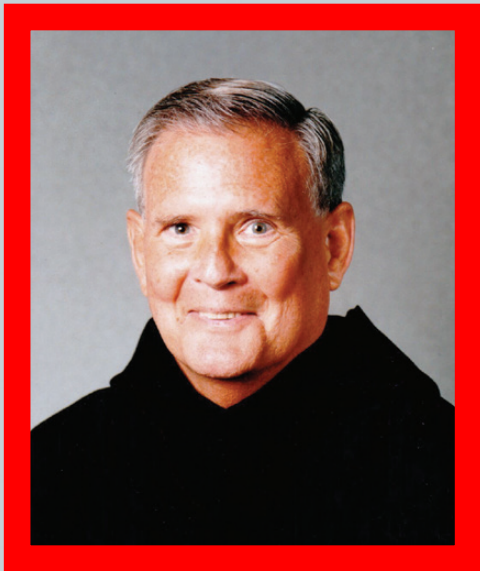
On June 1, the Augustinian Defenders of the Rights of the Poor (A.D.R.O.P.) and Methodist Hospital Foundation again cosponsored the 3rd Annual South Philly Family Health Walk + Expo in support of health education and care to underserved South Philadelphians. View event photos at: MethHospFdn.org/walk



Coming Soon! Province App

Connect to Augustinian spirituality and prayer from the convenience of your phone and tablet. Free download available soon for Android and Apple.

In Paradisum



George Patrick Magee , O.S.A.

December 22, 1940 - April 7, 2019

George Patrick Magee, O.S.A., was born in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, on December 22, 1940, the youngest of three children of James Cyril Magee and Catherine Louise Starkey. He was baptized at St. Coleman's Church, Ardmore, Pennsylvania. He attended St. Coleman's Elementary School and Wynnewood Road Elementary School and then Ardmore Junior High School. George began his high school education at Archbishop Prendergast High School for Boys, and when the new Monsignor Bonner High School opened, he continued his education there, graduating in 1958. In 1959, George became a post-graduate student at Augustinian Academy, Staten Island, New York. He entered Good Counsel Novitiate, New Hamburg, New York in 1959, professing simple vows on September 10, 1960. Following profession, George undertook philosophical studies at Villanova University and received his BA in 1964. On September 10th of that year he professed solemn vows. Following theological studies in Washington, DC, he received an MA from Catholic University in 1969. George was ordained

a priest on June 1, 1968 at St. Denis Church, Havertown, Pennsylvania by Bishop Joseph Mary Yuen, DD.

In 1968 Fr. Magee was assigned to Archbishop Carroll High School, Washington, DC. In 1973 he was transferred to St. Nicholas of Tolentine High School, Bronx, New York, where he was also sub-prior of the community. Subsequent assignments were to Mount Augustine Retreat House, Staten Island, New York, Assumption Parish, Mechanicville, New York, St. Laurence O'Toole Parish, Lawrence, Massachusetts, Resurrection of Our Lord Parish, Dania, Florida, Saint Rita Parish, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Our Mother of Good Counsel Parish, Hollywood, California. From June 1981 to June 1987, Fr. Magee was stationed at St. Thomas of Villanova Monastery, Villanova. Following a brief leave of absence, he was assigned in 1988 to Saint Joseph Friary at Msgr Bonner High School. In 1992 he returned to St. Thomas of Villanova Monastery, Villanova, where he remained until he was hospitalized shortly before his death.

Fr. Magee received an MS degree from Biscayne College in 1977 and an ScD from Northeastern College. As a certified addictions specialist, he held positions at various locations in both California, and Pennsylvania. He was also a criminal justice specialist at the Community Outreach Center, Philadelphia, and founded and directed a private practice at "The Fifth Station," in Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania.

Fr. Magee loved story-telling, studying genealogy and all things Italian, especially Italian cuisine. His listening skills drew many people to him and his attention toward those who struggled to find purpose in life was an important concern of his ministry.

