

AUGUSTINIAN

Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova



*A long journey
realized through
faith and
determination!*



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photo by: Fr. Daniel McLaughlin, O.S.A.

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extraORDINARY

THE BILL ATKINSON STORY

Hospitalized and near death, tragedy gave way to an incredible journey for the first quadriplegic priest in the history of the Catholic Church. The powerful documentary on the life and impact of Fr. Bill is coming to PBS nationwide this November.

In 1965, a tobogganing accident left 19-year-old Augustinian novice, Bill Atkinson paralyzed from the neck down. Nine years of relentless challenges faced Fr Bill's call to the priesthood.

His story will inspire and make you believe that saints do live among us every day.

“

It's amazing to think about a small town boy who is now on a path to someday become a saint.

”

- Tom Farrell
Documentary Executive Producer
and former Fr. Bill student

Click: National Broadcast Schedule



Learn more about Fr. Bill at:
Augustinian.org/the-cause

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Nationwide premiere airing on WHYY in Philadelphia on
All Saints Day, Sunday, November 1 at 5 p.m. ▶ Click to Watch Live

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Prior Provincial



Dear Friends,

I am happy that we are once again able to communicate with you through the pages of the *Augustinian*. Our summer issue of 2020 was not able to be completed and released due to the impact of COVID-19 on various areas of Province operations. I am sure it is no surprise to you to learn that we were impacted just as you and so many organizations, businesses, agencies, and groups have been over these past many months. The pages which follow make repeated reference to the adjustments that have been required of many of us during this extraordinary time of pandemic.

It would not be entirely accurate, however, to view these many months of adaptation and restriction as entirely negative. This has also been a time in which we have come to learn and appreciate new things about ourselves, our capabilities and our limitations. While we have been constricted in some ways, we have been stretched in others. We have discovered avenues of progress we might never have recognized otherwise. Many will say they have become more reflective, more appreciative and more centered. We have learned again that growth sometimes comes through challenge and even suffering – a not surprising discovery in light of Christian values.

Above all, I trust you will find in what you are about to read, that the life and works of the Province continue on. We are, after all, a people of hope, gifted and sent forth with Good News to inspire and motivate us, so that we, in turn, may be Good News to others.

Sincerely,

Fr. Michael



Strengthening Province Life

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

This past June, we friars of the Villanova Province celebrated our Provincial Mid-Chapter. Provincial Chapters are held every two years, bringing together friars from throughout the Province in fraternal celebration, conversation and deliberation. There are two types of Provincial Chapters: the Ordinary Chapter typically elects leadership for the coming four years and adopts a program that defines the goals and objectives which are to guide the Prior Provincial and his Council during their term of service; the Mid-Chapter follows two years later and has as its primary focus a review of the program and its progress, and a consideration of means by which to render the program as effective as possible. This June's Mid-Chapter was historic in that it was conducted virtually via Zoom-conferencing with 85 friars participating.

The process of review that we followed in five 60- to 90-minute Zoom sessions over the course of three days considered the work of the Province's standing commissions as well as the various departments that fall under the Province Administration, e.g. Advancement, Augustinian Volunteers, A.D.R.O.P. (Augustinian Defenders of the Rights of the Poor), etc. Each session began with a prayer experience and the conversations engaged the questions and comments offered by the friars. All of this material was enclosed

within two talks given by the Prior Provincial – the first in the form of a report on the status of the Province since 2018; the second, near the Chapter's conclusion, offering suggestions and announcing initiatives for the future.

One of the central themes of the 2018 Chapter had been *Renewing Province Life* and specific decisions had been made to help us realize that goal. Authentic renewal for us friars necessarily touches upon multiple dimensions of Augustinian life: the human-personal, the spiritual-religious and the organizational-social. As the Council and I, together with various Province commissions, have given attention to the renewal of our life these past two years, it has become evident that the structures of our life often play a significant role in our efforts to move forward. We believe, for example, that community living, which our Constitutions refer to as *life in common*, is the foundation of Augustinian life [n.6]. Renewing our life, therefore, entails enhancing



Augustinian Friars participate in Mid-Chapter via Zoom

opportunities for quality community living, not in opposition to the ministries we exercise, but in tandem with them.

In my closing message to the Chapter entitled *Moving Forward*, I included an announcement of the decision to close three of our smaller communities which are located in the Villanova area. These three communities had a combined total of nine friars. They were Saxony Friary in Rosemont, St. Thomas of Villanova Friary in Villanova, and Lecceto, also in Villanova.

This proposal had been considered over many months in order to meet the goal of enhancing common life by providing friars with the opportunity for a larger community experience. A second motivation was tied to Province financial resources and good stewardship of available funds.

The friars all received assignments to other local communities: three to the Villanova Monastery, two to St. John Stone Friary, Villanova, one to Our Mother of Good Counsel Friary, Bryn Mawr, and three to

Bellesini Friary, Ardmore. With these changes there are presently 16 Augustinian communities in the United States that comprise the Villanova Province. Additionally, there are four communities in Japan and one Federation community located within the Villanova Province, namely the Novitiate of Our Mother of Good Counsel. The total membership of the Province is 140 friars. ✠

AUGUSTINIAN JOURNEY

An App On Our Way to God

Welcome to Augustinian Journey where we invite you to explore, learn and share experiences in the company of St. Augustine. Augustine envisioned communities united in mind and heart, on fire with God's love. Following his lead, we have established this virtual community to reflect on a spirituality that calls us together to know and love God, each other and the world we share. Join us on this journey!

Download the Free App: **AUGUSTINIAN JOURNEY** today



Jewell

(l to r) Fr. Art, Lacie, Matt, Maria (seated), Fr. Jack, Barbara, Sarah, Fr. Nick, Gregory

App Features

In the Palm of Your Hand

Pray

Augustine for Today: Daily inspiration from St. Augustine for 365 days of the year

Prayers of Augustine: Select prayers from the many writings of Augustine

Prayers in the Augustinian Tradition: A variety of prayers that reflect core Augustinian values from our tradition

Listen

Podcasts and Music

An ever-expanding media collection to inform and inspire through word and song

Learn

Saints and Blessed

Profiles of Augustinian men and women whose lives offer encouragement and motivation for the journey

Share

Send a Candle

Extend good wishes and prayers with a personal blessing to a fellow-traveler for a special occasion, achievement, or in a moment of need



Deirdre



Fr. Jim



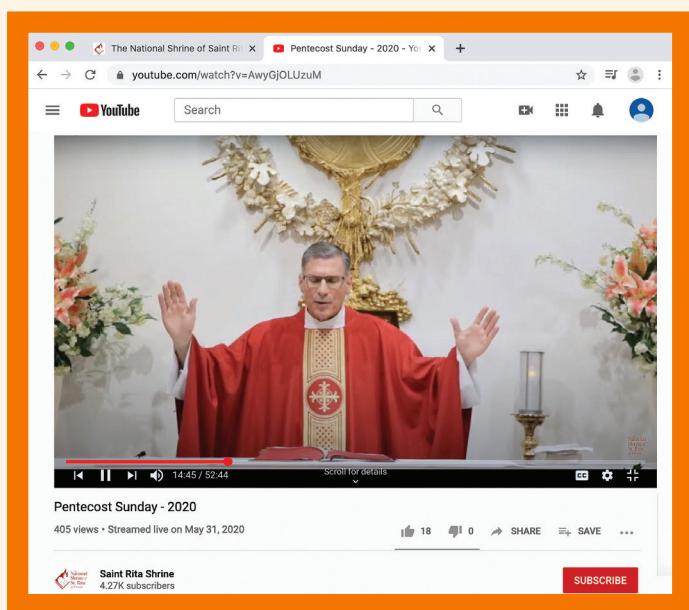
Jonathan

Finding Hope

BY CHER A. RAGO,
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Through Creativity

Our lives are changing, and we all are making continuous adjustments that will guide us into this “new normal” and mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Throughout the Province, this idea has generated much creativity and imagination. Our Augustinian parishes, as well as our higher and secondary educational institutions have worked to contain the effects of these uncertain times brought on by COVID-19. From creatively engaging parishioners, to our school leaders and staff collaborating conscientiously to design safe environments, we are discovering possible options.



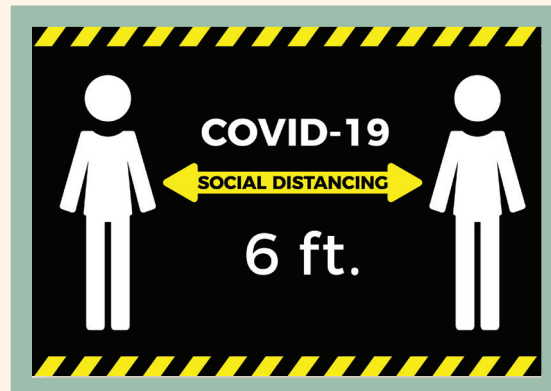
surprised to receive a phone call from Fr. Luis Vera, O.S.A., “I was so happy to speak with my pastor, I could not believe the kindness and the expression of care I had received, it brought to me tears of contentment.”

