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VOLUME XI . ISSUE I

THE AUGUSTINIAN

FATHER BILL ATKINSON, O.S.A.,
SERVANT OF GOD p. 3

THE YEAR OF MERCY p. 14



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Father Bill Atkinson, O.S.A., Servant of God

Bill Atkinson, third of seven children, was born to Mary Connelly Atkinson and Allen Joseph Atkinson on January 4, 1946, in Philadelphia, Pa. He was raised in Upper Darby, Pa., steps away from the trolley tracks that came from the nearby 69th Street terminal. He was a quiet, upbeat kid who went to Saint Alice church and grade school. He attended Monsignor Bonner High School, in Drexel Hill, Pa., an Archdiocesan high school staffed by the Augustinian Friars, a trolley stop away from his home. He is described by many as a talented athlete who focused mainly on playing baseball. He was 18 when he entered the Augustinian Order and 19 when he was received as a novice in the remote novitiate house on the Hudson, north of West Point. It was there that Bill Atkinson met with a near fatal accident that would devastate his body but not his soul or his course. His daily survival story is one of faith, Augustinian brotherhood, family and friendship. His life is a story about a quadriplegic whose actions of service and commitment convinced the Augustinians and the Church that he should be ordained, a groundbreaking action approved by Rome. His death has not stopped his momentum, and as his Augustinian brotherhood, family and friends share his story, it has prompted the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops to approve the opening of Father Bill Atkinson's Cause for Sainthood.

P. 14

The Year of Mercy

Pope Francis expresses the Year of Mercy as an opportunity for the gift of grace and conversion. The journey for these gifts requires a pilgrimage to a Holy Door, and Francis has made the doors accessible throughout the world, with special considerations for prisoners and disabled individuals. This year reminds us of the need for forgiveness, confession and Works of Mercy. The feature highlights the special Holy Door at the National Shrine of Saint Rita of Cascia, a devotional space founded in 1907 by Augustinians of the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova. Saint Rita of Cascia, an Augustinian nun known for her forgiveness and mercy, is also highlighted, along with other Augustinian Saints and Blesseds known for their works of mercy.

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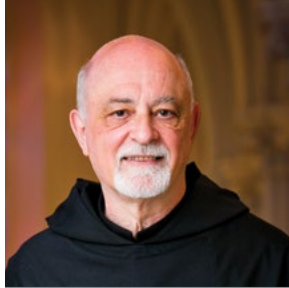
Main Reference Book for the Year of Mercy:
Book of Augustinian Saints, Vol 2; edited by John E. Rotelle, O.S.A., Augustinian Press, 2000

ON THE COVER

Father Bill Atkinson, O.S.A., Servant of God. From the 2016 icon written by Richard Cannuli, O.S.A., an internationally known artist and faculty member of Villanova University since 1978. Known for his work in watercolor, oil, printmaking, collage, icons, liturgical design and vestments, Father Cannuli made the vestments for Father Bill seen in his Ordination photos.

THE AUGUSTINIAN

A publication of the Province
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LETTER FROM THE

PRIOR PROVINCIAL

Dear Friends,

May the grace and peace of the Easter Season, through which we now journey, be yours! Please accept the good wishes of all the friars of the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova who join me in expressing prayerful greetings to you.

Once again, we find ourselves refreshed and enlightened by Spring's warmth and by the added daylight which the season brings. They are reminders of the new life that has been won for us through the great mystery we have recently celebrated, of Jesus' triumph over sin and death. May the spirit of these events touch you deeply and remain with you for many months to come.

We are happy to communicate to you several life-giving and hope-filled events which are recounted in this issue of The Augustinian. We've shared with you previously the encouraging news of the Cause of Beatification and Canonization of our brother, Father Bill Atkinson, and now we wish to introduce the person and witness of Father Bill more extensively through these pages. I am grateful to Teddie Gallagher for the profile on his life which she has researched and now presents here.

As we continue to journey through the Year of Mercy proclaimed by Pope Francis, we are reminded of the invitation to accept and to share the great gift of mercy that is bequeathed to us. The means to do so are many; the witness of members of our own Augustinian Family are not lacking, whether long ago or in our own day, as you will see.

In the months just past, as well as those soon to come, events in the lives of several of our brothers are occasions of celebration. Professions and ordinations are often the highpoints that mark advancement along the vocational path of religious life and ministry. We give thanks to God for the generous commitment which these events celebrate.

Finally, we mark a sadder milestone in the passing of one of our brothers, whose service to the Province, to the Order and to the Church will not go unnoticed, for his contribution illustrates well the value of availability and generosity in the Augustinian tradition.

Wishing you happy reading and many blessings,

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

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FATHER BILL ATKINSON, O.S.A. SERVANT OF GOD

BY: TEDDIE GALLAGHER

On November 17, 2015, at 4:20 P.M., Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Philadelphia introduced the question of the Cause of Bill Atkinson, O.S.A., to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. "William Atkinson's Cause will be a beautiful one, because it would be a source of encouragement for people with this kind of accident in their life, this kind of disability, but also it reminds us of the great generosity of his family and his [Augustinian] religious community; they were all called to holiness by their special care for this man. I think he will fit very beautifully into the niche of the communion of saints as a very special patron." Assent of the assembly was requested by the president of the USCCB and it was unanimous.

The Augustinian presents a brief look at the life of Father Atkinson to give insight into his spirit, his generosity and his patience. Left a quadriplegic for 41 years after a tragic toboggan accident, Father Bill depended on others for morning and evening care and for his meals. But once he was in his electric wheelchair his energy and personality

were unstoppable and his spiritual life was extraordinary. His ordination to the priesthood was truly a shared victory, a triumph of a cross suffered and carried by Father Bill, his family, the Augustinian community and so many friends, to see him ordained that day and become a priest for eternity. And now, perhaps, a saint.

He was a beloved priest, teacher, coach, chaplain, friend and brother to so many. How did he do it? In his own words:

"Day after day, help of others along the way, valued friends, sisters, brothers, I simply borrowed - the strength of others"



BILL ATKINSON'S FRESHMAN PHOTO



BILL SERVED AT MASSES AT SAINT ALICE AND LATER AT BONNER.



BILL AND HIS PARENTS ON A VISITING DAY AT THE NOVITIATE



AERIAL VIEW OF GOOD COUNSEL NOVITIATE

William Edward Atkinson, O.S.A.

was born on January 4, 1946, to Mary Connelly Atkinson and Allen Joseph Atkinson and baptized at Saint Alice's church, Upper Darby, Pa., on January 27, 1946. The third of seven children, the family lived at 409 Sansom Street, Upper Darby, Pa. He attended Saint Alice's Grammar School and received his first sacraments at the parish.



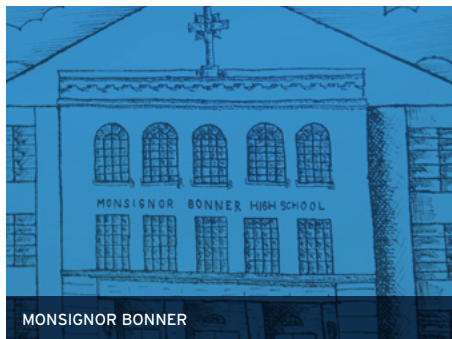
THE ATKINSONS IN 1955. SITTING ON THE SOFA: ALLEN ATKINSON HOLDING ED, JOAN ALICE, ALLEN, MARY CONNELLY ATKINSON, HOLDING PATTY (ED'S TWIN SISTER); ON THE FLOOR, BILL (WILLY), BETTY AND MARY (ALSO TWINS)

Father Bill's younger brother Ed, describes his brother growing up: "My memories of Bill are not a lot, because he was never home. He had his group of guys and they played ball all day. He came home, ate, did what he had to do and went back out and played ball."

In 1959, Bill began his freshman year as a student at Monsignor Bonner High School for boys staffed by the Order of Saint Augustine of the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova. Known to family and friends as "Willy" and Bill to others, he was an extremely skilled athlete who played baseball all four years at Bonner and intramural sports for the same four years. Beginning in his freshman year, he and a group of his friends volunteered for the St. Edmond's Home for Children, an archdiocesan home for the care and treatment of children with severe mental and physical limitations.

Father Melton, O.S.A. wrote this reflection on Bill at Bonner:

"Bill can be described as the tall, blond, quiet kid with an easy smile and a usually carefree spirit. His interests were varied, but baseball was favored among his many athletic talents... Much free time on Saturdays and Sundays throughout his high school years was spent at St. Edmond's Home for Crippled Children. Bill and many of his closest friends were the most active members of a club organized to make life brighter for the children and the overworked sisters. He and others would go home many days and evenings bruised and exhausted from an afternoon with the kids."



"Bill will never be accused of rushing into a serious decision without ample and proper thought and consideration. So, while the news that he wanted to become an Augustinian came as no surprise, he had that great charm of making the actual announcement a surprising relief."

—John H. Melton, O.S.A., teacher and guidance counselor at Monsignor Bonner High School for 32 years.