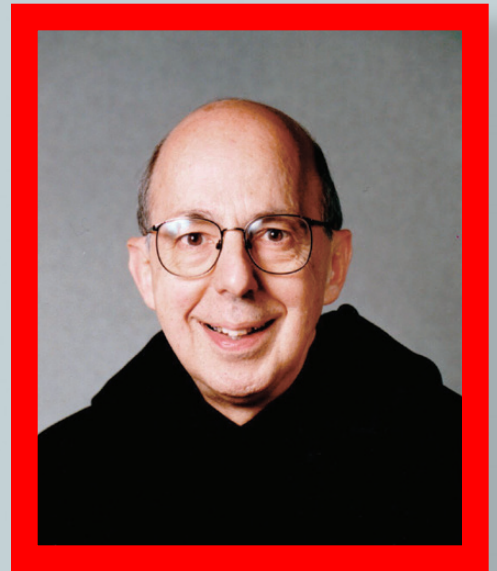
In March 2019, Fr. George was hospitalized for a brief time and then began rehabilitation. He suffered cardiac arrest on Sunday morning, April 7, 2019 and died in Einstein Montgomery Medical Center, East Norriton, PA. He is survived by his sister Joan Marie DiBernardino and her family.

Alfred J. Ellis, O.S.A.

December 8, 1933 - April 4, 2019

Alfred J. Ellis, O.S.A., was born on December 8, 1933, in Carthage, New York, the son of Toufee Ellis and Angèle Hobieche. He had three brothers, one of whom is Kail C. Ellis, O.S.A. of our Province, and two sisters. He was baptized in St. James the Minor Church, Carthage, New York, and his elementary and high school education was at the Augustinian Academy, Carthage. Al entered the Order as a novice in 1954 and after a year at Good Counsel Novitiate, New Hamburg, New York, he professed simple vows on September 10, 1955. He then went to Villanova University where he received a BA in Philosophy in 1959. He professed Solemn Vows on September 10, 1958. He pursued theological studies at Augustinian College, Washington, DC, and received an MA in Religious Education in 1963. He was ordained to the priesthood on February 9, 1963, at the St. James the Minor Parish, Carthage, by Bishop Stanislaus Brzana.

In September 1963, Fr. Al was assigned to St. Nicholas of Tolentine Parish, Jamaica, New York. From 1964 to 1968, he ministered at Immaculate Conception Parish, Hoosick Falls, New York. In August 1968 he was assigned to Holy Rosary Parish, Lawrence, Massachusetts and the following year to St. Mary Immaculate Parish, in the same city. In August 1971 he was appointed Director of Novices at Good Counsel Novitiate, New Hamburg, and afterwards from 1975 to 1979 served in his home parish of St. James the Minor Church, Carthage. From 1979 to 1985 he was assigned to St. Augustine Parish, Troy, New York, and the following year was a member of the formation team at Good Counsel Novitiate, Lawrence. When the novitiate was relocated to Racine, Wisconsin, in 1986, Fr. Al moved to Our Mother of Good Counsel Monastery, North Andover, Massachusetts. In 1988 he was assigned to Assumption/St. Paul Parish, Mechanicville, New York, where he served until 1991 and then at Immaculate Conception Parish, Hoosick Falls, New York. From here he was




assigned to St. Augustine Parish, Andover, Massachusetts beginning in 1993.

Fr. Al volunteered for ministry in the Province's foreign missions in Botha Hill, South Africa in 2005 and remained there until 2008. He returned to the United States and served once again at St. Augustine Parish, Troy, New York. On December 14, 2011, he retired to St. Thomas of Villanova Monastery, Villanova, Pennsylvania.

Fr. Al Ellis was a gentle man who often displayed a playful spirit in the company of his fellow friars. He was precise, orderly, prayerful and responsible in all of his duties and in his retirement years in the Villanova Monastery enjoyed the companionship of his religious brothers and the attentiveness of the nursing staff. He passed away on Thursday evening, April 4, 2019. He was 85 years old and was a professed member of the Order for 63 years and a priest for 56 years.

Brian S. Lowery, O.S.A.

