

AUGUSTINIAN

Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova

Transitioning
to a Sustainable
World.



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“
The process of
transition
is challenging and sometimes
confusing but it's always
a great opportunity.

- Fr. Frank Doyle, O.S.A., Vicar Provincial

”



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(l-r) Fr. Arthur Purcaro, O.S.A.
and Fr. John Abubakar, O.S.A.
join forces to advocate for the
Care of Our Common Home



Vicar Provincial

Dear Friends,

As we transition into a New Year, I am reminded that I was once told that a new beginning requires a good ending. We can't avoid our memories of last year both personally and as members of a faith community. Those memories may color our expecta-

tions and hopes for this New Year. In fact, we are always in transition, drawn forward by our faith and trust in an ever present and provident God. Change is inevitable.

A good exercise might be to examine how we are being invited to look more deeply into who we are and how we have changed inwardly

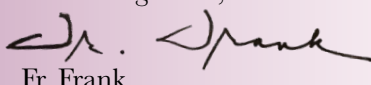
and spiritually during a very turbulent 2021. While we are navigating all that is changing around us, we must come to realize that we must let go of some ideas and be open to the way of growth before us. *The process of transition is challenging and sometimes confusing but it's always a great opportunity for growth.*

As you will see in this first 2022 edition of the magazine, we have many new beginnings to acknowledge and celebrate. Most notably, we extend a warm welcome to our new Communications Manager, Affiong (Afy) Inyang, who joins us with a wealth of experience and new ideas. We honor the passing of the torch in the Adeodatus Program, which has passed from the original founder to a new director. Our Augustinian Volunteer program continues with new volunteers from around the country who are transitioning to their new worksites and hail from diverse regions of the US. There's an update on our Vocational Awareness Program, which continues to attract men to our

way of life and our Initial Formation Program. In response to our Holy Father Pope Francis's call to address the deteriorating condition of our 'home', the earth, the Villanova Province will join the LAUDATO SI' Action Plan in an effort to contribute to solutions that promote environmental sustainability. After many years of planning and praying, the new St. Rita Place will house low-income senior citizens above the National Shrine of St. Rita's Cascia Center. We have also celebrated our Augustinian Legacy at Monsignor Bonner High School in Drexel Hill, which is now growing under capable lay leadership.

May we all face the New Year with its unknown challenges with great confidence and assurance that God is with us in every circumstance of transition that awaits us. We must always remember that our lives have great purpose and that God's presence dwells within and among us. And let us recommit to live the Augustinian virtues of harmony, truth, and love.

In St. Augustine,



Fr. Frank



Fr. Frank Doyle, O.S.A. in front of Our Mother of Consolation depicting Jesus and the Blessed Virgin Mary giving the cincture, worn around the waist of Augustinian religious, to St. Augustine and St. Monica



Afy Inyang is welcomed to the Province with a blessing; (l-r) Fr. James Keating, O.S.A., Fr. Dan McLaughlin, O.S.A., Fr. Bill Waters, O.S.A.

*Publication of the Province of
Saint Thomas of Villanova*

Affiong Inyang
EDITOR

accent communications, inc.
DESIGN

CONTACT

Editor
Augustinian Provincial Offices
214 Ashwood Road
Villanova, PA 19085

PHONE 610.527.3330
FAX 610.520.0618
EMAIL communications@augustinian.org

AUGUSTINIANS

Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova

Michael F. Di Gregorio, O.S.A.
PRIOR PROVINCIAL

Francis J. Doyle, O.S.A.
VICAR PROVINCIAL

Francis J. Horn, O.S.A.
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James D. McBurney, O.S.A.
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Craig M. McMahon, O.S.A.
Arthur P. Purcaro, O.S.A.

PROVINCIAL OFFICES

Joanna Bowen
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DIRECTOR OF JUSTICE AND PEACE

Richard C. Ekmann, O.S.A.
ARCHIVIST

Affiong Inyang
COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

Lacie Michaelson
DIRECTOR OF AUGUSTINIAN
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Joseph L. Narog, O.S.A.
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Dear Friends,

*Afy Inyang in front of St. Thomas of
Villanova in the Augustinian's first
church in America, St. Augustine,
Old City Philadelphia*

Three weeks into settling into my new office, I leaned back in my chair and glanced outside of my window. I took in a sharp breath as my eyes widened in shock at the sight of a transformed tree, rootedly gazing back at me. What was once green just a week ago was suddenly transfigured into a blaze of golden glory. "When did this shocking transformation happen?" I wondered to myself. As I sat in awe of the tree's newly gilded grandeur, I reflected on the nature of change, more specifically, how things transition from one state to another.

Before going any further, I should introduce myself. My name is Afy. I am a first-generation Nigerian-American, born in Philadelphia, and a Temple University Alum. I am proud to call myself the new Communications Manager at the province! I converted to Catholicism in my early 20s, being one of only two people in my entire extended family that is Catholic. I have worked at multiple nonprofits within the area of Marketing and Communications, but deep down, I have always wanted to work in a Catholic organization. So to finally find myself supernaturally placed within the area of heart and home of the Augustinians is more than I could have ever dreamed of.

Watching the golden leaves wave in the breeze made me consider all the transitioning that has been occurring around me. From moving into a new house, starting a new job, learning a new campus, to being a host to this new life growing inside of me. As I spent my weeks meeting with the friars and various ministries, I noticed that things were rapidly developing and progressing to new states. Buildings being built, programs revamped, people acclimating to different cultures. As you read through these articles, I hope they spark some introspection in the ways that change has touched and transformed your life for the better.

Sincerely,

Afy Inyang

From Hope *to* Housing

BY AFFIONG INYANG,
COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

Before we delve into this story of how St. Rita's Shrine and decades-long Augustinian effort managed to secure housing for low income senior citizens, it's important to cover the background of the organization at the center of this huge undertaking, Catholic Housing and Community Services (CHCS). CHCS was initially called Catholic Healthcare Services and it was the largest nonprofit providing nursing care in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Back in 2014, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia decided to sell those nursing homes, compelling the organization to take a step back and decide how it was going to serve seniors moving forward. As Heather Huot, Director of CHCS, puts it, "We thought about what do seniors really want and what we concluded is that they really want to be in their homes and their communities for as long as possible. We do that in a lot of different ways, and one of those is through affordable senior housing."



*Heather Huot, Director
of Catholic Housing and
Community Services*



As most of us are aware by now, a number of major cities in the country are undergoing a housing crisis, and that issue becomes more complicated for people who are aging. "Neighborhoods are really changing, you can really see that around the Broad & Ellsworth section of Philadelphia. Seniors are becoming priced out of the neighborhoods that they've lived in for decades," states Heather Huot. For those aging in traditional rowhomes, there is also the additional challenge of how to navigate their living spaces due to growing mobility issues. Having to constantly go up and down the stairs because the bathroom is located on the second floor while the laundry is in the basement eventually becomes impractical and, in some cases, dangerous. Having affordable housing options that address accessibility concerns enables them to stay in their communities.

So how did the Augustinians come into the story? To start off, the Augustinians had been wanting to build the Cascia Center for well over a decade. The first design of the Cascia Center was met with criticism due to its flat aesthetic nature, with one local architecture critic remarking that the space would be perfect for affordable housing.



After this situation, developers starting reaching out to the Augustinians, and CHCS happened to be one of them. Due to our shared mission and focus, it made sense that a partnership with CHCS was struck.

As Heather succinctly puts it, “When building community housing, you need community support.” CHCS started out by interacting with

different community organizations and eventually included councilmen, state representatives and congressmen. It was essential to get them involved in the project because they needed

— continued on next page

*South Philadelphia native, Joseph Corsey, is one of 46 older adults who will move into the new St. Rita Place
Photo courtesy of Gina Christian, CatholicPhilly.com*



Archbishop Nelson Pérez greets US Rep. Dwight Evans (right) and City Councilman Mark Squilla (left) at the dedication

funding from the city and state. On November 10 we finally saw the culmination of over a decade's worth of effort celebrated.

In addition to this project at St. Rita's, CHCS works with six other locations located around Philadelphia that are currently in operation and have had residents for years. The new facility at the Shrine will ultimately house 46 residents above the Cascia Center. The 46 residents were selected out of a pool of over 200 people who applied. The whole process started four years ago when CHCS started going to community meetings and presenting their plan to local community groups. Word got out about the project, and that's when the phone calls started ringing in! When the building was close to being opened, they called everyone back and invited them to Zoom meetings to inform them about the logistics. May 23 of last

year was the official application day and the applications were treated on a first-come, first-served basis. The rest of the applications will stay on a perpetual waiting list and as apartments open up, applicants will be contacted.