In the spring of his senior year, Bill announced that he had made up his mind to enter the Augustinian Order. Because he had not studied Latin or Greek, the 17-year old entered the minor seminary at Augustinian Academy, Staten Island, for a post-graduate year, where it is said he learned more football than Latin or Greek.



DRAWING BY H.T. MACNEILL '48

The next stop on Bill's journey was Our Mother of Good Counsel Novitiate at New Hamburg, New York, established in 1925 in a remote hilly area north of West Point, on the Hudson River. He arrived there on September 10, 1964, with a new class of 45 novices, ages 16 to 32, including many who would be faithful friends and care-givers.

This was the first novitiate class after the Vatican II changes were implemented, with the Office prayers now in English and the altar facing the congregation. Vatican II changed many things, but it did not change the structure of the novitiate year, with a strict cloistered life of prayer, reflection, study and chores guided by Novice Master, Father William J. Krupa, O.S.A., Sub Master, Thomas J. Dillon, O.S.A. and Prior, Henry A. Caffrey, O.S.A.

The novices were secluded in the novitiate for Christmas and New Year's, but Washington's birthday, February 22, 1965, was a free day, when one could choose activities inside or out on the grounds.

That said, a snowstorm had come through the area and the fresh, deep and wind-whipped snows on the hills around the novitiate needed to be plowed and shoveled before the novices could choose what to do. Many of the novices, including Bill, chose to climb into a toboggan and head through a tree-cleared half-mile toboggan course that cut around a 90 degree turn before it descended the property for an exhilarating ride toward the Hudson. It is here that Bill, at the front of the first toboggan down the hill, took the brunt of the force when the toboggan veered off the 90-degree turn and slammed into a tree. No one else in the toboggan was injured, but 19-year-old Bill Atkinson sat, conscious, but unable to move on the shredded remains of a toboggan, with 45 minutes of unplowed roads between him and Saint Francis Hospital in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. Amid freezing temperatures, with snow blowing fiercely up from the Hudson, another toboggan was put under Bill and he was carried on it to the back of a station wagon. Father Bill was having trouble breathing during the car ride but the group got him to the hospital. No one who was in the car remembers how they made it through the snow to the hospital. And, since they hadn't been out beyond the confines of the Novitiate, they don't know how they even knew how to get to the hospital.



NOVIATE LIFE ON THE GROUNDS OF NEW HAMBURG, CIRCA 1959



SHOVELING SNOW AT THE NOVITIATE, CIRCA 1930



BROTHER BILL WITH FRIARS AT THE NOVITIATE, CHRISTMAS 1964

*The doctors were at a loss to explain his survival
in terms of medicine and medical science alone.*

“The kindest way I can tell you is to be brief, cruel and to the point. Your son is gravely ill and if he recovers he will never move again from the neck down. Bill’s life and future are in the hands of God.”

— *Dr. Weiss speaking to Bill’s mother, father and Father Melton on February 23, 1965.*



In critical condition, Bill’s life drifted near death, as his shattered spine affected his ability to control the areas below his neck, including his breathing. Father Krupa stayed with Bill overnight and the next morning said Mass with Bill’s parents and Father Melton who had arrived to be with Bill. An operation on his spine was performed on February 23, at 3:30 P.M., by neurologist Dr. Weiss to relieve the “bone locking” and free up the blood supply to his brain. The doctor was not hopeful of Bill’s recovery of movement. On February 24, Father Krupa said the rosary with him and noted Bill was clear-headed but unable to talk because of the tracheotomy.

“He is in a lot of pain, but very consciously suffering in union with Christ’s suffering on the cross. He frequently asks to hear the words of St. Paul on the meaning of suffering and pains to be borne for the love of Christ. He especially wants to repeat the words: ‘With Christ I am nailed to the cross...I live, now not I, but Christ lives in me.’” —*Father Krupa*

During the next few days, Bill was able to receive communion and take food orally. On March 1st, Father Krupa was summoned to the hospital because Bill had suddenly taken a turn for the worse as congestion settled in his lungs. He was thought to be very near death. Father James A. Donnellon, O.S.A., the Prior Provincial of the Province had arrived to visit Bill and his parents.

March 1, 1965...Brother William E. Atkinson, O.S.A. The Constitutions of the Order of Saint Augustine have a provision for temporary vows to be granted when there is danger of death. Given the gravity of Bill’s condition, Father Krupa asked Bill if he wished to pronounce his temporary vows in the Order; Bill gave a positive response that he did, and also realized that he was in danger of death at the time. He repeated the words of a brief profession formula, whispering afterwards that he was happy in the knowledge that he now had vows. For the next four days, Brother Bill remained in critical condition. He contracted pneumonia, with high fevers and ceased breathing on several occasions. His mother and father remained at his side and are said to have been heroic examples of faith and trust in the will of God. It is said that when he was most critical, his mother stood by him, saying “breathe Bill, breathe.”

Back at the Novitiate the friars and novices had been saying a public Novena to Blessed John Neumann for Brother Bill’s recovery. On the morning of March 5th, the Novena ended with Brother Bill still in critical condition with a very high fever. By nightfall the report came that his temperature was normal, his breathing, although still assisted by a respirator, was good and very rhythmic, he was able to eat and was clearheaded. The doctors were at a loss to explain his survival in terms of medicine and medical science alone.



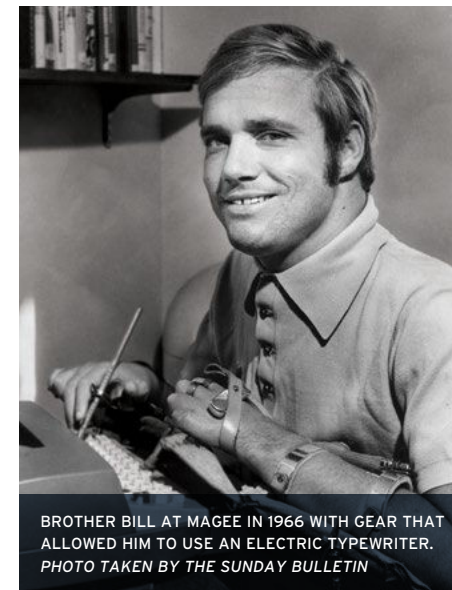
“I should like to note that in the many hours I spent beside his hospital bed he never uttered a single word of complaint or self-pity, even during times when he was obviously in great pain or discomfort from breathing difficulties and from six weeks of traction during which frightful bed sores developed on his shoulders, back of the head and lower back.”

— *File note written by William J. Krupa, O.S.A., Master of Novices at the time Bill left the novitiate.*

On April 5, 1965, Brother Bill was driven by ambulance from Poughkeepsie to Magee Memorial Hospital, Philadelphia, Pa., for possible rehabilitation therapy. At the time he left St. Francis Hospital, it was noted that he was in excellent spirits, although completely paralyzed from the neck down, and was able to talk and eat quite well.

While at Magee he underwent surgery to strengthen his neck. The doctors agreed he would never move at all, and so were amazed when he could shrug his shoulders and move his arms from side to side... which eventually allowed him to operate a motorized wheelchair.

On Christmas 1965, Brother Bill visited his classmates and friars at Saint Mary’s Hall at Villanova. Ninety-one friars joined him there that day, offering a community Christmas Mass in his name.



“Everybody (at Magee Rehabilitation Hospital) was very kind to him, a fact that began to bother Atkinson... all he was doing was taking...gradually he started to accept the services of people with the idea he would somehow return the favors, that he would somehow be useful again. ‘From that time on, I began to put my life back together again,’ he said.”

—*Catholic Twin Circle, February 1974*

The article in the *Catholic Twin Circle* also noted cards and letters from all points drifted into the hospital, and Atkinson said they helped to keep his spirits up. Although he had not yet attended Villanova University, he said a lot of the mail came from many of the students and faculty at the Augustinian-founded school.

As he progressed, Brother Bill spent weekends at home with his parents and youngest siblings, Patty and Ed.

Although Brother Bill’s physical progress was characterized as “medically impossible” or “miraculous,” it was his psychological

health and high spirits that touched and amazed the hospital personnel. This twenty year old would never walk, dress or care for himself again and he would never again have the body of an athlete. But his athletic mind and his searching soul made him soar as a person with a dream and a mission. His determination, skill, wit and patience would become the signature trademark of this friar, priest, son, brother, uncle, cousin, friend and teacher.



“When (Bill) came here I didn’t know what to expect from him...all I can say, from the way he has come back, is that he must have a job to do somewhere in the world.”

— *Dr. Frazer Parry, Director of Philadelphia’s Magee Memorial Hospital, from an article published in the Inquirer, written just after Father Bill was released.*

In September 1966, 18 months after he came to Magee hospital, Brother Bill returned to his life as an Augustinian seminarian, living within the Augustinian community at Saint Mary’s Hall, a new seminary built on Route 320 across from Villanova’s campus. Some of the seminarians living at Saint Mary’s had been temporarily living at Magee Memorial Hospital to learn to care for Brother Bill and many, many more friars would be trained to do so as the years passed.