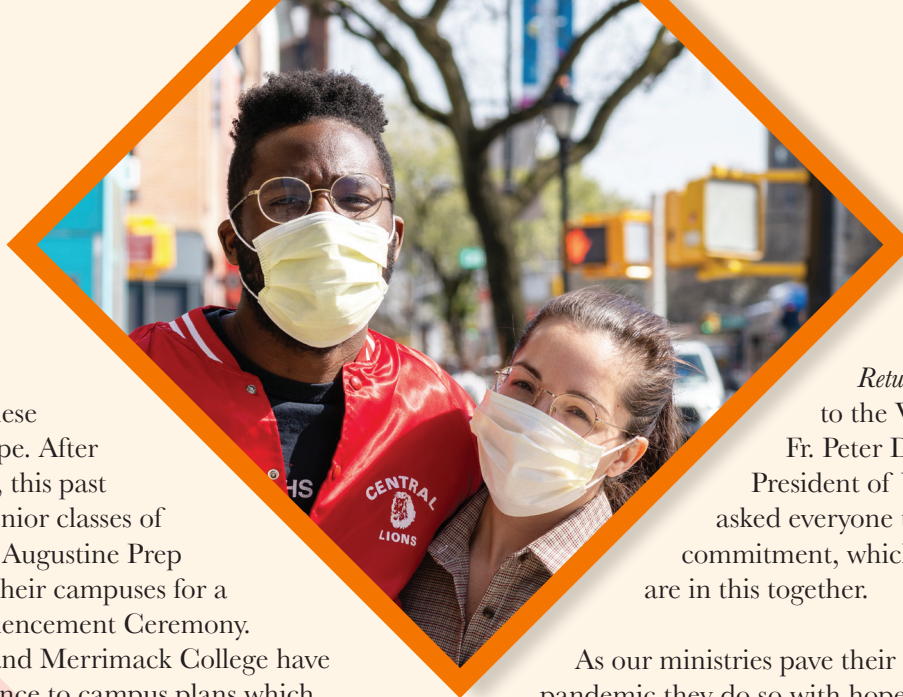
Fr. Nicholas Martorano, O.S.A., Pastor of Annunciation B.V.M. and St. Nicholas of Tolentine in Philadelphia, PA,

shared that sitting outside on the step is also an easy, effective way to engage the community. By practicing social distancing and wearing a mask, many conversations with parishioners happen naturally on the corner of 10th and Dickinson Street. However, on May 12th, one of Fr. Nick’s

modest ideas made news headlines all the way to CNN! He led a procession of the Holy Eucharist in a pick-up truck which effectively brought the Church to the community. Fr. Nick remarked, “It was a fulfilling experience to witness how the people were taken by the presentation of Jesus; some cried, some knelt in prayer and some were overjoyed – the demonstration of their faith was overwhelming.”

Many of our parishes offer livestreamed daily Masses which have had a very positive impact both at the beginning of this pandemic and now. There has also been a rolling back to the obvious ways that we can connect. An elderly parishioner from St. Nicholas of Tolentine, Bronx, NY, was pleasantly





Our Education

Ministries have met these times with creative hope. After a long-awaited period, this past summer graduating senior classes of Malvern Prep and St. Augustine Prep each congregated on their campuses for a socially distant Commencement Ceremony. Villanova University and Merrimack College have set forth their re-entrance to campus plans which encourage students to look to their Augustinian values to carry them through these unpredictable changes. Christopher Hopey, Ph.D, President of Merrimack College stated in his message about Merrimack's Fall reopening, "This Fall will be like no other we have experienced. Our success, and the success of our community and our students, will require that we approach our changing circumstances with open minds, patience and tolerance towards each other, and a disciplined mindset that involves trusting one another and valuing contributions from every member of our Merrimack community." Campuses have reconfigured to allow for physical distancing requirements and there is a quarantine process in place for students, should they contract the virus. Both institutions are creatively initiating a hybrid approach which places students in the classroom physically as well as virtually. In his

Return to Campus Plan video to the Villanova community, Fr. Peter Donohue, O.S.A., President of Villanova University, asked everyone to agree to the *Caritas* commitment, which reinforced that we are in this together.

As our ministries pave their way through this pandemic they do so with hopeful hearts and mindful diligence. As Fr. Robert Hagan, O.S.A., reminded us in his homily this past June, "We can take inspiration from our Holy Father St. Augustine when he exhorted his community: 'You say the times are troublesome, the times are burdensome, the times are miserable. Live rightly and you will change the times...Change human beings and the times will be changed.' " ✠

Editor's Note: Information presented in this article may have changed due to COVID-19.

▶ Click to Watch Fr. Nick Ride Through the Streets of South Philadelphia



A New Chapter of Encounter

BY JONATHAN JEROME, DIRECTOR OF THE
NATIONAL SHRINE OF ST. RITA OF CASCIA

The joy and excitement that filled the air was almost palpable! Representatives from the Augustinian Province of St. Thomas of Villanova, the National Shrine of St. Rita of Cascia and the Archdiocese of Philadelphia were joined by local, state and national leaders to break ground on the long-awaited, and highly anticipated Cascia Center. For the better part of 15 years, the lay staff and Augustinian Friars at the Shrine have dreamt about building the Cascia Center, a mixed-use space for the ministries of the Shrine – ministries of renewal, healing, education and welcome – as well as for pilgrims and patrons to learn more about the history of the Augustinians in South Philadelphia. And, with the addition of St. Rita Place, a new housing development above the Cascia Center for low-income senior citizens, the Shrine's outreach will continue to evolve and expand well into the future. On Monday, August 10, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. guests gathered in-person and virtually on the lot that will soon become St. Rita Place and the Cascia Center to realize this dream and begin an exciting new chapter in the life of the Province and Shrine!

Naturally, this kind of milestone reminds us that hope still exists even in the midst of despair; it reassures us that light always dispels darkness and life truly conquers death. As our country, communities and families continue to be affected by COVID-19, racial injustice and a myriad of other obstacles and issues, a moment of hope can serve as balm for the weariest souls among us.

And, the life of our beloved saint, Rita of Cascia, serves as a constant witness to this kind of hope and deep faith as well. She experienced so much tragedy as a daughter, wife, mother, widow and professed religious and yet, persevered through it all. Few saints within our Catholic tradition are able to relate to as many people, vocations and life experiences as St. Rita of Cascia. She is truly a saint for all people!

Our mission at the National Shrine of St. Rita of Cascia attempts to capture this hope and instill it in each of our ministries and encounters. Whether it

is through social media, retreats, pilgrimages, our Solemn Feast Day and Novena, our counseling ministries and/or everything in between, we aim to embody the timeless virtues of St. Rita as we invite all people into a deeper, hope-filled relationship with God and one another.

Fr. Michael Di Gregorio, O.S.A., Prior Provincial, begins the groundbreaking ceremony with welcome remarks





Groundbreaking of St. Rita Place and the Cascia Center

As we look to the future, we see both possibility and opportunity ahead. As we were preparing for the groundbreaking ceremony, we were asked if there were any particular Gospel passages that we would like to use or that we thought would be appropriate for the occasion. While the options are seemingly endless, we were drawn to Matthew's account of Christ's transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-8). Inherent to the story is the disciples' transformational experience, but it also includes an invitation for each of us to undergo our own transformation. This seemed like an appropriate reading for the groundbreaking because we are literally transforming the land next to the Shrine, while also building a place of encounter; a place where we will invite our community, patrons and pilgrims to experience their own transformational conversions. As Peter states in the story, it's good to be here – to be at this point in the building process – and to behold God's beauty as so many people look to call this place their new home.

We should take great comfort knowing that Christ's invitation to "rise and not be afraid" is meant for us as we begin to work towards achieving this vision. As we begin to raise this building, we need not be afraid of the transformation we are undoubtedly going to experience. This will take a great deal of perseverance, hope and faith. Lucky for us, we have St. Rita's example to help lead the way! ✠

Learn More about the Cascia Center
SaintRitaShrine.org/cascia-center

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(l to r) Fr. Jim Paradis, O.S.A., Fr. Joe Genito, O.S.A. (Former Shrine Director), Fr. Nick Martorano, O.S.A., Fr. Bob Guessetto, O.S.A., Pat and Sam Bruno, Fr. Michael Di Gregorio, O.S.A., Prior Provincial (Former Shrine Director), Archbishop Nelson Perez, Fr. Jim Spenard, O.S.A., Jonathan Jerome (Current Shrine Director) and Chesley Turner (Former Shrine Director)

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 Groundbreaking Images

Justice and Peace

BY LACIE MICHAELSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF A.D.R.O.P.
(AUGUSTINIAN DEFENDERS OF THE RIGHTS OF THE POOR)

Reflection

Lately, I have been thinking a lot about bodies. Catholics believe that the body is crucial to our salvation, and we celebrate this whenever we receive the Body and Blood of Christ. We see this time and again reflected throughout the New Testament. Even when Jesus comes back to visit the disciples, he convinces Thomas that it is truly he by encouraging Thomas to touch him, to feel his body (John 20:27). Clearly, it is not enough for Jesus to return to his disciples as an apparition or simply an image, but he must also be physically present: the tangibility of his body is important.

