

VOLUME XIII . ISSUE I

THE AUGUSTINIAN

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2018 PEACE AWARD

In Spring of 2018, the annual Peace Award will be awarded to the St. Francis Inn Ministries. For decades, St. Francis Inn Ministries has provided help, shelter, food, clothing, and shelter to the poor and disenfranchised of North Philadelphia. They will receive the 2018 Peace Award in recognition of their tireless work to bring justice, comfort, and the Word of God to others.

A SPECIAL RECOGNITION

BLESSED MARIA TERESA FASCE AWARD

In recognition of his years of selfless service, Mr. Joseph Bradley of Philadelphia will be presented with the first Blessed Maria Teresa Fasce award, intended for an active individual of the Saint Rita of Cascia circle who exemplifies the Augustinian spirit and who, through consistent and lasting hard work and dedication, effects change in the world.

Learn more: WWW.SAINTRITASHRINE.ORG/PEACE-AWARD

Sending God's Blessings to our Augustinian Volunteers



ELIZABETH HOUBECK, PATRICK MCDONELL, AND ERICA PETERS ENJOY THEIR RE-ENTRY RETREAT IN OCEAN CITY, N.J. AFTER RETURNING HOME FROM A YEAR OF SERVICE IN PERU.

On December 11th three Augustinian Volunteers who have been serving in Chulucanas, Peru, returned to the United States. Elizabeth Houbeck, Patrick McDonnell, and Erica Peters began their term of service in January 2017. Upon their arrival home, they participated in a retreat in Ocean City, N.J. where they were able to share and reflect on their experience and re-connect with other Augustinian Volunteer alumni. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue to adjust to being home.

Augustinian Volunteers



PERU VOLUNTEERS VANESSA PÉREZ, JENNIFER BRADY, AND KATE FOLEY AT THE AUGUSTINIAN VOLUNTEERS COMMISSIONING MASS

In January, three new Augustinian Volunteers begin their term of service in Chulucanas. Vanessa Pérez, a graduate of Saint Mary's University in Texas will be serving at CETPRO (CEO) Betania, a trade school focused on educating women. Kate Foley, an alumna of Villanova University, will be serving at Santísima Cruz, a local parochial school staffed by the Augustinian Friars, and San José Obrero, the local Augustinian parish. Jennifer Brady, a graduate of the University of Dallas, will be serving at Centro Pastoral, the diocesan health office. Before departing for Peru, volunteers take part in an orientation retreat in Ocean City, N.J. Please keep them in your prayers as they begin this journey.

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Chesley Turner, designated as the new Director of the National Shrine of Saint Rita in Philadelphia, was installed during a Mass in October 2017, celebrated by Michael Di Gregorio, O.S.A., Prior Provincial of the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova. The first woman to be named to this position, Chesley reflects on her installation ceremony, as her parents, friends, colleagues and Augustinian Friars came to the Mass and ceremony to support her at her initiation in this ministry.

P. 8 A Year of Service, A Lifetime of Positive Impact

The Augustinian Volunteers can perform their service in many capacities, whether as a teacher, a teacher's aide, helping with distribution at a food bank or helping at a health center or other social agency. Service can be domestic, at a site within the continental U.S., or international, in Peru. Whatever the case, Augustinian Volunteers become part of the Augustinian Family and are paired with a nearby Augustinian Community. The year of service provides an opportunity for personal growth as well as the opportunity to have a lasting impact on the people they serve.

P. 12 The Path to Novitiate

The Augustinian Formation Program begins when a man, expressing a desire to pursue a religious vocation as an Augustinian Friar, is accepted as a candidate to the Augustinian formation program. After several months as a candidate, if approved, one advances to become a pre-novice. Immersing oneself in the life and *Rule* of Augustine, living and praying in community, paired with a spiritual director, the pre-novice continues discernment of his call to be an Augustinian Friar. With a desire to continue pursuing this call and with the recommendation of the Augustinian Formation Team, the pre-novice will advance to the Augustinian Novitiate.

P. 18 Wisdom of the Augustinian Tradition

Prayer is an essential element of the Augustinian way of life. Preaching and promoting Jesus Christ and the Gospel was paramount to Blessed Simon of Cascia, O.S.A., a 13th century Augustinian. An excerpt from one of Simon of Cascia's writings is considered by Father David Cregan, O.S.A., as he gives us an answer to the question, "Why does one pray?" and challenges us to surrender to the will of God in our prayer life and so be transformed.



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ON THE COVER:

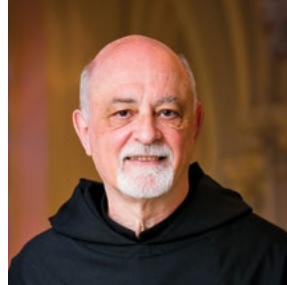
Chesley Turner, newly-installed Director of the National Shrine of Saint Rita of Cascia in Philadelphia, is pictured with Fathers Art Purcaro, O.S.A., Prior Provincial Michael Di Gregorio, O.S.A., and Nick Martorano, O.S.A., following her installation Mass. Photo courtesy of Dan McLaughlin, O.S.A.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

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THE AUGUSTINIAN

A publication of the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova.



LETTER FROM THE

PRIOR PROVINCIAL

Dear Friends,

We begin the New Year 2018 with the sound of the Nativity's greeting echoing still around us: *Glory to God...and Peace to His People on Earth*. May this message continue to ring throughout the months ahead, bringing hope and light to all of us and to our whole world!

Each opportunity to pen a few words in *The Augustinian* allows me to be the bearer of good news to you, as we record here, among other things, the many blessings that enrich the life of our Province. The transition we have experienced from one year to the next signals other transitions that are recorded in this issue of our magazine. Let me highlight a few of them.

Our new Province Communications Director, Cher Rago, who addresses you directly in these opening pages, has been busy in these first months acquainting herself with the members of the Provincial Staff and the specific duties of her work. At the same time, she has crafted this issue of *The Augustinian*, planned a re-design of the Province webpage, and brought the Province into additional areas of social media.

Chesley Turner was formally commissioned in her new role as Director of the National Shrine of Saint Rita, as noted on the cover of this issue, as well as in the following pages. A new cohort of Augustinian Volunteers has been commissioned and sent forth to serve the Church and society by living and modeling Augustinian community life and our values at various sites of their ministry.

With great joy we celebrated the Solemn Profession of Vows of Brother Bryan Kerns, signaling his final commitment as an Augustinian and a member of the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova. We look forward to his upcoming ordination to the diaconate in February.

As we congratulate each of these individuals, and celebrate special events of their lives, we are grateful for them as signs of growth and hope. Similarly, are we grateful for you, our readers, who accompany us in our life and ministry. May the blessings of this New Year fill you with grace and peace.

God's blessings,

Michael F. Di Gregorio, O.S.A.
PRIOR PROVINCIAL
PROVINCE OF SAINT THOMAS OF VILLANOVA

VOLUME XIII . ISSUE I

THE AUGUSTINIAN

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NOTE FROM THE

EDITOR

Greetings from your new Editor:

After years of mothering, working in freelance design and managing my own business, I now sit in a place that feels just like home...and I'm so glad to be back!

It is my pleasure to be the new Editor of *The Augustinian*, as well as the Director of Communications for the Augustinian Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova. I am not a stranger to this office, having spent a number of years here early in my career. I have been continually blessed to work with so many wonderful friars in the past and again, in the present.

It is my hope to fill this magazine with the richness and liveliness of the Province and its ministries. Some of you know these traits well and some of you may want to know more. Either way, I plan to provide you with additional information and greater insight into the Augustinian way of life.

There is something unique about the Augustinian legacy and its strength to persevere with vision and passion to serve the people of God. In these pages and the pages of future editions, you will come to know the Augustinians better and to see the importance of their work and teachings in this ever-changing world!

Warm Regards,

Cher Rago

THE AUGUSTINIAN PROVINCE OF SAINT THOMAS OF VILLANOVA

proudly announces its

2018 SAINT AUGUSTINE MEDAL HONOREE



The Most Reverend Louis A. DeSimone

Retired Auxiliary Bishop, Archdiocese of Philadelphia

"There is no more loyal friend and supporter of the Augustinians, no more sincere and gracious champion of each and every friar than Bishop DeSimone. He is the personification of an Augustinian man of heart."

FATHER MICHAEL DI GREGORIO, O.S.A.
Prior Provincial

"I enthusiastically endorse and support your decision to present the Province's Saint Augustine Medal to our wonderful Bishop Louis DeSimone. There is no more worthy recipient. As you know much better than I, he has a great love for the Augustinian community."

MOST REVEREND CHARLES J. CHAPUT, O.F.M. CAP.
Archbishop of Philadelphia



**The Saint Augustine Medal will be conferred on
Bishop DeSimone at a Gala in October 2018.**

For details and to register, after February 1, 2018 please visit:
www.augustinianfund.org/medal-dinner

Tickets will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

For additional information, contact Madonna Sutter, Director of Advancement,
at (610) 527-3330, ext. 265 or madonna.sutter@augustinian.org.

Our New Shrine Director

ON OCTOBER 15, 2017 Chesley Turner was installed as the new Director of our Augustinian Ministry at the National Shrine of Saint Rita of Cascia in South Philadelphia. Chesley's ebullient smiles captured the attention of many who entered the Shrine to celebrate with her. In this peaceful space, in a ceremony that was both moving and inspirational, Chesley officially began her Ministry.

Chesley's energy is contagious and her joy radiates outward. She was raised in Atlanta Georgia and is the daughter of proud parents Barbara and Sid. With her parents' guidance, at a very young age, Chesley began to know what a community of faith meant and was motivated to move through her world holding fast to that community. If you've never met Chesley, consider a visit to the Shrine. She will be happy you did and so will you!



CHESLEY TURNER (L) IS INSTALLED AS DIRECTOR OF SAINT RITA OF CASCIA NATIONAL SHRINE BY PRIOR PROVINCIAL MICHAEL DI GREGORIO, O.S.A., (R), AS AUGUSTINIAN FRIARS (L-R) ART PURCARO, O.S.A., NICK MARTORANO, O.S.A., AND ROBERT GUESSETTO, O.S.A., LOOK ON.

CHESLEY TURNER'S REFLECTION

The story goes that Saint Augustine was elected through public acclaim, that his skillful preaching and clarification of the message of God was so remarkable, the people called him to his new role as bishop. He wrote a way of life for community living, but it was the community that empowered him to serve. And he listened.

On Sunday, October 15, 2017 I found myself standing in the beautiful National Shrine of Saint Rita of Cascia. The lyrics to the opening hymn bore particular meaning for the day: "...know the purpose of your calling, show to all God's mighty deeds; tell of love which knows no limits, grace which meets all human needs." The lyricist took his inspiration from 1 Peter 2, but here it was: the divine solicitation to each and every member of the Church of God, Elect and Glorious.