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Also in September, Brother Bill began his undergraduate studies at Villanova University, Villanova, Pa., taking ten credits in his first semester. He took a leave of absence for a year in 1969 to redo his novitiate year, which he was permitted to do at Saint Mary’s (instead of New Hamburg), resuming classes in the fall of 1970, graduating in September of 1974.

“I was trying to remember what decorated the walls of Bill’s room in the Monastery. All I could remember were pictures of his family – those whom he loved so dearly. No plaques, no honors, just his diploma from Villanova University – not the honorary doctorate, but the one he had earned through much toil and effort. He went to the classes, did the readings, typed the papers and tests. He was proud of that achievement, and rightfully so.”

—*Father Francis J. Horn, O.S.A., homilist at Father Bill’s funeral Mass.*

If you have a story about Father Bill, share it with us at:

**Father Bill’s Cause
Provincial Offices
P.O. Box 340
Villanova, PA, 19085**

**or e-mail us at
guild@fatherbillatkinsonguild.org**



FATHER BILL, PICTURED WITH ONE OF HIS EARLY VANS, WAS ALWAYS ON THE GO. HE HAD SEVERAL VANS OVER THE YEARS. FOR THE EARLY MODELS HE NEEDED 2 OR 3 PEOPLE TO ASSIST HIM. LATER, THE HYDRAULIC LIFT REALLY SET HIM FREE, AS HE COULD GO PLACES WITH ONLY ONE PERSON DRIVING.

“With the life of this extraordinary young man in view, my Council and I therefore humbly beg you, Most Holy Father, to carefully consider the case of William E. Atkinson, O.S.A., with a view toward his Ordination.”

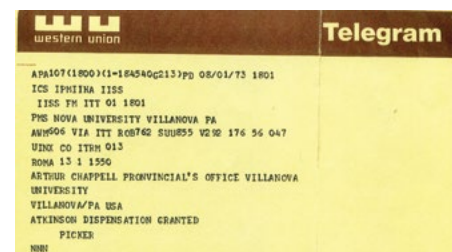
— Father Harry A. Cassel, O.S.A.,
Prior Provincial of the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova

It is believed that Bill Atkinson is the first quadriplegic to be ordained. This required a formal petition from the Prior Provincial of the Province and his Council to the Pope to override the Canon Law (1917 Code Canon 984, n.2 [the irregularity ex defectu from bodily defect]), demonstrating his life, development, health and abilities for the Holy Father to decide upon Bill Atkinson’s suitability for Holy Orders. Here’s an excerpt from Father Cassel’s June 1973 petition for Ordination, “The Case of William E. Atkinson, O.S.A.”

“During his time at Saint Mary’s Hall, he found time and interest each year to coach an intramural football team and intramural baseball team, to be elected chairman of the entire “Sports Committee” of the Seminary...he worked a full day a week at Valley Forge Army Hospital with the young soldiers paralyzed in the Vietnam War. He was able to do this work without any assistance, other than being driven to and from the hospital. He was able to travel throughout the hospital on his own because of his motorized wheelchair. During this time and up to the present,

he has found time to teach a weekly CCD (Confraternity of Christian Doctrine) class at a local parish, to correspond with many other paralyzed persons through the use of an electric typewriter...He has led three retreats for three separate classes at Monsignor Bonner High School in Philadelphia. On several occasions he has been a guest lecturer at Villanova. He supervises sports activities at a local parish on weekends...In fact, the various local chapters which have considered his case have been extremely praiseworthy of his spiritual, religious and fraternal development.”

In August 8, 1973, a Western Union Telegram came with the simple words: **“Atkinson dispensation granted.”**



“The priesthood is not a gift to be offered to an individual out of sympathy...Father Atkinson has no limitation and his contributions can not only equal, but can surpass any priest who is engaged in active ministry...thus he enters the priesthood even as Christ did, not to be served but to serve.”

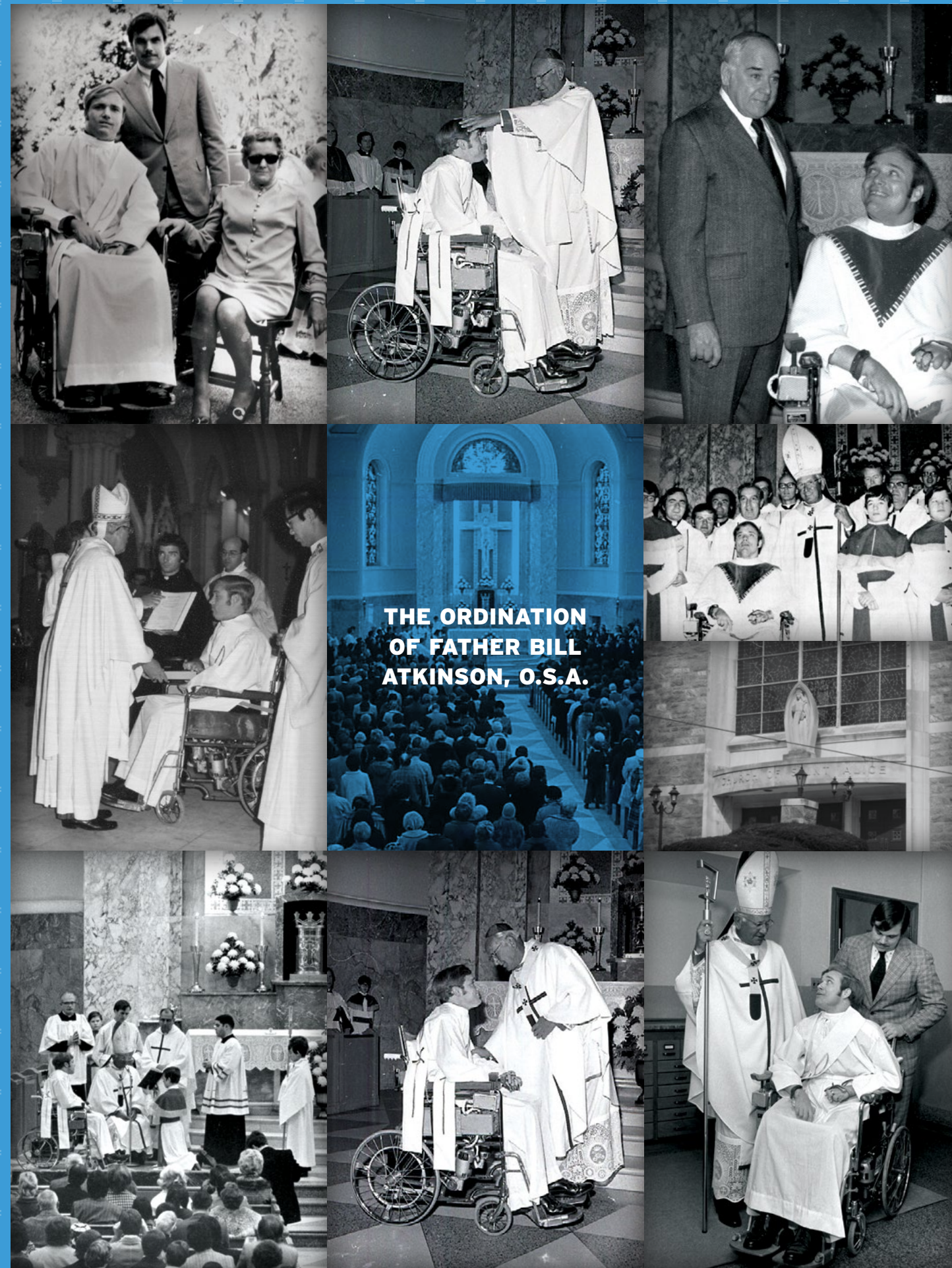
—Remarks of John Cardinal Krol on the ordination of Father Bill, addressed to the assembly after Mass, before giving the Apostolic Blessing.

On February 2, 1974, William E. Atkinson became the first known quadriplegic to be ordained to the priesthood. Nine hundred people attended the Mass, with twelve Augustinians concelebrating with John Cardinal Krol. One person who was not there was Father Bill’s mother, Mary Connelly Atkinson, who passed away shortly after attending his ordination to the diaconate in October of 1973. Asked to comment to local reporters about the impact this loss would have on his ordination, Bill replied “I don’t know, you might say that she’ll have the best seat in the house.”

It’s hard to imagine the joy of Father Bill, the Augustinians, his family and the community as he was ordained, for it was truly a shared victory, a triumph of a cross suffered and carried by so many to see him become a priest that day and for eternity.

