

# AUGUSTINIAN

*Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova*

Looking Through  
the Lens of Hope.





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28



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Deacon Bill Gabriel, O.S.A.





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

Father Peter M. Donohue, O.S.A.,  
President of Villanova University

INVITE YOU TO THE

*Inauguration of the  
Fr. George F. Riley, O.S.A.  
Fund for Augustinian HealthCare*



**Saturday, October 23, 2021  
Villanova University  
800 E. Lancaster Avenue  
Villanova, Pennsylvania**

For more information, please visit: [AugustinianFund.org/father-riley](http://AugustinianFund.org/father-riley)

Questions, contact Madonna Sutter, Director of Advancement at  
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*Publication of the Province of  
Saint Thomas of Villanova*

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## *Dear Friends.*

Even though we have turned the final page of our 2020 calendars and have welcomed a new year, much about us may seem to have remained the same – not at all surprising for those of us who have been turning pages for quite some time! There is a continuity in life that has little to do with the particular circumstances that surround us just now and have accompanied us for the past twelve months. The limitations of COVID-19 remain, people continue to suffer its effects, the number of casualties climbs, but life is not the same. We have turned a corner with the appearance of vaccines, such that the road to a radical transformation of the status quo has clearly opened before us. We should be encouraged by progress made, even as we continue to endure the lingering effects of challenges encountered and sorrows endured!

The current issue of our magazine seeks to strike a balance precisely between these two realities!

You will read of six of our brothers whose passing we mourn but whose lives and whose works we celebrate, such that it would be inaccurate and incomplete to think of them only in the past tense, for they form now a part of our living history. And this history continues to unfold in new and inviting ways through other men and women, laity and friars, who keep alive and extend the Augustinian legacy, here and abroad, in longstanding ministries and in ever-evolving new ventures. We move forward with conviction and confidence, buoyed by zeal and insight, in a healthful and helpful understanding of possibilities and promises before us, grateful for faithful and supportive companions.

May we recognize our blessings and use them well! ✠

Sincerely,

Fr. Michael



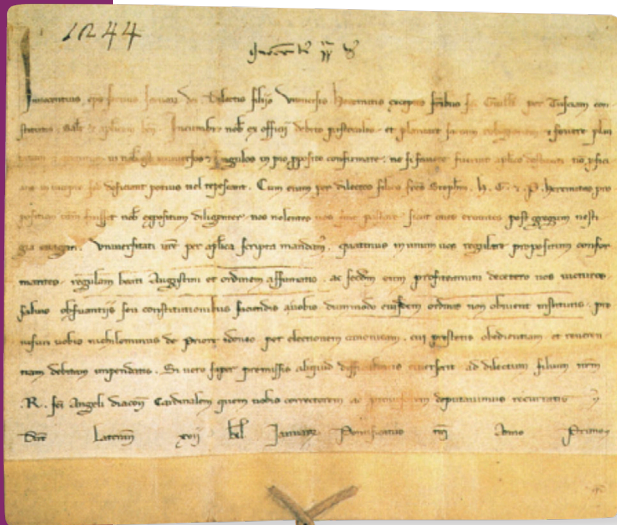


# Our Augustinian Legacy

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

This present year, 2021, we observe the 225th anniversary of Augustinian presence in the United States. We date the beginning of the Order's establishment in this country from the arrival in Philadelphia of Fr. Matthew Carr in April 1796. Though not the first

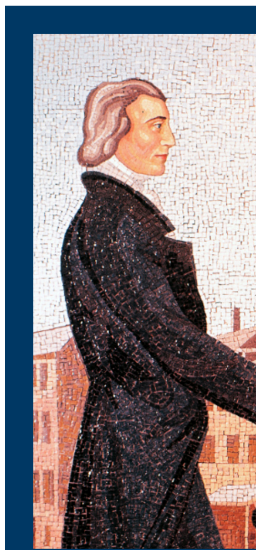
Augustinian to disembark on American soil, he is the friar who, just months after his arrival, received the explicit mandate to establish the Order of St. Augustine here, together with his appointment by the General Curia in Rome as vicar general of the new Province of Our Lady of Good Counsel, as it was then named. Over the course of two plus centuries, the fledgling province slowly came to flower, resulting in the present configuration of three provinces and two overseas mission territories with a combined current total of more than 200 friars. While this number does not reflect the highpoint in United States membership, it is a sign, nonetheless, of the Order's vibrancy and stability through the highs and lows of the nation's development and the Church's growth.



1244, Augustinian  
Founding document

From its' foundation in 1244, the Order of St. Augustine understood its role in the Church as evangelization in the broadest sense. We had been charged to take up the work of proclaiming the Gospel in the emerging cities and towns of a rapidly changing European society. Our friars formed part of the Mendicant Movement, a new expression of religious life at the time, characterized by mobility of its members in contrast to the stability promised by monastic communities; individual – and initially – corporate poverty; engagement with, and availability to the masses; a familiar and popular style of

preaching attuned to the needs and competencies of ordinary people. To carry out this mission, the friars quickly viewed their own preparation as being of utmost importance and attached themselves to universities in the various countries where their membership was quickly expanding. Not surprisingly, the focus of the friars' service was centered on both pastoral ministry and the field of education.







*Augustinian Sisters of Saint Rita*

The heart of labor for the friars in the United States followed this same course. Our first foundation, initiated just months after Fr. Carr's arrival, was a parish church, that of St. Augustine, at 4th and Vine in Philadelphia. The second was a farm, destined to become St. Thomas of Villanova College, now Villanova University. From these two bases, scores of parishes and schools were instituted, extending the name and charism of the Augustinians across the length and breadth of this country. Well over 1,000 individuals have worn the Augustinian habit and passed on the legacy which they themselves had received from an earlier generation of friars. This unbroken chain of religious life and ministry, inspired

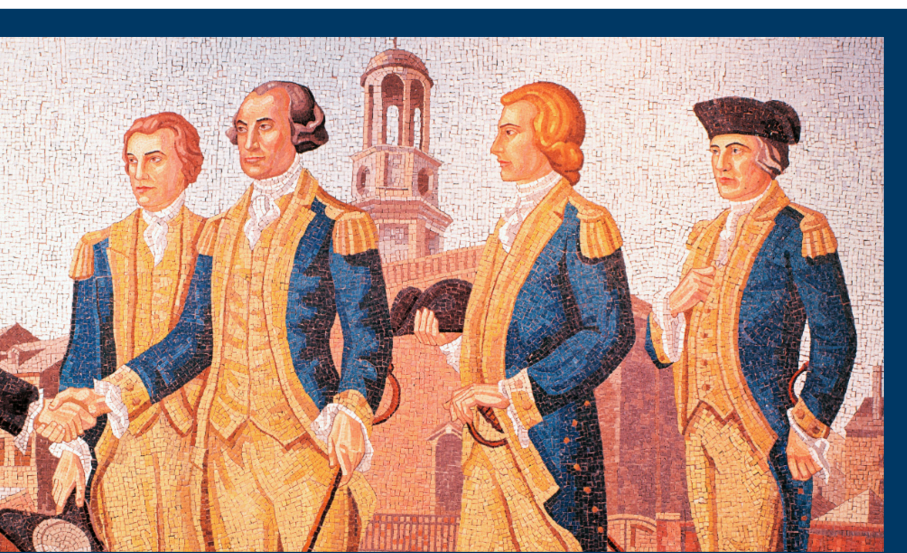
by the spiritual vision and practical guidance of St. Augustine whose *Rule* of life our earliest predecessors made their own, continues to offer a viable option for individuals drawn to follow Christ wholeheartedly and ministerially.

Elsewhere in this magazine, we speak of the comings and goings of a number of brothers who have responded to God's call in our religious family. The past year has seen us mourning an unusually high number of our friars – eight in all – and two others at the turn of the new year. Their journey in our company has ended, and the kingdom which they preached and taught and celebrated in diverse ways is now their inheritance. The gift of their

lives, their companionship with us and their service to the Church, has entered into the long and proud annals of our Order's history in this country, and their memory remains alive.

In the natural course of what we so commonly call the cycle of life, we have also welcomed the arrival of new members to walk with us, making possible the continuation of a legacy that remains both valid and attractive. We have celebrated the taking of vows and the commitment to ministry on the part of several of our more recent arrivals. We are encouraged by the gift of their lives which will form new chapters in our ongoing story for as long as it continues to be written.