October 24, 1941 - February 23, 2019

 In February 23, 2019 Fr. Brian Lowery, O.S.A. after an extended stay in the Clinic Villa del Rosario, Rome, suffered heart failure and passed over to the Lord.

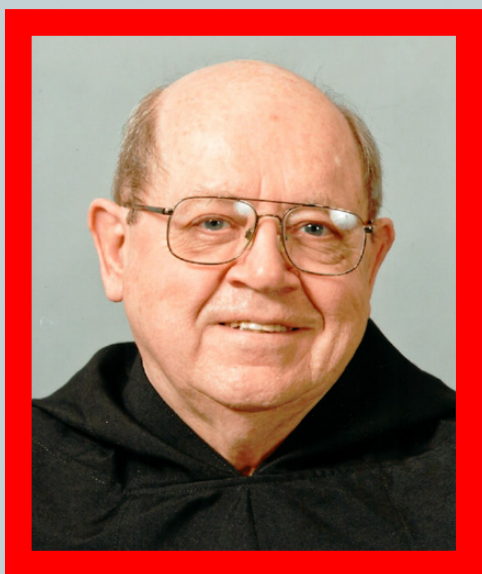
Brian Sylvester Lowery, O.S.A. was born on October 24, 1941, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the son of Sylvester J. Lowery and Patricia Galen. He was baptized on November 30, 1941, at St. Athanasius Church, Philadelphia and attended Melrose Academy, Melrose Park, Pennsylvania from 1946 to 1949, and Waldron Academy, Merion, Pennsylvania from 1949 until 1955. He then attended Malvern Preparatory School from which he graduated in 1959. After one year of studies at the University of Pennsylvania, he was received as a novice on September 9, 1960 and following his year at Good Counsel Novitiate, New Hamburg, New York, he professed simple vows on September 10, 1961. He then began studies at Villanova University and received a BA degree in Philosophy in 1964, after which he pursued theological studies at the Augustinian Patristic Institute, Rome, and received an STL in 1968. He had professed solemn vows on September 10, 1964 in Rome and was ordained to the priesthood in the chapel of the Collegio Santa Monica, Rome, on December 16, 1967 by Amleto Cardinal Cicognani. Following ordination, he continued graduate studies in Rome at the Pontifical Oriental Institute from 1968 until 1972.

In 1972, Fr. Brian returned to the United States and was assigned to Our Mother of Good Counsel Monastery and taught at Merrimack College, North Andover, Massachusetts, until 1974. He then was appointed Director of Formation at Augustinian College, Washington, DC. In 1979, he returned to Rome as prior of the Collegio Santa Monica. During his term of office, he oversaw the



renovation of the Collegio, defended his dissertation and was awarded an STD by the Gregorian University in 1985. In 1987, he returned to the United States and to Merrimack College where he was engaged in campus ministry. During the General Chapter of 1989, he was elected Assistant General and took up residence in the Augustinian General Curia, Rome, until the completion of his term in 1995.

In 1995, Fr. Brian was instrumental in the conversion of the friary of Sant'Agostino in San Gimignano, Italy, into a house of hospitality and retreat. He was to remain there for the rest of his life, welcoming friars and lay men and women for periods of rest, recollection and renewal. Other friars joined him in this ministry from various circumscriptions of the Order. Fr. Brian was also heavily engaged in preaching retreats on Augustinian themes, particularly on the Confessions of St. Augustine.



Walter James Quinn, O.S.A.

August 8, 1930 - January 15, 2019

Walter James Quinn, O.S.A. was born on August 8, 1930, in Lansdowne, Pennsylvania, one of two sons and a daughter of Walter J. Quinn and Anna Haas. He was baptized at St. Charles Borromeo Church, Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania, on August 17, 1930, and attended St. Charles Parish School and St. Andrew Parish School, both in Drexel Hill. He entered West Catholic High School, Philadelphia, and later the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, where he obtained a BS in Economics. With the completion of studies, he served in the United States Army from 1952 to 1954, during the Korean War. Upon being discharged from the service, he worked as a salesman in the Pennsylvania-New Jersey-Delaware area before entering the Order as a novice on September 9, 1955. He spent his novitiate year at Good Counsel Novitiate, New Hamburg, New York, and professed simple vows on September 10, 1956. Walter then attended Villanova University for Philosophical studies and, in 1958, moved to Augustinian College, Washington, DC, where he obtained an MA in Religious Education. He also pursued Graduate Studies in International Law at the Catholic

University of America. He professed Solemn Vows on September 10, 1959, and was ordained to the priesthood on June 3, 1961, at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, DC, by Bishop Philip Hannan.