From the initial vision and design of the Cascia Center, all the way to scrapping it, partnering with CHCS, reconceptualizing it, and

finally involving the community and politicians, this was a well-fought victory for the seniors of South Philadelphia and for showcasing the impact and compassion of the Augustinians. Though we cannot slow the pace of development in the city and beyond, we can embrace change and directly meet the inevitable transition with focused strategy and, most importantly, the strength of partnerships and community. ✠



Welcome Remarks

Dedication of the Cascia Center

Wednesday, November 10, 2021

Written and Given by Jonathan Jerome, Shrine Director



Jonathan Jerome

Today, we begin a new and exciting chapter of this storied history on this sacred street corner. The partnership, and more importantly, the mission started 115 years ago live on in the good work that will be accomplished in these new facilities by Catholic Housing and Community Services and the National Shrine of St. Rita of Cascia.

And so, with a deep spirit of gratitude for so many involved with this project, and on behalf of the current and former staff of the Shrine, our devoted patrons, pilgrims, and benefactors, as well as the Augustinian Friars from the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova, I thank you for your commitment to our shared mission and to the part you have played and will continue to play in building a community that inspires and builds fullness of life for generations to come at St. Rita Place and the Cascia Center. ☩



*Cascia Center at the National Shrine of St. Rita of Cascia
Photo by Fr. Daniel McLaughlin, O.S.A.*

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email: admin@SaintRitaShrine.org

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

website: [SaintRitaShrine.org](https://www.SaintRitaShrine.org)

phone: 215.546.8333

 [Click to comment on this article](#)

Augustinian Volunteers 2021 – 2022



Spokane, Washington

Colin Helgeson

Serves at St. Augustine High School in San Diego as a campus minister.



Kalispell, Montana

Brittany Cory

Serves as the Outreach Coordinator at A.D.R.O.P. in Philadelphia.



San Francisco, California

Megan Sicord

Serves as a nurse in San Diego at Father Joe's Village.



San Diego, California

Dylan Tagg

Serves at HIAS in Philadelphia.

Connect with Us!

email: info@augustinianvolunteers.org

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

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

From Coast to Coast, They Come to Serve!



Marshfield, Massachusetts

Julia Behm

Serves at
Our Mother of Sorrows/
St. Ignatius School.



Havertown, Pennsylvania

Maida Pannepacker

Serves as a nurse
at Father Joe's Village
in San Diego.



Springfield, Missouri

Riley Griesemer

Serves in Lawrence
as a paraprofessional at
Lawrence Catholic Academy.



Atlanta, Georgia

Audrey Smit

Serves at
St. Augustine
School this year.



Celebrating the Augustinian Legacy

and Alumni of Monsignor Bonner High School

The Augustinian Friars visited the hallowed halls of Monsignor Bonner High School on November 13, 2021, to reconnect with Bonner alumni and friends and relive the stories and memories of the friars' 56-year history at Bonner.

The evening began with the Celebration of Mass. Fr. Bryan Kerns, O.S.A., 2007 Bonner alumnus, presided with 22 Augustinian concelebrants. It was a welcome sight to see so many Augustinian Bonner alumni and former Bonner staff flank the auditorium stage to celebrate Mass and remember their many years of ministry at Bonner, not to mention the number of vocations realized at Bonner.

Following Mass, Patrick Welde, Bonner alumnus and Co-Chair of the Bonner-Prendie Board of Directors welcomed guests. He was followed by Fr. Francis J. Doyle, O.S.A. who shared remarks on behalf of Bonner alumnus and former Bonner principal, Fr. Francis J. Horn, O.S.A., who was unable to be present. COO of Faith in the Future, Jay DeFruscio, provided greetings on behalf of Bonner-Prendie High



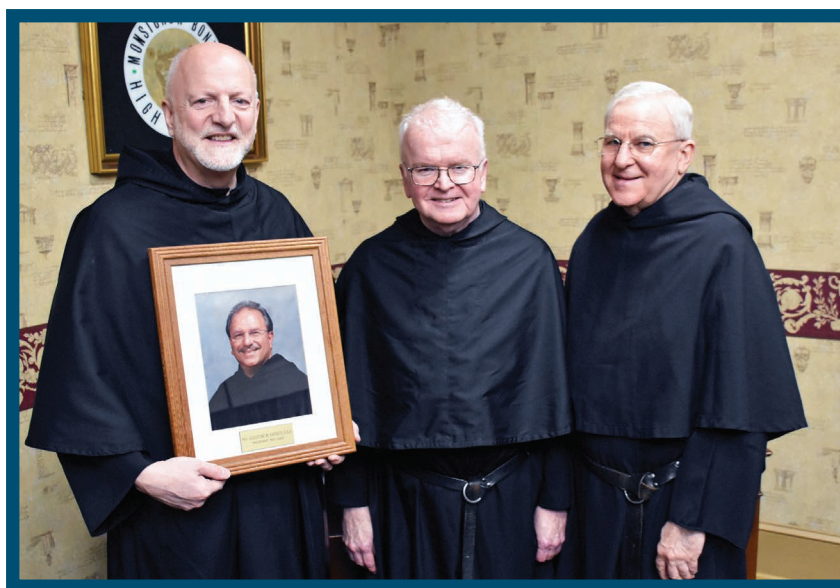
(l-r) Brendan Lake, Jim Lake, and Fr. Joseph L. Farrell, O.S.A.



(l-r) Fr. Bryan J. Kerns, O.S.A. and Joseph Mattson

School and lastly, Fr. Francis Devlin, O.S.A. captured the hearts of many as he shared some of his fondest memories at Bonner and concluded with a blessing before our meal.

While this was the Province's first attempt to rekindle friendships between friars and Bonner alumni and friends, it certainly will not be the last. Stay tuned for more occasions where Bonner Alumni can celebrate the Augustinian-Bonner legacy and reconnect with the Augustinians. ✠



(l-r) Fr. Stephen M. Curry, O.S.A., Fr. Francis X. Devlin, O.S.A. and Fr. Daniel J. McLaughlin, O.S.A., with photo of the late Fr. Augustine Esposito, O.S.A. All four are Bonner Alumni

Connect with Us!

To view event photos, please visit: AugustinianFund.org/bonner

Around the Province

“An Ethos of Sustainable Living & the Augustinian Way of Life”



Thursday, January 13, 2022

7:00 pm • Virtual

Sustainability Webinar

A webinar was presented by Fr. Art Purcaro, O.S.A. to examine our lifestyles to become better stewards of our common home and advocate for societal change. Questions explored included, are you concerned about our planet, our common home? Do you ever wonder what we can do to better care for this gift given to us? Fr. Art invited us to participate in a call for conversion, to learn about and live integral ecology in order to adopt new lifestyles and become more attentive to both the cry of the poor and the cry of the planet.

Participants examined their habits and lifestyles in order to consider ways in which we can continue to grow in faith, become better stewards of the gifts given to us, and advocate for transformational change in our family, community, neighborhood and society in general.

▶ [Click to Watch Sustainability Webinar](#)



Fr. Bill Atkinson's Journey to Sainthood

The closing of the Archdiocesan phase of the Cause of Beatification and Canonization of Fr. Bill Atkinson, O.S.A. took place on October 19 at St. Thomas of Villanova Church. It was a well-attended event, with around 300 people in person and hundreds more joining via livestream!

Fr. Bill Atkinson has already been designated a ‘Servant of God,’ the first step in the Beatification and Canonization process. The next step involves showing proof of a heroic virtue and investigating the candidate’s holiness. To achieve this, Archbishop Perez and the tribunal gathered all their documentation collected from interviews and media reports over the years and testified to Fr. Bill Atkinson’s heroic virtue and exemplary Christian example. The documents were scheduled to have been set before the Vatican during the first week of December. We will keep you up to date as the process progresses!

▶ [Click to Watch Closing Ceremony](#)



Fr. Lydon Peru Award

In Peru, 2021 is the bicentennial year of independence from Spain. The Congress of Peru recognized people in different Peruvian states that have made a special contribution and called them “Persons of the Bicentennial.” They chose four people in different fields for their contributions to the country. On Dec. 14, our very own Fr. John (Juan) Lydon, O.S.A., was one of those named for the field of education for his service as president of the Catholic University of Trujillo! Fr. Lydon works with our friars in formation in Trujillo. He has been a missionary in Peru for many years. Congratulations Fr. John!