*1796, Fr. Matthew Carr greeting President George Washington*



But these friars, past and present, do not alone tell the whole story of the Augustinians in the United States. There are other chapters of our story that speak of Augustinian women religious, some cloistered-contemplative, such as the Augustinian Nuns of New Lenox, IL; and others active, such as the Augustinian Sisters of St. Rita of Racine, WI, and the Augustinian Sisters of St. Thomas of Villanova of Norwalk, CT;

*– continued on next page*



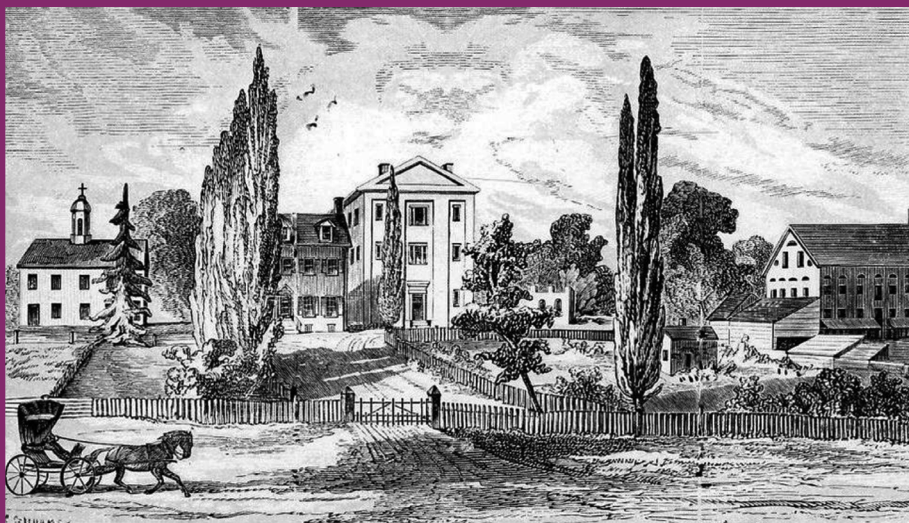
Augustinian seculars, both men and women, married and single, often affiliated with a community of friars or one of our ministries; and other groups such as Augustinian Friends or Augustinian Companions, associated with the friars intentionally and spiritually. Lastly, there are Augustinian Affiliates, individuals who have been invited into our family as parents of friars, or as friends and supporters of us and our works. Of such non-friar Augustinians, more will be written in an upcoming article. But for now, it is important to say that all of these, taken together, present a more complete and robust account of what Augustinian life is, has been and, God willing, will continue to be for many years to come, in these United States. ✠



“  
*Nobody can truly be  
known except through  
friendship.*  
”

– Saint Augustine

1849, Villanova College





# Saturday, April 24, 2021

## 24 Hours of Giving

BY MADONNA SUTTER, DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT



### Tolle Lege Day

*One Mind, One Heart.*



Our first-ever Augustinian Giving Day was canceled last year due to the pandemic. Our inaugural giving day – Tolle Lege Day – will take place on the Feast of the Conversion of St. Augustine, on Saturday, April 24, 2021. This is a day for our Augustinian community to come together as one to support the Augustinian mission and charism. If you are an alumnus/a of Villanova University, Merrimack College, St. Augustine Prep or Malvern Prep; a parishioner of an Augustinian parish, a friend or relative of an Augustinian, an Affiliate or connected to the friars in any other way, your participation in this 24-hour giving extravaganza is key to its success! Tolle Lege Day will not be complete without you!



*Villanova basketball fans catch up with Head Coach Jay Wright*

## TOLLE LEGE DAY AMBASSADORS

We need your help to serve as a Tolle Lege Day Ambassador. Simply share Tolle Lege Day messaging with friends and family on April 24th to help us spread the word through social media and email. We will provide you with everything you need to make your task effortless. Please consider serving as an Ambassador by visiting: [AugustinianFund.org/ambassadors](https://AugustinianFund.org/ambassadors). We need your help!

## CHALLENGE GIFT

Consider a Tolle Lege Day challenge gift to create excitement and inspire others to give. These gifts will be “unlocked” as we reach certain milestones for donor participation. To learn more about how your challenge gift can make an impact, please visit, [AugustinianFund.org/challenge-gift](https://AugustinianFund.org/challenge-gift).



*The family of Fr. Joseph L. Farrell, O.S.A. shares time together at a past event held at the Overbrook Golf Club, Villanova, PA*



*Deacon Bill Gabriel, O.S.A. poses with his family at a Merrimack Valley gathering*

*For more information to serve as an Ambassador or make a challenge gift, please contact Madonna Sutter, Director of Advancement, at [madonna.sutter@augustinian.org](mailto:madonna.sutter@augustinian.org) or 267.272.3048.*

[TolleLegeDay.AugustinianFund.org](https://TolleLegeDay.AugustinianFund.org)  
#TolleLegeDay  
#OneMindOneHeart





# WISDOM OF THE AUGUSTINIAN TRADITION

## Caring for Democracy *Discovering the Better Angels of our Nature*

BY FATHER JOHN SHEA, O.S.A.

We live in two converging crises. Civility and mutual respect have fallen away in our politics and public discourse. We are a bifurcated people, dehumanized, angry, and adrift. Even our trusted institutions lack the power to hold us together. Now an unchecked viral pandemic infects millions of us with thousands dying each day. Authorities tell us we should wear a mask, social distance, wash our hands, and do our part to control this carnage. But the question is: "Are we responsible for the lives and the health of others, even those we do not trust, care about, or know?" Is the meaning of being fully human missing? Is it really "us vs. them," or is it simply us?



# Sharing the Augustinian Legacy Today

From the time of the Enlightenment, we have inherited an “individual self,” a stand-alone, particle self usually described in some combination of freedom, rationality, and autonomy – notions thought adequate in capturing our humanness.

Yet, in the last few decades, as a reaction to this inheritance, many feminist thinkers have proposed a “relational self,” one of mutuality, care, and empathy.

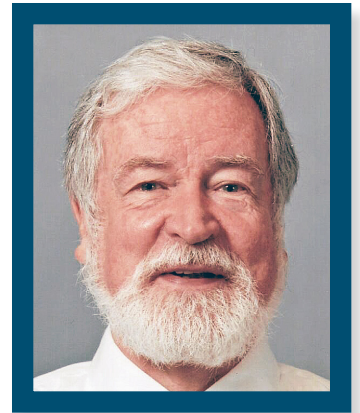
Stereotypically, the individual self is a masculine, “I-am” construct of agency, objective thinking, and control of the other.

The relational self is a feminine, “we-are” construct of developing connection that speaks to the self and the other growing together, allowing for the emergence of community, the common good, and environmental consciousness.

Individuality and relatedness must come together for any holistic understanding of the human. One way to see this coming together is to consider integrity and mutuality together. Integrity (owning all of our pieces) and mutuality (relating to the other as the other is) work together and only evolve hand-in-hand. Our integrity makes possible and fosters our mutuality, and our mutuality makes possible and fosters our integrity. Paulo Freire, touches on this when he says: “No one can be authentically human while he prevents others from being so.”[1]

The structure of a fully human and moral self is a three-in-one: A self that is integral and mutual –

taken together – begets a self that acts in care and justice. Being caring and acting justly – taken together – begets a self that is loving and peaceful. Love and peace – taken together – is the epitome of the human. It is the self most authentic, most revered, most powerful. It is also the self actively opposing the hatred and violence we find in the world as well as in ourselves.



*Fr. John Shea, O.S.A.*

Empathy – self-empathy and empathy for the other – brings these relational binaries to life. It animates integrity and mutuality. It lets care (attending to the needs of self and other) and justice (respect, fairness and equity in this attending) work together. It shines through in love (nurturing the wholeness of self and other) and peace (an at-oneness within and without). Empathy is the foundation of the human. It feels the different pieces of self and other just as they are. All of us rely on empathy, especially in serious times, because it captures the inner of who we are. It is crucial in making authentic dialogue and mutual understanding possible.

Empathy, dialogue, and understanding are the lifeblood of our democracy. Care and justice are its sine qua non. All of us have needs. All of us are worthy of respect. All of us require fairness. All of us are equal. All of us are responsible for the health and life of all the others. There is no “us vs. them.” There is only us. The politics of division is an oxymoron, a cynical ideology that turns democracy into an obscenity. If hatred and violence are omnipresent in the world and in us, our task is to recognize, name, and confront them. The response to hatred and violence, however, cannot be in kind. A way forward for us as a country lies in integrity and mutuality, care and justice, love and peace – what Abraham Lincoln may have been suggesting in 1861 when he invoked “the better angels of our nature.”[2] ✠

[1] Paulo Freire, *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*, 30th Anniversary Edition (New York: Continuum, 2009), 85.

[2] First Inaugural Address of Abraham Lincoln, March 4, 1861.



# Give More. Become More.

## Augustinian Volunteers

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



*(l-r) Madi Jones, Carolyn Dreyer, and Ryan Henderson*

## Apply today:

AugustinianVolunteers.org

### Connect with Us!

email: [info@augustinianvolunteers.org](mailto:info@augustinianvolunteers.org)

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

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

## Breaking Bread, Mending Spirits

By RYAN HENDERSON (SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY)

NOVEMBER 4, 2020 BLOG

A tenet of Augustinian spirituality is sharing meals in fellowship. As soon as we arrived, my community adopted this rhythm and it's now one of my favorites. Every night, we begin dinner by sharing our daily "highs and lows" (or "sunshine and rain clouds," "flowers and weeds" etc.). This almost always takes us a while to get through, since we all come from different placements with populations ranging in age and likelihood to cause mischief. We'll usually spend another hour or two talking about what it's like to work inside systems (e.g., education and healthcare) that both treat and perpetuate systemic issues.

As we've gotten closer to the election, my community's gotten real about what the results could mean for our service populations and, importantly, for us. As two white women and one black man, we have each witnessed and experienced oppression from racist policymakers and other bad actors.