Fr. Quinn's first assignment was to St. John Sahagun Friary, Washington, DC. From 1963 to 1999, Fr. Quinn served in parochial ministry throughout the Province, as an associate pastor at Our Mother of Consolation Parish, Chestnut Hill, Pennsylvania from 1963 to 1968; St. Genevieve Parish, Flourtown, Pennsylvania from 1968 to 1975; St. Nicholas of Tolentine Parish, Bronx, New York, for the year 1977-1978; St. Thomas of Villanova Parish, Rosemont, Pennsylvania from 1979 to 1982; Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, Staten Island, New York, 1982 until 1985; and St. Nicholas of Tolentine Parish, Atlantic City, New Jersey, from 1985 until 1990. Twice during his years in parochial ministry, Fr. Quinn served as pastor: first as Immaculate Conception Parish, Hoosick Falls, New York, from 1975 until 1977; and from 1990 until 1997 at St. Augustine Parish, Philadelphia. In that latter year he volunteered to assist the Canadian Province and was stationed at St. Augustine Monastery, in the town of Monastery, Nova Scotia. He then returned to Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, Staten Island, for one year as associate pastor.

Beginning in 1999, Fr. Quinn was assigned to St. Thomas Monastery, Villanova, and began full-time work with Priests for Life. In this ministry he traveled throughout the United States visiting Catholic and Protestant grade schools, high schools, colleges, church groups, chanceries, and parishes promoting and defending all life issues.

In his years at St. Thomas Monastery, Fr. Quinn found great pleasure in the hobby of painting, through which he exercised a long-hidden talent and added to the collection of Augustinian artists whose works adorn the monastery corridor walls.

Fr. Quinn passed away on January 15, 2019 at Villa St. Joseph, Flourtown, where he was undergoing rehabilitation following surgery. He was 88 years of age and was a professed member of the Order for 62 years, a priest for 57 years. ☩