COUNTER CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: BILL, HIS BROTHER AL AND HIS MOTHER, MARY AT HIS DIACONATE ORDINATION, OCTOBER 1973; BISHOP JAMES W. MALONE, OF THE DIOCESE OF YOUNGSTOWN OHIO, ORDAINS BILL TO THE DIACONATE; JOHN CARDINAL KROL AT THE ORDINATION OF BILL ATKINSON; CARDINAL KROL SPEAKS WITH BILL ATKINSON BEFORE HIS ORDINATION; CARDINAL KROL WITH BILL AND HIS BROTHER AL; THE EXTERIOR OF SAINT ALICE CHURCH, WHERE THE ORDINATION TOOK PLACE; GROUP PHOTO OF CARDINAL KROL AND AUGUSTINIAN FRIARS, LEFT TO RIGHT, JAMES FLYNN, O.S.A., VINCE HAGAN, O.S.A., FRANK REILLY, O.S.A., JOHN H. MELTON, O.S.A., WILLIAM DONNELLY, O.S.A., JOHN CARDINAL KROL, WILLIAM MAHONEY, O.S.A., HARRY CASSEL, O.S.A. (PRIOR PROVINCIAL), ROBERT TERRANOVA, O.S.A., AND JOHN STACK, O.S.A., AND FATHER BILL ATKINSON, O.S.A.; FATHER BILL ATKINSON SMILES UP AT HIS FATHER ALLEN; CARDINAL KROL ORDAINS BILL ATKINSON, O.S.A.; CENTER: THE SCENE FROM THE CHURCH.

ORDINATION PHOTOS ARE USED WITH PERMISSION OF PAHRC FROM THE ROBERT AND THERESA HALVEY PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION.



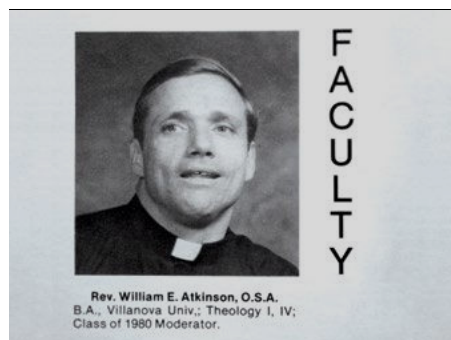
THE ORDINATION OF FATHER BILL ATKINSON, O.S.A.

“All of you are drawn here today by one single element, and that element is not me, but the love you have shown me...that love comes from God and it is a love that renews people, a love that transforms people and, ultimately a love that unifies people.”

— Father Bill Atkinson, O.S.A.’s sermon from his first Mass.

ALLAN D. FITZGERALD, O.S.A, FRANK REILLY, O.S.A. AND DONALD F. REILLY, O.S.A., (RIGHT) CONCELEBRATE FATHER BILL’S MASS OF THANKSGIVING.

ON FEBRUARY 3, 1974, A MASS OF THANKSGIVING WAS CONCELEBRATED AT THE VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY FIELD HOUSE. THE TONE OF THE MASS AND THE MUSIC WAS MUCH MORE RELAXED THAN THE ORDINATION MASS THE DAY BEFORE. MUSIC SELECTIONS REFLECTED THE VIETNAM WAR YEARS, WITH MANY CONTEMPORARY, PRE-LITURGICAL-MUSIC-RULES CONTEMPORARY SELECTIONS, INCLUDING JOHN LENNON’S, “GIVE PEACE A CHANCE;” AND THE EDWIN HAWKINS SINGERS’ VERSION OF “O HAPPY DAY.”



“In my opinion he was the heart and soul of the school. He gave us a reason to love where we were. He was available to old and young. His heart and his mission was at Bonner.

—Grace Kane, English Teacher at Bonner

In June of 1974, Father Bill Atkinson received faculties for teaching at Monsignor Bonner High School for Boys, a Philadelphia Archdiocesan high school in Drexel Hill, Pa., staffed by Augustinian Friars since its beginning in 1953. The school was situated on the same campus with Archbishop Prendergast High School for Girls.

Father Bill started teaching there in 1975, but was still living at a formation house at Villanova University. “It’s time to move on,” read Father Bill’s request for a transfer to Saint Joseph Friary on the

campus of Bonner. The care of Father Bill transferred to the friars who lived at the friary and for many years it was just the friars, Bill’s brothers, a few friends and family who physically cared for him. Later, as the number of friars diminished at the school, more friends, volunteers and students stepped in to assist. This would be the case for the nearly 30 years that Father worked at Monsignor Bonner.

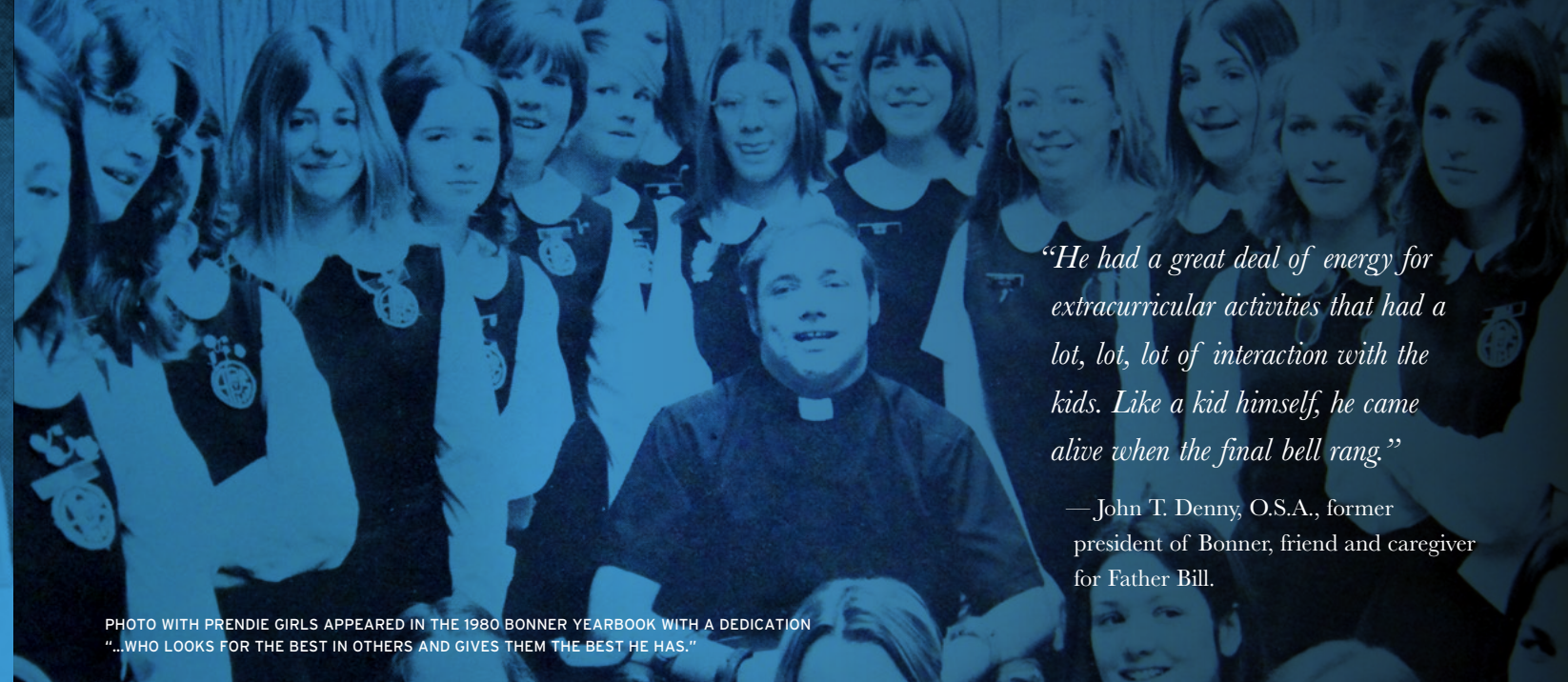
Whether it was teaching four Theology classes a day, running weekday and Saturday “J.U.G.” (Justice Under God a.k.a., detention), being moderator of the football

team, greeting the boys as they came and left the school, talking to the Prendie girls who passed by on their way home, attending all of the Bonner Sports games as well as both Bonner and Prendergast plays and musicals, Father Bill was there and involved.

He was drawn to and very interested in seniors in the school’s Drexel Program for students who have learning differences, who don’t follow the norm in terms of learning. He found it powerful for him to try to get these kids to turn themselves around and become more successful at



FATHER BILL AT BONNER



“He had a great deal of energy for extracurricular activities that had a lot, lot, lot of interaction with the kids. Like a kid himself, he came alive when the final bell rang.”

— John T. Denny, O.S.A., former president of Bonner, friend and caregiver for Father Bill.

PHOTO WITH PRENDIE GIRLS APPEARED IN THE 1980 BONNER YEARBOOK WITH A DEDICATION “...WHO LOOKS FOR THE BEST IN OTHERS AND GIVES THEM THE BEST HE HAS.”

learning. He saw through student behavior that might look like poor behavior, such as difficulty taking notes or completing homework, especially for those seniors who had become experts at masking their frustration with learning problems.