Our own Augustinian perspective reminds us that it is not only each of our own individual bodies that are important, but that we must also exist as the community that we are. As the Body of Christ, we are called to emulate an incarnate God who, while being of two natures, is also one person. In one of our recent Justice and Peace webinars, Fr. Kevin DePrinzio, O.S.A., explained that one of Augustine's most famous quotes is frequently mistranslated and should be, "Our heart is restless until it rests in you." Note that St. Augustine spoke of one body with one, shared heart.

It is this shared body that I have reflected on as we continue to see numerous videos of black bodies being disrespected and even murdered. Why is it painful to watch the video of George Floyd's death? Why do we feel agony in our hearts as we watch a man take his last breath, begging for relief? We find the answer in 1 Corinthians 12:24-26 in which Paul discusses the Body of Christ, "God has constructed the body so that there may be no division in the body, but that the parts may have the same

concern for one another. If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it." None of us can breathe, our heart is restless.

Recently, I had the fantastic opportunity to participate in a four-part training called *Anti-racism for White Catholics*. This program was organized and run by Fr. Stephen Thorne, Joselli Deans, Stacy Williams, and Mary Laver. At the end of the series, Fr. Stephen spoke about the need for courage if one is to truly create change. This struck a particular chord with me. I can intellectually comprehend that racism is immoral, I can read hundreds of books on the topic and even have theological discussions with likeminded friends on the subject, but is this truly courageous? No. The true courage comes from looking inward and asking, "In what ways do I behave that marginalize or alienate others? Which institutions am I a participant in through which harmful and alienating practices perpetuate this sin of racism? Do I stand up against those institutions and demand something better?"

In 1979, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops encouraged Catholics in the United States to action, "Let the Church speak out, not only in the assemblies of the bishops, but in every diocese and parish in the land, in every chapel and religious house, in every school, in every social service agency, and in every institution that bears the name Catholic" (U.S. Catholic Bishops, "Brothers and Sisters to Us: Pastoral Letter on Racism," 1979). These are not simply words of unity and respect, but a call to action, a call to stand as community. While this letter was written in 1979, it reads as though it was written today, and we should seriously ask ourselves whether or not we have yet heeded its call.

So why should white Catholics care? As I have already quoted from 1 Corinthians, we are called to be a whole body, not divided. If one part of the body suffers, the other parts of the body must attempt to find that which is harming it. We have heard our brothers and sisters screaming: the voice of Christ calls to us, the hands of Christ reach out. Perhaps it



is comfortable not to speak up, perhaps it is comfortable not to educate ourselves further or speak with our brothers and sisters of color and ask, “What is life like for you?” St. Augustine said, “It is not only the person who steals another’s goods that is greedy, but also the one who holds on to his own goods greedily” (Sermon 107,4). By denying the pain of our community members, on to what do we greedily hold?

Our world is indeed restless right now. St. Augustine tells us that the only cure to restlessness is to rest in God. What does that mean when it comes to the sin of racism? What can we, as the community of the Body of Christ, do to heal and to truly seek God? We must wade into the restlessness, we must listen and – when it is appropriate to do so – we must speak up and demand more. ✚

The Next Justice and Peace Augustine and Catholic Social Teaching Webinar

Nov. 11, 2020 at 7:30 P.M

Topic: Racism/Black Lives Matter

Presenters: Terry Nance, Associate Vice Provost for Diversity and Inclusion, Villanova University and Fr. Kevin DePrinzio, O.S.A., Vice President for Mission and Ministry, Villanova University

*If you have not signed up for the series, join us: **Register Here!***

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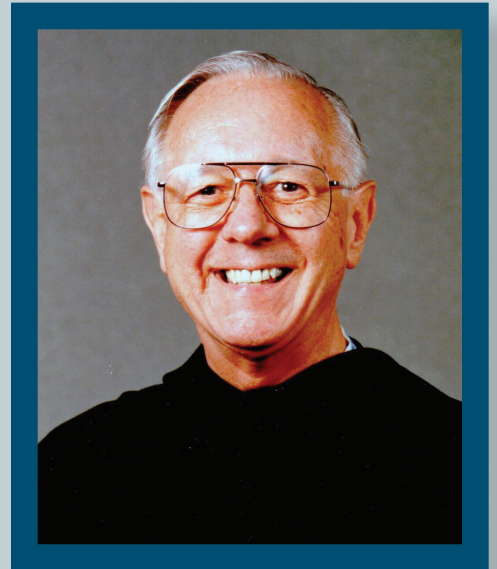
In Paradisum

Father Gordon Eugene Marcellus, O.S.A.

March 2, 1934 - March 27, 2020

Gordon Eugene Marcellus was born on March 2, 1934, in Greenfield Center, NY, the son of Artell Marcellus and Amelia Pero. He had two brothers and three sisters. He was baptized at St. John the Baptist Church, Schaghticoke, NY, and attended Schaghticoke Elementary School and Hoosick Valley Central High School, Valley Falls, NY. He graduated in 1950 and then worked on the New York Central Railroad from 1951 until 1953. Gordon entered Augustinian Academy, Staten Island, NY, as a postulant in 1953 and was received as a novice on September 9, 1954. After profession of simple vows on September 10, 1955, he attended Villanova University, and received his BA in Philosophy in 1959. He pursued theological studies at Augustinian College, Washington, DC, and received an MA in Theology. He professed solemn vows on September 10, 1958 and was ordained to the priesthood on February 9, 1963, by Bishop Edward Maginn, Ordinary of Albany, at St. Augustine Church, Troy, NY.

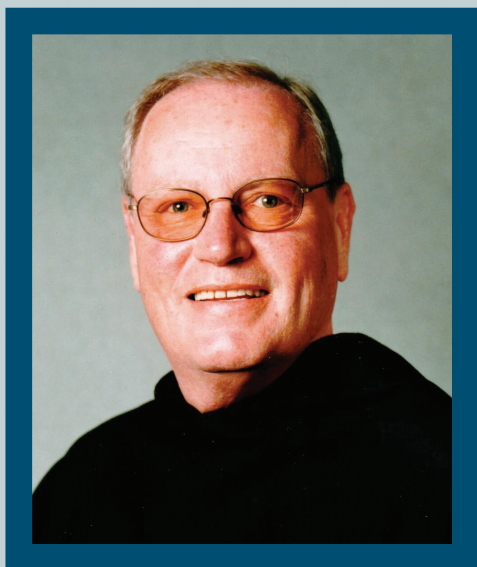
Fr. Gordon was assigned in 1963 to Msgr. Bonner High School, Drexel Hill, PA. From 1968 to 1970, he was the Procurator of St. Mary's Hall, the Augustinian House of Formation at Villanova. He returned to Msgr. Bonner as the school's business manager in 1970. From 1972 to 1974 he was the business manager for Malvern Preparatory School, Malvern, PA. That latter year he was appointed Director of Province Planned-Giving, and in 1978 was named Director of the Augustinian Seminary Guild. During this period, he was a member of the communities of Malvern, the Provincial House at Villanova, and St. Augustine Friary, Villanova,



successively. Fr. Gordon was assigned to St. Augustine Parish, Andover, MA in 1986 and returned to Msgr. Bonner High School, first as Principal in 1987, and then President in 1994. In 1997, as the University's Director of Development, he was assigned to St. Thomas Monastery, and then to Saxony Hall, Rosemont, PA. His final assignment was as Associate Director of Development for the Province, from 2006 until 2011. In 2012 he retired from active ministry but continued as a frequent confessor at the Malvern Retreat House. Fr. Gordon was hospitalized in March 2020 and, after several days at Bryn Mawr Terrace, passed away on Friday, March 27, 2020.

Fr. Gordon Marcellus' contribution to the educational apostolate of the Province over many years was significant, as was his service on behalf of the Province's own internal life. He was 86 years old at his death and 64 years a religious.





Father Thomas Joseph Meehan, O.S.A.

September 7, 1952 - April 20, 2020

Thomas Joseph Meehan was born on September 7, 1952, in Philadelphia, PA, one of five sons and four daughters of Thomas J. Meehan and Helen A. Johnson. Thom was baptized at Most Blessed Sacrament Church, Philadelphia, PA. He attended Most Blessed Sacrament Parish School, St. Andrew Parish School, Drexel Hill, PA, and Msgr. Bonner High School, Drexel Hill, from which he graduated in 1970. He matriculated at Villanova University where he obtained a BA in Education in 1974. He then entered the Order as a novice that August and professed simple vows on August 23, 1975. He attended the Washington Theological Union, Washington, DC, for theological studies and received the MDiv degree. He was assigned to St. Laurence O'Toole Parish,

Lawrence, MA, for pastoral ministry in 1978 and professed solemn vows on December 12, 1979. After ordination to the diaconate, he served at St. Mary Parish, Lawrence. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 14, 1980 at Our Mother of Good Counsel Parish, Bryn Mawr, PA, by Bishop John McNabb, O.S.A., of Chulucanas, Peru.