Grateful for Our Blessings

BY MADONNA SUTTER

Join the Movement



Madonna Sutter
Director of Advancement

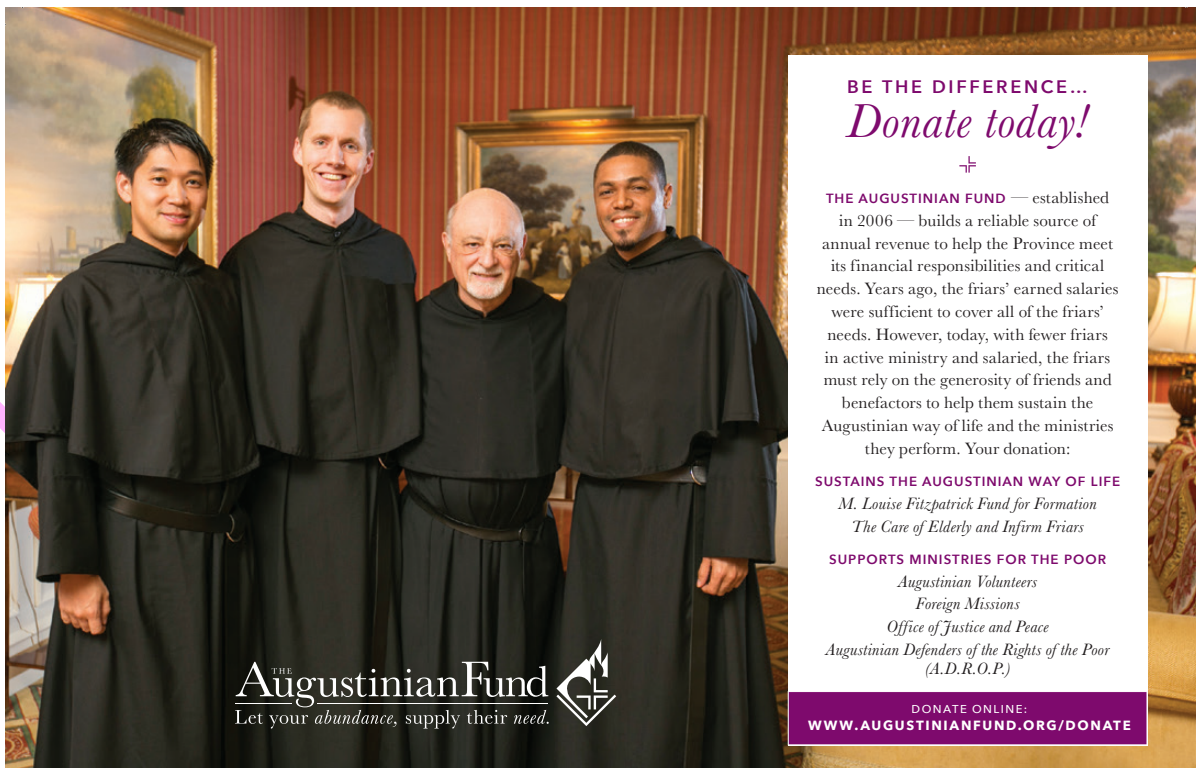
If you are affiliated with one of our schools, belong to an Augustinian parish or participate in an Augustinian lay group, you experience the Augustinian charism directly. Perhaps there used to be an Augustinian presence in your region but there no longer is. Perhaps it is you who have moved! Our friends and supporters are found in all parts of the U.S. and internationally. How can we stay connected in significant ways from a distance?

We have begun an outreach effort in areas where the Augustinians once were strong but no longer have a physical presence such as Southwest Florida, Staten Island and the Maryland/Washington, DC region.

A very simple way to stay connected to us is to read our magazine and receive our bi-monthly eNews. Maintain your relationships with those Augustinian Friars who have impacted your lives. Stay connected spiritually by praying for the friars as they seek to serve the Church and minister to the poor and be assured of their prayers for you. Reference the beautiful Augustinian prayer card inserted on page 11 and pray daily in the Augustinian tradition. Lastly, consider supporting the friars' lives and their ministries with an annual donation to the Augustinian Fund.

The Province is exploring innovative and technological ways to engage with you that will keep you connected to our friars and the Augustinian Charism. Please share with me ways in which the Augustinians can have a meaningful presence in your lives.

madonna.sutter@augustinian.org
610.527.3330, ext. 265



BE THE DIFFERENCE...
Donate today!


✠

THE AUGUSTINIAN FUND — established in 2006 — builds a reliable source of annual revenue to help the Province meet its financial responsibilities and critical needs. Years ago, the friars' earned salaries were sufficient to cover all of the friars' needs. However, today, with fewer friars in active ministry and salaried, the friars must rely on the generosity of friends and benefactors to help them sustain the Augustinian way of life and the ministries they perform. Your donation:

SUSTAINS THE AUGUSTINIAN WAY OF LIFE
M. Louise Fitzpatrick Fund for Formation
The Care of Elderly and Infirm Friars

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Augustinian Volunteers
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Let your abundance, supply their need.

My Augustinian Experience

By Steven Molinari

Giving is a personal matter and unique to each family. I'd like to share why we chose to support the Augustinians.

I grew up in an Augustinian Parish, Our Lady of Good Counsel (OLGC), in Staten Island, New York. As part of an OLGC teen group, I was greatly influenced by the Augustinians. These experiences helped me to form my faith through a unique Augustinian lens. The foundations of my faith are deeply rooted in the relationships I formed with those I served and the friars. The welcoming hospitality of the Augustinians has given meaning and direction to our lives.