Dialoguing about these experiences has been essential to preserving my mental health. Without Madi and Carolyn, I may not have had access to endlessly-patient, supportive roommates who make me feel heard. Coming from a summer of unprecedented exposure of violence against people of color and the ensuing failures of the authorities to address these murders, I needed a strong support system to continue to be productive and feel safe.

As I begin to consider what life will look like after my AV year (surprisingly, we're almost a third of the way through!) I know that I need to prioritize finding spaces like our dinners to rest in. Dialogues such as these are one of the places I find God in this life - God's presence manifests in the comfort and challenge of dinner-time. Madi and Carolyn hear me out on my struggles and worries while bringing their own experiences in. Through this process, God opens all of our hearts.

I am beyond grateful that I was matched with Madi and Carolyn through the AV program. It still seems illogical that I live with two people who are so ready to be vulnerable. I don't know if I would have found such excellent dialogue partners elsewhere; I don't know anywhere else I would have met such godly friends. **Black lives matter.**





# *the* National Shrine of St. Rita of Cascia

Augustinian Province of St. Thomas of Villanova

Entrust your prayers to Saint Rita  
of Cascia, one of our beloved  
Augustinian Saints, known  
for helping those in need.

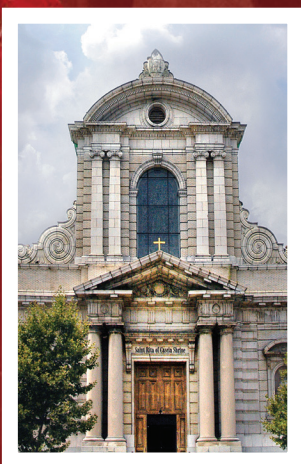
*Join Us*

## Solemn Novena

Thursday, May 13, 2021  
through Friday, May 21, 2021

## Solemn Feast Day

Saturday, May 22, 2021



### VISIT THE SHRINE

1166 S. BROAD ST.

PHILADELPHIA, PA

OFFICE: 215.546.8333

GIFT SHOP: 215.546.8335

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

### Mass

8:00 a.m.

10:00 a.m.

12:00 p.m.

3:00 p.m.

5:00 p.m.

7:30 p.m.

### Confession

9:00 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

2:00 p.m.

4:00 p.m.

6:45 p.m.

### Connect with Us!

email: [admin@SaintRitaShrine.org](mailto:admin@SaintRitaShrine.org)

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

instagram: [@saintritashrine](https://www.instagram.com/saintritashrine)





# Journey WITH Others

BY BROTHER JEREMY HIERS, O.S.A.

*“With good friends, bitter trials  
are lessened, heavy burdens are  
lightened, and obstacles are met  
and overcome.”*

– Saint Augustine



# Daily Online Augustinian Faith Sharing

It is not every day you get to meet someone new who also happens to share something which inspires you. Yet, that is exactly what happens every night on *Journey With Others*, a new daily online faith sharing forum created to respond directly to our need for community in this time of social distancing.

Every Sunday - Thursday evening from 8pm - 10pm EST/ 7pm - 9pm CST the Augustinians host a zoom session for those looking to connect with other people of faith.

All are welcome at [AugustinianSpirituality.org/journey](https://AugustinianSpirituality.org/journey). Participants take turns sharing stories, favorite bible verses, songs, art work, poetry, prayers, quotes, prayer requests and jokes among other sources of conversation and inspiration. Participants are also welcomed to just listen into the conversation. We also invite people to come and go at their convenience. Many will sign on for the entire two hours while others may sign in for only a short period of time in-between their evening activities. Some will sign in every night; others sign in once or twice a week.

Providing such a flexible structure is intended to create a safe and welcoming space that is made consistently available for all those looking for inspiration and connection during this time. We want it to be a space that is flexible and hospitable enough so that even if individuals are only able to sign on occasionally, if they find they have the kind of day where they could use a little inspiration, laughter, or positive conversation or they want to share a prayer request with people who will commit to pray for them, they know the space is there to do so. We hope to make it even more accessible by expanding the number of hours it is available each day as more volunteer moderators become available.

The original idea for *Journey With Others* came to my mind in March 2020 shortly after it was announced that in-person attendance at some events would be temporarily suspended. As I spoke with parishioners via phone and other online activities during the quarantine, I heard three consistent messages: the faithful miss going to Mass; the faithful miss the friendship they shared in bible studies, prayer groups, and other parish activities; and the faithful want to connect with other people of faith to process the events going on in our world.



**Br. Jeremy Hiers, O.S.A.**

This led me to discern how our Augustinian charism of community might invite us to reflect on new ways of creating community in a time when many are experiencing isolation and loneliness. While many parishes are now live-streaming Masses, *Journey With Others* provides another additional space for fellowship and faith sharing as we all continue the journey through this difficult time together.

St. Augustine wrote that with good friends, bitter trials are lessened, heavy burdens are lightened, and obstacles are met and overcome (*Letter 130, 2.4*). This has certainly been true for me over the past several months as I have journeyed with those who have signed onto our nightly sessions, and I believe the other participants would say the same. We look forward to continuing this ministry of friendship and community into the foreseeable future as we journey together with hope through the new year, hopefully meeting some new people along the way! ✠

## ***Journey With Others***

To connect with us or to learn more please visit: [AugustinianSpirituality.org/journey](https://AugustinianSpirituality.org/journey)





# Mind Body

BY FATHER DAVID CREGAN, O.S.A.



*Fr. David Cregan, O.S.A.*

In the Augustinian tradition self-awareness is key to understanding God. It is our consciousness of who we are that opens us to understand the plan of our Creator. Paying attention to body and mind raises our awareness of who we are and, consequently, who we are called to become. It is the combination of mind, body, and soul that reveals the fullness of our humanity, the gift of life from God. Anything less is only partial self-awareness.

The Holy Spirit is the flame that awakens our own soul, teaching us the wisdom of God, creating in us a restlessness within that is only satisfied by experience of God. The Holy Spirit is God active in our lives always waiting to heal, transform and inspire us, and ever-expanding our understanding and our intuition of that which is spiritual.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines the soul thus: “In Sacred Scripture the term “soul” often refers to human life or the entire human person. But “soul” also refers to the innermost aspect of man (sic), that which is of greatest value in him, that by which he is most especially in God’s image: “soul” signifies the spiritual principle in man (sic)” (Paragraph 363).

By the Spirit, God freely graces our souls with glimpses of heaven right now. God’s mercy and compassion is not dependent on us fully understanding it, or even on us feeling we are good enough. We know this is true because in the scriptures Jesus never asked anyone to go off and become perfect before he gave them the free gift of his healing grace.

This continual recognition of God in all aspects of our everyday lives is the core purpose of our life as Christians. The trust that the Holy Spirit introduces into our soul is the grace of faith, or what Augustine describes as the grace-filled freedom of full abandonment to the will of God in all things. This strengthens the soul to remain faithful in good times and in bad.



*“The Holy Spirit is God active in our lives  
always waiting to heal, transform and inspire...”*

# Soul

How have we come to know Jesus as intimately as we do now when he lived amongst us so long ago? We do so in the very human inclination to find love. The Second Letter of John 4:7 describes this simply,

*“Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God”.*

In other words, in your love for your children, your spouse, the created world, and concern for those who are hurting, you experience God’s presence, for God is love. Jesus is the manifestation of this in our world. The ordinary human experiences of life are, when understood through the soul, extraordinary glimpses of heaven. The Holy Spirit is the one who reveals God and Christ to us in the present, and we have all received the Holy Spirit in the sacraments of baptism and confirmation. This means that we share in the Divine

Life. Scripture reminds us that God is within and you have immediate access to all the sanctifying grace you need to remain in love.

For Augustine, the pathway to understating God lies in coming to identify our inner experience. Recognizing our experience of the presence of loving and being loved in our lives, and ever expanding our intuition to sort out that which is love and that which is not, is what helps us to become increasingly aware of the connection between heaven and earth. Anything that is less than love obscures and distracts us from God’s plan. It is not of the Spirit. Our work here and now is to test all things with love and use our will to trust more and more that all things work within God’s saving plan.

Consequently, the spiritual journey is not accomplished by us looking outward or above, but is, rather, a free gift from God, discovered by turning within to find within our soul God waiting and looking on us with love. ✠

Let us pray with Fr. Joe Genito’s lyrics from his song **Prayer of Saint Augustine**:

Loving Father, Let me know myself,  
O Lord let me know you. And  
desire nothing else but only unity  
with you. Let me know you, and do every-  
thing for you. I am turning toward you,  
yearning for you, burning for your love.

Listen to this and other songs free by  
downloading Augustinian Journey.