He was given permission to designate any lay person at all to assist him in holding the host or the chalice during Mass or anointing the sick. He empowered legions of kids, particularly kids from the football team, for whom this became one of their most cherished memories.

He was a confessor of renown and people would come and seek him out, knocking on his door.

He presided at baptisms, weddings and funerals, mostly as a concelebrant, but as the main celebrant for his father “Pop” and other family members. He was a regular concelebrant at funerals for Augustinians and parents of Bonner students.

He was welcoming to new teachers and there for them as a trusted colleague, a source of advice and a confessor. He had a way of making people forget that he couldn’t do most anything for himself. He was known for his sense of humor, his penchant to play practical jokes on colleagues and writing a poem each year, setting it to music, to “roast” them, so much so that when a teacher would do something funny or good, people would say, “That’s going to be in the poem!”



FATHER BILL ATKINSON, O.S.A., IN LAS VEGAS TO RECEIVE THE 1977 U.S. JAYCEES OUTSTANDING YOUNG MAN AWARD. FATHER BILL WAS ACCOMPANIED BY FATHER FRANCIS HORN, O.S.A. ALSO PICTURED: FELLOW HONOREE WAYNE NEWTON AND HIS WIFE.



FATHER BILL’S SISTER PATTY HOLDS HER SON SCOTTY AS HE IS BAPTIZED BY FATHER BILL, WITH GODMOTHER JOAN ALICE LOOKING ON.



FATHER JOHN DENNY, O.S.A. AND FATHER BILL ATTEND BONNER’S GRADUATION.



THE STRENGTH OF OTHERS

“*Taught me to Live, not just to Cope*

with their Love they gave me Hope”

FROM A POEM BY FATHER BILL ATKINSON, O.S.A.



A PARTY STAPLE: THE SING-ALONG



SATURDAY MASS AT THE SHORE



FAMILY PHOTO ON THE BEACH, JULY 4, 2000. TOP ROW: MARY, AL, POP, ED, JOAN ALICE. BOTTOM ROW: PATTY, FATHER BILL AND BETTY



DRAWING BY M. TALESE

“He wasn’t just a good man. He was heroic and virtuous...but he came across as just another guy you wanted to play cards with.”

—*Father Rob Hagan, O.S.A., a family friend of Father Bill’s nephew, who met “Uncle Bill” when he was a teenager during summers at Ocean City.*

Father Bill was a summer guy who loved the Jersey shore and spent summers at his parents’ shore home in Ocean City, N.J. Although he couldn’t go on the beach, he would sit on the boardwalk for hours, soaking in the sun or sitting in a nearby pavilion. Over the years he became a welcome encounter for friends, relatives and strangers who would stop and converse with him on their way to the beach. Sometimes he would hear confessions in the pavilion or catch up with folks who would see him there each year, some who were dating, then married and then would bring their kids.

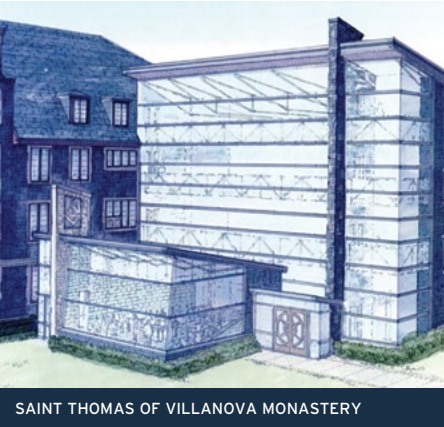
On Saturdays, 50-75 people would pack into the shore house where Father Bill celebrated Mass. Here and at home Father could be found watching sports, playing cards, watching Jeopardy, working cryptograms and crossword puzzles. He amazed people by solving intricate jigsaw puzzles by telling the person who worked with him exactly where to place the pieces. He was an avid reader, he loved music and had his own way of dancing in his wheelchair. He wrote poems and played chess games long distance with friends.

Father’s health was always an issue over the years, as he would have bouts with bed sores and breathing issues. When he was healthy he was at full steam. In his later years at Bonner, as he approached the age of 60, his stamina was less than it had been, but he was still capable of teaching a limited class schedule and attending to all of his beloved extracurricular activities.

In his final years he lost some of that energy – he could get really tired.

Father Denny tells one story of his later years. “Bill always enjoyed the slower section of seniors, the section that within a year most were on probation. He always wanted one of those sections. I would always make a point of walking past his room every day. Father loved the sun and he loved to sit in the sunbeams in a room. On this particular day, I’m approaching his classroom and I hear not a sound. I actually thought I’d find no one was in the room. As I get to the room, there he is,

he’s in the sunbeam by the window sound asleep. One of the kids says to me ‘Shhh, Father’s sleepin.’ Not a sound. 28 kids and not a sound! If he had been awake, there would have been a lot of sound. He would have been telling this one to sit down, this one to stay quiet, but not today. I stepped out of the room and I got teary-eyed... I thought wow, it’s so much more important than what’s in that text book...they’ve learned Christian charity, keeping an eye on him.”



SAINT THOMAS OF VILLANOVA MONASTERY

In 2004, Father Bill Atkinson received an Obedience directive from the Provincial Office to move to the newly renovated Health Center at Saint Thomas of Villanova Monastery and to report to work in Villanova University’s Campus Ministry Office. A beautiful Center, it provided expert staff and everything Father Bill needed to get through the day and night.

Many friars who have been stationed in one place and have been asked to move experience painful emotions and Father Bill was no different. He went through all the rituals of the end of the year, along with a party for him and graduation. He seemed fine and was looking forward to working with Villanova students, but fell sick the day after graduation and was critical in the hospital for next three months.

Father was well enough to come home to the monastery, but was unable to take on the position at Campus Ministry.



“It’s hard, now that he’s gone, to find the right words to celebrate his life: hero, legend, extraordinary. Knowing Bill he would want something simple. Priest pretty much says it all.”

—*Mark Purcell, West Chester, taken from a message left on the funeral home site.*

On the afternoon of September 15, 2006, Father William E. Atkinson passed away with family, friars and friends at his side. Father was in serious and critical condition in the morning, but this had happened before and he pulled out of it. However, this day seemed different to the family who started to worry that this would be a day where he would not recover. And so it was that day.

His funeral liturgy was celebrated on Tuesday, September 19, 2006 at Saint Thomas of Villanova Church, Villanova Pa. and he was buried the following morning in the Augustinian section of Calvary Cemetery, West Conshohocken, Pa.



We encourage you to go online to become a member of the fatherbillatkinsonguild.org.

If you are willing to share photos or video footage of Father Bill, please contact Father Bill’s Cause:

Augustinian Provincial Offices
P.O. Box 340
Villanova, PA 19085

or e-mail us at guild@fatherbillatkinsonguild.org

THE EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE YEAR *of* MERCY

BY TEDDIE GALLAGHER



POPE FRANCIS OPENS THE HOLY DOOR OF SAINT PETER'S BASILICA IN ROME

On December 8, 2015, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Pope Francis opened the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, which will end with the Solemnity of Christ the King, November 20, 2016.

The pure joy with which Francis proclaims this encounter of the church with its people and with Jesus is infectious.

“The extraordinary year is itself a gift of grace—to convert oneself and perform works of mercy. This is the driving force of this Jubilee Year...let us allow God to surprise us. He never tires of casting open the doors of his heart and of repeating that he loves us and wants to share his love with us...From the heart of the Trinity, from the depths of the mystery of God, the great river of mercy wells up and overflows unceasingly. It is a spring that will never run dry, no matter how many people draw from it. Every time someone is in need, he or she can approach it, because the mercy of God never ends. The profundity of the mystery surrounding it is as inexhaustible as the richness which springs up from it.”

WORKS OF MERCY

“Merciful like the Father”

In his address for Lent, 2016, Pope Francis said of the corporal and spiritual works of mercy: *These works remind us that faith finds expression in concrete everyday actions*

meant to help our neighbors in body and spirit: by feeding, visiting, comforting and instructing them. On such things will we be judged.

“You gave us food for every seeding plant that grows on earth, and every tree that bears fruit yielding seed (GN 1:29-30). These fruits of the earth symbolize and represent, in allegorical terms, the works of mercy, produced by fertile soil to meet the needs of this present life...but how disappointed he was over certain other trees which failed.” — Saint Augustine, *Confessions* 13: 25, 38

The corporal and spiritual works of mercy are actions we can perform that extend God’s compassion and mercy to those in need.

THE CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

are these kind acts by which we help our neighbors with their material and physical needs.

- Feed the hungry
- Give drink to the thirsty
- Clothe the naked
- Shelter the homeless
- Visit the sick
- Visit the imprisoned
- Bury the dead

“It is my burning desire that, during this Jubilee, the Christian people may reflect on the *corporal and spiritual works of mercy*. It will be a way to reawaken our conscience, too often grown dull in the face of poverty. And let us enter more deeply into the heart of the Gospel where the poor have a special experience of God’s mercy. Jesus introduces us to these works of mercy in his preaching so that we can know whether or not we are living as his disciples. Let us rediscover these *corporal* works of mercy.” — Pope Francis



THE SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

are acts of compassion by which we help our neighbors with their emotional and spiritual needs.