Maintenance Projects around the Shrine

Next time you visit the National Shrine of St. Rita of Cascia, take note of the various maintenance projects underway. New lighting, freshly touched-up paint, and new doors are just a few of the projects taking place in the Upper Shrine. And new flooring, a new confessional area, and a reimagined “Saints Grotto” will help bring new life to the Lower Shrine. Whether out of need or unexpected opportunity, these projects will make the Shrine a more inviting place of prayer, pilgrimage, and retreat for all who visit.

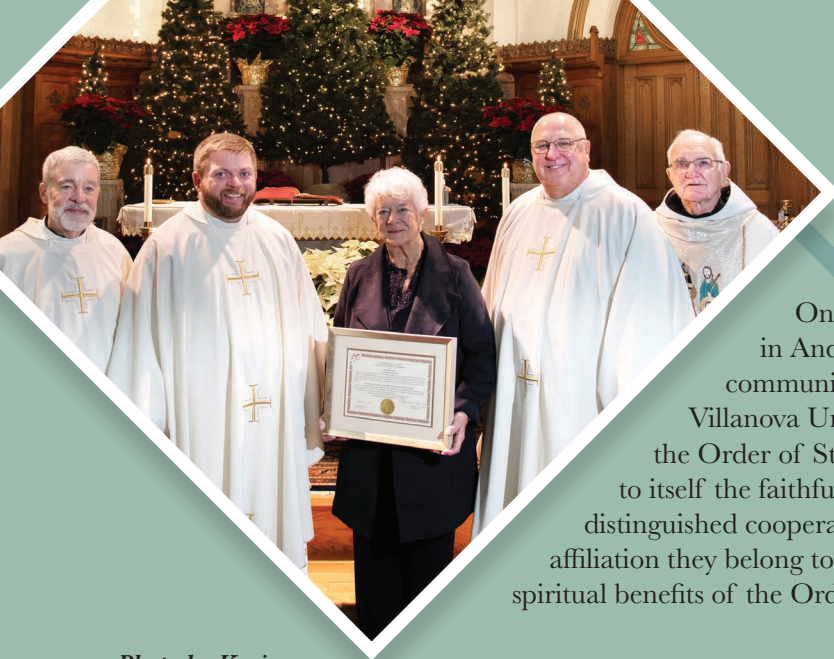


Healing Mass

In September, the National Shrine of St. Rita of Cascia started a new novena of Healing Masses. Drawing pilgrims and visitors from all over the region, this annual tradition takes place at 12:00 p.m. on the third Sunday of every month (September through May). Each month, a different Augustinian Friar from around the Province serves as the celebrant and homilist. They lead the recitation of the novena prayers, bless each person with St. Rita oil, and offer a blessing with the relic of St. Rita. The homilies for each Healing Mass are recorded and can be found on the Augustinian Journey app available for Android and Apple phones and tablets.

Click to Download Augustinian Journey





Mary Wesson Affiliation Ceremony

On Dec. 21, the community of St. Ambrose Friary in Andover, Massachusetts, with the full support of the community of St. Augustine, Andover and the president of Villanova University, nominated Mary Wesson for affiliation to the Order of St. Augustine. The Order has the faculty of affiliating to itself the faithful who merit special recognition because of their distinguished cooperation for the good of the Order. By reason of this affiliation they belong to the Augustinian Family and share in all of the spiritual benefits of the Order.

*Photo by Kevin
Salemme, Merrimack College*

Reconciliation Mass

This year, the Augustinian Defenders of the Rights of the Poor (A.D.R.O.P.) and the National Shrine of St. Rita of Cascia started a new initiative: A novena of Reconciliation Masses. These special Masses take place at the Shrine on the second Saturday of every month at 5:00 p.m. and invite members of the community to unite their prayers with those who are impacted by crime and mass incarceration. At the end of each Mass, a guest speaker connected with a particular issue shares a short reflection. Topics include addiction, gun violence, poverty, restorative justice, incarceration practices, and more. The homilies for each Reconciliation Mass can also be found on the Augustinian Journey app. To get updates about this ministry, visit **ReconciliationMass.org**.

PODCASTS

RECONCILIATION MASS HOMILIES

**United in prayer for all those
impacted by addiction, poverty
& gun violence.**



Adeodatus Christmas Party

On Dec. 11, the Augustinian Defenders of the Rights of the Poor (A.D.R.O.P.) had their annual Adeodatus/Mary Mother of Captives Christmas Party. It was a fun filled evening of camaraderie, prayer, and song. Let us all pray especially for those who feel alone or forgotten, who have been affected by incarceration or substance abuse, and those who have lost hope.

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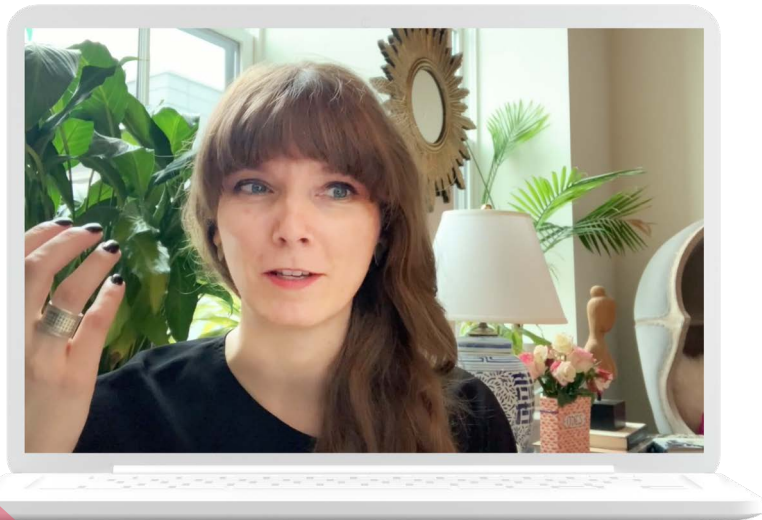
BY FATHER JOSEPH L. NAROG, O.S.A.,
DIRECTOR OF VOCATIONS

Each year, since the Chapter of 2018, our Province has celebrated an Augustinian Vocation Awareness Week in November, to include the Feast of All Saints of the Order and the birth of St. Augustine. And, for the past two years, the Midwest and California Provinces have joined in the effort, creating a North American-wide celebration. For last November's Awareness Week, we initiated an inspiring project, based on an idea that came from our Province's Vocation Advisory Board. Lay persons submitted short videos in which they shared how the Augustinians have impacted their lives. We have included here a few excerpts from the three clips from our Province. I would encourage you to check out the full videos at www.Augustinian.org.



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

Reflections



Chesley Turner

*Former Director of the
National Shrine of St. Rita
of Cascia*

— “ —

What's unique about the Augustinians to me is that this brotherhood of men has invited the community to be with them...

It shows me that we're all journeying towards heaven together.

— ” —

Open your phone's
camera app and
hover over barcode
to watch these videos!



Anne Murphy

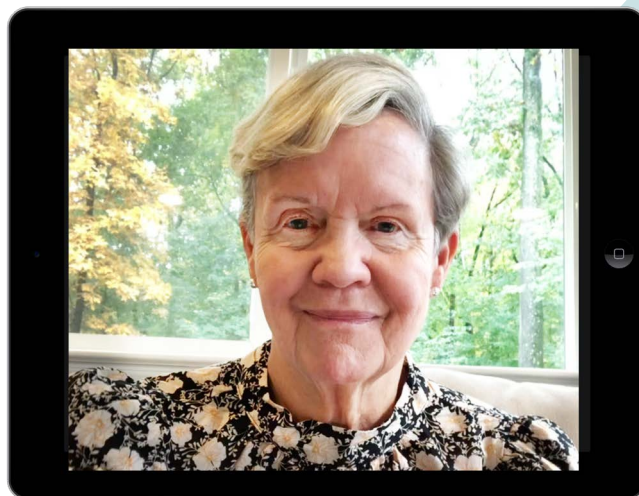
*Augustinian Affiliate and Former Staff
of St. Thomas of Villanova Parish*

— “ —

Augustinians build loving communities... Augustinians welcome active participation...

The Augustinians have a lasting impact. I can say to you Augustinians are transformative.