There are many examples of how I have experienced Augustinian hospitality in my life. The most meaningful is how my wife, Francesca, although not a Catholic, was welcomed by the Augustinians, first as my fiancé who had only been baptized, then as a Godmother to our niece Emily, later reintroducing her to faith through marriage, and years later, through First Communion and Confirmation. While a different and longer road than mine, her own path allowed her faith to grow and blossom in its own time, and she was made to feel welcome and supported at each point in the journey.

Why do we support the mission of the Augustinian Province of St. Thomas of Villanova? We believe that the world would benefit from more Augustinians. We are better people for knowing them and admire how communities benefit from their faith and actions. The reality is that the Augustinians are shrinking in

number. OLGC, a parish so important to our family, is unfortunately no longer served by the Augustinians.

When we had the opportunity to share our good fortune, we pondered what organizations, charities, and people had helped us achieve our success, and the Augustinians were on the top of the list. When we inquired how we could help, it was suggested that we sponsor an Augustinian in formation. That's when we met Brother Jeremy Hiers, O.S.A., a young friar who is carrying on the Augustinian values and tradition that have inspired us throughout our lives. He embodies the Augustinian mission, and we feel so fortunate to support his education and training.

We are truly grateful for the blessings in our lives and our ability to support the Augustinians. We pray our gift will help continue to grow the mission of the Augustinians. We hope that you will consider supporting the friars in their important work, we are certainly glad that we have. ✠



The Molinari Family (l-r) Steven, Isabelle and Francesca



A Note from Br. Jeremy Hiers, O.S.A.

I was blessed to meet the Molinari Family in December 2018. I discovered a family that lived the Augustinian charisms of community and hospitality by the way they warmly welcomed me into their home. I was struck by the many Augustinian values we share in living out our faith. It is a blessing to know that my vocational journey has been supported by a family that provides such a powerful testimony to our Augustinian way of life.

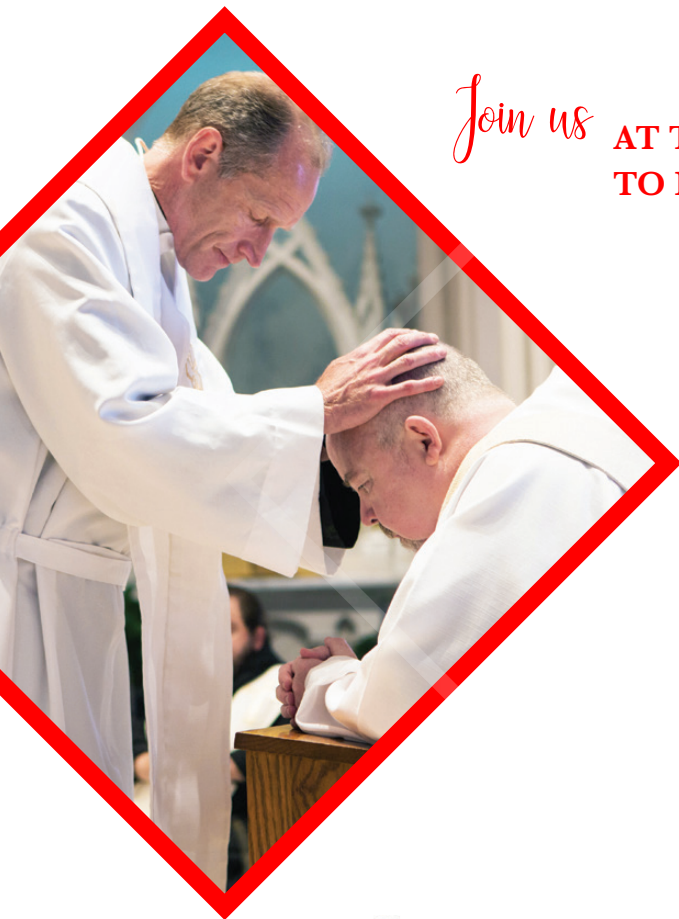
the
Augustinians

Province of St. Thomas of Villanova

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