- Counsel the doubtful
- Instruct the ignorant
- Admonish sinners
- Comfort the afflicted
- Forgive offenses
- Bear wrongs patiently
- Pray for the living and the dead



FATHER JOE GENITO, O.S.A. OPENS THE DOOR OF MERCY AT THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF SAINT RITA

HOLY DOORS

The Holy Door of Saint Peter’s Basilica in Rome is only opened for Jubilee Years and has been closed since 2000, when the last Jubilee Year closed. The idea of the Holy Door symbolically represents a special path of mercy available only while the Jubilee is open.

Unlike previous Jubilee Years, Pope Francis has made Holy Doors available in cities all over the world, to give the faithful every opportunity to pass through the door and access a spiritual indulgence. Holy Doors in the Philadelphia area are located at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter & Paul and Shrines within the Archdiocese.



PARISHIONERS AND FRIENDS ARE INVITED TO FOLLOW FATHER JOE AND PASS THROUGH THE HOLY DOOR.

Consequently, the Augustinian National Shrine of Saint Rita of Cascia, is one of the five Shrines in the Philadelphia Archdiocese to be granted a Holy Door. On December 16, 2015, the Holy Door at the Saint Rita Shrine Chapel beneath the main church was opened. The door is not the main entrance to the chapel, but a rarely used door, in accordance with the directive that the Holy Door be an optional entrance. Father Joe Genito, O.S.A., Pastor and Shrine Director says “The idea is that people choose to walk through the door; they don’t have to use it to access the building or chapel. We have decorated the Holy Door with large poster pictures of Saint Rita (patroness of forgiveness and reconciliation) and Saint Augustine (model of conversion), along with pictures

“The practice of *pilgrimage* has a special place in the Holy Year, because it represents the journey each of us makes in this life.

Similarly, to reach the Holy Door in Rome or in any other place in the world, everyone, each according to his or her ability, will have to make a pilgrimage.

May pilgrimage be an impetus to conversion: by crossing the threshold of the Holy Door, we will find the strength to embrace God’s mercy and dedicate ourselves to being merciful with others as the Father has been with us.”

Pope Francis



ONCE INSIDE THE HOLY DOOR, FATHER JOE LEADS PRAYERS TO BEGIN THE EXTRAORDINARY YEAR OF MERCY

of the Holy Door of Saint Peter’s Basilica in Rome. Walking through the door is a ritual whereby worshippers receive a plenary indulgence absolving them of the temporal punishment due to sin if they walk through the Door of Mercy, attend the sacrament of reconciliation, receive Holy Communion, pray for the intentions of the Pope, and show mercy.

You are invited to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Door at the National Shrine of Saint Rita of Cascia, Philadelphia, Pa.

Go to WWW.SAINTRITASHRINE.ORG for more information.

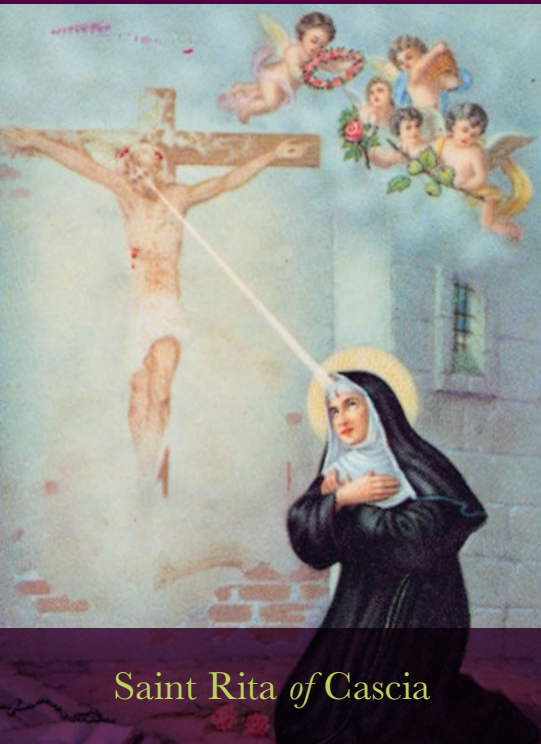
Augustinian Saints and Blesseds of Mercy

PRAY FOR US!

These are among Augustinian Saints and Blesseds who performed spiritual or corporal works of mercy and serve as fine examples to us.

“Our prayer also extends to the saints and blessed ones who made divine mercy their mission in life.”

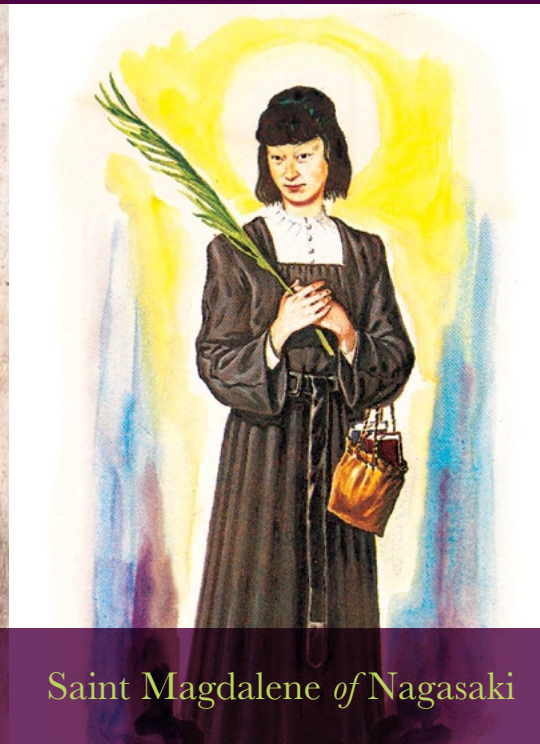
Pope Francis



Saint Rita of Cascia



Saint Nicholas of Tolentino



Saint Magdalene of Nagasaki



Blessed Stephen Bellesini



Saint Thomas of Villanova



Blessed Maria Teresa Fasce

Rita of Cascia bears witness to the act of forgiving offenses and bearing the wrongs she suffered with patience and trust in God. When her husband, Paolo, was murdered due to a family rivalry, Rita was left with two young sons. While social pressures decreed that her sons avenge Paolo's death, Rita expressed forgiveness and prayed that her sons would not seek revenge, prayers that were answered. After losing both sons in death, with no family, she sought to be admitted to the convent of Augustinian nuns at Cascia. Her initial requests were denied. She forged a signed peace agreement between her husband's family and supporters and those of his assassins. Persisting in her request to join the sisters, she gained admittance and lived the rest of her life in prayer and Christian works of charity, tending to the sick and poor. Rita of Cascia was canonized in 1900 by Pope Leo XIII.

Nicholas of Tolentino was a devoted practitioner of prayer for the faithful departed. He is reputed to have seen a vision of an Augustinian friar he knew, lamenting his time in purgatory, urging Nicholas to say Mass for him and to pray for all souls in purgatory. Nicholas earned the title "Patron Saint of the Souls in Purgatory," conferred by Pope Leo XIII. The latter part of Nicholas' life was spent in Tolentino, Italy, where he was a noted confessor and ministered among the poor, and the sick and infirm. He was known in his monastery for his compassion towards his religious brothers, as well as to all those in need. Love of God and love of neighbor were a hallmark of his ministry as an Augustinian friar. Canonized by Pope Eugene IV in 1441, Nicholas was the first member of the Order of Saint Augustine to be canonized.

Magdalene of Nagasaki was a stalwart example of a committed Christian, spreading the faith by word and deed. Born in 1611 near Nagasaki, Magdalene devoted herself to spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Magdalene was an Augustinian tertiary who taught catechism to the young, sought alms for the poor, and who stood in support and encouragement of her fellow Japanese Christians, as they were being persecuted for their faith. Faced with torture, she saw many of her fellow Christians renounce their faith. She surrendered herself to anti-Christian authorities in September 1634. Within a month, she was herself subjected to torture in the pit. After suffering torture for thirteen days, Magdalene died; her body burned and ashes scattered. She was canonized by Pope John Paul II in 1989.

Stephen Bellesini was a benefactor to the poor and an excellent corporal and spiritual caregiver, to both novices and parishioners under his care. His religious house was suppressed and in 1810, he was forced from his monastery and religious life. Employed as a teacher, he displayed great success in educating and caring for poor children in Trent, and was appointed as Superintendent of Schools. He resigned eventually, making his way to Rome to resume his life as a friar and served the Order of Saint Augustine as master of novices in several houses. In the last years of his life, as pastor in Genazzano, he cared for the sick and dying of his parish, concerning himself with their corporal as well spiritual needs. Especially devoted to the poor, the sick and dying, he himself became ill as he ministered to victims of an epidemic. He was beatified by Pope Pius X in 1904.