One of the many benefits of membership in the Church, of course, is that you're given a community in which to grow your faith. This includes the communion of saints, and so includes Saint Rita of Cascia, who made it her life's work to "tell of love which knows no limits" and show how that love operates, through her work as a peacemaker, a healer, and a reconciler. And it was precisely for the purpose of promoting that example and giving others the tools to emulate it, that I found myself in the Shrine, about to be installed as its new lay director.

I was struck by the beautiful diversity of the community present. My parents, who had come from Atlanta for the occasion, were there; friends from Villanova University, the Augustinian Volunteers and Saint Augustine Parish. There were Philly friends who hadn't been inside a church in decades, colleagues from the Augustinian office and devotees of Saint Rita, whom I've only known a few months. And the Augustinian Friars—this remarkable and diverse group of men who are full of a faith that they share unceasingly.



There was Father Paul Morrissey, sitting with the "young" crowd, as well as Fathers Joe Farrell and Kevin DePrinzio, with bright smiles and full voices. Father Dan McLaughlin was present with his trusty camera in hand. Fathers Art Purcaro, Nick Martorano, and Bob Guessetto were

concelebrants at the Mass at which Father Michael Di Gregorio presided. Father Michael crafted the unusual installation of a lay minister as Shrine Director as a seamless part of the Mass. He wove the call to service into the Prayer of the Faithful, so that it was the Church of God, in its universal entirety, who prayed for my success in this ministry to which I've been called. And I've listened. It is a humbling experience.

The example of grace, patience, and empathy that Saint Rita sets for this world

can make a significant impact. And with your help, I'll set about the work of sharing it. But even as I look forward, what resonates deeply is the enthusiasm of the community that is here to support me—just as I am here to support each one of you, the members of the community.

"God has called you out of darkness

into his most marvelous light, brought his truth to life within you, turned your blindness into sight. Let your light so shine around you that God's name is glorified; and all find fresh hope and purpose in Christ Jesus crucified."

Time to get to work.

The National Shrine of Saint Rita of Cascia offers many opportunities for spiritual enrichment including daily Mass and Adoration, the Sacrament of Reconciliation and organized retreats, as well as tours for those on pilgrimage to the Shrine.

Please feel free to contact the Shrine by phone at 215-546-8333 or email at cturner@saintritashrine.org.





RUDOLPH DE LANDAS-BERGHES

AN AUSPICIOUS CENTENARY:

THE RELIGIOUS JOURNEY OF RUDOLPH DE LANDAS-BERGHES TO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND THE AUGUSTINIAN ORDER

BY MICHAEL DI GREGORIO, O.S.A.

In the small cemetery just a few yards from Saint Thomas of Villanova Church on the University campus, a white tombstone marks the grave of novice Rudolph de Landas-Berghes.¹

Carved thereon is his name: R. Augustine De Berghes², Novice Cleric, together with the date of his birth and that of his death. Nothing else distinguishes this stone from the scores of others there, each engraved with the name of a friar who had embraced and lived—some only briefly, others for many decades—Augustinian religious life. There is nothing on de Landas-Berghes' stone that speaks to passersby of the remarkable story and the intricate journey of the man whose mortal remains have rested there for decades, a journey which was altogether unique, and so unlike that of the friars with whom he is joined in death. Rudolph de Landas-Berghes had been an Augustinian novice for about eight months at the time of his death in 1920, having joined the Order at the age of 46, not quite three months after he had entered the Catholic Church.

Through “an accident of birth”³ he entered this world in Naples, Italy, on November 1, 1873, the “accident” being that he was an Austrian nobleman, known properly by the name Rudolph Francis Edward St. Patrick Alphonsus Ghislain de Gramont Hamilton de Lorraine-Brabant, Prince de Landas-Berghes et de Rache, Duc de St. Winock. His father, Edward Victor Ghislain de Lorraine, Count of Landas Bourgogne de Rache was Catholic, and his mother, Leonore Adelaide Anne de Gramont Hamilton, was Anglican, and it was in his mother's church that Rudolph de Landas-Berghes was baptized and raised.

He succeeded to the Prince-Dukedom of de Berghes St. Winock after the death of his cousin and the extinction of the collateral male line in 1907. The principedom dates from 1344. Previously, members of the House of de Berghes St. Winock were kings of Brittany. Rudolph was also a grandee of Spain of the first class and a member of several orders of chivalry.⁴

At the age of sixteen and a half Rudolph entered the English army and served as a captain in the Sudan under Field Marshall Herbert Kitchener. He retired after a brief term of office and pursued several years of academic instruction—first at Cambridge University, from 1890 until 1893, followed

by further theological studies at the University of Paris until 1894. Confirmed in the conviction that he was being called to ministry, upon his return to England he was ordained sub-deacon and was placed in charge of a church in the diocese of Truro. He served there for eighteen months, waiting to reach the age when he could be ordained to the diaconate. However, during this interval he became disturbed by what he judged to be a lack of authority in the Church of England, as well as by doubts concerning the validity of Anglican Orders. Following a period of discernment, he decided to leave Anglicanism and to enter the Old Roman Catholic Church, and traveled to Holland. There he was baptized conditionally in the Cathedral Parish of Saint Gertrude in Utrecht on April 4, 1896.

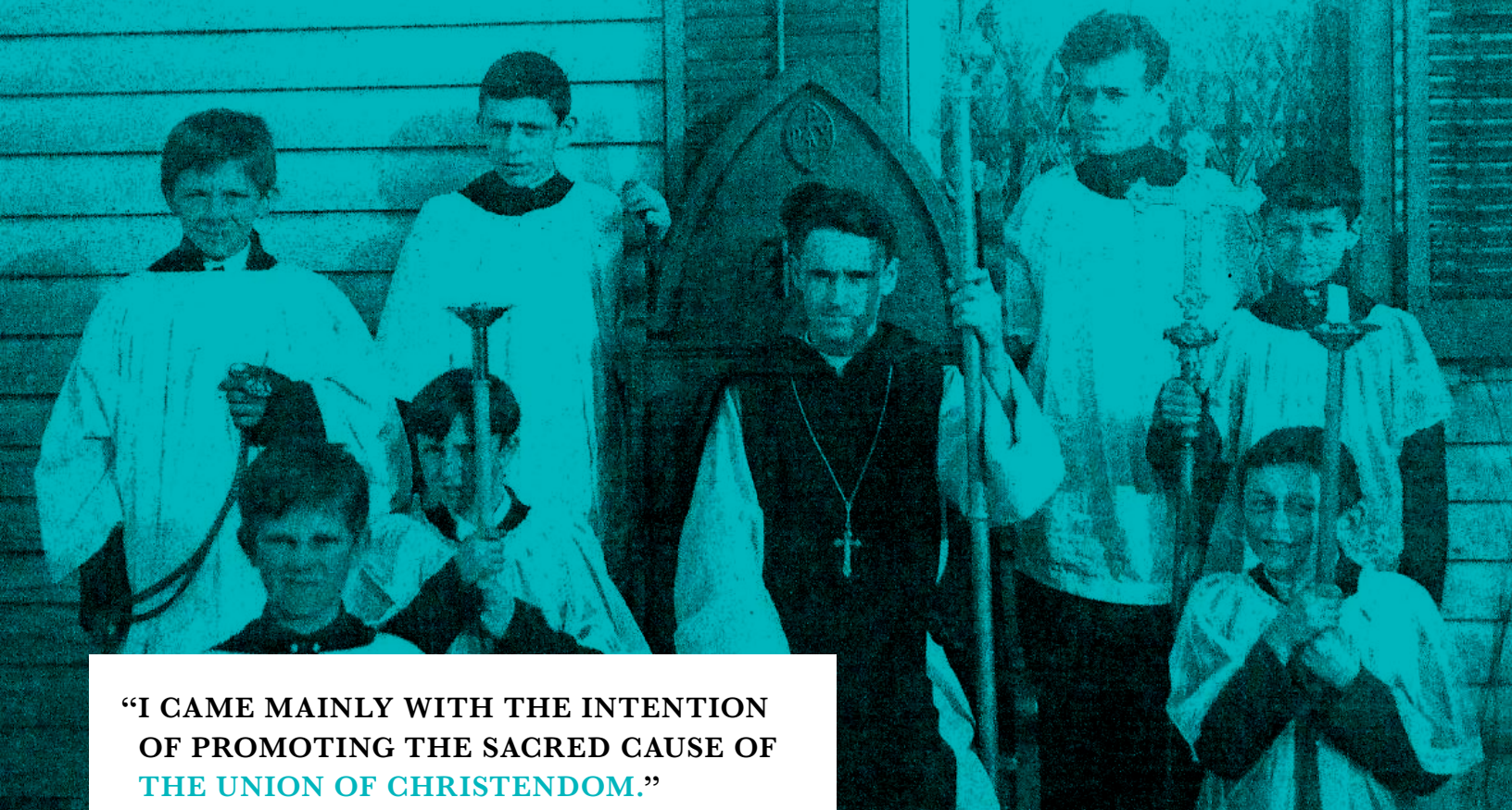
The new convert made his way to the University of Brussels where he studied Literature and Philosophy for one year, and then returned to Paris to pursue Law. Within a short time, he had rejoined the English army and took part in the Nile expedition. Afterwards he was sent to South Africa. He left the army in 1904 with the rank of Lt. Colonel, and for the next three years studied privately, arriving, in due course, at the decision to convert to Roman Catholicism. In the end, however, he had

¹ I use the abbreviated form of the name as de Landas-Berghes used in the several extant letters referenced here.

² Augustine is the name he took upon entering religious life.

³ Archives Archdiocese of Baltimore, 124E2, Letter of Archbishop de Landas-Berghes to Cardinal Gibbons, dated ‘Feast of St. Vincent Ferrer, (April 5) 1918’, from Bishop's House, 156 Garden Street, Lawrence, Massachusetts.

⁴ Augustinian Archives Villanova Province, Obituary in *The Catholic Standard and Times*, November 23, 1920.



**“I CAME MAINLY WITH THE INTENTION
OF PROMOTING THE SACRED CAUSE OF
THE UNION OF CHRISTENDOM.”**

a change of heart and decided to remain affiliated with the Old Roman Catholic Church in Holland. He was re-confirmed conditionally, and the following year, he received Tonsure and Minor Orders of the Old Roman Catholic Church from Bishop Arnold Harris Mathew, the first Old Roman Catholic bishop in Great Britain, in his private chapel in London. He was ordained sub-deacon there, conditionally, and deacon shortly after. Finally, on November 21, 1910, Bishop Mathew ordained him to the priesthood.⁵

Following ordination, Father de Landas-Berghes was given charge of an Old Roman Catholic church in the West End of London. On June 29, 1913 he was consecrated a bishop of that Church for Scotland by Bishops Arnold Mathew and Francis Herbert Bacon. The outbreak of World War I soon after, however, placed de Landas-Berghes in an awkward position, and so the British Foreign Office arranged for him to go to the United States. He arrived on

November 7, 1914 in New York where, with letters of introduction from the Anglican Archbishop of Canterbury, he was cordially received by the Protestant Episcopal Bishop, David Greer, whose guest in that diocese he remained for more than a year.