— ” —



Pray Share Invite

Since promoting and raising awareness of vocations certainly isn't limited to a week though, as I've been known to say, we hope to expand on the "impact video project." Throughout the year, everyone can continue to be involved by carrying out the theme of Vocation Awareness – Pray. Share. Invite. Pray for all vocations, especially to the Augustinian way of life. Share your stories, as well as vocation-related materials. And invite others to consider where God may be calling them in their lives. Do you know someone who you think would make a good Augustinian Friar? Then please tell them!



Jesús De La Rosa

*Augustinian Affiliate and Staff at
St. Nicholas of Tolentine, Bronx, NY*

— “ —

I really love the way the Augustinians have built a single community in the middle of so much diversity. I wouldn't be the person I am today, if it had not been for the experiences I've had with our Augustinian brothers.

— ” —

On the Journey Together

BY FATHER ARTHUR PURCARO, O.S.A.



(l-r) Fr. John Abubakar, O.S.A. and Fr. Art Purcaro, O.S.A. in front of the statue of St. Augustine the Teacher on the campus of Villanova University

In Transition to a Better Life for All

On November 2, the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova formally signed on to the Laudato Si' Action Platform, promoted actively by Pope Francis and the Vatican Department for Integral Human Development.

By signing that pledge, the Province joined the commitment made by the central administration of the whole worldwide Order of St. Augustine, along with countless other religious communities of women and men throughout the world as well as colleges and universities and representatives of other major sectors of society and the Church. All of us have come together under this pledge to begin a journey together toward a better world for all.

You can read the entire text of the Province pledge on our website, which commits us “to work toward sustainable solutions that foster integral human development by combatting hunger and

poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded and protecting nature.” Visit: www.Augustinian.org/laudato-pledge

Sound interesting? I sure hope so.

For example, did you know that the paper our *Augustinian Magazine* has been using over the years is a certified FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) paper? Our printing company, ANRO, works with PrintRELEAF – an initiative where 100% of the trees used in the paper we print gets sustain-



ably replanted by a global network of certified forestry partners. To put it simply, for every project we print, they replant a tree. This is a small but very significant step of many we hope to take together with you in our commitment toward a more Christian response to care for our common home, the environment we are stewards of.

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Fr. Art Purcaro, O.S.A. in Cusco, Peru

The Laudato Si' Action Platform (LSAP) is meant to be a major grassroots effort to mobilize Catholics (and society in general) worldwide to put into action the message of integral ecology described in Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical on Care for Our Common Home (Laudato Si'). This call to be attentive to the cry of the poor as well as the cry of the planet is addressed to all the people of the world, in this crucial decade for radical societal

transformation as increasing climate change and environmental degradation threaten both the planet's ecosystems and people.

The LSAP creates a space for the universal Church – and society in general – to respond to the global emergency we are facing. Through it we can learn and grow together as we take decisive action to build a better future in the spirit of the Gospel.

Earth is truly a gift, given to all of us, not simply for the enjoyment of a few. It has been given to us to cherish and share, holding on loan for future generations to enjoy as we are privileged to do now. Are you concerned about our planet, our common home? Do you wonder what can we do to better protect this gift given to us? We have the opportunity to choose an ecological conversion on a personal, familial and a communal level. If we are searching for true progress for all, we are tasked with helping develop a harmonious whole, to build up a living ecosystem, an integral ecology. In this vision, no one falls through the cracks or is left out; each part is absorbed into the good of the whole.

The first step of the seven-year LSAP journey is dedicated to preparation and planning on a local level, which for us comprises individual friars, local communities as part of the Province, and the Order of St. Augustine as a whole. We are hoping on encouraging all those we are associated with – you as you read this, along with your family, neighbors, fellow parishioners and co-workers, as well as the schools and businesses you are associated with – to join us on this exciting and momentous journey, intended to be filled with concrete actions that systematically address issues so critical for building up the Reign of God in our lifetime.

The platform encourages specific actions toward the seven goals

across seven sectors – families, parishes and dioceses, religious orders, educational institutions, health care centers, economic institutions and lay organizations – and invites groups to complete them within a seven-year period. These seven LSAP goals encompass the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, which the governments of all the nations of the world have committed to achieving by 2030.

The seven Laudato Si' Goals include actions like reducing consumer purchases, adopting simpler lifestyles, shifting to renewable energy, and following ethical investment guidelines. The LSAP platform isn't a single event or date, but a seven-year journey, with different starting points for people and groups. This is going to

be a long process that we're all going to be learning and growing and sharing together. It's going to be an exciting and thrilling journey, for sure.

Fr. John Abubakar, O.S.A.

We are encouraged by the fact that Villanova University and Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School have already signed on to the LSAP, while Merri-mack College and other institutions the Province serves are also considering doing the same. Interested families of the St. Thomas of Villanova parish and Our Mother of Good Counsel parish will participate in a five-week online Lenten retreat on the pathways to a more sustainable living. Our brother, John Abubakar, former Provincial of the Province of Nigeria and visiting professor at Villanova University, is teaching a theology

course on Bible and Sustainability.

Fr. John was able to bring together his former biblical studies and a Master of Science in Environment, Development and Politics from Birmingham University.

His aim is to make a biblical case for sustainability, given that most research is solely from an environmental or business perspective, adding an Augustinian dimension to it as well.

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We join Pope Francis in the prayer he elevates to our loving Creator:

“
Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. (LS 246)
”

Click to Watch Pope Francis Laudato Si' Invitation



“The Rule of St. Augustine,” he says, “pushes for communal ownership and sharing of goods.” Fr. John has partnered with me in the theology course I teach on Stewardship of Creation: Sustainability and Environmental Justice. We have both been very pleased with the enthusiasm of the college students for this topic.

A committee has been established to develop a plan to propose for the consideration of the Provincial Chapter in June. Our brothers Jeremy Hiers, John Dello Russo, Michael Riggs and others are joining me in suggesting practical steps toward building the City of God (2030 edition) for the consideration of the Province membership. We will be encouraging all friars to share these ideas with you and all we serve in our ministries, as well as inviting you to join us in identifying practical steps toward a better life for all.

Together we examine our habits and lifestyle in order to consider ways in which we can continue to grow in faith while advocating for transformational change in our family, neighborhood and society in general. ✠

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In addition to our Province, the following religious communities have also signed the pledge:

- Jesuits of the US Central and Southern Province
- US-6 Order of Friars Minor Franciscans
- Capuchin Friars of the Province of St. Joseph
- Dominican Sisters International
- Congregation of the Passion
- and many more!

Visit: LaudatoSiActionPlatform.org

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Theresa Chin, a longtime patron of the National Shrine of St. Rita of Cascia

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Voices from the Edge

A Candid Interview with Fr. Paul and Fr. Jeremy

BY AFFIONG INYANG,
COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

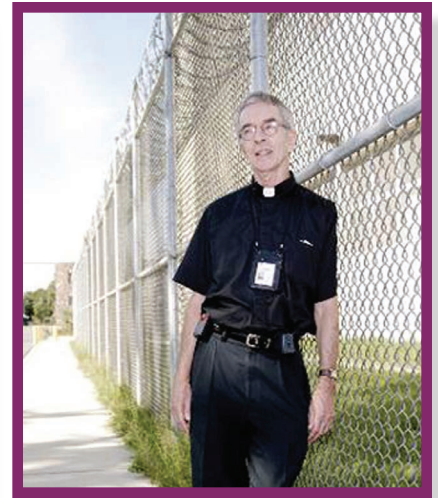
Afy - Fr. Paul as the founder of Adeodatus, can you give us some background on your role and how you became involved?

Fr. Paul - Here's what I remember. In 2006, I started working as a chaplain at the Philadelphia Prison, which was a brand-new ministry for me and an eye-opener! It's where I got my baptism by fire you might say. All of a sudden I'm thrust into a situation where most of the people are from vastly different racial and religious backgrounds.