# Vocation Motivation

BY FATHER JOSEPH L. NAROG, O.S.A.  
DIRECTOR OF VOCATIONS



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

A key aspect of our vocation ministry is helping people to become attuned to God's call in their lives and, more specifically, to increase their awareness of the possibility of pursuing Augustinian religious life. In so doing, we engage individuals in a number of ways, including planting and nurturing the seeds at our secondary education institutions – Malvern Prep in Malvern, PA and St. Augustine Prep in Richland, NJ – as well as at Austin Prep in Reading, MA, which very much remains in the Augustinian family. The 2020 National Religious Vocation Conference's (NRVC) comprehensive study on religious life reinforces the importance of this effort. Although the average age of new entrants is 28 years old, the study found that 70% first considered a religious vocation before age 21. A separate report shows that around 50% did so at age 18 or younger. In addition, the NRVC study indicates that 73% of new entrants attended a Catholic school for at least part of their education. It is not only the friars at our schools who serve as a daily witness to the Augustinian way of life, but also dedicated lay staff, as well as supportive parents and grandparents, who play a role in promoting vocation awareness. As the saying goes, it indeed "takes a village."

## Reflections

**How you were attracted to the Augustinian way of life and where did it lead you?**

*Father Bob Murray, O.S.A.,  
Head of School, St. Augustine Prep*

As early as the beginning of high school I can remember being certain of one thing: That my future would involve working with people, rather than sitting behind a desk. I also was aware that, unlike many of my peers, I enjoyed school, and could envision my future involved in the field of education. Educators are agents of change since, in

fact, education is an investment in the future.

Paralleling my interest in education was an attraction to the Church. The priests and religious that I came to know in my parish were good, dedicated men and women who

appeared very happy in their vocation, thus offering ministry in the Church as an attractive option. Truth be told, on more than one occasion I was tapped on the shoulder by parish priests or religious sisters and asked to consider a vocation.

It was during my Junior year of high school that I found myself becoming serious in planning for the future. I was in good company with many peers who wrestled with the same questions: What work would I want to do the rest of my life? Which college major would prepare me for that work? Which colleges are strong in offering that major? I was also aware of the fact that the thought of a vocation to religious life or priesthood continued to surface,





yet I never recall any classmates entertaining this as an option. Is this what they mean by a “call?”

Throughout my life I was aware of the fact that I never wanted to go through life thinking “if only.” It was important to me that I give serious consideration to life choices rather than regret never having attempted and grown from the experience. This became particularly true when considering religious life.

After graduating from high school, I began my freshman year at Villanova, majoring in Education. It was during that year that the thought of religious life and priesthood continued to pull at me. In the 1970s seeing an Augustinian on campus, whether a faculty member or student in formation, was very common.

I knew little about the Augustinians, with the exception of a few who assisted at my home parish during weekends. I experienced them as well-prepared, articulate and very down-to-earth. I was also aware of the fact that the Augustinians, among other ministries, were involved in education. Again, not wanting to have regrets, I made an appointment with the Augustinian Director of Vocations and the rest, as they say, is history.

As an Augustinian my entire ministry has been in Catholic education. I was privileged to teach at Monsignor Bonner High school for ten years, Villanova University for twenty-one years, and now I minister in a leadership position at St. Augustine Prep in Richland, NJ.

What has impressed me in each of these settings is the attraction to the Augustinian charism and the collective search for truth, unity and love. It is palpable and it is valued. Each Fall

semester, the St. Augustine Prep community invites the Augustinian Vocation Director to campus to celebrate Eucharist, to visit classes and to meet with students. In preparation for the visit, faculty are asked to recommend to our campus ministers the names of students whom they could envision serving the Church in some future capacity. These students are invited to evening prayer, dinner and discussion. The purpose of the evening is for these young men to know that others affirm in them the qualities of one who would be effective in ministry. Each Augustinian present shares his own vocation story. Each story, as unique as it is, underscores the fact that there is no one means by which God calls an individual to the Augustinian way of life. Hopefully, the men who attend that evening heard in the stories, the joking and the joy of their Augustinian faculty a “tap on the shoulder” inviting them to consider this as a way of life. As we all know too well, the rest is up to God!

— continued on next page



## How did I come to know the Augustinians?

*Father Tony Burrascano, O.S.A.,  
Assistant to the Head of School for  
Mission & Ministry, St. Augustine Prep*

I came to know the Augustinian Friars at the Molly Pitcher Rest Stop on the New Jersey Turnpike. Let me explain.

I grew up in northern New Jersey in a parish staffed by another religious Order, which I always presumed I would enter. There are no Augustinians in northern New Jersey. I went to high school staffed by yet another Order in Manhattan in New York City. Years later, I realized I had met the Augustinian Friars when my high school played (and beat) the high school in the Augustinian parish of St. Nicholas of Tolentine in the Bronx.

As I pursued the thought of religious life, my parents encouraged me to look at communities other than those to which I had already been exposed. I picked up a directory of religious Orders and began with the letter "A." The Augustinians invited me to spend a weekend at Villanova, with my parents driving me to the Molly Pitcher Rest Stop and the Vocation Director picking me up there for the drive to Villanova.

I spent the weekend at the formation house, St. Mary's Hall, with this new group. I was not in the house long before I realized that this was indeed the place for me. I felt at home and I took an application with me when I left.

You never know where you will meet your future life. ✠



### Contact Us!

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





*Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School students*

# New Ministry Begins

## The Province and Cristo Rey

In past issues of this magazine, we've written at times to tell the sad story of the Province's need to withdraw from one or another ministry due to a diminishment of personnel sufficient to adequately and responsibly continue our service. Often, such decisions have been made in view of the particular character or location of a ministry, the aging or health of friars in place, or the specific skills required in a given setting.



**CRISTO REY**  
PHILADELPHIA  
HIGH SCHOOL

decision both to become a corporate religious endorser of the school as well as to place several friars in ministry as faculty or staff. As an endorsing community, the Province will also offer two friars to serve on the school's Board of Trustees.

Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School forms part of a network of thirty-seven schools located throughout the United States which are committed to the education of low-income, mostly minority students. Cristo Rey Philadelphia was founded in 2012 and currently enrolls

We are happy to share the news, therefore, of a new ministry in which the Province will soon be engaged: the Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School located in the Tioga neighborhood of North Philadelphia. The Council of the Province took the

547 mainly Afro-American and Hispanic students with a 100% college acceptance rate.

Unique to Cristo Rey Schools are partnerships among educators, businesses and universities which enable students to receive a quality education regardless of their ability to contribute financially. Every student participates in a work-study program earning a portion of his or her education cost while developing skills in business and industry, instilling confidence, and preparing for success in college and careers.

The Province of St. Thomas of Villanova has asked to partner with Cristo Rey Philadelphia out of the desire to address a clear reality of our times: the disparity in opportunity that exists for large segments of the population of our city and our country. We view the commitment of Province personnel to Cristo Rey as an opportunity for us to become direct participants in an initiative that is changing the destinies of disadvantaged families and individuals. By sharing our Augustinian identity, charism, and educational tradition, we hope to be agents of change for the good where it is greatly needed, and we invite our Province's friends, collaborators, and benefactors to join us in doing so. —

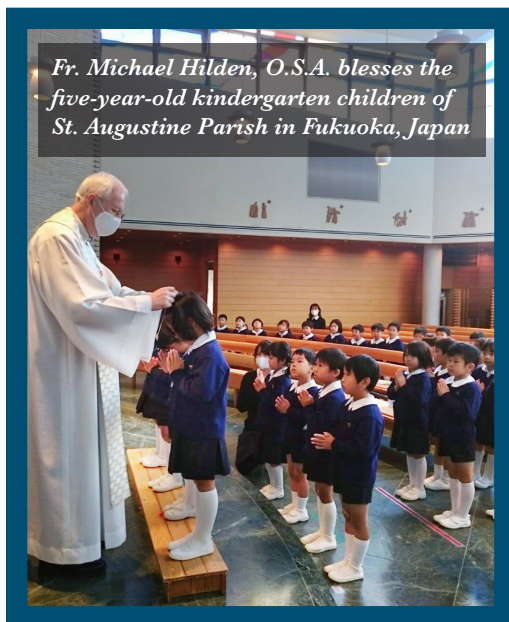


# Foreign Missions

BY FATHER MICHAEL HILDEN, O.S.A.

## Japan

In our community of St. Augustine in Fukuoka, Japan we are able to continue our apostolic activities both in our parish of 900 Catholics and in our kindergarten of 167 students, of whom only one child is a baptized Catholic.



*Fr. Michael Hilden, O.S.A. blesses the five-year-old kindergarten children of St. Augustine Parish in Fukuoka, Japan*

From the beginning of Lent 2020 until Pentecost Sunday, a lockdown condition forced us to have no public Mass or other parish meetings, and our kindergarten was forced to close down except for caring

for a small number of children of essential workers who could not work from home. We were also curtailed in our pastoral care of the sick and the elderly as we were not welcome to visit in hospitals or care centers. Indeed, it was a lonely time for all not being able to gather to enjoy the fraternal companionship of the parish and kindergarten communities.

Since last June, we enjoyed gathering for Mass with limited seating capacity and endless sanitization of hands and church pews. Although no singing is allowed, soft organ music enables us to raise our hearts in jubilation with hymns of silent praise! Then, on January 13th, all public Masses were cancelled because of new government regulations needed to curb the alarming rise in COVID-19 cases.

A great joy and consolation was the baptism of five adult catechumens.