Fr. Thom was assigned to Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, Staten Island, NY, as parochial vicar in 1980. In 1982 he was transferred to Austin Preparatory School, Reading, MA, where he served as school chaplain and teacher until 1987. He then served as parochial vicar at St. Augustine Parish, Andover, MA, until 1992 when he was appointed to St. Augustine Parish, Troy, NY, as parochial vicar for one year and pastor, from 1993 to 1998. In that latter year he was appointed pastor of St. John Neumann Parish, Charlotte, NC. Fr. Thom was assigned to St. Augustine Friary, Villanova, PA in January 2007 and in 2009, he was transferred to St. Augustine Friary, Malvern, PA, as a member of the theology faculty. He made it a point to know every student well and was present at many extracurricular activities. Even after suffering a stroke in January 2018, he continued his teaching ministry which he only gave up reluctantly at the completion of the 2018 term. His mother, to whom he was very attentive, passed away in June of that year at the age of ninety.

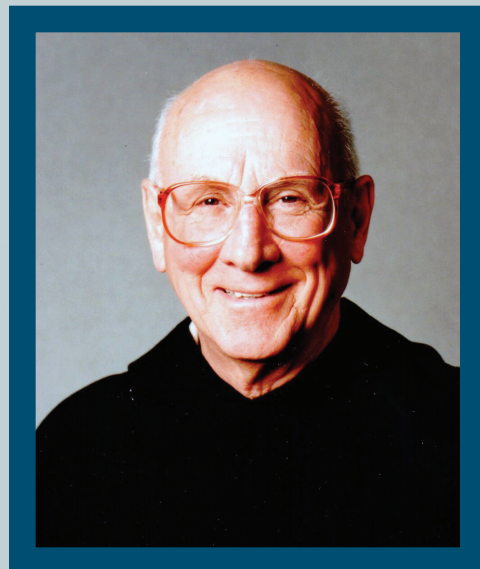
Fr. Thom was assigned to St. Thomas of Villanova Monastery in July 2018. He was hospitalized in the Winter of 2020 and he underwent the amputation of his leg. He died on April 20, 2020 at Seasons Hospice and Palliative Care of Phoenixville Hospital.

Father John Joseph Byrnes, O.S.A.

March 20, 1926 - May 8, 2020

John Joseph Byrnes was born on March 20, 1926, in Milton, MA, the son of Thomas N. Byrnes and Mary McGill. He had two brothers and three sisters. John was baptized at Sacred Heart Church, Quincy, and attended North Quincy public schools. He served in the Army Air Corps from 1944 until 1946, and then entered the School of St. Philip Neri for Delayed Vocations. A year later, he entered the postulancy at Augustinian Academy, Staten Island, NY, and was received as a novice on September 9, 1948. Following profession of simple vows on September 10, 1949, he attended Villanova College and received his BA in Philosophy in 1952. He then was assigned to Augustinian College, Washington, DC, for theological studies and while there, also received an MA in Geography from the Catholic University of America. John professed solemn vows on September 10, 1952 and was ordained to the priesthood on June 4, 1955, at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, DC, by Bishop John McNamara.

Fr. Byrnes was assigned to Msgr. Bonner High School, Drexel Hill, PA from 1956 to 1965. In 1964, he received an MA in Education from Villanova University. From 1965 to 1968 he served as procurator and teacher at St. Mary's Hall, Villanova. In 1968 he was appointed Director of the Seminary Guild and Director of the Augustinian Seculars. In 1971 he became a member of the preaching staff at Mount Augustine Retreat House, Staten Island, but returned to Villanova in 1973 as Dean of Students and dorm prefect. In 1978, he served at St. Augustine Parish Troy, NY, and then was appointed pastor of St. Laurence O'Toole Parish, Lawrence, MA. From 1980 to 1982 he was pastor of St. Nicholas of Tolentine Parish, Bronx, NY,



and in 1982-1983 was pastor of St. Augustine Parish, Lawrence. From 1983 to 1997 he served at St. Mary Parish, Waterford, NY, and then at Resurrection of Our Lord Parish, Dania Beach, FL. Fr. Byrnes became associate pastor at St. Nicholas of Tolentine Parish, Philadelphia, in 1998. In May 2016, at the age of 90, he retired to St. Thomas of Villanova Monastery.

Fr. John Byrnes was an affable friar, a zealous priest, and a loyal advocate for the Pro-Life movement. Shortly before his death debilitating health kept him confined to the community Health Care Facility. Always a devoted son of the Blessed Mother, he passed over to the Lord of natural causes, on May 8, 2020, the Feast of Our Lady of Grace, in the 70th year of his religious profession. ☩

photo: Simon Migaj

Mind Body

Soul

BY FR. DAVID A. CREGAN, O.S.A.

2020 started out with a promise of 'perfect vision.' And yet, here we are months into this new decade with a blurred vision of an uncertain future. Through months of quarantine and isolation we have been on an emotional rollercoaster that makes figuring things out virtually impossible. When our routine is disturbed our desire to control our lives is interrupted and this sends our minds into a jumble of unmanageable concerns.

In my last piece I wrote about using the body as an essential part of our spiritual journey and in this one I will focus on how to use the mind to listen and understand the voice of God, and even manage our fears and anxieties better.

Let's start with our routine. By its very nature our routine keeps us from having to think too much about anything. For instance, recall the times you drove from one familiar place to another and couldn't remember much of anything that happened on the road because your mind took over with its perpetual stories – mental chatter that removes you from the here and now, pulling you backward to dwell on a hurt from the past or a worry about the future. The pandemic has interrupted all of that routine and thus has left us quarantined with our minds. That's not a fun place to be! Uncertainty disturbs peace of mind and evokes anxiety and even fear in us.

But what's to be done with the mind? While it is commonly believed that thinking is just thinking, it's just who we are, our Catholic spiritual tradition says otherwise. Let's consider that the above metaphor of 'perfect vision' relies on the idea that we see clearly and flawlessly, this is the use of *perfect* as an adjective. But the word *perfect* is also a verb, and as a verb it means to free something from its faults or defects. Thus, in our current circumstances, could it be that God is perfecting us in the midst of the good and the suffering of this particular moment of time?

photo: Keri Thompson



*Fr. David Cregan O.S.A.,
Director of Novices*

▶ Click to Listen to Fr. David's
Mind Quieting Meditation

On the most fundamental level we turn to prayer, and as the prophet Elijah, in the midst of all this chaos, we listen for God in ‘the tiny whispering sound’ of contemplation. Introducing simple efforts to bring quiet time and creativity into our routine may be God’s way of perfecting our minds in order to receive the abundance of perfect vision of his plan through wisdom and grace. ☩

At the mountain of God, Horeb, Elijah came to a cave where he took shelter.

*Then the LORD said to him, “Go outside and stand on the mountain before the LORD;
the LORD will be passing by.”*

*A strong and heavy wind was rending the mountains and crushing rocks before the LORD—
but the LORD was not in the wind.*

*After the wind there was an earthquake—
but the LORD was not in the earthquake.*

*After the earthquake there was fire—
but the LORD was not in the fire.*

After the fire there was a tiny whispering sound.

*When he heard this,
Elijah hid his face in his cloak
and went and stood at the entrance of the cave.*

– 1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13a

How do we begin to interrupt the wild mind from taking over everything? The quiet of our routine and the solitude of social distancing have created new space in our lives. In order to quiet the mind one must begin to notice its rambling and make efforts to regulate what comes in and out of it. Watching 24 hour news is not good for a peaceful mind, nor are too many hours of video games, too much Instagram or even thoughtlessly browsing on the internet. God can and does perfect us, but we must play our part as well. We must learn to listen better to absorb God’s loving invitation to grow and change. A beginning can be the simple act of putting down the phone or turning off the TV.

Cultivating a peaceful mind is part of the responsibility of every Christian in the effort to listen for God in our daily lives. One can foster this in reading a good book, creative projects like drawing or woodworking, hard work in the yard or mindfully preparing a delicious dinner for family. Intentionally guiding our minds towards good work and focused silence and away from the relentless input of our times, truly opens us to the active presence of God to heal our worry and reduce our anxiety.

Catholics know where to turn to interpret what God is asking of us in such extraordinary times.

photo: Devon Janse





WISDOM OF THE AUGUSTINIAN TRADITION

Find yourself in the words of Augustine

The year before he died, the elderly bishop Augustine now seventy-five years of age, asked what must have been a purely rhetorical question: 'Which of my works has enjoyed greater circulation and popularity than the books of my *Confessions*?' For more than fifteen hundred years now their circulation and popularity have continued to expand. Indeed, it would hardly be an exaggeration to say that as far as western Christianity is concerned, all thinking on prayer, asceticism, and the spiritual life in general has been influenced one way or another by these books. They constitute one of the pillars on which the western spiritual tradition is built. In the sixth century we find Gregory the Great reading and re-reading these pages, and a thousand years later in Avila, St. Teresa, that great mystic of the practical mind, is still drawing inspiration and light from this same source – and St. Teresa was discriminating about her sources! Even today, the great number of English translations of the *Confessions* available is ample evidence of their continuing popularity. What is it that makes them appeal to so many different people of such diverse historical, cultural, and educational backgrounds? Perhaps it is the fact that people can find something of themselves in these books, expressed so clearly and sympathetically, that people find their own experience of life somehow mirrored here. In an age like ours which prizes experience so highly, it is not surprising that such skillful and honest presentation of one man's experience of life, love, doubt, fear, frustration, pride and sorrow makes such an appeal. But there is more than that. In the *Confessions* we come face to face with a man so passionate in his experience of life that we are drawn into and caught up in his enthusiasm. "Human beings, as he tells us, 'warm themselves at each other's flame.'"