Shortly after I started at the prison, I asked anybody in the parish if they would be willing to meet. I needed their help, their prayer, their questions, and just their human under-

standing to help me do my work better and be supportive of me in the prison ministry. We met every week and decided we would help assist people in prison ministry, including those getting out of prison. We wanted to be a place that was not just centered around supporting me or their interest in prison ministry. We wanted to extend the invitation so that the women and men who I got to know in prison would be welcomed at our meetings as well. It was important to us that their voices could be heard, not just in prison but also outside the prison walls. I was hearing astounding stories from the prisoners and the meeting attendees, and that story framework is incidentally an important Augustinian charism. We're not just about community, but we also value the fruit of community living, one of them being the sharing of

(l-r) Fr. Jeremy Hiers, O.S.A. and Fr. Paul Morrissey, O.S.A. in the Healing Garden, dedicated to victims of violence, at St. Augustine church



Fr. Paul photographed outside the vicinity where he served as prison chaplain

Woman inmate prays during Mass

our stories, which we don't highlight enough. We're sharing our very innermost experiences and inviting other people to likewise share their struggles with us. Hopefully while trading our intimacies with one another, we will discover the presence of Christ in all our journeys. So we did that weekly and then eventually when our first newsletter came out, we settled on the name "Adeodatus."

Afy - Why did you pick that name, Adeodatus. What is its significance?

Fr. Paul - It's because many of the people in prison are younger, like in their 20s and 30s. And they represent young people at risk in the world. Especially today, where there are droves of young people who find themselves at risk due to the pressures of modern life, easier access to drugs, poverty, etc. And yet, they are a gift of God. This is what we thought characterized Augustine's son, whom we often forget, who died at a young age of 17. Adeodatus literally means "gift of God" in Latin. So it grounded us in what we were trying to do in the group and in prison ministry. And later on, we realized there were people who came to our group who weren't just in prison, but were struggling with drug addictions.

Afy - I wonder what exactly were you doing inside of the prisons? What type of services do you provide? Was it just you meeting with the inmates, sharing stories and spiritually supporting them?

Fr. Paul - I was hired as a part-time chaplain. I would provide the sacraments and perform a Mass where I could actually speak to them very personally and have them respond back! In regular church you sometimes have 50 or even a 100 people sitting in front of you and you really cannot carry out a dialogue. But when you have a group of 20 or 30 men or women in the prison, you can actually get them actively talking about the gospel.

I would also get them to sign up, if they wanted to, to go to confession. I would see five to six people a week. Sometimes it was the sacramental form of confession for the Catholic inmates, while with the others who were Baptist or Muslim, we would simply talk about their lives. Sometimes the non-Catholics would even want to go through the confession ritual of speaking about their sins! And they knew I would hold them in confidence and we prayed for God to forgive them. It was so amazing for me, especially being able to minister to the people who weren't Catholics!

Afy - What a blessing that must have been! Are there any last thoughts you'd like to share?

Fr. Paul - I'd like to remind folks that we are doing something radical in the church, and we've got to find ways to do it in the larger church where it is more interactive and the priest isn't simply telling you from the pulpit

— continued on page 27



Passing the Torch: Adeodatus Prison Ministry

BY FATHER PAUL F. MORRISSEY, O.S.A.

In the last lap of my life as a priest, I was blessed to be called to prison ministry. It has been the most vivid experience of my service to the Lord. When I was about to begin this ministry as a Catholic Chaplain at the Philadelphia Prison, I asked another Augustinian, Fr. Richard Appicci, for his blessing. Dick had been a missionary and prison chaplain for many years.

(l-r) Fr. Paul Morrissey, O.S.A. and Fr. Jeremy Hiers, O.S.A.

As I knelt before him, he placed his hand on my head and said, "Paul, go out and find the ninety-nine who are lost." I didn't know what to make of his words – had he confused the Gospel? But 15 years later, I realize. It isn't 99 lost sheep to find. It is 100, and it includes me.

When I finished my first week of chaplaincy, I knew I couldn't do this on my own. I started a weekly support group in our parish, St. Augustine's. At first, it was a group of laypeople who were interested in prison ministry. One of these people, George Munyan, became my main support person. Gradually the group widened to include former inmates and recovering drug addicts. We named ourselves after St. Augustine's son, Adeodatus, who died inexplicably at 17. To us, Adeodatus represents young people at risk today, many of whom wind up in prison. His name, which means "Gift of God," is also how we hope to view such people, inside or outside the prison walls.

The format of our weekly meetings is this: We sit in a circle in the parlor of the parish (usually from four to 12 attendees). After catching up briefly, and introducing any newcomers, someone reads the Gospel for the coming Sunday from the Catholic liturgy. At this point, we turn down the lights and sit in silence, with only a candle flickering to remind us of Jesus' presence among us. During five minutes or so, with the occasional ambulance or fire engine sounds roaring by outside on Broad Street, we listen to this Word of God and what it says to each of us.

When the lights are turned back on, we wait until someone is moved to begin to share. This sharing goes on for the next hour or so. It has been amazing to hear the Gospel "broken open" (like the Eucharist itself) and shared by everyone, not just the priests.



In fact, the most recurring meaning of these "Gospel Circles," which George and I have conducted weekly for 14 years, is this: the Gospel belongs to the people. Priests are meant to foster this ownership in the broadest way. This is so difficult to do at a Sunday liturgy, where the priest must unpack the multitude of meanings and messages from three Scripture readings in about 10 to 15 minutes. At Adeodatus, we had unwittingly stumbled onto a radical way of being "Church," one that has been going on in Latin America in their base communities, especially, during the past 40 years.

Finally, the manner of our sharing is usually in stories from our lives, similar to the inmates' sharing with their chaplains in the prison, and like Augustine himself did in his *Confessions*. As I see it, faith-sharing in community is the Augustinian charism. It is the core of our ministry at Adeodatus.

It has been an honor to have served in this ministry for so many years, with George Munyan eventually becoming my Administrator. Recently, I was surprised to notice some resistance to a younger friar beginning to take my place. "Ohhh," this is what retirement means!" But I am learning to let go and "enjoy the kids." It gives me hope to see inspiring Augustinians like Fr. Jeremy raise the torch and lead us into the next lap of the story. George, a layman and an Affiliate of the Order, has been the bridge between us.



what it means every week! That's what I believe we are doing. I really think it's an Augustinian model of the church and should be replicated in many other ways if we could accomplish it.

Jeremy came in about six months ago and just grabbed the torch from me and now he can take over the interview!

Afy - So Fr. Jeremy, let's hear your side! How and why did you grab this torch? What was your motivation?

Fr. Jeremy - I first became involved with Adeodatus when I was a pre-novice during my pre-novitiate year in Ardmore. I always desired getting into prison ministry. To expound on this desire, there are three very formative encounters that have really impacted me in my life. First, I wrote to an incarcerated person when I was 18 and not only did

I learn a lot, but he helped me mature as a young person. Second, I have a family member who was incarcerated and that personally affected my family and me on a deep level.

Lastly, when I was in seminary formation in Chicago a few years ago, one of my part-time ministries was the jail ministry located there. I was having a really miserable day, smack dab in the middle of winter. It was cold and just one of those days where you felt the clouds were purposefully hanging

over you. I had to go at 7:00 at night to a jail and I was tired and wasn't feeling well. And on top of that I was really angry at a brother! So I pull up and park, and my car ends up facing this dark building with windows. You could see the windows of the cells through the light, and there's this one

— continued on next page



▶ Meet George Munyan

(l-r) George Munyan, Fr. Jeremy Hiers, O.S.A. at a recovery center in the Kensington section of Philadelphia



Fr. Paul Morrissey, O.S.A.
baptizing an inmate

incarcerated person that I could see through one of the windows. I could see his silhouette going back and forth over and over again (the window covers the whole width of the cell, which isn't long). Every once in a while he'd stop and gaze out of the window, then he would continue pacing back and forth in his cell. And it was like, I feel like this man. I feel like I am stuck in a cell.

I want to be ordained, I want to get this over with, and I want to move on. And I'm just going back and forth between two walls that I'm trapped in between. You know, he's not falling into despair, he might be contemplating. I started wondering what's he doing? And I thought to myself, this man has something to teach me. It was in that moment that a light bulb went off. We're all trapped by something.

Afy - I've noticed that you are very intentional with your use of the word "we."

Fr. Jeremy - Adeodatus under Fr. Paul's time kind of expanded to also include the people who were suffering from addictions, because both the addicted and the incarcerated have something in common. If there's one thing Augustinian community life has helped me to do is to find freedom from my own entrapments, sins, weaknesses, basically my own self. My community of brothers have helped me find freedom through their gifts. We all have something to learn from not just for the incarcerated, but from each other.

Afy - Could you expound a little on the injustices plaguing the prison industrial complex and justice system?