They were originally scheduled to be baptized at the Easter Vigil Mass but as there was no attendance for the Easter Vigil, the baptisms were deferred until the summer months when limited church attendance was possible. This delay made our summer rather festive because, due to limited seating capacity, we had each baptism separately for successive weeks throughout the summer. Almost every Sunday was enhanced by the joy of participating in an adult baptism ceremony. This joy helped us to forget the horrendous heat of the summer and the tiring COVID-19 prevention restrictions!

One of the biggest challenges was providing an opportunity for all to attend Christmas Mass. The usual three Masses were increased to five, and tickets for reserved seating were applied for in writing and distributed







“  
...every day is a  
chance for some  
evangelization.  
”

*Reclining Buddha, Fukuoka, Japan*



*Nativity play  
performed by  
the kindergarten  
children at our  
parish in Fukuoka*

a week before Christmas. Unfortunately, because of the limited seating we were not able to invite our non-Christian neighbors who enjoy attending our Christmas Eve Mass. We sincerely hope that they will be able to join us for Christmas 2021!

Fortunately, the government has decided to keep kindergartens open for the present. Through the kindergarten we are in contact with many non-Christian children and their families and every day is a chance for some evangelization. In November, Shinto shrines have a special blessing ceremony called “seven, five, three” where children of these ages are blessed with prayers for their continued health and happiness. Our kindergarten children gather in the church to receive God’s blessing and to receive a medal of the Blessed Virgin Mary, who protects them with her motherly love. The big religious event of kindergarten life is the annual Nativity Play enacted by the five and six-year-olds. The children show great honor and respect for Jesus and the story of his birth. The parents who flock to see the presentation of Our Lord’s Nativity are moved by the beauty of the performance, and we hope that this introduction to the life of Christ will lead them someday to a fuller knowledge of Jesus.

It is uncertain what the future may be. However, despite the many curtailing regulations of the present moment, we pray that each subdued day may bring many quiet blessings to all whom we struggle to serve during these trying times. ☩

On January 10th, we celebrated Becoming Adult Day. Local governments have public ceremonies for all twenty-year-olds to celebrate their arrival to adulthood. There was a special blessing ceremony for our new adults during Sunday Mass during which they given a rosary to encourage them to be prayerful adult Christians.

#### **Connect With Us!**

[Augustinian.org/foreign-missions](https://Augustinian.org/foreign-missions)  
email: [missions@augustinian.org](mailto:missions@augustinian.org)



# In Paradisum



## Father Francis J. (Fritz) Cerullo, O.S.A.

*May 24, 1940 – September 28, 2020*

Francis J. (Fritz) Cerullo was born on May 24, 1940, in Minersville, PA, one of three sons and one daughter of Anthony J. Cerullo and Elizabeth Brennan. He was baptized on June 16, 1940 at St. Vincent DePaul Church, Minersville, and attended St. Patrick School and Nativity BVM High School, both in Pottsville, PA. From 1958 to 1961 he worked at Necho Allen Hotel, Pottsville, and from 1962 to 1963, he attended Brown Prep, Philadelphia. He also worked for the AFL-CIO, Hotel and Restaurant Union in Philadelphia. In 1962 he became a postulant at Augustinian Academy, Staten Island, NY, and was received into the Order as a novice on September 9, 1963. After completing his novitiate in New Hamburg, NY, he professed simple vows on September 10, 1964. He then attended Villanova University from 1964 to 1968 and received his BA in Philosophy. Fritz then pursued theological studies at the Washington Theological

Coalition (at the time) while a member of Augustinian College and received an MA degree. He also did graduate work in sociology and psychology at Villanova University. He professed solemn vows on September 10, 1968 and was ordained to the priesthood on August 28, 1971, at St. Denis Church, Havertown, PA, by Bishop Peter Van Diepen, O.S.A., Bishop of Manokwari, Indonesia.

Fr. Fritz was assigned to St. Rita of Cascia Parish, Philadelphia, PA, in 1971, where he founded the St. Rita Community Center, an inter-generational program for elderly and youth. In 1977 he was transferred to Our Mother of Consolation Parish, Chestnut Hill, PA, and in 1978 he was assigned to St. Augustine Parish, Lawrence, MA. His next assignment took him to Merrimack College, Andover, where he served as Director of Development from 1982 to 1994. During that time, he was a member of Holy Rosary Friary, Lawrence, and later of St. Augustine Friary, North Andover. Beginning in 1994 he was assigned to St. Augustine Friary, Andover, while engaged in parochial ministry and offering consultation for development to various parishes, schools, and agencies. Beginning in 2000 he served as Administrator at St. Pius X Parish, Manchester, NH, and then as Pastor of St. Mary Parish, Dover, NH. In October 2012 he was assigned to St. Augustine Parish, Troy, NY until declining health brought him to St. Thomas of Villanova Monastery, Villanova, PA.

In his final months he became a resident of Providence Place, Pottsville, near to his sister and members of his family. Fr. Fritz passed over to the Lord on Monday, September 28, 2020.

The skills which Fr. Fritz developed in business prior to his entry into the community became assets which he brought to ministry, particularly in his organizational and social work throughout his nearly 50 years of service.

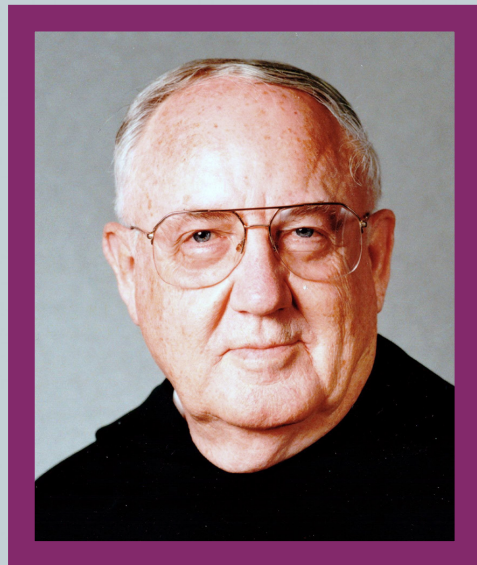


## Father Thomas R. Cook, O.S.A.

*October 30, 1930 – January 25, 2021*

Thomas Raymond Cook was born on October 30, 1930, in Norristown, PA one of three sons and two daughters of Thomas R. Cook and Catherine Loeper. Thomas was baptized on November 16, 1930, at St. Francis Church, Norristown, and attended St. Mauritius School, Ashland, PA, St. Patrick School, and St. Patrick High School, Norristown. He entered Augustinian Academy, Staten Island, NY, as a postulant in 1949, and was received into the Order as a novice on September 9, 1950 in New Hamburg, NY. He professed simple vows on September 10, 1951 and then attended Villanova College where he received his BA in Philosophy in 1954. He professed solemn vows on September 10 of that same year and went to Augustinian College, Washington, DC, for his theological studies. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 8, 1957, at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, DC, by Bishop John McNamara. He received an MA in Education from Villanova University in 1959.

Fr. Tom's first formal assignment was to Immaculate Conception Parish, Hoosick Falls, NY, as teacher and as principal of the parish high school. In 1965, he was assigned to the faculty of Archbishop Carroll High School, Washington, DC. In 1968, he became Director of the Brothers' Formation Program at Mount Augustine Retreat House, Staten Island, NY. From 1969 to 1970 he was assigned to the faculty of Malvern Preparatory School, Malvern, PA, and from 1970 to 1980 to Biscayne College, Miami Gardens, FL, as Dean of Men, the Development Office, and Assistant to the President. From 1980 to 1983 he was a member of the St. Augustine Parish Community, Casselberry, FL, while pursuing graduate studies at the University of Florida, Gainesville, where he received the Ed D.



In 1983, Fr. Tom moved north to Our Mother of Good Counsel Monastery, North Andover, MA, where he taught both at Merrimack College and at Austin Preparatory School, Reading. In 1987, he returned to Casselberry, FL, and attended the sabbatical program at Notre Dame University. From 1988 to 1995 he was assigned to St. Thomas Monastery, Villanova, as Director of the Augustinian Seminary Guild until 1991, Director of Missions, from 1989 to 1991, and Director of Development, from 1988 to 1995. He then returned to Biscayne, now named St. Thomas University, where he worked in the school's admissions office. In 2007 he was assigned to St. Augustine Friary, Villanova, PA where he remained until August 2020 when, due to declining health, he moved to The Willows, Hatfield, PA.

Fr. Tom Cook, always cordial, friendly and gentlemanly, contributed greatly to the province's advancement efforts in the early days of its operation. He died unexpectedly and peacefully on the morning of January 25, 2021.