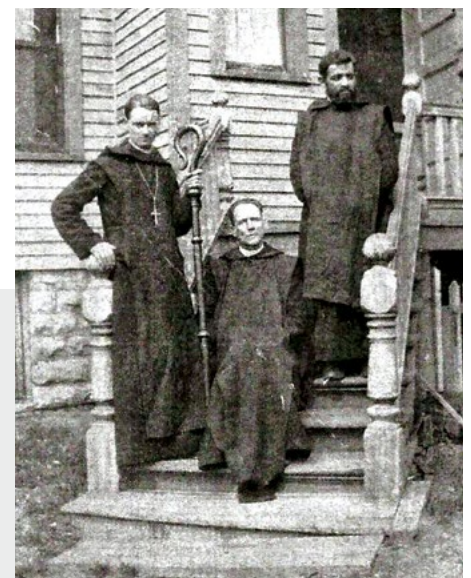
De Landas-Berghes interpreted his move to the United States as providential. It would enable him to accomplish a goal which he had long entertained.

“*I came mainly with the intention of promoting the sacred cause of the union of Christendom. The Archbishop of Canterbury suggested that the United States might afford me an opportunity of realizing my long-cherished dreams of such union, namely, that the Old Roman Catholic and Anglican Churches might become the true “via media” between the West and the East and the great Protestant bodies.”*⁶

While Bishop de Landas-Berghes found the situation of the Old Catholic churches

in America in great disarray, respect and friendliness always characterized his relationships with the clergy and faithful of other Churches, consistent with his personal ambition to promote harmony and bring about unity whenever and wherever possible. The cost of doing so proved to be painful and wearing. Nonetheless, he persevered in his goal of unification and, in 1916 was elected Archbishop and Metropolitan of the Old Roman Catholic Church in America which, then comprised a few thousand faithful and a dozen priests throughout the country.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20 →



⁵ From a private paper of Fr. Martin Kessels OSA, found in the Archives of the Villanova Province.

⁶ Kessels, p. 2-3.



A Year of Service, a Lifetime of Positive Impact

BY JOANNA BOWEN
DIRECTOR, AUGUSTINIAN VOLUNTEERS



AV ALUMS LOOK ON AT THE 2017 COMMISSIONING MASS. FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, JEANNIE (MACCUNE) O'BRIEN, PATRICK O'BRIEN, JANE O'CONNOR

In August 2017, the Augustinian Volunteers welcomed their 18th class of volunteers, comprised of 17 young adults who have recently graduated from colleges and universities across the United States. Volunteers commit to full-time service at a school or social service agency in the city in which they are living, but also journey together on a path of self discovery and personal growth while creating an intentional way of living with one another. This community commitment, modeled on the spiritual values of the Order of Saint Augustine, is an essential component of the Augustinian Volunteer experience. Since 2000, over 330 young adults have said yes to this immersive experience of service, spirituality, and community.

It is often easy to see the way the work of the Augustinian Volunteers impacts others. For many of the partnering schools and social service agencies, an Augustinian Volunteer represents a full-time professional who contributes to the work of the organization, filling needs that might otherwise go unmet. Augustinian Volunteers often provide direct service, by teaching and ministering to students, providing healthcare, and connecting marginalized individuals with needed resources. Additionally, Volunteers engage in the life of the local Augustinian Friar community, learning and living Augustinian values while gaining a deeper understanding of Augustinian spirituality, which we hope they will carry with them after their experience as Augustinian Volunteers.

Throughout this experience, Volunteers often find that their own lives are being transformed. Volunteers are often in their early twenties, with the hope of discovering interests that will begin to shape their adulthood. Lessons learned through service and by living in intentional community are often far-reaching, impacting Volunteers' career paths and future relationships for many years to come. For some Volunteers, their service experience leads to further education or a career path in that field.



THE CHICAGO 2010-2011 REUNITES LAST YEAR. FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, JANINE MORETTI, MARY CATHERINE (STEVENS) LUXHOJ, GRIFFIN KNIPP, AND MOLLY WISEMAN

"I entered my AV year thinking that I wanted to be a teacher and curious about urban education. After my year of service, I was positive that urban education was my calling," says Molly Wiseman, who served in Chicago in 2010-2011. Molly, who is currently pursuing a doctorate in urban education, teaches in the Boston public school system. As is to be expected, some Volunteers may also find themselves in a career that is vastly different from their service placement. Yet, many still credit the Augustinian Volunteers with helping them strengthen skills that are necessary for success in their professional life. Michael Bucaria, a Volunteer in

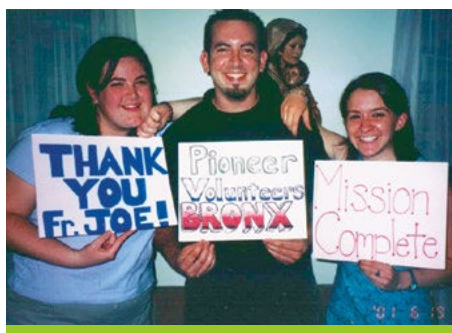
“

I was free to doubt,
question and explore
and my eyes were
opened to ideas that I
never thought of before.

Ventura in 2014-2015, who currently works as an Operations Coordinator at Sotheby's, reflects on the impact his time as an AV had on his career, "I realized that I didn't have to be a Volunteer to bring that energetic positivity and interest in helping others to what I do. My position has morphed into one I enjoy because it is dynamic, forces me to problem solve, and allows me to work with different groups of peers. I grew all of these skill sets as an Augustinian Volunteer, but the most important skill I developed during my year was how to genuinely collaborate with people. That has made me a better employee and just a better person."



MICHAEL BUCARIA WITH HIS COMMUNITY IN OCEAN CITY, N.J. FOR MID-YEAR RETREAT. FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, EMMA LINDBERG, MIKE BUCARIA, SARAH DUNBAR, MIKE MCCORMICK



THE FIRST BRONX COMMUNITY CELEBRATES THE END OF THEIR YEAR! FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, MAURA SHAUGHNESSEY, JASON CULLEN, AND JANINA (KEARNS) BROEK

For some alumni, their time with the Augustinian Volunteers allowed them to discover others' realities, which were different from their own. Maura Shaughnessey, who served in the Bronx in 2000-2001 as part of the inaugural class of Augustinian Volunteers, currently works as an elementary school counselor. Reflecting on her experience she says, "Meeting people from all over the globe and from every walk of life showed me a broader world and opened my eyes to their struggles and joys. It strengthened my skills of compassion and empathy, the cornerstones of school counseling. It also gave me a life experience that was different from my own personal history, which allows me to relate to others." Maura's experience as an AV has inspired her to introduce the next generation to the importance of service. This past year, she spearheaded her school's first day of service, giving over 350 students the opportunity to serve their local community alongside their parents and teachers.

Service is not the only aspect of the Augustinian Volunteer experience that provides impactful lessons. Living in an intentional Christian community requires Volunteers to put others before themselves and to step outside of their comfort zone. Volunteers must learn to rely on one another and be interdependent; concurrently, when conflict arises, they must work together to resolve it compassionately and respectfully. For many Volunteers, community life is much different than living with college roommates; requiring adherence to a shared budget, shared meals, and a commitment to praying with one another. For some, this experience represents a first step into adulthood, learning not only to navigate finances and car maintenance, but also learning

about mutual respect and communication in relationships with others. "I covered a lot of ground during my Volunteer year," says Michael Bucaria, "I became a better cook, I started saving more wisely, I learned how to be a professional adult. But the two most important takeaways were how to deal with knowing that people process things differently and how to communicate clearly." Community living can be a unique way that Volunteers understand differences, from how to load the dishwasher, to what are essential items to buy at the grocery store, to how to resolve conflict. In more traditional roommate scenarios, it can be easy to avoid some of those differences, but intentional community life calls members to engage fully with one another and to share all things.



Meeting people from
all over the globe
and from every walk of
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Integrated with service and community living is a commitment to spiritual growth. Volunteers enter the AVs in all stages of their faith life; while most are Catholic and virtually all are Christian, Volunteers bring a desire to search and grow together in the spirit of Saint Augustine's restless heart. Through community prayer, Volunteers are exposed to a diversity of prayer practices, and integrate new practices into their daily lives. Elizabeth Penza Pallante, who served in San Diego in 2007-2008, credits community prayer as a catalyst for her faith as an adult. "Participating in prayer together and having discussions of faith and religious styles allowed me to understand my own faith and to explore things I did not know. I was free to doubt, question and explore and my eyes were opened to ideas that I never thought of before," she says. Community prayer provides a structured opportunity for Volunteers to take ownership of their faith, an important step as they form a spiritual identity as adults.

Likewise, both community living and service give Volunteers ample opportunities to live out their faith. Volunteers are expected not only to seek Christ in those they serve, but in in those with whom they live, sometimes a trying task. "Forgiveness is not something that is practiced often," says Griffin Knipp, who served in Chicago in 2010-2011. "But the communities that are successful are the ones in which individuals learn to forgive themselves and those around them. This practice allows us to see one another with the eyes of God." It is hoped that these lessons allow Volunteers to become lay leaders for other young adults in the Catholic Church.

While an Augustinian Volunteer only serves for ten months, the experience continues to be significant in the professional and personal lives of many alumni, even years after it has ended. It is a time that is often looked back on fondly with gratitude. It inspires Volunteers to find meaning and to live a life focused on others. Volunteers often reflect on the lessons learned for many years to come. As Molly explains, "It was an experience that gave me so much clarity. Overall, it made me a more compassionate, reflective, and independent person."



ELIZABETH (PENZA) PALLANTE (L) WITH HER COMMUNITY AFTER THEIR 2007 COMMISSIONING MASS. FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, ELIZABETH, KRISTA (DICKER) URQUHART, DANIEL RODERICK, JESSE IMBRIANO, JOANNA BOWEN, AND BECKY (COYLE) MUELLER

Augustinian Volunteers



To find out more about the
Augustinian Volunteer program,
read their blogs or apply online at

www.augustinianvolunteers.org

A Profile in Augustinian Leadership

November 8, 2017, Overbrook Golf Club

BY MADONNA SUTTER
DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT

It was a crisp, fall evening when 160 friends of the Augustinians joined the friars at the Overbrook Golf Club to hear Jack Brennan, who had been invited as this year's Profile in Augustinian Leadership. Jack is Chairman Emeritus and Senior Advisor of the Vanguard Group and a member of the Province's Saint Thomas of Villanova Parish.