Fr. Jeremy - Two out of every three people that go into this inhumane system come out and commit another crime and they go right back in. This phenomenon is called recidivism. Of those people that are incarcerated, their children are six times more likely to be incarcerated themselves. It's sad that the number is so staggering. It's so disturbing to me. I want to make everybody aware of this because not everybody knows. Sometimes people come up to me and say of all the issues in the world why are you worried about criminals? And that's when I inform them that it impacts them too, even if they are not consciously aware of it. We have this compounding problem that our whole nation suffers from. Whether we've had an incarcerated person in our lives or not, half of Americans have had a loved one incarcerated.

Afy - What measures are you using to build awareness around this topic?

Fr. Jeremy - Our strategy centers around how do we build awareness and community around this issue. Since we all suffer, how do we enrich our faith as we learn from each other and finally, how do we lead each other to freedom? One of the things we are doing is the publishing of our "Voices from the Edge" newsletter. The newsletter is a powerful tool that contains a lot of profound and thought-provoking material. Also, maybe in the future, expanding it to include the voices of people who are imprisoned in other ways. Not just through the brick wall and iron bars that we traditionally imagine, but people imprisoned through their addictions, through consumerism, etc.

Additionally we have the reconciliation Masses at the National Shrine of St. Rita, which we began this year. It's modeled after a nine-month novena format that leads up to St. Rita's day (May 27). It ties in thematically because St. Rita dealt with a lot of people who were trapped and incarcerated, whether through violence or by other means. For each of the Masses, we highlight different aspects of mass incarceration. Our first one was mass incarceration and addiction because a lot of people who are addicted go in, they serve their time and they come out and they're still addicted, maybe even worse. The second one was about gun violence and highlighting the relationship between how we rely solely on incarceration as a response to it rather than other using other preventative methods. Our most recent one was on systemic poverty. The next one up will be about inhumane incarceration practices, and how essentially it can compare to locking people up like animals.

Afy - Wow, All of that?

Fr. Jeremy - Yes! And we have more in stock! We'll do one on racism and another one on the impact incarceration has on the family, one on the education system, etc. We are really striving to show that all these issues are interrelated. We want to do what St. Rita did when she brought her two families together to broker a peace agreement. St. Rita told them, you are both suffering, you both have created the problem and you both have to be part of the solution. This series is exciting because whether you know anything about mass incarceration or not, chances are one of those themes is something that you and, in particular, young people are going to be able to relate with. With evangelization, we have to realize that one of the main paths to young people's hearts today is not

mentioning Jesus Christ at the beginning of our message, but interacting with them through social issues they are passionate about. It is imperative that we relate to them with the current things that they are suffering with. We bring the issues around mass incarceration and draw them in and then invite them to discover how God is present in their midst.

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Afy - Could you briefly describe to me the back-story and significance of the healing garden?

Fr. Paul - Our healing garden is located right next to St. Augustine Church. Many of the ex-inmates helped us dig the trenches in the healing garden to get water and electricity from under the church. The garden is dedicated to the healing of all the victims of violence in the city and beyond. ✞

Thoughts from a Former Inmate

By an Anonymous Member of Adeodatus

Here are some thoughts of mine of about my time I spent away from the World as we know. You might call it my sabbatical or what some might call God's Boot Camp. Some call it County Jail, State Prison or the Federal Prison.

I know that I must write about my walk with the Lord. Parts of it cover what has been very difficult parts of my life. Yes, very heart breaking and lonely. But something I needed to go through. It was part of my total Conversion, just like Saul's Conversion we read about in Acts 9.

As I joke with people here on the outside about my time in Prison, I tell them that God hit me with a 2 x 4 board on the back of my head to get my attention! By the way, I am still going through this Conversion process. I feel that there is always more that I can do.

We must stop the flow of people going back into prison. Also, we must try to stop them from going there in the first place.

Now I have always been a believer in our Lord Jesus Christ. From since I was a small child, going to a local Protestantbased little Chapel. Jesus taught us that He was the one we could always pray to in our time need. So while I spent my time at God's Boot Camp, I went to the Lord

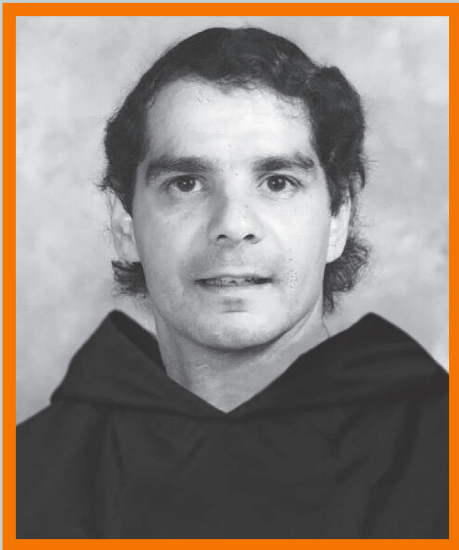
each and every day and during my time there He blessed me each and every day. Each day was a reminder of how good it was here on the outside world. The world might seem crazy and it is. We must all remember that we are not part of this World. We are just visiting.

I've been asked to comment on how Adeodatus has helped me. Well, Adeodatus is not only helping me, but others in this process. It helps and supports me to be the Christian I need to become. We all need to be a shining example for other Christians of all faiths. At Adeodatus, I am able to keep my promise to God to keep learning more about Him. For this promise will not be completed until I am face to face with my Lord and Savior. This group is what all of us need in one form or another. We need the support of one another on our Journey to the Promised Land. Adeodatus is a nice small setting where we can safely share our testimony and learn about Him.

Adeodatus is what I call a recharge for the heart, soul and Spirit. ✞



In Paradisum



Fr. James V. Vitali, O.S.A.

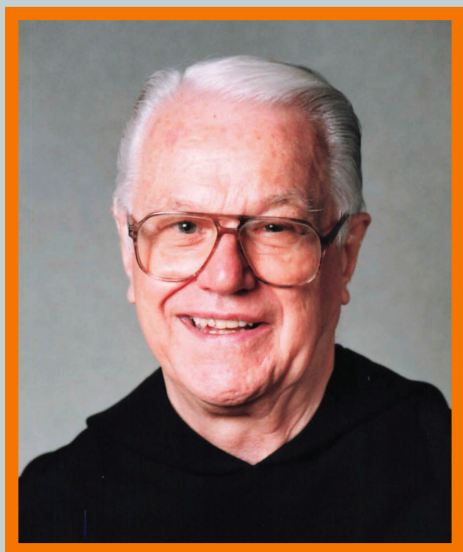
October 26, 1952 – September 4, 2021

James Victor Vitali was born in Philadelphia, PA, on October 26, 1952, the son of Albert John Vitali and Rosemary Lucy Procopio. He had three brothers, Steven, David and Andrew, and a sister, Monica. Shortly after birth, he was baptized in Our Lady of the Angels Parish in Philadelphia. Jim began his elementary education at St. Rose of Lima Parish School in Philadelphia and, when the family moved to Ardmore, PA, he continued his education at St. Denis Parish School. He enrolled at Monsignor Bonner High School in Drexel Hill, PA, and completed his education in 1970 at Archbishop Carroll High School in Radnor, PA. After graduation, he did construction work and then entered the novitiate at New Hamburg, NY, in August of 1972, making his profession of simple vows on August 28, 1973. He professed his solemn vows on January 8, 1977. Jim received a degree in philosophy from Villanova University in 1975 and then pursued theological studies until 1978 at the Washington Theological Union, Washington, DC. In June of that year, he was assigned to Good Counsel Novitiate,

New Hamburg, NY, as maintenance facilitator and then for a short time to Mount Augustine Retreat House with the same responsibility. He was ordained to the priesthood by the Most Rev. Edward Hughes, Auxiliary bishop of Philadelphia, on February 14, 1981, at St. Denis Parish, Havertown, PA.

Following ordination, from 1981 to 1986, he served as parochial vicar at St. Augustine Parish, Andover, Massachusetts. He was then parochial vicar at Assumption/St. Paul Parish, Mechanicville, NY, for three months in 1986, and was transferred to Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, Staten Island, NY until October 1987 when he was assigned to St. Augustine Friary, Villanova. In 1988, he was assigned to Monsignor Bonner High School, Drexel Hill, where he remained until 1991. He then returned to parish ministry at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Golden Gate, FL, from 1991 to 2002. He served briefly at Blessed of Lecceto Friary, Maggie Valley, NC, in 2002, then at Augustinian College from 2002 to 2004, when he returned to St. Augustine Parish, Andover. For health reasons, he was stationed at St. Thomas of Villanova Monastery from 2006 to 2009. In June 2009, he moved to St. Augustine Friary, Villanova. In March 2013, again for reasons of declining health, he returned to St. Thomas of Villanova Monastery where he remained until proper care required that he enter a skilled nursing facility in 2020. During the summer months of 2021 he suffered a stroke, which required brief hospitalization, but returned to Arden Courts of King of Prussia, where he passed over to the Lord on the afternoon of September 4, 2021, the Solemnity of Our Mother of Consolation.