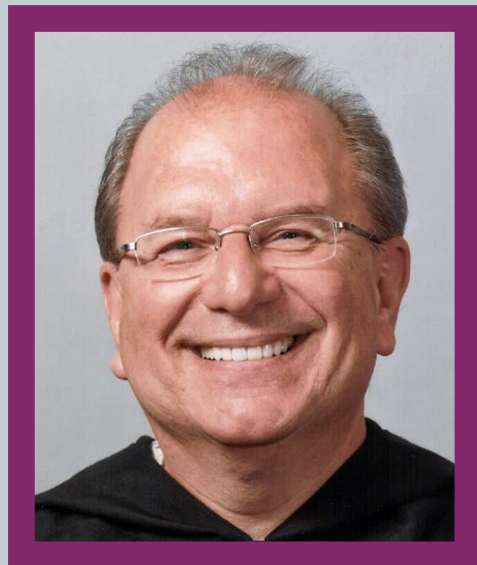


## Father Augustine M. Esposito, O.S.A.

*September 10, 1951 – January 9, 2021*

Augustine Michael Esposito was born on September 10, 1951, in Philadelphia, PA, the son of Augustine M. Esposito and Emma R. Magliocco. He had one brother and four sisters. He was baptized on October 14, 1951 at St. Edmond Church, Philadelphia, and attended St. Edmond School and Blessed Virgin Mary School, Darby, and Msgr. Bonner High School, Drexel Hill. He then worked for three years while pursuing college studies. He entered the province's pre-novitiate program in September 1971 and was received into the Order as a novice on August 29, 1972. After a year at Good Counsel Novitiate, New Hamburg, NY, he professed simple vows on August 28, 1973. He then attended Villanova University, where he received his BS in Education in 1975. Gus moved to Augustinian College, Washington, DC, where he attended the Washington Theological Union and received his MDiv degree. He also studied at Middlebury Language School, Vermont, and received an MA in Spanish Language. He professed solemn vows on January 8, 1977. In 1978, he was assigned to St. Nicholas of Tolentine Parish, Bronx, NY. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 2, 1979, at St. Denis Parish, Havertown, PA, by Bishop Edward Hughes, Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia.

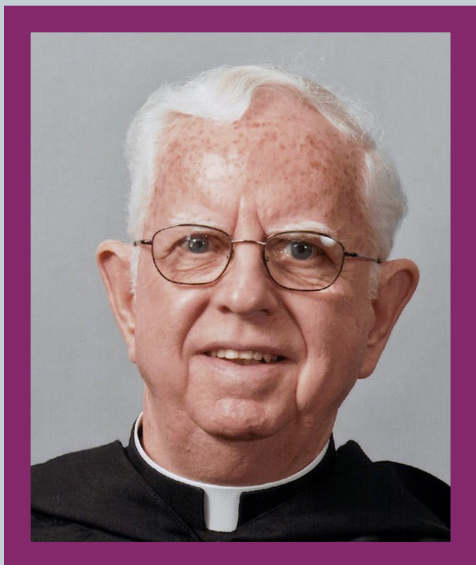
Fr. Gus continued in Hispanic Ministry at St. Nicholas of Tolentine Parish, Bronx, until 1980, when he was assigned to Msgr. Bonner High School. He then returned to the Bronx until 1984 when he began PhD studies in Spanish at Temple University, Philadelphia, as a member of St. Thomas Monastery, Villanova. After completing his doctorate, he taught at Villanova University from 1988 to 1990, and from 1991 to 2001, was professor of Spanish, Spiritual Director and Chair of the Pastoral Theology Department at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Philadelphia. In 2002, he was assigned as president to Msgr. Bonner High School. When Msgr. Bonner and Prendergast High Schools became co-institutional in 2007, Fr. Gus was named President of the two schools.



Fr. Gus received the Papal Honor of the Cross in 2006 and was inducted into the Bonner Hall of Fame in 2008. He gave retreats in many places in the United States, and internationally. In 2009, he was assigned to St. Augustine Friary, Malvern, PA, and the following year served at St. Augustine Preparatory School, Richland, NJ. From 2011 to 2012, he was a member of St. Augustine Friary, Villanova, and in August 2012 of Saxony Hall, Rosemont, while teaching at Villanova University. In 2013 he was engaged as an associate professor at St. Charles Seminary and later appointed temporary Vice-Rector in 2014, and Director of Pastoral and Apostolic Formation the following year. From November 1, 2014, he was a member of St. Thomas of Villanova Monastery, Villanova.

In the days before Christmas, 2020, Fr. Gus was admitted to Bryn Mawr Hospital after testing positive for COVID-19. He passed over to the Lord there on January 9, 2021. Fr. Gus was a widely known and admired religious and priest, spiritual director, mentor to seminarians, educator, and preacher. He died at the age of 69, in the 47th year of his religious profession.





## Father Dennis J. Gallagher, O.S.A.

*March 30, 1935 – November 22, 2020*

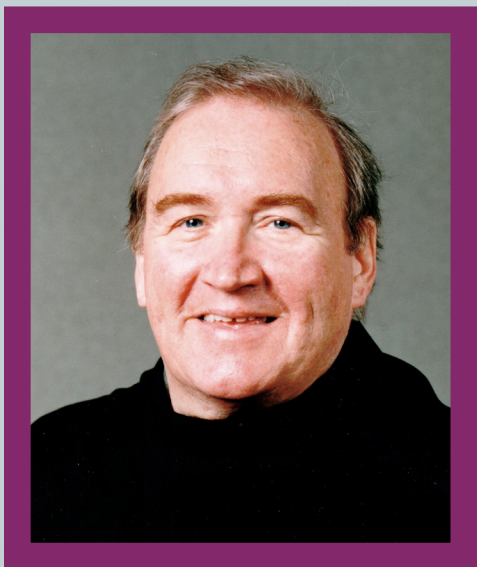
Dennis Joseph Gallagher was born on March 30, 1935, in Bryn Mawr, PA, the son of Dennis Gallagher and Anne McGlinchey. He was one of five brothers and three sisters, and was baptized on April 14, 1935, at Our Mother of Good Counsel Parish, Bryn Mawr. He attended St. Thomas of Villanova Parish School, Rosemont, and West Catholic High School, Philadelphia, before entering Augustinian Academy, Staten Island, NY, as a post-graduate postulant in September 1954. Dennis was received into the Order on September 9, 1955, and following his year at Good Counsel Novitiate, New Hamburg, NY, he professed simple vows on September 10, 1956 and solemn vows on the same day in 1959. He attended Villanova University which awarded him a BA in Philosophy in 1960. He then pursued theological studies at Augustinian College, Washington, DC, where he received an MA in Theology. He likewise studied Library Science at Villanova and received a MSLS in Library Science in June 1965. He was ordained to the priesthood on January 30, 1965 at St. Thomas of Villanova Church, Villanova, by Bishop Gerald McDevitt.

In August 1965, Fr. Dennis was assigned to Austin Preparatory School, Reading, MA, where he taught Theology, was School Librarian, and Director of Reading Services. In 1969 he was transferred to Malvern Preparatory School, Malvern, PA, where he held the same three positions. He was assigned to St. John Sahagun Friary, Washington, DC in June 1972 to work on a PhD in Higher Education at Catholic University of America. Upon completion of his degree in 1975, he returned to Villanova University as a member of St. Thomas Monastery, to teach Library Science in the Graduate School. In 1985 he became the University's first full time Archivist.

Fr. Gallagher was the weekend assistant in several parishes in the Diocese of Trenton, NJ, and from 1989 until 2016, he exercised this role at St. Catherine-St. Margaret Parish in Spring Lake, NJ. On the occasion of his 50th Anniversary of ordination in 2015, St. Catherine-St. Margaret was the site of a special celebration hosted by grateful parishioners for his many years of service to them. The following year, he suffered a stroke which necessitated the termination of this parish ministry and retirement as University archivist. Following months of rehabilitation, Fr. Dennis returned to St. Thomas Monastery, until declining health and COVID-19 infection caused him to be transferred briefly to Power Back Rehabilitation.

Fr. Dennis was an avid traveler, who often said, "Life is a journey-ever ancient, ever new." This wayfaring spirit proved helpful in his convalescence from the effects of the stroke as he worked persistently to regain his strength and retain as much autonomy as possible. The final stage of his journey commenced on November 22, 2020, when he passed over to the Lord.





## Father Dennis J. Harten, O.S.A.

*January 19, 1949 – November 14, 2020*

Dennis J. Harten was born on January 19, 1949, in the Bronx, NY, one of three sons and a daughter of James Harten and Josephine O'Connell. He was baptized on February 19, 1949 at St. Nicholas of Tolentine Church, the Bronx. Dennis attended St. John's Elementary School, the Bronx, from 1954 until 1962 and continued there at St. John High School for one year before transferring to St. Nicholas of Tolentine High School, from which he graduated in 1966. He then enrolled as a postulant at Augustinian Academy for the 1966 - 1967 school year. He was received into the Order as a novice on September 2, 1967, and after a year at Good Counsel Novitiate, New Hamburg, NY, he professed simple vows on September 3, 1968. He attended Villanova University from 1968 until 1972 and received a BA degree in Philosophy. He went on to Augustinian College, Washington, DC, where he attended the Washington Theological Coalition for theological studies. He made his profession of solemn vows on July 30, 1972 and was ordained to the

priesthood on May 17, 1975 at St. Nicholas of Tolentine Church, Jamaica, NY, by Bishop Francis Mugavero of the Diocese of Brooklyn.