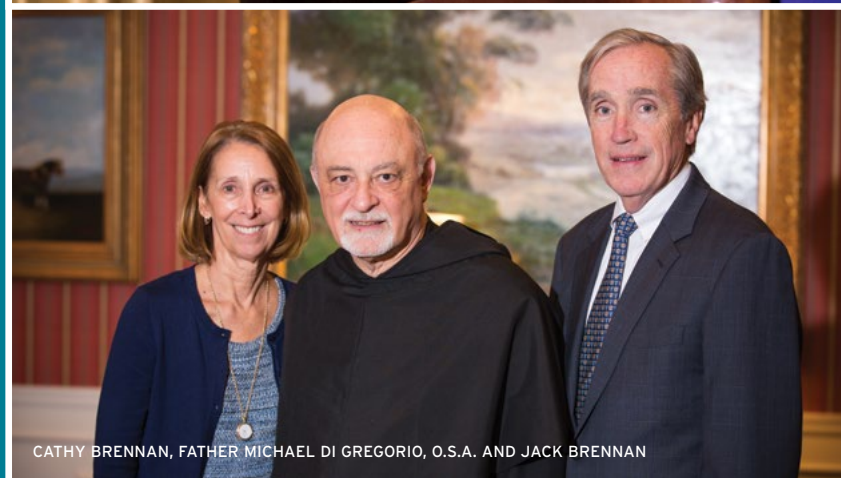
Jack generously shared his life experiences and how becoming a member of an Augustinian Parish led him to live his life around the trilogy of faith, family and firm, "My respect and admiration for the Augustinians runs deep, and I am pleased to do what I can to support Augustinian Formation and to sustain the Augustinian way of life." His encouraging closing words left our guests with a call to action, "When people give money to Saint Thomas Parish, they may think it covers the Augustinians, but it doesn't. That is also true for gifts to Villanova University. So, tell two friends. Tell two parishioners. Making the Augustinians a financial priority ensures that generations of parishioners, students, and many others can be shepherded and blessed by *who* these men are, *how* they live their lives, and *what* they convey to us."

Newly-professed Brother Jeremy Hiers, O.S.A., shared a moving reflection on his call to religious life and his years in the Augustinian formation program, "I stand before you tonight not only feeling very much at peace with the decision to join the Augustinians, but also a much different person than the day I entered, as God has utilized the Augustinian formation process to really transform my life. And so, it is with much gratitude that I say on behalf of all the men in formation, thank you for all that you do to walk with us on this journey."

This year's event raised more than \$100,000 in support of Augustinian Formation.



JACK BRENNAN



CATHY BRENNAN, FATHER MICHAEL DI GREGORIO, O.S.A. AND JACK BRENNAN





BROTHER JEREMY HIERS, O.S.A.



ENRIQUE VASQUEZ, MICHAEL RIGGS, FATHER MICHAEL DI GREGORIO, O.S.A., FATHER FRANK DOYLE, O.S.A., AND FATHER KEVIN DEPRIZIO, O.S.A.



FATHER JOHN STACK, O.S.A. AND JACK BRENNAN



CAROL SALDUTTI, FATHER DON REILLY, O.S.A., BOB SALDUTTI AND CHRIS SOLTIS



MARY ELLEN MAGGITT, FATHER JIM MCCARTNEY, O.S.A., MARI CONNOLLY AND CHARLEY CONNOLLY



MADONNA SUTTER, DON AND MEG SPENCE



FATHERS JOE CALDERONE, O.S.A., AND HARRY ERDLEN, O.S.A. WITH DOROTHY NEWSOME



MADONNA SUTTER, JANINE ZOZAYA AND FATHER MICHAEL DI GREGORIO, O.S.A.



AUGUSTINIAN ADVANCEMENT COUNCIL: BOB MCKIERNAN, TERRY COFFEY, RICH DEVINE, MARY ELLEN MAGGITT, BOB SALDUTTI, JACK WARNOCK, RAY FALZONE, JIM O'CONNOR, FATHER MICHAEL DI GREGORIO, O.S.A., FATHER FRANK HORN, O.S.A., TERRY SOUSA, MADONNA SUTTER, FATHER MICHAEL SULLIVAN, O.S.A., FATHER ROB HAGAN, O.S.A., CHRIS SOLTIS AND FATHER JIM MCCARTNEY, O.S.A.



THE PATH TO NOVITIATE

*“The main purpose for your having come together
is to live harmoniously in your house,
intent upon God in oneness of mind and heart.”*

The Rule of Saint Augustine (Chapter 1, 3)

BY FATHER FRANK DOYLE, O.S.A.

Like all religious communities, Augustinians value our way of life significantly, as well as the contribution the Order of Saint Augustine makes to the mission of the Church. We seek to invite others to accompany us as we strive to live in unity. This is exemplified by our imitation of the early Christian community, as proclaimed to us in the Acts of the Apostles (4:32): “being of one mind and one heart” on our way to God. Those who experience a call to the *Augustinian Way of Life* may begin the path of initial formation. This path brings opportunity for one to gradually become acquainted with the Order of Saint Augustine and the manner in which we share all things in common... love, humility, friendship, communication and harmony.

The purpose of formation is to provide opportunities for integrated growth and gradual development in order for one to recognize the will of God and his vocation to religious life. As the *Constitutions of the Order of Saint Augustine* state, a formation program “must be one that is human, Christian, affective, intellectual, religious, and Augustinian, as well as apostolic and pastoral.”

1 The First Step

The first step toward the formative process begins with a simple inquiry about the *Augustinian Way of Life* by connecting to our Vocation Office, which will send the inquirer information about our Formation Program. Based on the Vocation Director’s consideration and one’s desire to experience the *Augustinian Way of Life* in greater depth, an invitation may be offered to begin an Augustinian Friar-Mentorship Program, as an associate.

2 Augustinian Friar-Mentorship Stage

Augustinian Friar-Mentorship stage is the beginning of the formal association with the Order and is a monthly Augustinian-themed encounter between friar-mentor and associate. This step provides insight for the next step as a candidate and possible entry into the Pre-Novitiate Program. A variety of opportunities are offered to exercise one’s call by the Holy Spirit in this stage. These moments present themselves in common daily prayer and meals within the Augustinian communities. They may also occur as one observes a profession of vows

or ordination to the priesthood. During this period, the Vocation Director has in mind the essence of qualities necessary for someone considering religious life. These qualities include: an active Catholic faith, a spirit of generosity and service, a serious interest in Augustinian common life, and a wishfulness to cooperate with the directives of the formation program.

3 Pre-Novitiate Stage and Phases

After an associate experiences a discernment weekend, a time set aside to contemplate the will of God, as well as a “live-in” week with the pre-novitiate community, a formal request to be admitted into the Pre-Novitiate program will be considered. Acceptance into our yearlong program of deeper discernment is looked at carefully and attentively by the Vocation Director, the Pre-Novitiate Director and the Province Screening Board.

The pre-novitiate community is located in Ardmore, Pennsylvania, a 15-minute drive from Villanova, formerly the convent of Saint Colman’s parish. Recently renovated, this Augustinian Friary can accommodate eight pre-novices and three friars.



BLESSED STEPHEN BELLESINI FRIARY IN ARDMORE, P.A.,
HOUSE OF FORMATION FOR CANDIDATES AND PRE-NOVICES



It is a time to ask, “Where is the will of God in me?”...a time that the Holy Spirit puts fire in your heart!

ENRIQUE VASQUEZ

This friary is under the patronage of Blessed Stephen Bellesini, O.S.A., an eighteenth century Italian Augustinian Friar, who was responsible for the initial formation of aspirants and novices of the Order of Saint Augustine. He is the universal patron of vocations of our Order. The Pre-Novitiate program is co-sponsored by the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova and the Midwest Province of Our Mother of Good Counsel.

The pre-novitiate year is divided into two phases. The first phase begins in August and continues through December; it is called “candidacy.” This stage of initial formation is intended as an opportunity to experience common life within the context of a lived community. The candidate is assisted monthly by a spiritual director and enrolled in philosophy and theology courses at Villanova University as directed by the Province’s academic advisor.

Upon readiness, the candidate’s next phase of formation is as a “pre-novice.” This phase begins during the Advent season of the Church’s liturgical year and concludes the following July. In this phase, the candidate pays special attention to the study of *The Rule of Saint Augustine*,

The Confessions of Saint Augustine, and topics such as Augustinian Spirituality, human growth and development and the principles of discernment. Toward the end of the pre-novitiate year is a Communal Discernment Retreat, which is a graced opportunity to acquire a listening heart for the call of God in one’s life. After the retreat, the pre-novice may apply for advancement to the next step, the novitiate. A prayerful consideration of his request is considered by the local Augustinian Friars’ formation team. With the consent of the Prior Provincial of the Augustinian Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova and his Council, at completion of the year the pre-novice may be invited into the Novitiate Program.

Augustinians are various ages, have different educational and work experiences and can be from widely diverse geographical areas.

If you are interested in the *Augustinian Way of Life*, please contact our vocation office at 610-519-4674 or visit us online at augustinianvocations.org/contact.



Initial formation is just that: Initial, but with the understanding that formation in the *Augustinian Way of Life* is an ongoing and life-long process of being formed in the likeness of Christ. The *Constitutions of the Order of Saint Augustine* state: “Out of love for the gift we have received (1 Tim 4, 14-16) and encouraged to renew the grace of God within us (2 Tim 1, 6), and conscious, as well, that ‘the adequate renewal of (our life) depends above all on the formation of its members’, we need to revitalize the grace of our own Augustinian vocation to religious life...through ongoing spiritual, theological, and community practices.” Our prayer is that God will bring to conclusion the good work that God has begun in us.



THE CALLING OF SAINT MATTHEW BY CARAVAGGIO



L-R: ENRIQUE VASQUEZ AND MICHAEL RIGGS

Discernment Weekend

"This weekend is about young men who want to know more about the *Augustinian Way of Life*. It is a time of getting to know the Augustinians and learning about what called us to this particular path. It is also a time when those who are asking the same questions can share their journeys with each other and what led them to the Augustinians." Enrique Vasquez describes Discernment Weekend as a time to ask, "Where is the will of God in me?...a time that the Holy Spirit puts fire in your heart!"

Notice the art work above our candidates: Caravaggio's *The Calling of Saint Matthew* was donated to the Bellesini Formation House by Father Michael Hughes, O.S.A. Caravaggio's work is fitting for our house because Jesus points at Matthew as the light shines on him and Matthew's reaction is one of surprise. His hand is on his chest as if he were saying, *do you mean me? You mean you want me!* Similar to Matthew, we are called to the way of God.