While Father Jim's priesthood was exercised principally in parish assignments where his gift as a preacher was especially appreciated, an additional interest and talent he brought to his assignments was in the care of facilities and as general handyman. At his death, he was 68 years old and a friar for 48 years.



Fr. James Edward Martinez, O.S.A.

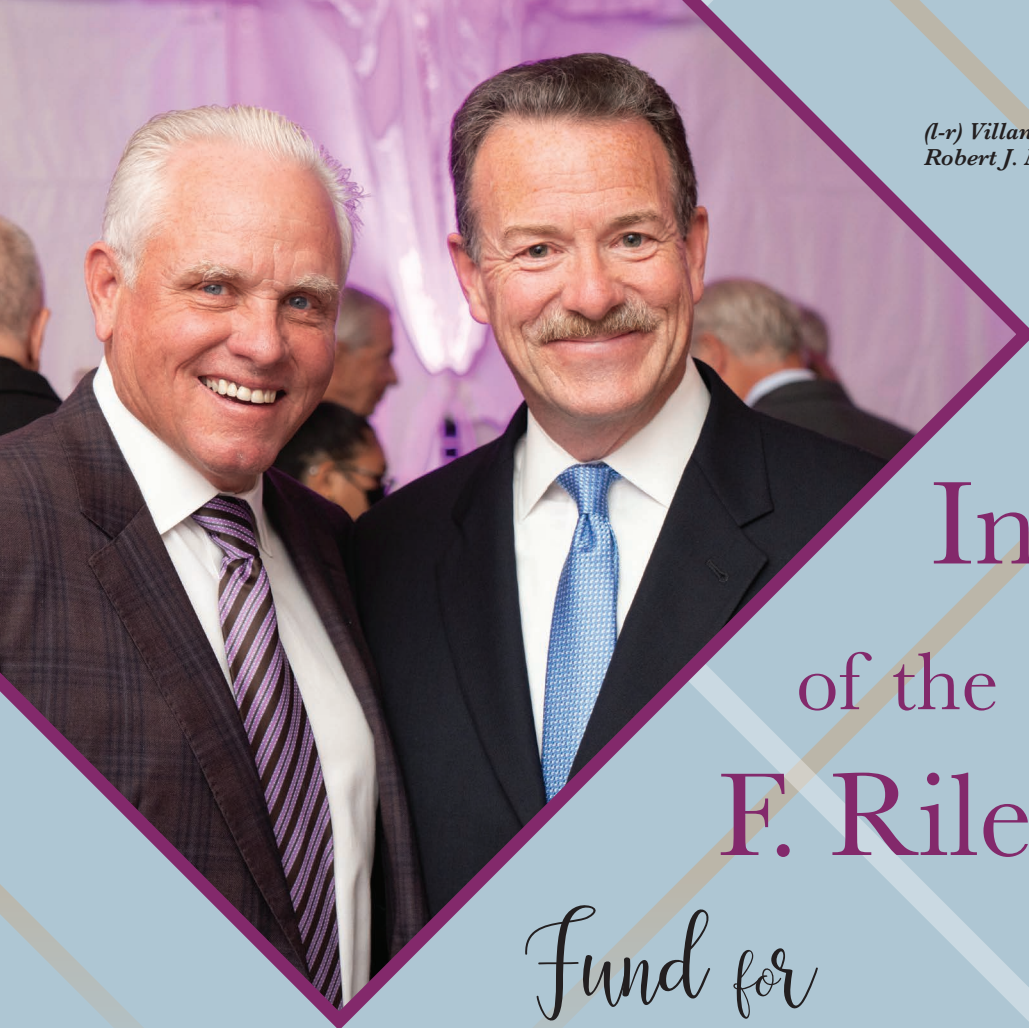
December 2, 1929 – December 16, 2021

James Edward Martinez was born on December 2, 1929, in Atlantic City, New Jersey, the son of Vincent and Anna (Lynch) Martinez. He had two brothers and a twin sister. He was baptized on December 22, 1929, at Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Atlantic City, NJ. He attended Holy Spirit Parish School (1935-1942) and St. Benedict Parish School (1942-1944), and Holy Spirit High School (1944-1948). He then worked in the Atlantic City area for a year before going to Augustinian Academy, Staten Island, NY, as a postulant in September 1949. He was received into the Order as a novice on September 9, 1950, and after a year at Good Counsel Novitiate, New Hamburg, NY, he professed first vows on September 10, 1951. He then attended Villanova University (1951-1954) and received his BA in philosophy. Then he went to Augustinian College, Washington, DC, for his theological studies (1954-1958), and did graduate study in biology at The Catholic University of America. He professed solemn vows on September 10, 1954.

He was ordained to the priesthood on June 8, 1957, at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, DC, by Bishop John McNamara.

Fr. Jim was first assigned to St. Joseph Friary at Monsignor Bonner High School, Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania, as a teacher (1958-1959). In 1959, he was assigned to St. Augustine Parish, Troy, NY, as associate pastor and as a teacher in Troy Catholic High School (1959-1969). In 1969, he went to the Diocese of Orlando, Florida, to establish St. Augustine Parish, Casselberry, FL, and to be the founding pastor (1969-1977). In 1977 he was assigned as pastor to Our Mother of Consolation Parish, Chestnut Hill, PA, where he served for two years, (1977-1979). In 1979 he was assigned as pastor to Our Mother of Good Counsel Parish, Bryn Mawr, PA, where he served for 31 years (1979-2010). In January of 2011, he was named Pastor Emeritus of Good Counsel Parish and assigned to St. Augustine Friary, Villanova, PA. Fr. Jim continued to be active in ministry celebrating the sacraments when requested. In October of 2014, for reasons of health, he was assigned to St. Thomas of Villanova Monastery, Villanova, PA.

Except for a short time in the education apostolate, Fr. Jim's priesthood was exercised primarily in parochial ministry. His kind, gentle and prayerful demeanor as a pastor in three assignments, and especially during his long and faithful tenure at Our Mother of Good Counsel Parish in Bryn Mawr, was a gift to all who knew him. He began every homily with the prayer: "Let us pray for a moment in the silence of our hearts that the Holy Spirit will enlighten us and guide us as we reflect briefly on the readings given to us in this liturgy." Fr. Jim died suddenly of a heart attack on the afternoon of December 16, 2021. At his death, he was 92 years old and a friar for 70 years. ☩



*(l-r) Villanova University trustees
Robert J. McCarthy and Richard J. Kreider*

The Inauguration of the Fr. George F. Riley, O.S.A.

Fund for Augustinian HealthCare

It was an evening full of laughter, friendship and community – just the kind of party that Fr. Riley enjoys! On October 23, 2021, Fr. Riley's family and his friends from Villanova University, the South Jersey Shore and the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova gathered in his honor to inaugurate the renaming of the Province's Fund that cares for our elderly and infirm friars.



Villanova University and the Province co-sponsored a festive gala in the University's Connelly Center where over 325 of Fr. Riley's closest friends gathered to celebrate an Augustinian who has given a lifetime of service to Villanova and decades of pastoral ministry to the people of the South Jersey Shore. Event proceeds of nearly \$800,000 earmarked

325 of Fr. Riley's closest friends gather to celebrate the inauguration of the Fr. George Riley, O.S.A. Fund for Augustinian HealthCare



Connect with Us!

To learn more about the Fr. Riley Fund for Augustinian HealthCare, please visit: AugustinianFund.org/care.

To view more event photos and videos, visit: AugustinianFund.org/father-riley-event

*Fr. Joseph L. Farrell, O.S.A.,
Vicar General*

*(l-r) Jay Wright, Patty Wright,
and John F. Scarpa*



for the Fr. Riley Fund for Augustinian HealthCare will seed an endowment to provide specialized care to our elderly and infirm friars – including Fr. Riley.

We extend our sincere thanks to John Scarpa, Honorary Chair, and event Co-Chairs, Kevin M. Curley, Fr. Robert P. Hagan, O.S.A., Thomas M. Mulroy and Eric and Christine Quisenberry as well as the many generous event sponsors and benefactors who contributed to the event's success.