Fr. Dennis was assigned to Our Mother of Good Counsel Parish, Bryn Mawr, PA as parochial vicar from July 1975 until July 1978. He then served as parochial vicar at St. Nicholas of Tolentine, the Bronx. In 1979, he was assigned to St. Mary's Parish, Lawrence, MA, serving again as parochial vicar until 1983. In June 1983 he was transferred to St. Augustine Parish, Casselberry, FL, as parochial vicar and a year later, in June of 1984, he was named pastor. In July 1994, he was appointed pastor of St. Thomas of Villanova Parish, Rosemont, PA, where he oversaw a major renovation of the Rosemont Chapel. In January 2002, Fr. Dennis was assigned to St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, Naples, FL, as parochial vicar and in 2006 was appointed pastor where he remained until August 2015. That latter year, he was transferred to St. Augustine Preparatory School, Richland, NJ where he was completing a DMin degree and served the school community in the Office of Campus Ministry and taught theology. During this time, a long-term bout with diabetes caused severe circulation problems which eventually required the amputation of his left leg. In June 2018 he was assigned to St. Thomas Monastery, Villanova, PA. His talents and experience were put to good use in the University's Campus Ministry Office and later as chaplain of the University Law School.

Fr. Dennis had a great gift for bringing laughter into the lives of those around him, sometimes in unconventional ways and unexpected situations. He was perceptive and insightful, and despite various health issues in the last years of his life, including lengthy chemotherapy treatments, never lost his hopeful spirit or his sense of humor.

Fr. Dennis Harten died on Saturday morning, November 14, 2020, in Bryn Mawr Hospital where he had been taken days earlier. On admittance, he was found to have tested positive for COVID-19.



## Father James T. Spenard, O.S.A.

*October 4, 1946 – October 8, 2020*

James T. Spenard was born on October 4, 1946, in Waterford, NY, one of two sons of John Spenard and Marie Alma Baillargeon. He was baptized on October 20, 1946 at St. Mary's Church, Waterford, and attended Waterford Public School from 1951 to 1953 and St. Mary's School, Waterford, from 1953 until 1960. He then attended LaSalle Institute in Troy, NY, from which he graduated in 1964. Jim entered Our Mother of Good Counsel Novitiate, New Hamburg, NY on September 9, 1964, and professed simple vows on September 10, 1965. Following religious profession, he attended Villanova University and graduated in 1969 with a BA in Philosophy. He made his profession of solemn vows on September 14, 1968 at Villanova. During the summers between 1969 and 1971, he took graduate classes in education and sociology at Villanova. He pursued theological studies at the Washington Theological Coalition from 1969 to 1972 where he received an MA in Theology. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 17, 1972 at St. Mary's Church, Waterford, by Bishop Edward J. Maginn.

Fr. Jim was assigned to St. Denis Church, Havertown, PA, in June 1972 and to St. James Church, Carthage, NY in January 1973. In June 1977 he was transferred to Immaculate Conception Church, Hoosick Falls, NY, and returned, as pastor, to St. James in Carthage in August 1979. After eighteen years of ministry in this role he received a brief sabbatical in September 1997 after which, in March 1998, he was appointed pastor of St. Augustine Parish, Troy, NY. He also served St. Augustine's at various times as prior, treasurer and local superior of the Augustinian community. In August 2015, he was assigned to St. Rita of Cascia Friary, Philadelphia, PA, where he assisted in Shrine ministry with particular responsibility for couples preparing for marriage at the



Shrine. In March 2019, with the merger of the religious communities of St. Rita and St. Nicholas of Tolentine, he was assigned to the newly formed Augustinian Community of Our Lady of Good Counsel, Philadelphia, and from there continued his ministry at St. Rita Shrine.

On August 30, 2020 Fr. Jim suffered a stroke and was admitted to Jefferson Hospital. While there, as he was awaiting transfer to a rehab facility, he suffered two more strokes and was transferred to Kindred Hospital, Philadelphia, where he died in the early hours of Thursday, October 8, 2020.

Fr. Jim Spenard's entire priesthood of 48 years was devoted to pastoral work in direct service to the faithful. His quiet, gentle, and dedicated leadership and long service in both Carthage and Troy, NY, earned him the respect and devotion of these communities and an enduring remembrance in their history of these parishes.



# New Commitments *in the* Province

BY CHER A. RAGO,  
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Br. Daniel Madden, O.S.A., was ordained to the priesthood and Br. Elizandro Contreras, O.S.A., was ordained to the diaconate on Saturday, October 10th, 2020 by Philadelphia Archbishop Nelson Pérez at St. Thomas of Villanova Church in Villanova, PA. Br. Elizandro is continuing studies at Catholic Theology University in Chicago, IL and will minister in the Chicago area until his priesthood ordination sometime this summer. Fr. Dan Madden continues his work at Merrimack College in North Andover, MA. Please pray for Br. Elizandro and Fr. Dan as they continue on their journey.

Br. Bill Gabriel, O.S.A., and Br. Jeremy Hiers, O.S.A., solemnly committed their lives to God as Augustinian Friars through the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience at St. Thomas of Villanova Church in Villanova, PA on November 14, 2020. The celebrant was Fr. Michael Di Gregorio, O.S.A., Prior Provincial. Following shortly after, Brs. Bill and Jeremy were ordained to the diaconate on Saturday, January 16th, 2021 at St. Jude Parish in New Lenox, IL., along with Br. Sam Joutras, O.S.A. of the Chicago Province. Br. Bill will begin serving as a deacon at St. Thomas of Villanova Parish in Rosemont, PA, Br. Jeremy will begin serving as a deacon at St. Rita Shrine in Philadelphia, PA., and Br. Sam will be serving as a deacon at St. Jude Parish in Chicago, IL. Please pray for Br. Bill, Br. Jeremy and Br. Sam as they continue on their journey. ✠







**Ordination Ceremony of  
Br. Dan Madden O.S.A. and  
Br. Elizandro Contreras, O.S.A.**

*“It’s a great privilege for me to be able to come and exercise my episcopal ministry through the sacrament of holy orders. But even there, just in the few moments that we spend together here at St. Jude’s Church today, what I do, important as it is, really is only a part of what happens, because when these men are ordained deacons my task is then multiplied through their service, and what they do through the grace of the Holy Spirit working through them hopefully is multiplied in the lives of people that they touch.”*

– Retired Bishop Daniel Conlon of the Diocese of Joliet, IL  
(2011 to 2020) 01-16-2021 Ordination Homily



**(l-r) Deacon Jeremy Hiers, O.S.A., Deacon Bill Gabriel, O.S.A.,  
and Deacon Sam Joutras, O.S.A. (Chicago Province)**

**👁 Click to View Additional Images:**

**> Ordinations**

Fr. Dan & Br. Elizandro

**> Solemn Profession**

Fr. Dan & Br. Elizandros

**> Diaconate Ordinations**

Br. Jeremy, Br. Bill & Br. Sam

*“Somewhere along the line in the journey of your life you had this idea of you becoming an Augustinian. So then serving the Church as an Augustinian, as a deacon and as a priest that was something you felt inside that was nurtured.”*

– Bishop Nelson Perez, 10-10-20 Ordination Homily



# Around the Province



## Come As You Are to the Table

A.D.R.O.P. (Augustinian Defenders of the Rights of the Poor) will hold a virtual Mass on April 11th at 10am. Join us to celebrate the work we've done and our plans for the future.

To register: [RightsOfThePoor.org/virtualmass](https://RightsOfThePoor.org/virtualmass)

## Webinar Series

**February 24, 2021 at 7:30 P.M.**  
The Four Pillars of Catholic Social Teaching  
from an Augustinian Perspective  
*Presenter: Dr. Joseph Kelley, Merrimack College*

**March 24, 2021 at 7:30 P.M.**  
Dignity of the Human Person and Immigration  
*Presenters: Lacie Ann Michaelson, MA and Jessica Eischen, Immigration Paralegal, Unity Clinic Volunteer*

**Justice and Peace 2021**  
Augustine and Catholic  
Social Teaching

**April 21, 2021 at 7:30 P.M.**  
Solidarity and Prison Ministry  
*Presenter: Dr. Kathryn Getek Soltis, Director, Office of Justice and Peace, Villanova University*

**May 19, 2021 at 7:30 P.M.**  
A Discussion on the U.S. Bishops Pastoral  
on Racism, 'Open Wide Our Hearts'  
*Presenters: Augustinian Friars in Dialogue*

Learn more at: [Augustinian.org/justice-peace-webinars](https://Augustinian.org/justice-peace-webinars)

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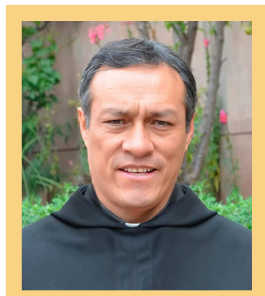
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# Peru Appointment

## Peruvian Augustinian Named Bishop of Cusco



*Bishop Lizardo, O.S.A.*

On January 9, 2021, Pope Francis named Fr. Lizardo Estrada-Herrera, O.S.A. to become auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Cusco, Peru. At the time, Fr. Lizardo was a member of the Augustinian community in Trujillo, where Augustinians from several vicariates in Peru study theology.