AUGUSTINIAN COMMUNITY OF BELLESINI FORMATION HOUSE. CENTER: AUGUSTINIAN CANDIDATES, ENRIQUE VASQUEZ AND MICHAEL RIGGS; BACK ROW, FROM L-R: VOCATION DIRECTOR, FATHER JOSEPH L. NAROG, O.S.A.; PROFESSOR AT VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY, FATHER KEVIN M. DEPRINZIO, O.S.A.; PRIOR OF THE COMMUNITY, FATHER FRANCIS J. DOYLE, O.S.A.



BEYOND NOVITIATE

BRYAN KERNS, O.S.A.,
PROFESSES SOLEMN VOWS

Last month, on the afternoon of Sunday, December 17, 2017 at Saint Thomas of Villanova Church, Brother Bryan Kerns, O.S.A., professed his solemn vows in the Order of Saint Augustine. Father Michael Di Gregorio, O.S.A., Prior Provincial of the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova, received the vows of Brother Bryan, as he made his professed permanent vows of poverty, chastity and obedience to the Prior General of the Order of Saint Augustine.

Brother Bryan has been studying at the Province's theologate in Chicago, attending Catholic Theological Union (CTU). During his pastoral year last year, a "break" from the classroom studies, he was assigned to Saint Augustine Parish in Andover, Massachusetts, which is served by the Augustinians. While there, he assisted with parish functions, such as Masses, liturgical planning, baptisms and funerals. He also served in the parish grade school, teaching math to several classes, as well as helping at a local food pantry and visiting with senior citizens at Mary Immaculate Health Care Services in Lawrence, Massachusetts.

Brother Bryan will graduate from CTU in May 2018, with a master's degree of Divinity. He has also been attending the University of Chicago, from which he will graduate in May, receiving a MA from their Divinity School.

Our Brother's discernment is leading toward ordination. Bryan is looking forward to the day!

2018 CALENDAR of EVENTS

JANUARY 2 - MARCH 11

Infiniti Coaches' Charity Challenge: Vote Daily

Proceeds to benefit the Augustinian Fund

www.augustinianfund.org/infiniti-coaches-challenge

FEBRUARY 18

Healing Mass

National Shrine of Saint Rita of Cascia, 2 PM

Celebrant: Father Joseph Narog, O.S.A.

MARCH 4

A.D.R.O.P.'s Annual Mass of Thanksgiving and Brunch

Mass at Villanova University Corr Hall at 11 AM. Brunch at the Connelly Center at Noon.

Proceeds support A.D.R.O.P. ministries

MARCH 18

Healing Mass

National Shrine of Saint Rita of Cascia, 2 PM

Celebrant: Father Bill Waters, O.S.A.

APRIL 15

Healing Mass

National Shrine of Saint Rita of Cascia, 2 PM

Celebrant: Father Francis Caponi, O.S.A.

MAY 3

Profile in Augustinian Leadership

New York City

Guest Speaker: **Mark W. Jackson**,
Director of Athletics, Villanova University

Register online after February 1, 2018:
www.augustinianfund.org/nyc

MAY 7

Celebrating the Augustinians in the Merrimack Valley

Cocktail Reception, Andover Country Club, Andover, Mass.

Proceeds to benefit Augustinian Formation

Register online after February 1, 2018:
www.augustinianfund.org/merrimack-valley

MAY 20

Healing Mass

National Shrine of Saint Rita of Cascia, 2 PM

Celebrant: Father Rob Hagan, O.S.A.

JUNE 2

South Philadelphia Family Fun Walk

One-mile Walk from National Shrine of Saint Rita of Cascia Church to Methodist Hospital

Proceeds support A.D.R.O.P. and the Methodist Hospital Foundation

OCTOBER TBD

Saint Augustine Medal Dinner

Greater Philadelphia Area

Honoree: **The Most Reverend Louis A. DeSimone, D.D.**,
Retired Bishop of Philadelphia and Affiliate of the Order of Saint Augustine

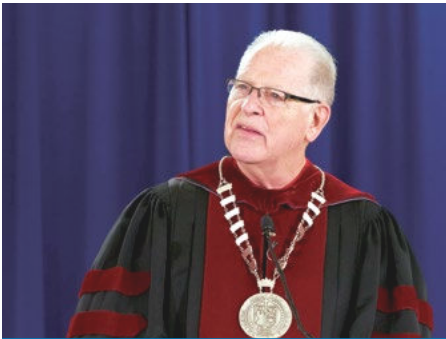
Register online after May 1, 2018:
www.augustinianfund.org/medal-dinner



Subscribe to our Augustinian E-News at
www.augustinian.org/enews-signup or Like us
on Facebook to be notified of upcoming events.



New Leaders Continue Augustinian Traditions at Malvern and Saint Augustine Preparatory Schools



Donald F. Reilly, O.S.A.
MALVERN PREP

On Monday, October 23, 2017 Father Donald F. Reilly, O.S.A., was installed as the fourteenth Head of School at Malvern Prep, in Malvern, Pennsylvania. The installation ceremony was preceded by a Mass celebrated at the school in Our Mother of Good Counsel Chapel, on Sunday afternoon, October 22. Founded by the Augustinians in 1842, Malvern Prep educates young men in grades six through twelve. Following is a reflection by Father Don as he takes his position as the new Head of School at Malvern Prep.

“

Most days I take advantage of the opportunity to walk around Malvern Prep's beautiful and colorful campus. A sense of peace and calm is palpable as students hastily make their way along well-groomed paths. Backpacks, generally heavier than their carriers, accompany our young Friars to class, lunch, chapel, and the Learning Commons; day in, day out. Animated conversations engage these book-laden learners unaware of the growth in mind, body, and spirit taking place slowly but surely in their lives.

It is a sacred and privileged task to create an environment in which young men learn about the world in which they live, come to know themselves and God in the process, and live a life with and for others. This labor of love is modeled in our patron, Saint Augustine. Supported by my brother Augustinians, committed colleagues on our Board, Leadership Team, faculty, staff, and parents, I am honored to play a part in preserving and enhancing our Independent, Catholic, and Augustinian Identity.

Being an Independent School, gives us the freedom to finance and govern ourselves according to our own unique

mission, the freedom to admit highly qualified students well-matched to our mission, the freedom to attract and retain extraordinary teachers who excel at student-centered learning, and most especially, the freedom to determine what to teach and how to assess student achievement and progress. Our Catholicity enables us to educate students who will be good citizens of this world, loving God and our neighbor, enriching society with gospel values, and who will also be citizens of the world to come. Our Augustinian Identity, based on the life of Saint Augustine, teaches that one can know about oneself, but it is through understanding the mystery of oneself that one can come to understand the mystery of God.

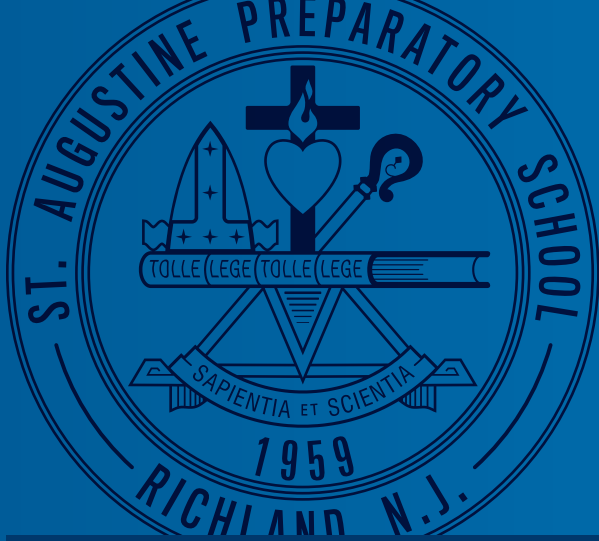
Malvern is a special place.
I am committed to its Mission.
I ask for your prayers.

Adapted from a letter that appeared previously in Malvern Magazine.



(LEFT:) FATHER MICHAEL DI GREGORIO, O.S.A., PRIOR PROVINCIAL (L), AND STEPHEN CLOETINGH, CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

(RIGHT:) JAMES FLYNN, O.S.A., FORMER PRESIDENT OF MALVERN PREP, FATHER DONALD REILLY, O.S.A., NEWLY-INSTALLED HEAD OF SCHOOL AT MALVERN PREP (CENTER) AND FATHER GARY MCCLOSKEY, O.S.A.



“It is a sacred and privileged task to create an environment in which young men learn about the world in which they live, come to know themselves and God in the process, and live a life with and for others.”

FATHER DON REILLY, O.S.A



Bob Murray, O.S.A.
SAINT AUGUSTINE PREP

Recently I received a “Thank You” note from a couple who attended Saint Augustine Prep’s Open House. They appreciated the structure and organization of the day as well as the size and beauty of our campus which are observations I frequently hear from those new to the campus. However, more than the bricks and mortar, what impressed them most was the Prep’s clearly articulated mission and vision. “You know who you are and you live it,” they stated. In a world which communicates so many mixed messages, it is easy to understand why this couple was so impressed.

I began my ministry at Saint Augustine Prep in early July and was officially installed as Head of School in late September. My impressions of the Prep community are well articulated in the referenced note of thanks. Saint Augustine Prep is a community aware and proud of its Catholic identity and Augustinian mission. As Father Donald Reilly, O.S.A., my predecessor in this office, would frequently state, “We may not all be Catholic, but we are all Augustinian.”

Beginning with their Freshman Orientation experience until their graduation ceremony, the Saint Augustine Prep community is ever aware of *Truth, Unity and Love* as core Augustinian values which are articulated and incarnated in curricular and co-curricular programs. Our students are very familiar with the life and spirituality of the school’s patron saint.

While I have been impressed with the attention which the Saint Augustine Prep community dedicates to its mission and identity, I have been equally struck by how it is lived day to day.