Gervase Corcoran, O.S.A., *A Guide to the Confessions of Saint Augustine*

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

Contemplation

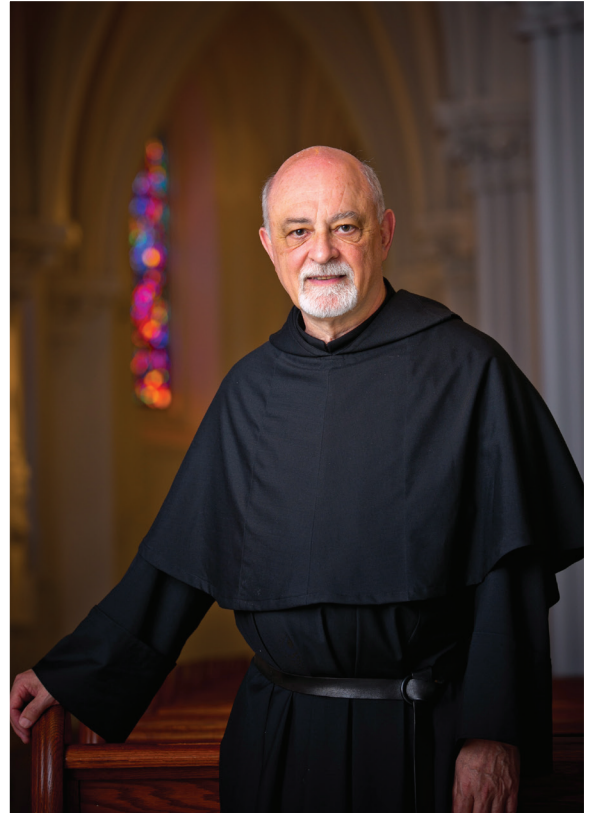
Wisdom comes in many forms, and from many sources. Surely, to be counted among the evidence of true wisdom is knowledge of self. Our tradition reminds us that such knowledge is a sign of spiritual awakening and a secure path to spiritual growth. But the way to wisdom does not have to be for each of us an independent or solitary undertaking. Those who are wise profit also from the discoveries of others which inform, enlighten and encourage the journey forward.

As Fr. Corcoran notes, many people have benefited from reading Augustine's *Confessions* over the centuries, and many continue to do so today as well. Our Province Vocation Office reports that a good number of inquirers about Augustinian religious life cite the reading of the *Confessions* as the incentive for their outreach to us.

To assist individuals in walking with Augustine, the Province has made available in recent months a series of video presentations on the *Confessions* in both English and Spanish, authored by Fr. Art Purcaro, O.S.A. These can be found at the Province website, Augustinian.org/documents.

In addition, Villanova University produced several years ago an App called Augustine's *Confessions* available exclusively on the iPhone for \$4.99. And Fr. Art's meditations on the *Confessions* in English and Spanish are among the first podcasts to debut on our **Augustinian Journey** App available free to download on iPhone and Android.

These instruments are readily available to guide and encourage people to read Augustine's most popular work and to warm themselves at his flame. We invite you, through the *Confessions*, to make Augustine your companion on the journey to greater self-knowledge and growth. —✠



The Father George F. Riley, O.S.A.

Fund for Augustinian HealthCare

BY MADONNA SUTTER,
DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT



The Province of St. Thomas of Villanova is pleased to announce the re-naming of the Augustinian Fund for the Care of Elderly and Infirm Friars to the **Fr. George F. Riley, O.S.A. Fund for Augustinian HealthCare**. This newly named fund will continue to support friars who are elderly or in need of special care, many of whom are members of St. Thomas of Villanova Monastery on the campus of Villanova University. It is fitting that we name this fund in honor of Fr. Riley, who spent almost his entire career of sixty years in ministry at Villanova University.

I first met Fr. Riley when I worked in Villanova's Alumni Office in 1994. Our offices were in the same building. Upon entering his office for the first time, I was in awe at the gallery of photos of Fr. Riley with U.S. presidents, dignitaries, celebrities, and sports icons. I knew I had met someone very special who would be my friend forever.

As a faculty member and administrator, he was beloved by all who knew him and is held in high esteem by countless Villanova Alumni. His smile is infectious, his sense of humor is unique and to say he is one of a kind would be an understatement. He has also had a robust life outside of Villanova in his weekend ministry at the Jersey Shore where he would celebrate Mass for

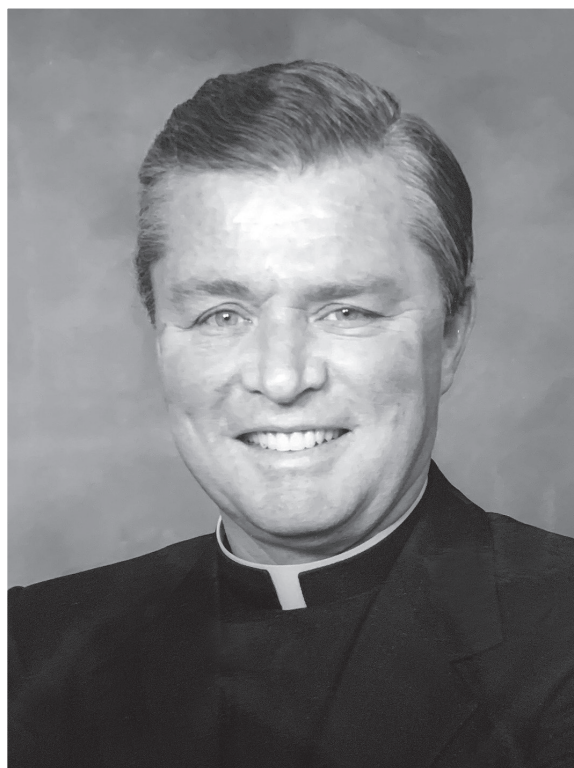




hundreds of vacationers who would flock to church to hear his homilies and his art of Irish storytelling.

Today, Fr. Riley lives on the second floor of the monastery in the skilled nursing unit where he and other friars have been in quarantine since mid-March. Diagnosed with Parkinson's disease a few years ago, Fr. Riley is well cared for by an outstanding nursing staff in a caring community with his Augustinian brothers. His life has come full circle as he resides on the campus of the university that he loves so much and that loves him in return.

We are planning to commemorate the re-naming of the fund and honor Fr. Riley at a celebratory dinner. Due to present COVID-19 restrictions, we are not yet able to set a specific date



for this event. We are creating an endowment in the name of Fr. Riley for this initiative to ensure the continuance of compassionate health care and spiritual nourishment for our elderly and infirm friars. For more information, visit: AugustinianFund.org/father-riley. ☩

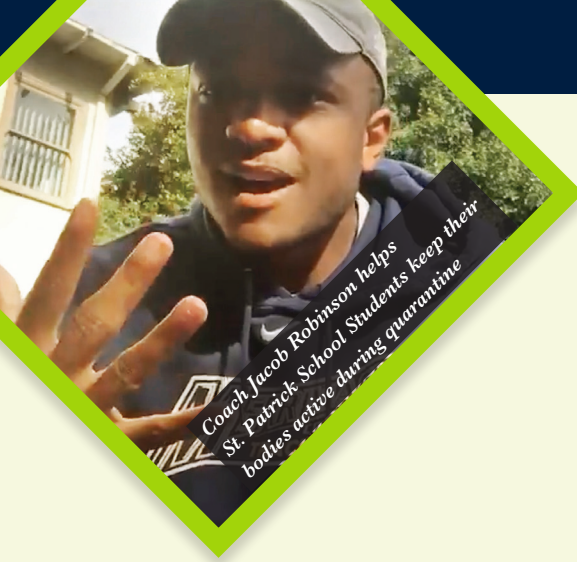
Should you wish to be involved in honoring Fr. Riley, contact:

Madonna Sutter

Director of Advancement

email: madonna.sutter@augustinian.org

phone: 267.272.3048



Service, Spirituality, and Community in the time of COVID-19

BY JOANNA BOWEN, DIRECTOR OF THE AUGUSTINIAN VOLUNTEERS

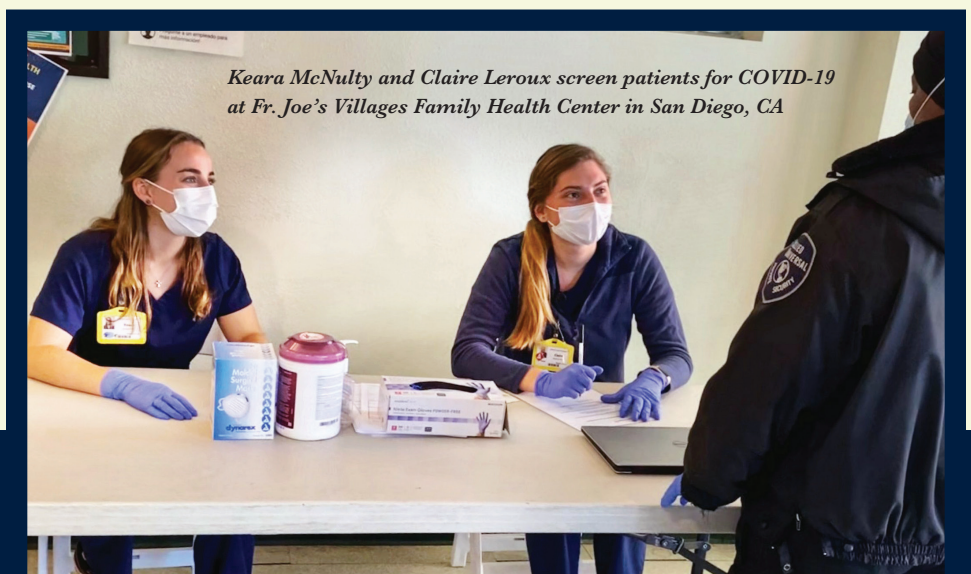
On Thursday March 12th, I sat at my desk in my basement office of the St. Augustine Friary. I had just hung up from a call with other directors of volunteer programs, and the primary question on our minds was about the COVID-19 virus that was beginning to spread within the United States. I had already heard from several of our Augustinian Volunteers and their site supervisors that day, updating me on school closures and other changes beginning to take effect. Simultaneously, I was getting texts from friends and family about other events that were shutting down. The Big East Basketball tournament abruptly ended during halftime of a quarterfinal game. Broadway went dark. It certainly seemed like something was brewing. I opened my email and began drafting a letter to the volunteers, serving all over the country and in Peru. “Dear Volunteers,” I wrote, “As COVID-19 (Coronavirus) continues to spread, we wanted to touch base with all of you to make sure that you have accurate and updated information about the disease.”

Today, as I write this article from my home office, revisiting the email I wrote many months ago, I am reminded of how naïve we were to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. On March 12th, I could have never imagined the loss of lives our country would experience and the way in which our way of life would be radically transformed. I did not yet know that the rest of my interactions with our volunteer class would be on Zoom. I did not know that we wouldn’t be able to celebrate our 20th Anniversary in person. And, I certainly did not know that we would be preparing to welcome our 21st class with a completely virtual orientation.

However, I was certain that the Augustinian Volunteers could

continue to provide opportunities for our domestic volunteers to safely experience community, service, and spirituality. Sadly, the onset of the pandemic made it unsafe for volunteers to continue to serve in Chulucanas, Peru, and they returned home to the United States ahead of the Peruvian border closure. Quickly, the AV staff jumped into action,

providing extra funds in volunteer budgets so that they could stock up on groceries and cleaning supplies. Realizing that volunteers would likely welcome more connection during this unprecedented time in our country’s history, Hannah Kunberger, Associate Director of the Augustinian Volunteers, created a newsletter that was delivered to each volunteer’s





Bridget Lozier delivers food to homebound senior citizens as part of Help of Ojai's food distribution program

Daniela Zavala leads a virtual sing-along for preschool students at Lawrence Catholic Academy



inbox daily. Together, we shared prayer requests, sought ways to lift others up, swapped educational resources, and did our best to find some humor each day. The volunteers responded with similar ingenuity. Some volunteers, who served as essential workers, left their homes each day to engage with the local community by providing food distribution services and COVID-19 testing. Others pivoted to virtual service, connecting with students and clients through video conferencing and phone calls. Suddenly, physical education class was a video lesson from the volunteer's backyard, retreats happened on Zoom, and preschoolers were entertained with elaborate sing-along videos.

As the pandemic continued without a resolution in sight, it became clear that as a staff, we had to move past responding and instead focus on innovating for the future. By mid-April, we knew that it would be irresponsible and unsafe to gather in person for an End of Year retreat. We also knew it was unlikely that we would be able to welcome our 21st class in August with an in-person orientation. While much of the content that takes place during these retreats could take place on a virtual platform, we wanted to pay particular attention to creating a comfortable space for volunteers to share deeply and connect meaningfully around their experiences.

Keri Salanik prepares bags for high school seniors for Villanova Prep's virtual senior retreat



We wanted volunteers to be active participants, and not feel like they were relegated to watching the end of their volunteer experience on a screen. The AV staff has always put relationships with volunteers at the center of our work. We strive to get to know each volunteer on a personal level so that

we can journey with them throughout the year. In the end, it was that foundation that we built that allowed for a successful retreat experience, even though we could not be together.

At the end of August, our 21st volunteer class began its term of service. For the first time ever, we did not begin our relationships in person. In addition to the physical and spiritual gifts we provide each volunteer, we also stocked each house with a thermometer, pulse oximeter, and a list of local COVID-19 testing sites. Some have asked if it's worth it to have a volunteer year this year. After all, our world is more uncertain than ever. But, after thoughtful conversations with advisors and others, we believe that our volunteers can have a safe and meaningful experience. Being an Augustinian Volunteer has always required a leap of faith and a radical commitment to the good of others. This year will be no different. ✠

Connect with Us!

Augustinian Volunteers
email: info@AugustinianVolunteers.org
facebook: [@AugustinianVolunteers](https://www.facebook.com/AugustinianVolunteers)
instagram: [@augustinianvols](https://www.instagram.com/augustinianvols)
website: [AugustinianVolunteers.org](https://www.AugustinianVolunteers.org)
phone: 610.527.3330 ext 291

Around the Province



Kevin Gaughenbaugh

Discerning their Call

At the celebration of the Eucharist on Saturday, August 15th, two new candidates were received into the Initial Formation Program of the Province. Kevin Gaughenbaugh from Scranton, PA and Nicholas Stone from Winston-Salem, NC are continuing their discernment of a call to our way of life. They have enrolled as students in Philosophy and Theology in the College of Professional Studies at Villanova University while living as members of the Bellesini Friary community in Ardmore. Learn more about Province Vocations: Augustinian.org/vocations



Nicholas Stone

Foreign Missions

COVID-19 has had devastating effects in Peru, but fortunately, the few friars there who have tested positive have experienced only minor symptoms. The pandemic, however, has had serious effects on our new school in Trujillo. Finally completed and due to open in March 2020, Colegio San Agustin, along with all other schools in the country, was required by the Peruvian government to offer only on-line instruction. This prompted 70% of the anticipated enrollment to switch to the public school system. It is hoped that when in-person classes are once again allowed, most of those students will return to receive the quality education that will lead to an opportunity to break the cycle of poverty in which they find themselves. Learn more about our Foreign Missions ministry: Augustinian.org/foreign-missions



Colegio San Agustin, Trujillo

A.D.R.O.P. Unity Clinic Reopens

The A.D.R.O.P. (Augustinian Defenders of the Rights of the Poor) Unity Clinic officially reopened in August. Through a mixture of in-person and telehealth services, patients were able to visit the Unity Clinic for the first time in months. Utilizing many safety precautions and new technology, they continue to provide much needed services to the community. Learn more about A.D.R.O.P. at Augustinian.org/justice-peace

Augustinian Volunteers Take Part in End of Year Retreat

While this year was anything but ordinary, the 20th class of Augustinian Volunteers completed their year of service with a retreat that took place from June 23rd to June 25th. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the retreat was moved to a virtual format. Volunteers were still able to share meaningfully about their experiences of service and reflect on their experiences of community. Despite the challenges of restrictions due to COVID-19, the volunteers never lost their sense of humor! Learn more about the Augustinian Volunteers: Augustinian.org/augustinian-volunteers

St. Augustine Prep Students Lead by Example

St. Augustine Prep students demonstrated Augustinian Values during the pandemic by helping out their community in a variety of ways. In June, students sewed masks for their local healthcare workers, delivered food to senior citizens and distributed hot meals to those in their community. Learn more about our Education ministry: Augustinian.org/education



Villanova names Fr. Kevin DePrinzio, O.S.A., VP for Mission and Ministry

Fr. Kevin DePrinzio, O.S.A., was named Vice President for Mission and Ministry at Villanova University, effective July 1. In the role he will oversee the university's Office for Mission and Ministry, which plays a vital role in ensuring Villanova's commitment to living out its Augustinian Catholic mission.

New Banners at the National Shrine of Saint Rita of Cascia

At the end of June, beautiful new banners were installed on Broad Street! Six new banners were donated and are a great extension of the Shrine and our ministry in Philadelphia.