Thomas of Villanova, a Spanish saint of the 16th century and the inspiration for this Province's name, was known as "The Father of the Poor." Born into a family of means, he earned a Master's degree at the University of Alcalá and taught there. In time, he was offered a position at the prestigious University of Salamanca, where the Augustinians had a monastery. Instead of taking the teaching position, he entered the monastery there. Emperor Charles V nominated him to the See of Valencia; in his capacity as Bishop, Thomas founded a seminary, established boarding schools, helped young women with marriage dowries and served orphans, both educating and feeding them. Before dying, he gave away all his possessions to those in need. A prolific preacher, he left hundreds of sermons. Thomas was canonized by Pope Alexander VII in 1658.

Maria Teresa Fasce was a woman devoted to Saint Rita of Cascia. As an active youth in her parish, she instructed children in the catechism. Like Rita of Cascia, Maria Giovanna asked to be admitted to the convent at Cascia and was denied, until her Augustinian confessor, Father Mariano Ferriello, petitioned on her behalf. She was finally admitted in 1906. In 1920, she was elected abbess, a position to which she was re-elected nine times. She accomplished great things, building an orphanage for girls, providing for their corporal as well as their spiritual needs. She spread devotion to Saint Rita with a publication, and she was instrumental in building a new church, where pilgrims could come, around which a seminary, a hospital and a retreat house eventually rose. She herself was continuously burdened by physical ailments, yet despite her great sufferings, she died peacefully in 1947 and was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1997.

NEWS AND NOTES

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



ROW 1: DEACON CARLOS MEDINA, O.S.A.; DEACON RICHIE MERCADO, O.S.A.; ROBERT PREVOST, O.S.A., BISHOP OF CHICLAYO, PERU; MICHAEL DI GREGORIO, O.S.A., PRIOR PROVINCIAL, PROVINCE OF SAINT THOMAS OF VILLANOVA; AND DEACON JOE MURRAY, O.S.A. ROW 2: KEVIN MULLINS, O.S.A., PRIOR PROVINCIAL, PROVINCE OF SAINT AUGUSTINE (CALIFORNIA); BERNARD SCIANNA, O.S.A., PRIOR PROVINCIAL, PROVINCE OF OUR MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL (MIDWEST); AND TONY PIZZO, O.S.A., PASTOR, SAINT RITA CHURCH, CHICAGO

Joseph Murray, O.S.A., Ordained to the Diaconate in Chicago

Brother Joseph Murray, O.S.A., of the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova was ordained to the diaconate on Saturday, January 2, 2016, at Saint Rita Church in Chicago, by Augustinian Bishop Robert Prevost of Chiclayo, Perú. Brother Joe was ordained in a bi-lingual liturgy together with Brother Carlos Medina of the California Province and Brother Richie Mercado of the Midwest Province. All three deacons will now complete their theological studies and prepare for ordination to the priesthood later this year.



Icon of Father Bill Atkinson, O.S.A., Written by Richard Cannuli, O.S.A.

The image used on the cover of this issue was taken from the new icon of the Servant of God, Father Bill Atkinson, O.S.A., written by Father Richard Cannuli, O.S.A. Father Richard, an artist and Professor in the Studio Art and Theatre Department at Villanova University, has written many icons, including Saint Augustine, Blessed Stephen Bellesini and Saint Rita of Cascia.

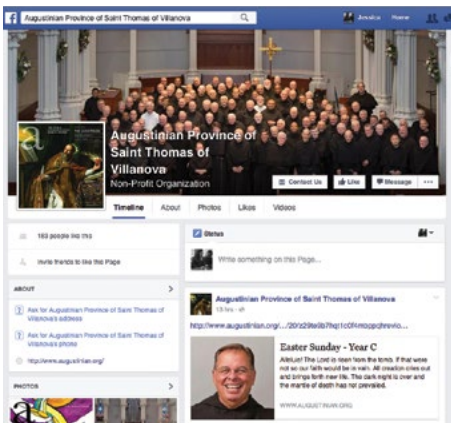
To read more about Father Bill's Cause, and the Father Bill Atkinson Guild, please visit [HTTP://WWW.AUGUSTINIAN.ORG/THE-CAUSE](http://www.augustinian.org/the-cause)



DONALD F. REILLY, O.S.A., AND BERNADETTE KINNIRY, R.S.M., AWARDED SAINT RITA OF CASCIA PEACE AWARD

Donald F. Reilly, O.S.A., Receives Saint Rita Peace Award with the Co-founder of Philadelphia's *Siloam* Ministry

Father Donald Reilly, O.S.A., and Sister Bernadette Kinniry, R.S.M., co-founders of the *Siloam* ministry in Philadelphia, which provides services for those either infected with or affected by HIV/AIDS, received the 2016 Saint Rita Peace Award, given annually by the National Shrine of Saint Rita of Cascia, in Philadelphia. The award was presented at a banquet held in April 2016.



Province of Saint Thomas' Facebook Page

The Province of Saint Thomas has a Facebook page! You can keep up with the happenings and read the latest news and Sunday homilies there. Please like us on Facebook by visiting our page at the following link:

[AUGUSTINIAN PROVINCE OF SAINT THOMAS OF VILLANOVA FACEBOOK PAGE](http://www.augustinian.org/the-cause)



Solemn Profession in Vicariate of Japan

Following their annual retreat, friars of the Vicariate of Japan celebrated the solemn profession of Brother John Futoshi Matsuo, O.S.A., on February 20, 2016. Pictured,

Row 1: Brother Andrew Takashi Akakura, O.S.A.; Father Peter Francis Mitaru Toyama, O.S.A.; Brother John Futoshi Matsuo, O.S.A.; Father Thomas Hiroyuki Shibata, O.S.A.; Father Thomas Masaki Imada, O.S.A.; and Father Michael Hilden, O.S.A.

Row 2: Father Peter Tetsuya Hirano, O.S.A.; Father Jesus M. Daño, O.S.A.; Father Francis Park Tae-Kyoung, O.S.A., (from the Delegation of Korea); Brother Francisco Salesio Yang Ji-Hoon, O.S.A., (from the Delegation of Korea); Father Anthony Kiyotsugu Yamano, O.S.A.; Father Charles B. Pomuceno, O.S.A.; and Brother Francis Masaya Ide, O.S.A.



Gathering of Augustinian Bishops in Rome

Coinciding with the closing of the special year dedicated to Consecrated Life, a meeting was held from February 1 to 3, in Rome, of 13 of the 19 Augustinian bishops who presently serve the Church. Pictured,

Row 1: Bishop Donatus Ogun, O.S.A., (Uromi, Nigeria); Bishop Robert Prevost, O.S.A., (Chiclayo, Perú); Cardinal Prospero Grech, O.S.A.; Prior General, Alejandro Moral, O.S.A.; Archbishop José Domingo Ulloa, O.S.A., (Panamá); Bishop Mariano Moreno, O.S.A., (Emeritus of Cafayate, Argentina); Bishop Julián García Centeno, O.S.A., (Emeritus of Iquitos, Perú).

Row 2: Bishop Giovanni Scanavino, O.S.A., (Emeritus of Orvieto-Terni, Italy); Bishop Doménico Berni, O.S.A., (Chuquibambilla, Perú); Bishop Alberto Bochaty, O.S.A., (Auxiliary of La Plata, Argentina); Bishop Michael Campbell, O.S.A., (Lancaster, England); Bishop Manuel Ochogavía, O.S.A., (Colón-Guna Yala, Panamá); Luis Marín de San Martín, O.S.A., Curia.

Row 3: Bishop John Niyiring, O.S.A., (Kano, Nigeria); Patricio Villalba, O.S.A., Curia; Anthony Banks, O.S.A., Curia; Bishop Daniel Turley, O.S.A., (Chulucanas, Perú); Joseph Farrell, O.S.A., Curia; Edward Daleng, O.S.A., Curia; Franz Klein, O.S.A., Curia; and John Flynn, O.S.A., Curia.



BROTHER JOHN FUTOSHI MATSUO, O.S.A. (LEFT), MAKES HIS SOLEMN PROFESSION OF VOWS BEFORE THE SUPERIOR OF THE VICARIATE, FATHER THOMAS HIROYUKI SHIBATA, O.S.A.

ANNIVERSARIES 2016

ANNIVERSARY OF RELIGIOUS PROFESSION

50 YEARS

Albert P. MacPherson, O.S.A.
William F. Waters, O.S.A.
Anthony M. Genovese, O.S.A.
Edward J. Enright, O.S.A.
Michael J. Hilden, O.S.A.
Francis X. Devlin, O.S.A.
Michael F. Di Gregorio, O.S.A.

25 YEARS

Peter Francis Mitaru Toyama, O.S.A.
Jorge A. Reyes, O.S.A.
Luis A. Vera, O.S.A.
Stephen M. Curry, O.S.A.

ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

50 YEARS

John F. McAtee, O.S.A.
John F. Deary, O.S.A.

25 YEARS

James D. Paradis, O.S.A.
Joseph L. Farrell, O.S.A.