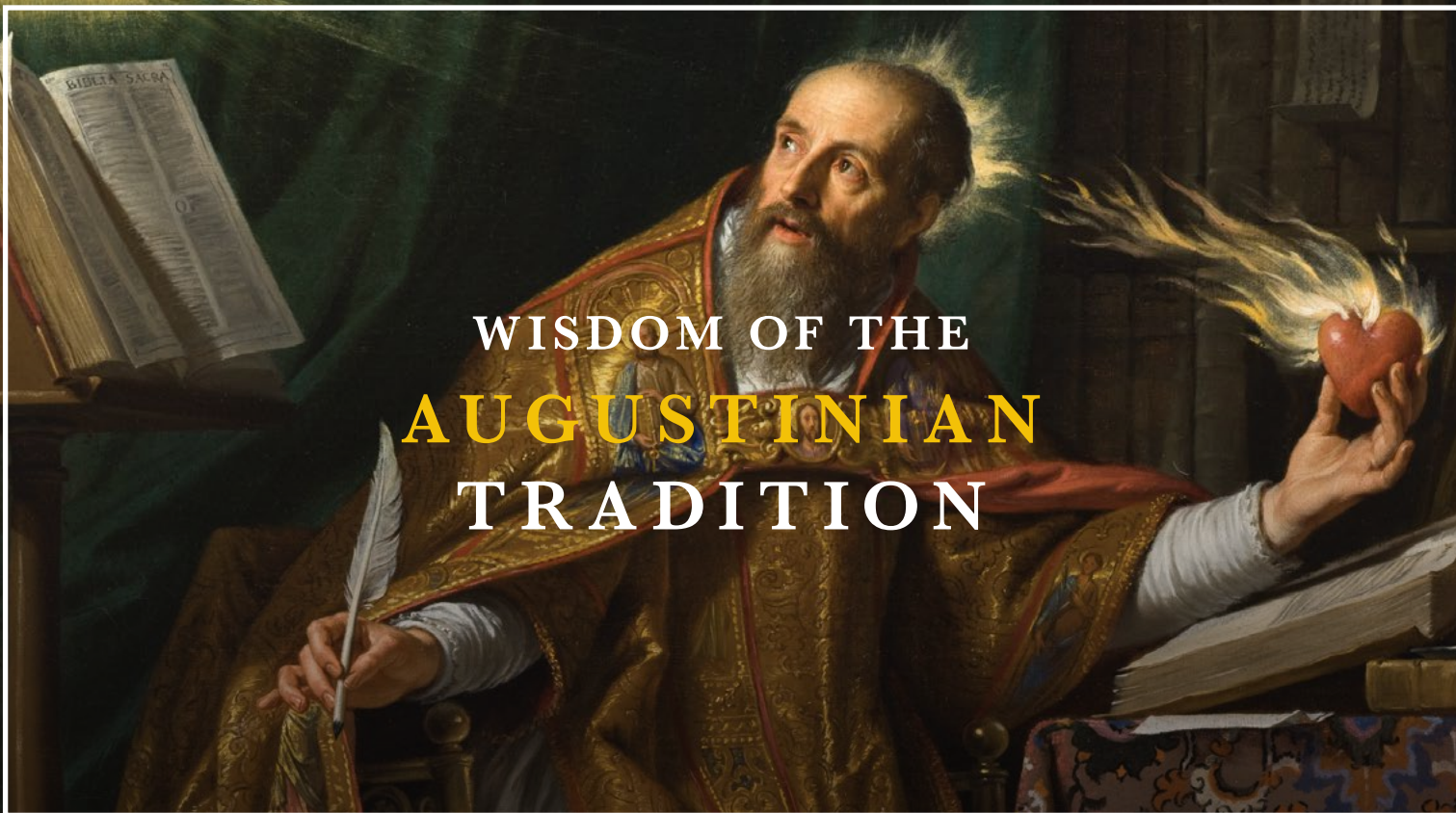
In a presentation to parents of Freshmen who are new to the school, the Prep’s Dean

of Student Leadership described the school community as “a community that holds doors for one another.”

This apt description, both literal and figurative, nicely captures my experience of the school staff. There is an effervescence of Augustinian pride here at Saint Augustine Prep, it is a community where visitors will experience students. Grateful for their blessings, our faculty and staff are always aware of their call to “open doors” through service to each other as well as to the greater community. It is a privilege to share this legacy and to walk with this committed community as God opens the door to our future.



(TOP LEFT:) FATHERS FRANK HORN, O.S.A., MICHAEL DI GREGORIO, O.S.A., PATRICK MCSTRAVOG, O.S.A., AND NEWLY-INSTALLED HEAD OF SCHOOL ROBERT MURRAY, O.S.A.; (TOP RIGHT:) FATHER ROBERT MURRAY, O.S.A., NEXT TO HIS FATHER MR. WILLIAM J. MURRAY AND OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS; (BOTTOM RIGHT:) BUENA VISTA TOWNSHIP COMMITTEEMAN JOHN WILLIAMS PRESENTS FATHER ROBERT MURRAY, O.S.A., WITH A CERTIFICATE WELCOMING HIM TO THE TOWNSHIP; (BOTTOM LEFT:) HEAD OF SCHOOL ROBERT MURRAY, O.S.A. (SEATED) WITH (L-R) FATHERS DONALD REILLY, O.S.A., MICHAEL DI GREGORIO, O.S.A., PRIOR PROVINCIAL, AND PAUL GALETTO, O.S.A.



WISDOM OF THE AUGUSTINIAN TRADITION

This new column in *The Augustinian* is being introduced to acquaint our readers with the rich heritage of the Order of Saint Augustine which is displayed in the writings of many of our members throughout history. In doing so, we wish to share with you something of the legacy we have received,

and which belongs not only to us, but to the entire Church. Together with a passage from some author of history, we offer also a reflection by a present friar of the Province. In this first contribution, we reach back to the early decades of the Order's life in the 14th century, and to one of the most popular

preachers and spiritual directors of central Italy at the time, our confrere Blessed Simon Fidati of Cascia. Sharing his reflection on this passage is Father David Cregan, O.S.A., of Villanova University.



Blessed Simon of Cascia, O.S.A.

FEAST DAY: February 16

Simon Fidati was born in the late 13th century in Cascia, Italy, the city made famous by another Augustinian, Saint Rita. He joined the Augustinians there in the friary of Saint Augustine, which still stands today, at the summit of Cascia. Though originally drawn to the study of the natural sciences, he underwent a change of heart through his acquaintance with a renowned Franciscan whom he adopted as his spiritual director. The wisdom of the Gospel thereafter became Simon's sole pursuit, which he shared with others through his ministry as preacher, spiritual guide and writer. His book, *The Works of Our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ*, gained a wide readership, and his letters reveal an extensive apostolate as director of souls. At heart, Simon was inclined toward the contemplative life, but persevered in ministry as an itinerant preacher, through obedience to his religious superiors. He died in 1348 and his remains are venerated in the Basilica of Saint Rita in Cascia. His feast day is observed by the Augustinians on February 16.

EXCERPT

SIMON OF CASCIA, O.S.A.

“The dynamic and untiring love of Christ always desires and provides better things for his beloved. His love does not fade in moments of idleness, nor does it ever know rest. Behold Christ, lover of men, especially his disciples, whom he had chosen from among others; he called them from the world and made them citizens of heaven, and with care and love gave himself to them. He was their advocate and mediator before the Father; he entrusted them to the Father’s care and protection, so that they might stay under his guardianship, might conduct themselves, be safeguarded and made holy, might be entirely united, and live in this world in the hope of being welcomed for ever in heaven with the Triune God. In fact, this Son said to his Father: *Father, sanctify them in truth. Your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I send them into the world* (Jn, 17, 17-18). How moving is this prayer of the Savior for his disciples: *that they be made holy by the Father.* In this life there is nothing more inspiring than to be made holy by him.”

De gestis Domini Salvatoris,
XI, XVIII, 5, p. 454

REFLECTION

FATHER DAVID CREGAN, O.S.A.

Why does one pray?

While our prayers take on multitudes of praise, and an abundance of personal petitions, at its root prayer is an act of faith in the will of God. On the spiritual journey we strive to surrender to His will, even when it is the opposite of our own. Simon of Cascia reminds us that “The dynamic and untiring love of Christ always desires and provides better things for his beloved.” Better than what? Perhaps better than what our own will would desire. When our prayer only seeks what we would like to see happen in our lives, we run the risk of resisting what God might see as better for our transformation and our salvation. In other words, where we often desire comfort and security, sometimes God asks us to seek Him in suffering and loss. These challenging periods are, in fact, the greatest opportunities for efficacious grace. Here our surrender to God can transform our fear into a deep trust that, even when things are not going our way, God’s love does not fade. In fact, for those who persevere in trial, God draws ever closer through our fortitude in trust which, in turn, delivers us towards mercy. Simon continues, “In this life there is nothing more inspiring than to be made holy by him.” He reminds us that our sanctification is God’s work, and our participation in that grace-filled endeavor requires a continual death to our own will, so that God may complete in us what we cannot complete in ourselves. As God calls each of us towards the holiness of our future with Him, let us pray together and for one another that we will find the wisdom and courage to daily surrender our will to His Spirit. For when we do, God faithfully transforms us into His mercy through our trust. In so doing, God prepares us as disciples to carry forward that mercy and trust into our broken and distrustful world, to be *the dynamic and untiring love of Christ.*

Simon of Cascia, pray for us.

*In what ways can you
surrender to God’s
will to transform fear
into trust?*



On October 3, 1916, he consecrated the Benedictine Abbot, William Henry Francis Brothers, to the episcopate with a large congregation in attendance. The following day, October 4, he consecrated Carmel Henry Carfora, a former Capuchin, who had broken with the Roman Catholic Church over a dispute with his superiors. Carfora had been ministering to Italian immigrants in New York City, Ohio and West Virginia, and oversaw a rather extensive collection of churches and missions. In 1917, Bishop de Landas-Berghes and Bishop Carfora united their efforts and formally established the North American Old Roman Catholic Church with de Landas-Berghes as Archbishop and first Metropolitan-Primate. That same year they together consecrated Stanislaus Mickiewicz, a former Polish National Catholic priest, entrusting to him coordination of parishes especially of eastern European faithful.

In 1918 Archbishop de Landas-Berghes could write that his Church had made extraordinary strides during the three and a half years that he had been in the United States, and numbered, in addition to himself and his two suffragan bishops, Carfora and Mickiewicz, 35 priests, 1 cleric, 25 churches, 1 seminary, 1 convent, and about 50,000 members. Among these priests, faithful, and churches were Lithuanians, Italians, Poles and Greek Rite Ruthenians.⁷

Not long afterwards, however, the Archbishop made a significant change of direction in his life—not altogether unexpected and radical considering the stated goal he had in mind at his arrival in the United States, nor considering the difficulties he experienced in attempting to be an agent of unity. At the time he was serving as professor at the Old Roman Catholic Church's seminary which he himself had founded, attached to their Lithuanian parish in Lawrence, Massachusetts. Here he taught Greek, Latin, English, Moral and Dogmatic Theology, and Church History, using Catholic textbooks and following

Catholic rituals. Perhaps it was here in Lawrence that the Archbishop first became acquainted with the Augustinians, whose presence in the city was numerically significant.

On April 5, 1918, he wrote a fourteen-page letter, in long hand, to James Cardinal Gibbons of Baltimore, detailing his spiritual itinerary thus far and asking to be received into the Catholic Church.



The Archbishop indicated, perhaps with overly hopeful aspiration, that his personal decision to embrace the Catholic faith would be a stimulus for others. In fact, however, his decision proved to have no demonstrable influence on any of his bishops, priests or faithful to follow suit!