St. Rita, pray for us!
Learn more about the Shrine: Augustinian.org/theshrine



Vocation Motivation



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

Despite the unprecedented circumstances with which we've all been dealing, due to the pandemic, vocation ministry remains engaged and has adapted – using tools, such as Zoom chats, to communicate with discerners. In addition, the National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC,) of which we are an active member, has released the most comprehensive study on vocations to religious life, in over ten years. Its key findings confirm much of what we've been seeing among those attracted to our Augustinian way of life, especially a desire for authentic community, centered on prayer and a sense of mission. It's noteworthy, as well, that newer members of religious institutes prefer intergenerational living, often looking to more senior members as mentors and wisdom figures. In turn, senior members, as expressed by many of those in our Province, are energized by their interaction with newer members and discerners. Perhaps the most heartening conclusion of the 2020 NRVC study is that there's a continuing sense of call, even in the midst of challenging times in our Church and world, and that new entrants to religious life express abundant hope. Please check out nrvc.net for more information on the study and other vocation-related resources.



Reflections

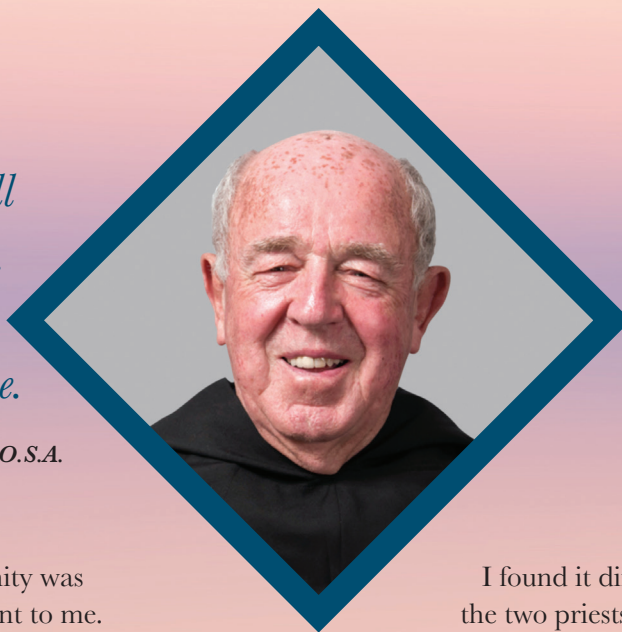
Fr. Jim Wenzel, O.S.A., age 90 and Joe Barowski, a Pre-Novice, age 22, speak about Augustinian religious life and intergenerational living:

How did you first come to the Augustinians?

Fr. Jim: I simply wanted to be a priest. When I was a kid growing up, I lived next door to a convent. I was a block away from the church; I was an altar boy. I think as most kids in those days, we thought about being a priest. But then I went to a public high school and I didn't think about being a priest at all. I was very active in high school and engaged in all kinds of activities.

“
*At school, I gradually began to fall
in love with being an Augustinian.
So I joined 70 years ago and
have been on this journey ever since.*

” – Fr. Jim Wenzel, O.S.A.



When it came time to think about college, my parents said to me, if you'd like to go to college, we'll certainly help you, but you've got to pitch in yourself. My mother had read in a Catholic newspaper that a new college had opened up in North Andover, that was only about 12 miles north of home. So, I went up and looked at the school in April of 1948. To my recollection, that's the first time I ever heard the word 'Augustinian.' We went in and we met Fr. Joseph Gildea, O.S.A., the first Augustinian I had ever met. After a good conversation with him, I ultimately decided I was going to go. So, I began in September of 1948 and that's where I began to think about the Augustinians. At school, I gradually began to fall in love with being an Augustinian. So, I joined 70 years ago and have been on this journey ever since.

Joe: I came to Villanova as a sophomore; I transferred in. I knew I was looking to discern about the priesthood, like Fr. Jim was. I came from a large family

and community was very important to me. When I first came onto campus, the first Augustinian I met was Br. Michael Duffy, O.S.A., at Campus Ministry.

Later that week there was an activities fair on campus. I signed up for the discernment group and we met up once a month for about an hour. This group was a big part of helping me to discern religious life in general. I also came to see what Augustinian life was all about. It was all about community. That's why I really wanted to join; that's why I am where I am now. I'm looking forward to continuing this lifelong discernment with the Augustinians!

What has been your experience of intergenerational living?

Fr. Jim: When I went to my assignment in Andover in 1958,

I found it difficult because the two priests I lived with were both 25 years older than

I. They were both wonderful men;

I came to really love them and they have greatly influenced my life as a priest by observing how they were as priests. But it was very lonesome for me as I had come from a very big community from the monastery and in formation. So, I am a big fan of intergenerational living.

Joe: I'm living in Bellesini Friary and I'm 22, about to be 23 in September. The next youngest in the house this past year was Fr. Joe Narog, O.S.A., and he's 61. So, there was a big gap. But, especially during the pandemic, it was fine. It was a lot of fun to live in the house. We have prayer together; we really have some great conversations around the dinner table. There are a lot of fun memories from the older guys, and the younger guys I feel bring life to the community. Having both sides of the spectrum is a really good thing.

– continued next page



“

*I also came to see what Augustinian life
all was about. It was all about community.
That's why I really wanted to join.*

”

– Joe Barowski, Pre-Novice

Why is intergenerational living important?

Fr. Jim: It's more than just the stories, we learn from each other. You can have a respect for age differences. That just enriches one's life.

Joe: There is the experience and the learning of what used to be, learning the history of not only the Church, but also the Order. Fr. Joe Narog, O.S.A., and I just did a tour through the Province to places that I hadn't seen yet and also places I had seen. I think that the history is a very valuable part of joining the Augustinians. When looking through the necrologies, some of the friars remember those mentioned. And it's good to think that they have influenced the friars that are influencing you, so there's still a connection.

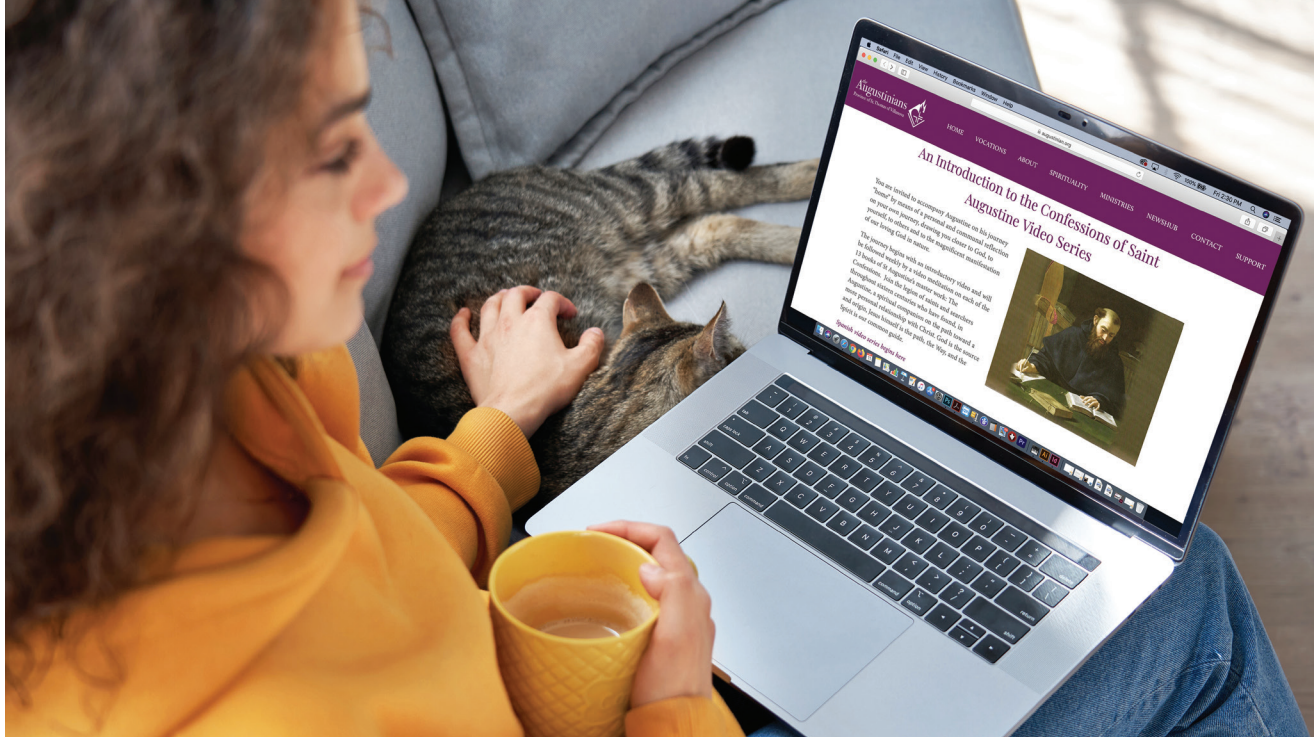
What advice do you have for those who have never lived in an intergenerational community before?

Fr. Jim: Have respect for each other. That's the charter for our lifestyle and how we live, and how we relate to each other. Respecting individual differences – there are all different sizes and shapes, all different frames of thinking. Being sensitive to one another. Really listening and spending time together. You have to want and choose to be together.