Bishop-elect Lizardo is originally from the region of Cusco, the old imperial capital of the Incas. His native tongue is Quechua, which is the language, together with Spanish, spoken by the majority of people in that area.

Fr. Lizardo, 47, professed first vows in the Augustinian Order in 1998 and solemn vows in 2001. He was ordained to the priesthood in 2005. He holds degrees in Moral Theology and Education, and he earned a doctorate in Pastoral Theology from the Pontifical University of Medellín (Colombia) in 2012. Most recently he served as episcopal vicar for religious life in the Archdiocese of Trujillo, and as president of the Federation of Augustinians of the Vicariates of Peru.

The appointment of the second native Augustinian to the episcopacy is one of the many blessings bestowed upon the work of the Augustinians in Peru.

He is the second bishop named from that formation community in two years and only the second Augustinian native Peruvian to be named bishop since Peru's independence from Spain 200 years ago. The first native Augustinian bishop, Edinson Farfán-Córdova, O.S.A., was ordained Bishop of the Prelature of Chuchibambilla in January 2020.

# Augustinian Journey

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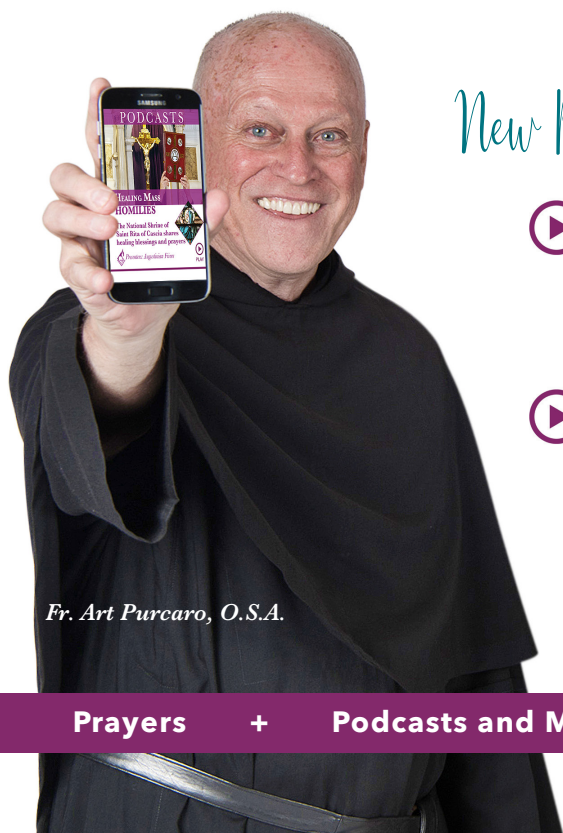
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National Shrine of St. Rita of Cascia presents homilies and prayers for healing by Augustinian Friars



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*Fr. Art Purcaro, O.S.A.*

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# Join the Movement

BY MADONNA SUTTER,  
DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT



*Madonna Sutter,  
Director of Advancement*

Dear Friends of the Augustinians,

The last twelve months have been challenging but hope is in the air! We can see the light at the end of the tunnel. We can almost taste what it is like to go out to dinner, visit with friends and family and merely enjoy ourselves. We have many more months before we realize a new normal but at least now we can begin to make plans to resume our lives, hopefully by late Summer or early Fall.

We have had a lot of time to think, reflect and be grateful for God's blessings. I personally feel an immense sense of gratitude for your kind and generous financial gifts showered upon Augustinians at a time when we needed it most. Your incredible generosity is a true testament and an expression of your validation of our mission and Augustinian charism. Thank you!

Excitement is defined as a feeling of great enthusiasm and eagerness. I am filled with excitement at the thought of seeing many of you in the not too distant future. We will celebrate the inauguration of the Fr. George F. Riley, O.S.A. Fund for Augustinian HealthCare and honor Fr. Riley's life and ministry on Saturday, October 23, 2021. We are pleased to co-sponsor this event with Villanova University which will be held at the University. We are also making plans for a Msgr. Bonner High School Alumni gathering on November 13, 2021 to be held at the high school. There will be lots to celebrate once it is safe to do so and I for one, cannot wait!

Finally, our first-ever actual giving day – Tolle Lege Day – will be held on Saturday, April 24, 2021. This will be an opportunity for all of us to come together as an Augustinian community with one mind and heart to support the friars. I invite you to be a part of something very special on Tolle Lege Day.

Thank you for your emails, notes, phone calls and text messages during the pandemic. I love hearing from you. May God bless you and keep you safe.

Madonna Sutter  
Director of Advancement  
email: [madonna.sutter@augustinian.org](mailto:madonna.sutter@augustinian.org)  
phone: 267.272.3048

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# Meet Fr. Donald F. Reilly, O.S.A.

## AUGUSTINIAN PRIEST FOR 47 YEARS

I grew up in a home where our Catholic Faith defined us. In addition to my parents, there were eight of us, seven boys and one girl. We were a typical family in my neighborhood; not many families had fewer children than ours had. We attended Mass regularly and going to church daily during Lent was not expected but certainly a good thing to do, and I did. My grammar school education was under the tutelage of the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary at St. Cyril's and St. Philomena's Schools, both in Delaware County, PA. They taught my friends and me the difference among the right, the wrong and the IHM way of doing things. Being responsible and accountable in all things, for the Sisters, were attributes that made up for whatever else may be lacking in one's performance. They knew about "life skills" long before the phrase entered the educational lexicon. They were great teachers. There was no question about where I would attend high school. Following my three older brothers, Msgr. Bonner welcomed me with my thirteen hundred and twenty-five fellow members of the Class of 1965 from seventeen Catholic parishes in the area. The forty-one Augustinian Friars on campus at that time created a culture of youthful energy that permeated every aspect of the school. We all felt we were part of something much larger than ourselves to which we owed our best effort. I ascribed that "something much larger" to the Augustinians themselves. I witnessed their way of life on a daily basis for four years evident in the brotherhood and the community life they lived and seemed to relish. Who these men were and what they aspired to become was very attractive to my young, impressionable mind. My decision to become an Augustinian was more a matter of when, not why or why not. I entered the Augustinian community after graduation in 1965.



*Fr. Reilly, with Malvern Prep students*

Parish in Jamaica, NY. What a rewarding experience it was to be doing what I had been waiting to do for nine years! My next assignment was to the Bronx where I taught

theology in our high school.

I was given permission to pursue graduate studies while in the Bronx and continued working on the degree in my following assignment in Campus Ministry at Villanova University. My next assignment was to be the pastor at St. Denis Parish in Havertown, PA. I was 34 years old. It was an exciting yet daunting responsibility. I then served as Personnel Director for our Province under two administrations. Quite surprisingly, in 1995 I had the great privilege of co-founding SILOAM with a Sister of Mercy, Sr. Bernadette Kinniry, which was a ministry that provided counseling and spiritual direction to those living with HIV/AIDS in Philadelphia. This experience came at a time in my life when I grew and learned more about myself than at any other time. I was fortunate to have had this life-changing experience. Following my seven years with SILOAM, I was elected to two terms as Prior Provincial. It was an honor to have that position and to work with incredible fellow friars and generous laypersons on a variety of boards, committees and Province endeavors. I have served as president and Head of School over the past ten years at our two high schools – St. Augustine Prep and Malvern Prep where I am at this time. I enjoy being part of students' lives as I imagine many friars did at Bonner where I saw in them that which I hope Malvern students see in me, a deep appreciation for what St. Augustine wrote, preached, taught and most especially, what he continues to offer as a way of life centered on Christ.

I made many friends these past 47 years as an Augustinian priest both through ministry and among my fellow friars. I cherish all of them. Most especially, my family has been a terrific source of support and strength as the years have passed. I am blessed having them in my life. I am grateful to you, our benefactors, who have chosen to support us in a world where the competition for philanthropic dollars is fierce. Your kindness means a great deal to my fellow friars and me. You provide us with the ability to focus solely on our way of life and ministry. Unlike most people, I do not worry about my future and how I will be cared for when I can no longer be engaged in active ministry. Your generosity and the Province's stewardship take that burden from the friars and enables us to be fully attentive to that which we are called to by our profession and ministry. May our journey together keep us prayerfully connected and united in mind and heart intent on God. ✠

*Fr. Don F. Reilly, O.S.A.*





## Upcoming Events

### **Tolle Lege Day**

***Saturday, April 24, 2021***

24 Hours of Giving!

#TolleLegeDay

For more information: [TolleLegeDay@AugustinianFund.org](mailto:TolleLegeDay@AugustinianFund.org)

### **Inauguration of the Fr. George F. Riley, O.S.A. Fund for Augustinian HealthCare**

***Saturday, October 23, 2021***

Villanova University

800 E. Lancaster Avenue, Villanova, PA

For more information: [AugustinianFund.org/father-riley](http://AugustinianFund.org/father-riley)

### **Augustinian Friars and Msgr. Bonner High School Alumni Gathering**

***Saturday, November 13, 2021***

Msgr. Bonner High School

403 N. Lansdowne Avenue, Drexel Hill, PA

For more information: [AugustinianFund.org/bonner](http://AugustinianFund.org/bonner)



*All Are Welcome*