On April 22nd he again wrote to Cardinal Gibbons' office and two days later he wrote yet a third time. The advice of the Cardinal had been clear and succinct,

“...I beg to inform you that cases such as yours must be submitted direct to the Holy Office by the person interested; I would therefore suggest that you write out a clear statement of your case and send it direct to His Eminence, Cardinal Merry del Val, Secretary of the Holy Office, accompanying it with such documentary proofs as may be required.”⁸

The Archbishop was very disappointed with this counsel, but wrote, nonetheless, to Cardinal Merry del Val without delay, and pledged his “*absolute and unconditional submission to His Holiness*.”⁹ The Cardinal, in turn, communicated to Cardinal Gibbons the procedure by which this submission was to be made, making it clear that this would enable de Landas-Berghes to be admitted only to “lay communion”, and that the Archbishop's orders—whether technically valid or invalid—would not be recognized by the Holy See.¹⁰ Upon receipt of the Cardinal Secretary of

State's instructions, Cardinal Gibbons invited Archbishop de Landas-Berghes to meet him personally in Baltimore to share the letter's contents with him.

At about this time, Archbishop de Landas-Berghes also wrote to the Prior Provincial of the Augustinian Order in the United States, Father Nicholas Vasey, reporting the steps he had taken up to that point in seeking to enter the Roman Catholic Church.¹¹ In his first letter to Cardinal Gibbons, he had raised the possibility of applying to the Augustinians—out of the devotion that he had toward Saint Augustine.

On July 22, 1918, Father Vasey informed the Archbishop that he would be unable to act upon his request until de Landas-Berghes had entered the Church, but that on notification of his reception his petition for admittance to the Order would be placed before the Council of the Province. As the response from Rome's Holy Office did not come as quickly as the Archbishop had hoped, he wrote again to Father Vasey, who could only re-iterate his earlier statement, suggesting that he follow patiently the advice of Cardinal Gibbons, which was that he go to some religious house to receive instruction and be prepared for reception into the Church.

Shortly afterwards the now eager and increasingly impatient de Landas-Berghes appealed to the Apostolic Delegate, Archbishop Giovanni Bonzani, who suggested that since he was living in New York at this time, the best thing would be for him to contact the local Catholic Ordinary, Archbishop Patrick Hayes, with regard to

⁷ Gibbons, April 5, 1918.

⁸ AAB, 124E2, p. 19, Cardinal Gibbons to Archbishop de Landas-Berghes, dated April 19, 1918.

⁹ AAB, 124E2, p. 20, Cardinal Merry del Val to Cardinal Gibbons, dated August 3, 1918.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ AAVP. There are several entries in the minutes of the Definitory meetings with regard to the Archbishop's requests.

the matter, and that he himself would also write to Archbishop Hayes to introduce de Landas-Berghes and his situation to him. Archbishop de Landas-Berghes accordingly presented himself to Archbishop Hayes who recommended that he receive instruction from some competent priest in New York. Shortly afterwards, de Landas-Berghes called upon Augustinian Father Blaise Zeiser, pastor of Saint Nicholas of Tolentine Church in the Bronx, whom he already knew, and was entrusted by him to the care of Father Martin Kessels, O.S.A., of the same Bronx community for instruction. Father Kessels, who had been born and raised in Holland and entered the Augustinian Order there, was familiar with the Old Catholic Church in that country. This plan was acceptable to Archbishop Hayes, and from November 9 until December 8 Kessels and de Landas-Berghes met every other day for four hours.¹² At the completion of the instructions, Father Kessels wrote a report with details of the Archbishop's curriculum vitae, his religious itinerary, process of inquiry and topics covered in their classes. He concluded, attesting to the Archbishop's sincerity and preparedness, and his recommendation that he be received into the Church.¹³ On December 22, 1919, Rudolph de Landas-Berghes made his profession of faith at New York's Saint Patrick Cathedral before Archbishop Hayes who, on the same date, provided a hand-written letter attesting to the fact.¹⁴ One of the two witnesses to the event was Father Martin Kessels.

On the very same day, at a meeting of the Augustinian Prior Provincial and his definitory at Villanova, Pennsylvania, Rudolph de Landas-Berghes' request for acceptance as a candidate for the Order was approved. The following day Father Kessels accompanied him to Villanova and to Corr Hall, the Augustinian formation house on the college campus. The following January 25th he was approved for entrance into the novitiate.

On March 13, 1920, Rudolph de Landas-Berghes received the white habit of a novice and began his year of probation under Father Patrick Kehoe, O.S.A.. He took the name of Augustine, in honor

of the saint whom he had admired for so long and under whose *Rule* he would now live. His desire to enter religious life in the Catholic Church was realized and the first formal stage of incorporation had begun. One of his fellow novices wrote about his former classmate many years later, in a precious document which gives some insight into the character of the former Archbishop.

“*He was a quiet, silent and prayerful man...he seemed a lonely, thoughtful character who had made a great decision and was struggling to fulfill it. He spent his days in prayer and studying. It seemed that he carried on a big correspondence, as I noticed the letters in the mail box, the wax seal calling my attention to the large, unusual envelopes. During the recreation periods of the summer months at Villanova, very often Archbishop de Berghes would spend his evenings with his fellow-novices, telling about his younger days, leaving the impression on us of great sacrifice and fortitude on his part in his seeking the true faith and the best way to serve God that now led along a road of great humility and patience. It was this virtue of humility that impressed me most deeply, a man of high position observing the minute commands of a stern novice-master...During the months of September and October the Archbishop did not seem to be in good health. He struck me as having a great fear of drafts in the chapel. I noticed his impatience at open windows and the way the cold affected him, as though he had constant chills. Eventually, he took to his bed for a few days at a time. I did not seem to be too surprised when one day in November I learned that he died rather suddenly, whether of pneumonia, cerebral hemorrhage, or heart attack...*”¹⁵

On Wednesday evening, November 17, 1920, the novice Augustine de Landas-Berghes excused himself from the dinner table and went to his room, saying that he was not feeling well. When a short time later one of his fellow novices went to his room to bring him some tea he was found asleep

in the Lord. Father Kehoe was summoned and administered absolution. Death was determined to have occurred at about seven o'clock. Augustine de Landas-Berghes was 47 years old.

From the time that he had begun to discern a call to God's service in the Church early in adulthood, Rudolph de Landas-Berghes was intent on pursuing the path meant for him with eagerness and sincerity. The Gospel imperative 'that all be one' resounded compellingly within him and became, it seems fair to say, the 'program' of his ministry. It was, as well, however, a deeply personal pursuit which led him step by step, painfully at times and at great personal cost, to be sure, to the Catholic Church and to religious life. In the final months of his life he would listen each week to the words of his patron, Saint Augustine, speaking through the monastic *Rule* he had bequeathed to his disciples,

“*The main purpose for you having come together is to live harmoniously in your house, intent upon God in oneness of mind and heart.*”¹⁶

We can only imagine what those words meant for him after so long a journey.

The funeral, celebrated by the Prior Provincial, Father Nicholas Vasey, took place the following Monday morning, November 22, 1920, at Villanova, in the customary rites accorded to all Augustinians, including novices, after which he was buried in the Villanova community cemetery. A notification of his death, written by the Augustinian superior to the grieving Old Catholic friends and associates of the former Archbishop in Waukegan, Illinois, was gracious and heartfelt,

“*while he was with us he edified all by his humble, retiring and sincere manner of living. He sought no exemptions but performed all his duties as simply as the youngest and humblest novice.*”

¹² Ibid. p. 7.

¹³ Ibid. p. 7. This document was signed by both de Landas-Berghes and Father Kessels, and dated December 11, 1919.

¹⁴ The letter, a copy of which is kept in the Villanova Province Archives, reads: *This is to certify that Augustinus de Berghes et de Rache, a member of the Old Catholic Church with rank of Archbishop, formally abjured his error and made his profession of faith in the presence of the undersigned, and the subscribed witnesses.*

¹⁵ AAVP. Private paper of Fr. John A. Walsh, O.S.A., May 28, 1959

¹⁶ *The Rule of Saint Augustine*, 1, 3.

NEWS AND NOTES

FROM THE PROVINCE OF SAINT THOMAS OF VILLANOVA AND THE AUGUSTINIAN ORDER



(L-R:) PRIOR PROVINCIAL MICHAEL DI GREGORIO, O.S.A.; PRIOR GENERAL ALEJANDRO MORAL, O.S.A.; GEORGE MUNYAN AND VICAR GENERAL JOSEPH FARRELL, O.S.A.

George Munyan Affiliated to the Order of Saint Augustine

At a ceremony at the 7 P.M. Mass at Saint Augustine Parish in Philadelphia, on Sunday, October 29th, 2017 George Munyan, who serves as a volunteer administrator with Father Paul Morrissey's prison ministry, was affiliated to the Order of Saint Augustine, in recognition of his dedication to the Order. A certificate was presented to George by the Prior General of the Order of Saint Augustine, Father Alejandro Moral, O.S.A. Concelebrants at the Mass included the Vicar General, Father Joseph Farrell, O.S.A., and the Prior Provincial of the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova, Father Michael Di Gregorio, O.S.A.



FATHER MICHAEL DI GREGORIO, O.S.A., AND BILL TOBIA

Saint Thomas of Villanova Leadership & Saint Augustine Legacy Societies' Mass & Brunch

The Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova hosted a brunch on October 8, 2017 at Saint Augustine Friary in Villanova, Pennsylvania, for members of the Saint Thomas of Villanova Leadership Society and the Saint Augustine Legacy Society. The luncheon was preceded by Mass in the friary's chapel, celebrated by Prior Provincial Michael Di Gregorio, O.S.A. During the brunch, new members of the Saint Augustine Legacy Society received a memorial coin and new members of the Saint Thomas Leadership Society received a pin, presented by Father Michael.



Art of Richard Canulli, O.S.A., Displayed at Villanova University's Art Gallery

A show was held at the Villanova University Art Gallery featuring the works of Father Richard Canulli, O.S.A., from October 2 – December 19, 2017. The exhibit featured vestments designed and made by Father Canulli, as well as icons and watercolors created by him. A reception to meet the artist was held on the evening of October 20, 2017 with light refreshments and music.

Craig McMahon, O.S.A., Awarded Doctorate Degree by Cambridge University, England



On December 1, 2017, Father Craig McMahon, O.S.A., successfully defended his dissertation and will receive the PhD degree in Economic History at the University of Cambridge, in England. Father Craig was ordained in June 2013. Following his ordination, he went to England, where he studied at the London School of Economics and at Cambridge University. *Congratulations, Father Craig!*



A.D.R.O.P.

Father John E. Deegan, O.S.A., pictured here with students at Saint Anthony of Padua school, connected to the Augustinian parishes of Annunciation and Saint Nicholas of Tolentine, who were provided with an experience of music, dance and cultural understanding focusing on India, through Musicopia, a program sponsored by the Augustinian Defenders of the Rights of the Poor.

Rob Hagan, O.S.A., Receives Villanova University's 2017 Alumni Medallion



FATHER ROB HAGAN, O.S.A.