Joe: Community happens where the community is, as Fr. Joe Mostardi, O.S.A., said, *What makes the Augustinians what they are is that desire to come together, one mind one heart, intent upon God.* ✠

Contact Us!

Augustinian Vocation Office
email: vocations@augustinian.org
phone: 610.519.4674



Confessions Video & Podcast Series

Home *and* *on the* Go

An Introduction to the Confessions of Saint Augustine in English and Spanish

PRESENTED BY FR. ARTHUR PURCARO, O.S.A.

You are invited to accompany Augustine on his journey “home” by means of a personal and communal reflection on your own journey, drawing you closer to God, to yourself, to others and to the magnificent manifestation of our loving God in nature. The journey begins with an introduction, followed by a meditation on each of the 13 books of St Augustine’s master work: *Confessions*. Join the legion of saints and searchers throughout sixteen centuries who have found in Augustine a spiritual companion on the path toward a more personal relationship with Christ. God is the source and origin, Jesus himself is the path, the Way, and the Spirit is our common guide.



Video series in English and Spanish: Augustinian.org/documents

Podcasts in English and Spanish: download **Augustinian Journey** for iPhone



for Android



Calling All Monsignor Bonner High Alumni!

BY MADONNA SUTTER,
DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT

Join the Movement



*Madonna Sutter,
Director of Advancement*

Dear Friends of the Augustinians,

We never know what's in store for us, do we? Our lives have been upended, disconnected and chaotic. There is a level of uncertainty that exists, the likes of which we've never seen before.

Many plans have been postponed or canceled. We would much prefer to see you in person, and so, we will wait until we can safely do so. Several months ago, a handful of friars and I got together to begin talking about an Augustinian reunion with our alumni from Msgr. Bonner High School. Bonner and the Augustinians began their journey together in 1953, and our friars served there until 2009. It was a sad day for the friars to leave a school which they had served so happily for 56 years and where many vocations originated.

I am always amazed at the number of Bonner alumni I encounter who have such strong connections to friars who made a lasting impact on their lives. We want to celebrate these connections and reconnect with you in a special way. We do not have a date in mind yet but hope for the Fall/Winter of 2021. We will wait

to confirm a date until we have more definite news regarding a vaccine. In the meantime, if you graduated from Bonner or worked there, have an Augustinian-Bonner connection story that you'd like to share, or can help me to connect to other Bonner alumni, please contact me. Those of you with significant Bonner networks, please help us to spread the word.

I look forward to a time when we can safely celebrate the Augustinian legacy and alumni of Msgr. Bonner High School. Get out your yearbooks, your Bonner memorabilia and prepare to reunite with the Augustinian-Bonner community.

Madonna Sutter
Director of Advancement
email: madonna.sutter@augustinian.org
phone: 267.272.3048



Augustinian Friars who worked at and graduated from Msgr. Bonner High School (l-r): Fr. Gus Esposito, O.S.A., Fr. Steve Curry, O.S.A., Fr. Frank Devlin, O.S.A. and Fr. Dan McLaughlin, O.S.A.

Important information about the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act

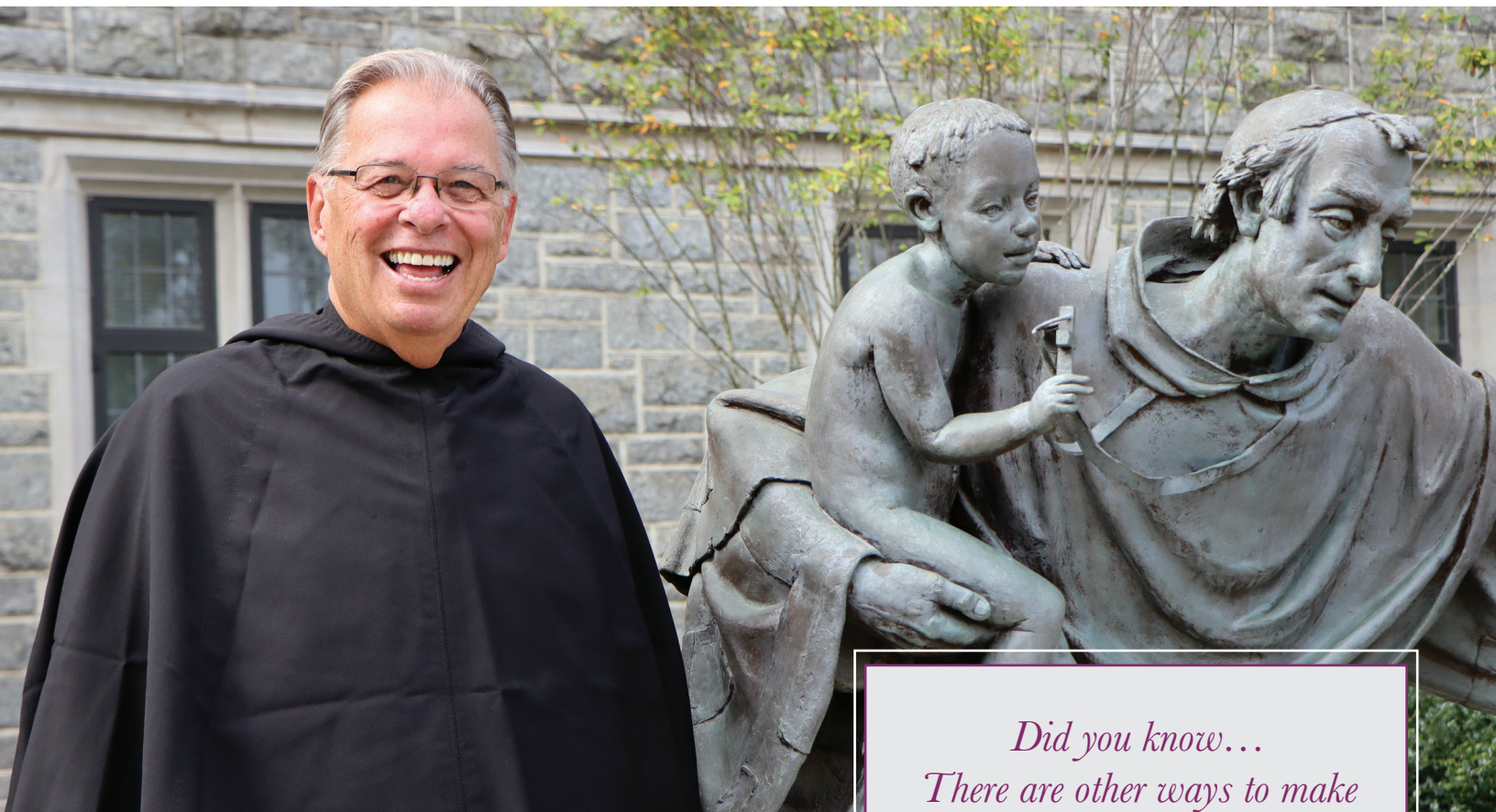
- *If you do not itemize deductions, you may take an "above-the-line" deduction for up to \$300 in cash gifts you make to the Augustinians on gifts made in 2020.*
- *If you do itemize, you may deduct up to the entire amount of your adjusted gross income (AGI) for cash gifts made in 2020.*
- *Required minimum distributions (RMDs) from IRAs and other "defined contribution" retirement plans have been waived for 2020.*

For more detailed information, visit:

<https://augustinian.plannedgiving.org/cares-act>

To make a gift, visit:

www.augustinianfund.org/donate



MEET FATHER MICHAEL P. SULLIVAN, O.S.A.

Augustinian Friar for over 60 years.

I grew up in an Augustinian parish, St. Nicholas of Tolentine in the Bronx, NY, and decided to become a priest when I was 20 years old. I joined the Order of St. Augustine because I knew them through my parish and learned to know and love them. I have been an Augustinian Friar for 60 years and recently celebrated my 80th birthday. My ministry over the years has been in parish missions. I have traveled the world offering parish retreats. The funds provided to me through my ministry were used to support my community in St. Thomas of Villanova Monastery on Villanova's campus where I have lived for 40 years.

Now retired and not on the road, I am able to be present in my community and celebrate Mass, eat meals with my brothers and live a life of prayer. There is a love and compassion that exists in the monastery and a sense of caring and concern for one another.

We could not be in a better place. Each morning we pray for our benefactors whose generosity make our life in the monastery possible. On behalf of my brothers, may God bless you for your support of our life.

*Did you know...
 There are other ways to make
 a gift without writing a check:*

Bequest

Naming the Augustinians in your will makes a meaningful legacy gift which does not affect cash flow.

Gift of securities

Giving stock has immediate tax benefits.

IRA charitable rollover

If you are 70 ½ or over, you can make a tax-free gift from your IRA. The Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) has been waived in 2020.

Beneficiary designation

Designate your bank account, insurance policy or retirement plan to the Augustinians.



Staying Connected

November 10, 2020

Augustinian Prayer in Everyday Life

4:00 PM - 5:30 PM

Join us from your home via Zoom

For details and to register,

visit: AugustinianFund.org/staten-island

April 24, 2021

Tolle Lege Day

For more information,

visit: TolleLegeDay.AugustinianFund.org

All Are Welcome