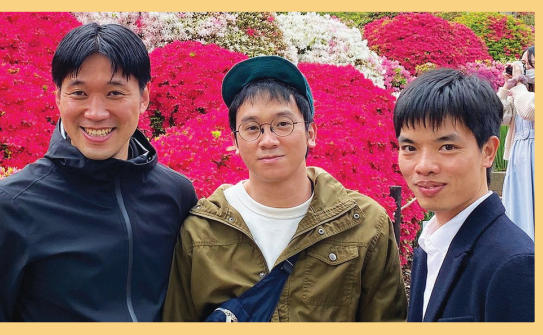
Fr. Riley was unable to attend in person, but his uplifting spirit and kindness filled the room. He remains comfortable and well cared for in St. Thomas of Villanova Monastery, thanks to the kindness of those who support the Fr. Riley Fund. ✠



*Front row: Susan Riley, Kathleen and Arthur Riley
Back row: George M. Riley, Kathleen Petrie, MaryEllen Everson*

Foreign Missions

BY BROTHER ATSUSHI KUWAHARA, O.S.A.



Atsushi (on the left) enjoying a spring walk with Japanese seminarians

Transitioning between cultures...

In May of 2020, I completed the Master of Arts in Pastoral Study course at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago and returned back to Japan. I had the option of continuing my studies in the US, but I told my superiors that I would like to study theology in Japan. I thought it was necessary for me to study theology in Japanese for my future missionary work in Japan.

It was hard to leave the brothers and friends I had spent so much time with in the US, but we always need to move on toward the future. Our life is not about staying in one place and spending time with the same brothers all the time; we have to adapt to the needs of the Order and the Church. We need to be ready for that.

While returning to Japan, the question arose as to where I would continue my theological studies. Fortunately, I found a way to continue my studies at the Tokyo Catholic Seminary. Due to the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, I was allowed to live and



Atsushi with fellow American friars



Japan

Atsushi (first on left) enjoying a mountain hike with his fellow seminarians in Japan



study there. I began my life with about 30 seminarians and the priests in charge of formation. But I had nothing to fear, nothing to worry about. What could be wrong with speaking and communicating in my own country, in my own language?

Moreover, the ways of interacting with people that I had developed while living in the US helped me adjust to my new life. When you live in another country, you have to use more energy and be more sociable to build relationships than you would in your own country. In particular, Japanese people, who do not talk much,



Atsushi (in orange top on the right) and his American classmates

will need more energy than students from other countries. However, the training I received during my time in the US helped me a lot when I returned to Japan. Open yourself up and be willing to talk to people. It didn't take me long to get to know the other seminary students.

*“Go forth on your path,
as it exists only through your walking.
If you would attain to what you are
not yet, you must always be displeased
by what you are. For where you are
pleased with yourself there
you have remained. Keep adding,
keep walking, keep advancing.”*

– St. Augustine

We will all go through many transitions in our lives. In each and every transition, we all have some difficulties at first. And we tend to think that the previous transition was better, or that we don't like the change in our environment. However, when the next transition arrives, we realize that the experience of the previous transition has indeed helped us grow and led us to the next transition. That transition is necessary for me, for the community, and for the church. Trusting in the Holy Spirit, let us receive the transition that comes to us as we preach the gospel and meet the needs of the church. It will surely be a step that will lead us to the Lord Jesus Christ. ✠

BY MADONNA SUTTER,
DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT

Join the Movement



Madonna Sutter
Director of Advancement

Dear Friends of the Augustinians,

This year we celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Augustinian Fund! Fifteen years ago, a group of lay volunteers – committed to the working on behalf of the friars – began to formalize an organized outreach to seek support for the friars' needs. These volunteers comprised the Province's first Augustinian Advancement Council to guide and advise the Province's fundraising efforts. It is through these efforts that a fundraising website was created, the magazine was launched and a more professionalized approach to fundraising was established. I offer my sincere thanks to the many former and current Advancement Council members for their deep commitment and hard work that enables the friars to live their way of life and perform their ministries.

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

New Members Join the Advancement Council

Betty and Roger Desjardins

Roger & Betty Desjardins are parishioners of St. Augustine Parish in Andover, MA, where they were married 44 years ago. They have two grown, married children who received all their sacraments at St. Augustine's. Betty recently retired from Sacred Hearts Parish in Bradford, MA, as the pastoral associate. Roger is the owner and president of Marceau Construction. They consider St. Augustine their spiritual home where Roger serves as a cantor and Betty as a lector. They are both excited to be able to serve the friars who have contributed so much to their spiritual journey.



Margaret Gabriel

An Affiliate to the Order of St. Augustine, Margaret Gabriel is a longtime leader of volunteer and community service in the New England area. A 1981 graduate from Merrimack College, Margaret married Dan Gabriel in 1985 and raised four children in New Hampshire, two of whom attended Villanova University. This past year, she celebrated the solemn profession and priesthood ordination of her son, Bill Gabriel, who is now assigned to St. Thomas of Villanova Parish in Rosemont, PA. Inspired by her relationship with the Augustinians in New England and at Villanova, Margaret brings a vested interest in the future of the Province and the success of the Augustinian Fund.



THE
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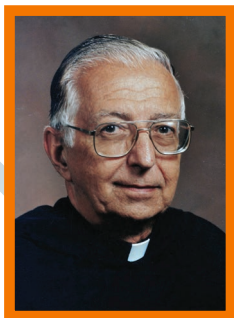
IMPACT THE LIFE OF AN
AUGUSTINIAN FRIAR...

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Remembering Fr. Richard D. Appicci, O.S.A.

A True Man of the People



February 1, 2022, marks the fifteenth anniversary of the death of Fr. Richard D. Appicci, O.S.A. Fr. Dick – as he was known to many – professed his simple vows in 1955 and was ordained a priest on June 4, 1960.

His first assignment in 1961 was to St. Thomas Monastery and Villanova University where he served in a variety of roles including religious education professor, dean of students and vice president of student affairs.

In 1967, Fr. Dick was quick to respond to an invitation to serve in Peru as a missionary. This was his love, serving the poor. His life's work centered on those in need of his help. He worked diligently to provide them with the basic needs

of life, i.e., running water, plumbing, and healthcare to name a few – many of the things we take for granted.

While Fr. Appicci served in Peru, Fr. (now Bishop) Dan Turley, O.S.A. wrote: "Dick's true greatness as a person can be seen in times of difficulty or apparent defeat. Dick never gives up, never gets disheartened. I believe that he has begun to be like the people he is serving, that is, he hopes against hope. He finds hope when apparently there is nothing to hope for.... He has gained the respect and love of our Peruvian people. They know that he is for real and that they can count on him no matter what time of day or night that they might have to call on him.... Dick is a great example to all of us of a missionary who has cast his lot with his people."

If you wish to make a gift in memory of Fr. Appicci in honor of his life's work, visit: AugustinianFund.org/appicci

"I wish to share what I have learned in Peru with others, to get Americans to appreciate what they have and to understand what the rest of the world does not have, and to share what they have with the Third World."

– Fr. Appicci

Woman wash their clothes in a small stream. Three million Peruvians lack access to water services and 8.2 million lack sewerage



1960, a newly ordained Fr. Richard Appicci, O.S.A.



In case you missed the virtual program we held in honor of Fr. Appicci's passing, you can view the video by visiting: AugustinianFund.org/fr-appicci-event-2022



Tolle Lege Day

Saturday, April 24, 2022

24 Hours of Giving!

#tollelegeday

Interested in serving as a Tolle Lege Day Ambassador?
contact: Brian Kelley, Associate Director of Advancement,
at brian.kelley@augustinian.org or 610.527.3330, ext. 239

Celebration of the Augustinian Charism in the Merrimack Valley

Thursday, May 12, 2022 • 6:00 - 8:30 PM - Cocktail Reception

For details and to R.S.V.P., please visit:

AugustinianFund.org/merrimack-valley

Celebration of the Augustinian Charism in Southwest Florida

Tuesday, February 22, 2022 • 5:30 PM - Cocktail Reception

and Buffet Supper • For details and to R.S.V.P., please visit:

AugustinianFund.org/naples-florida

For more information on the Florida or Merrimack events,
contact Sarah Reisert, Assistant Director of Engagement, at
sarah.reisert@augustinian.org or 610.527.3330, ext. 221.



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