Villanova University presented the 2017 Rev. Kail C. Ellis, O.S.A., Alumni Medallion to Rob Hagan, O.S.A., at the 35th Arts and Sciences Alumni Medallion Dinner held at the Inn at Villanova, on October 4, 2017. Father Rob Hagan, JD, CLAS is Assistant Athletic Director and chaplain of the Villanova University men's basketball and football teams.



STUDENTS AT MERRIMACK COLLEGE GATHER FOR THE "MACK GIVES BACK" DAY OF SERVICE

"Mack Gives Back" Day

On Saturday, November 4, over 1200 Merrimack College Students gathered before going to 43 different sites in eleven different cities to perform community service on Mack Gives Back Day, the College's annual day of service that commemorates Veterans Day by "honoring those who served by serving others." Before leaving for their service, Father Ray Dlugos, O.S.A., challenged them to be mindful of what we have asked of our veterans, what it cost many of them to do, and then consider if we have been worthy of their sacrifice on our behalf.

ANNIVERSARIES 2018

ANNIVERSARIES OF RELIGIOUS PROFESSION

50 YEARS

David J. Kelley, O.S.A.
Aquilino D. Gonzalez, O.S.A.
Robert P. Terranova, O.S.A.
Michael H. Bielecki, O.S.A.
Dennis J. Harten, O.S.A.
Francis J. Horn, O.S.A.
Joseph A. Genito, O.S.A.
Liam T. O'Doherty, O.S.A.
Joseph S. Mostardi, O.S.A.
Arthur P. Purcaro, O.S.A.

ANNIVERSARIES OF ORDINATION

50 YEARS

George P. Magee, O.S.A.
Adrian Gilligan, O.S.A.

25 YEARS

Masaki T. Imada, O.S.A.
Tetsuya P. Hirano, O.S.A.



IN PARADISUM

The following friar was called home to God.



John Joseph Hagen

BORN: 3/21/1930
FIRST PROFESSION: 9/10/1950
ORDAINED: 12/21/1957
DIED: 12/18/2017

Father John Joseph Hagen, O.S.A., was born on March 21, 1930 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, one of five sons and three daughters of Lawrence Hagen and Marie V. Schilling. He was baptized on April 13, 1930 at Saint Edmond Church, Philadelphia, and attended Saint Monica Parochial School from 1937 to 1944. Upon graduation, he entered LaSalle High School in 1945 and then, in 1948, enrolled as a postulant at Augustinian Academy, Staten Island, New York, where he completed his senior year. He was received into the Order on September 9, 1949, and following his year as a novice at Good Counsel Novitiate, New Hamburg, New York, professed simple vows on September 10, 1950. He began college studies at Villanova University in 1950, from which he obtained a BA in Philosophy in 1954. That year he was sent to the *Collegio Santa Monica*, Rome, Italy, the Order's international house of studies, where he attended the Gregorian University and received an STL degree in 1958. He professed solemn vows in Rome on September 10, 1953, and was ordained to the priesthood there at the Church of the Twelve Apostles on December 21, 1957, by the Papal Sacristan, Bishop Peter Canisius Van Lierde, O.S.A.

Father Hagen was assigned to Augustinian Academy, Staten Island, New York, in 1958. There he taught English, Greek, Latin, Biology and Religion, and was Vice-Principal. He also completed studies for an MA in English at Fordham University in 1962. From 1963 to 1970, he was assigned to Saint Nicholas of Tolentine High School, Bronx, New York, where he taught English, and was Vice-Principal for three years. From 1969 to 1972 Father Hagen studied at New York University, obtaining a PhD in Medieval English. In 1970, he was assigned to Saint Thomas Monastery, Villanova, and served the community at various times as treasurer and as prior, while teaching English at the University. He also served the Province as a counselor to the Prior Provincial, Regent of Studies, and a member of the Board of Merrimack College. In 1990, he was elected Prior Provincial and served the Province in that capacity until 1994. Though nominated for a second term, Father Hagen declined his candidacy, and returned to teaching at the University.

Father Hagen had a great love for ministry in the field of education, and spent his free time enjoying opera, classical music and reading medieval history and world literature. He was grateful for the opportunity to serve in parochial ministry on weekends, which he did for many years, particularly at Visitation Parish, Trooper. He was known to all as a gentleman and devoted priest, and to his confreres as a committed and invested member of the community.

Due to the limitations incurred from declining health, Father Hagen retired from teaching, but continued to live at Saint Thomas of Villanova Monastery. There he passed away peacefully on the morning of December 18, 2017, at the age of 87.



BY MADONNA SUTTER
DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT

Preserving the Augustinian Legacy

Dear Friends of the Augustinians,

I hope you are as excited as I about our 2018 Saint Augustine Medal recipient, the Most Reverend Louis A. DeSimone! I cannot think of a more deserving honoree who embodies the Augustinian values of *Veritas*, *Unitas* and *Caritas*. It didn't take me long after we met to understand why he is so beloved. Details for this Medal Dinner will unfold in the coming months. If you'd like to help in any way as we make our plans, I invite you to reach out to me. In the meantime, visit: www.augustinianfund.org/medal-dinner

There is so much talk these days about "being in the moment," but I often find myself looking to the future and especially thinking about the future of the Augustinians. How do we preserve the Augustinian Order beyond our lifetime? How do we make sure that there will be friars to teach and minister our children and grandchildren?

Msgr. Bonner alumnus Michael MacDonald has a very passionate connection to the Augustinians and made the decision to include the Augustinians in his will. Mike graciously shares his story here. I invite you to consider naming the Augustinians in your will, trust, as the beneficiary of your retirement account or insurance policy and join the MacDonalds as members of the Saint Augustine Legacy Society. For information on planned gifts and our Legacy Society, please visit: www.augustinian.plannedgiving.org

Now let's get back to "living in the moment." It's critical that we build a strong base of revenue through the Augustinian Fund to support the friars' way of life and ministries today. We do this through the generosity of many who contribute annually. Many donors have decided to set up an affordable, automatic monthly gift charged to either a credit or debit card. Once you sign up you never have to think about it again. Brian and Barbara Riley, parishioners of Saint Thomas of Villanova, became Grateful Hearts donors this summer. They share why they decided to set up a monthly gift. For more information on Grateful Hearts, visit: www.augustinianfund.org/grateful-hearts

My special thanks to the MacDonalds and the Rileys for their leadership and collaboration with the Augustinians. Let's continue to think about sustaining the Augustinians today but also prayerfully consider how we might preserve everything that is so special about the Augustinian charism into the future.

We are grateful to Jay Wright, who has chosen the Augustinian Fund as his charity for the 2018 Infiniti Coaches' Charity Challenge. Voting began on January 2, 2018 and will conclude on March 10, 2018. No usernames or passwords needed.

1. Go to: infinititimeout.com
2. Scroll down to Jay Wright's photo
3. Click on "VOTE"

It's that easy! From this page, share on social media and encourage others to vote.

In addition to your website vote, you can vote up to two times additionally each day via social media. You must use the information below in each post for your vote to count. You must include the hashtag and handle or the vote won't count.

Twitter:

#Timeout2Vote + @VUCoachJWright

Instagram:

#Timeout2Vote + #CoachJayWright

Please share on Facebook as well,
but keep in mind that this will not count as a vote!

For more details and updates, visit:

www.augustinianfund.org/infiniti-coaches-challenge





Michael and Jean MacDonald

MEMBERS, SAINT AUGUSTINE LEGACY SOCIETY

I was 12 years old when my older brother Brad decided to enter the Order of Saint Augustine. As a child, I recall playing basketball with the seminarians at Saint Mary's Hall on Villanova's campus. My mother and Father Don Reilly's mother were members of the Augustinian Guild.

I entered Msgr. Bonner High School in 1967, and joined the Bonner Breakfast Club as an altar boy serving morning Mass. So many of the Augustinian teachers come to mind as I recall fondly my Bonner days—Fathers Smith, Jordan, Duffy, Melton and Marcellus to name a few. I played basketball at Bonner and on occasion played ball with Father Smith and other friars. The Augustinians set a tremendous example for me and shaped my character and values as a young boy.

As CEO of Medifast, Inc., I got to know Father Don Reilly, O.S.A., who served on Medifast's board. He is one of the finest examples of the Augustinians, as well as Father Joe Calderone, O.S.A., who was also on a Medifast board.

I decided to leave the Augustinians in my will because I believe that if you've been successful, you have an obligation to give back. The Augustinians have had a profound influence on my life, my faith and my career. They are responsible for my success. I want to make sure that their future is secure so that they can continue to positively influence society through their ministry in the Church and in education. I also want to ensure the finest care for the friars in Saint Thomas Monastery, who have given their lives in service to God and the Church. My wife, Jean, and I are proud to be members of the Saint Augustine Legacy Society.

Barbara and Brian Riley

GRATEFUL HEARTS DONORS

We were both raised by parents who were deeply rooted in our faith. We want the same for our children.

We first met the Augustinians when our son, Jack, attended Malvern Prep. We realized that the friars were going to be instrumental in our son's faith formation. In a society where messages can pull our youth into different directions, we began to see the friars as our partners in raising our children in their Christian faith. We were attracted to the concept of brotherhood at Malvern and how the Augustinians teach our boys about Christ and to live by his teachings.

We were curious as to whether our support of Malvern Prep actually benefitted the friars, so we asked. We found out that it didn't. The Augustinians founded Malvern Prep and Villanova University, and these schools have evolved into something incredible. It's extraordinary what the friars have done!

The deep appreciation we have for the friars prompted us to think about what we could do to help them. We want them to live comfortably and without worry. We decided to set up a monthly gift to give them the resources, certainty and confidence to live and minister. We are committed to doing this for as long as we possibly can.

Christ is at the center of our faith community and the Augustinians have brought that community to life at Malvern Prep, Villanova, our extended faith community in Philadelphia and beyond. We are pleased to be members of the Augustinian Fund's Grateful Hearts program. Might you consider joining us?



Make an **AFFORDABLE** and **AUTOMATIC** monthly gift.

To become a Grateful Hearts donor, visit:

WWW.AUGUSTINIANFUND.ORG/GRATEFUL-HEARTS



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THURSDAY, MAY 3, 2018

Celebrate a Profile in Augustinian Leadership

The Terrace Club

25 West 51st Street (off Fifth Avenue)
New York, NY
6:00 – 8:30 PM

Guest Speaker: **Mark W. Jackson**
Director of Athletics, Villanova University

For details and to register visit:
www.augustinianfund.org/nyc



MONDAY, MAY 7, 2018

Celebrating the Augustinians of the Merrimack Valley

Andover Country Club

60 Canterbury Street
Andover, MA
6:00 – 8:30 PM

For details and to register visit:
www.augustinianfund.org/merrimack-valley

Questions, contact Madonna Sutter, Director
of Advancement at (610) 527-3330, ext. 265
or madonna.sutter@augustinian.org

Event proceeds to benefit Augustinian Formation Program.