The Augustinian Heritage Room: Now Open On Weekdays 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM!

The Augustinian Heritage Room, located in Saint Thomas of Villanova Monastery, on the campus of Villanova University, houses artifacts and documents that detail the history of the Order of Saint Augustine in the United States, beginning with the arrival of Augustinian Friar Matthew Carr from Ireland in April 1796. He immediately set out raising funds and was able to purchase land in July of that same year, and construction began on Saint Augustine Church, the first foundation of the Augustinians in the new, post-revolution United States. This “American Province,” eventually became the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova.

Documents detail Carr’s arrival, the establishment of a province, the expansion as land is purchased from the Rudolph estate, west of Philadelphia, which became the Augustinian’s second foundation in the United States, Villanova. Part of the collection is an ad that ran in the Philadelphia Herald paper in 1844, promoting a St. Thomas of Villanova College, providing costs, payment terms, and programs offered, either “classical and scientific, or purely merchantile.”



PRIEST’S STOLE USED AT BLESSING OF SAINT AUGUSTINE CHURCH IN 1800.



“SISTER BELL” TO THE LIBERTY BELL

Artifacts in the collection include a priest’s stole, which had been used in 1800 at the first blessing of Saint Augustine Church in the city of Philadelphia, which was stolen in 1844 when the Church was destroyed by fire during nativist riots, and returned twenty years later. Also among the items to be seen is the “Sister Bell” to the Liberty Bell. This bell, which hung in the Pennsylvania statehouse (Independence Hall), was transferred to Saint Augustine Church by the city of Philadelphia, and hung in its steeple, until fire destroyed the church and damaged the bell in the riots. The bell was saved, recast and moved to Villanova. From 1847 to 1917, it rang to alert students to chapel services and classes. Saint Augustine Church also housed one of the best theological libraries at the time and books that were saved from fire are also part of the collection.



BOOKS SAVED FROM FIRE DURING RIOTS AT SAINT AUGUSTINE CHURCH

A timeline of the growth and expansion of the Province, coupled with historical references to developments in the United States, located in the window wells, along with images and posters on the walls, place the presence and growth of

the Augustinian Order in context with the development of the United States of America. Other artifacts include the mitre and crozier of two Augustinians who served as bishops: Thomas Galberry served in Hartford, Connecticut and William Jones



MITRE OF WILLIAM JONES, O.S.A., FIRST BISHOP OF SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO

served as the first bishop of San Juan, Puerto Rico. Viewing the timeline, the visitor can see the expansion of the Province to other areas in the country, Chicago in the Midwest, and San Diego in the West, which led to the creation of new provinces; the establishment of Merrimack College in Massachusetts following World War II; and the history surrounding the missions of this Province, starting with the first mission to Cuba, as well as taking on a mission in Japan.

Visitors are welcome to tour the Augustinian Heritage Room to learn about the history of the Augustinians in the United States and how their presence developed and grew as the United States grew and expanded.

The Augustinian Heritage Room is open to individuals or small groups of 20 or less.

HOURS:
10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Monday through Friday
Private tours may also be arranged.

CONTACT INFO:
communications@augustinian.org
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610-519-7500

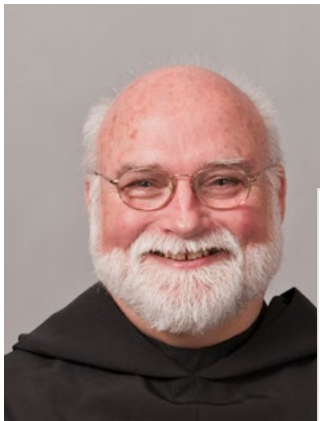


FRANCIS HORN, O.S.A., IS INTERVIEWED FOR THE NEWS BROADCAST BY FOX29 CORRESPONDENT CHRIS O'CONNELL

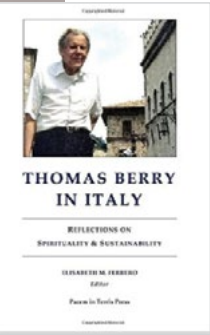
TV Newscast Focuses on Father Bill Atkinson, O.S.A.

WTXF, the FOX TV affiliate in Philadelphia, focused attention on Father Bill Atkinson and his Cause for Sainthood. FOX’s correspondent Chris O’Connell interviewed Father Francis Horn, O.S.A., for their local newscast. Father Bill was assigned to Monsignor Bonner High School for nearly 30 years, where he taught religion, served as chaplain at the school and moderator of the football team, among other duties. Father Horn was a member of Father Bill’s care team while studying in the seminary and while serving at Monsignor Bonner High School while Father Bill was assigned there.

To view the video of the newscast, please visit: [HTTP://WWW.FOX29.COM/NEWS/92296283-STORY](http://www.fox29.com/news/92296283-story)



Gary N. McCloskey, O.S.A., Contributes Two Chapters to a Book on Thomas Berry, C.P.



In this book about Passionist priest Thomas Berry, an ecologist and protégé of the Jesuit, Teilard de Chardin, edited by Elisabeth Ferrero, Father Gary N. McCloskey, O.S.A., has contributed two chapters (“Thomas Berry in Italy: Relationship, Place and Story” and “Reflective Thinking about Place as Part of a Curriculum for Ecological Studies”). From Pacem in Terris Press, the book is available at Amazon.

Sunday Homilies Now on Augustinian.org Website

Each week, a homily composed by a friar for the upcoming Sunday, including information about the Sunday readings, is posted to the homilies page on our website. To read these homilies, please visit our webpage at the following link:

[HTTP://WWW.AUGUSTINIAN.ORG/HOMILIES](http://www.augustinian.org/homilies)

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LOOKING AHEAD

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mark your calendars today for these upcoming special events.

Mid-Chapter of the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova

Friars of the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova will hold a Mid-Chapter at Villanova University from June 12, 2016, until June 17, 2016.

Ordination to the Priesthood of Joseph A. Murray, O.S.A.

Following the Mid-Chapter, Brother Joe Murray, O.S.A., will be ordained to the priesthood at the Saint Thomas of Villanova Church (campus) on Saturday, June 18, 2016, at 10:00 A.M.

Tenth Anniversary Mass for Father Bill Atkinson, O.S.A.

September 15, 2016, marks the tenth anniversary of the death of Father Bill Atkinson. A Mass will be celebrated on September 15, 2016 in the Church of Saint Thomas of Villanova (campus). Refreshments will be served following the Mass.

THE Augustinian Fund



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KEEPING TRACK

Following the vow of obedience, friars find themselves called to where they are needed. Each issue of The Augustinian hopes to connect you with some familiar faces as we provide brief updates on friars serving throughout the Province. Watch here to track down that old classmate, pastor, chemistry teacher, chaplain, philosophy professor, co-worker or friend.

Stephen M. Curry, O.S.A.



Stephen M. Curry, O.S.A., earned a BS from Villanova and was received into the Order on August 21, 1990. Following his novitiate year he professed first vows on August 10, 1991. He went to Augustinian College for his theology studies, earning an MDiv from Washington Theological Union. He also studied Spanish in Mexico and the Dominican Republic. He was ordained to the priesthood at Saint Rita of Cascia Church, Philadelphia, on October 12, 1996. Father Steve’s first assignment was to teach at Malvern Preparatory School. He was next assigned to Our Lady of Good Counsel, Staten Island. He also did further studies in Spanish in Argentina and Chile. His next assignment was teaching at Monsignor Bonner High School. In 2009, he was assigned to Saint Augustine Preparatory School in New Jersey. After receiving his doctoral degree (Ed. D.) in 2014, he held a teaching position at Villanova University. In July 2015, he was assigned to Saint Rita High School in Chicago, Illinois, as Director of Augustinian Mission.

William J. Donnelly, O.S.A.



William J. Donnelly, O.S.A., was received into the Order on September 9, 1960. Following his novitiate year he professed first vows on September 10, 1961. He earned a BA from Villanova and went to Augustinian College, receiving an MA in Theology. He was ordained to the priesthood on September 9, 1967. Father Bill’s first assignment was to Saint Augustine, Andover, Massachusetts. He then served at Saint Laurence O’Toole, Lawrence. In 1975, he was assigned to the Augustinian Collegiate Seminary at Villanova. Following this, he served at Saint Nicholas (Bronx) and then at Saint Nicholas (Jamaica). He also served the Province as Director of Strategic Planning, while assigned to Saint Denis, Havertown, Pa. After a sabbatical, he returned to Saint Nicholas (Bronx). He served on the Provincial Council from 2002 to 2010, when he was assigned to Saint Mary’s, Lawrence. He moved to Saint Augustine Parish, Andover (2012), and ministered at Saint Michael Parish in North Andover. In 2015, he was assigned to Saint Elizabeth Seton Friary, Naples, Florida and appointed parish Administrator.

James L. MacDougall, O.S.A.



James L. MacDougall, O.S.A., was received into the Order on September 9, 1950, and after his novitiate year, he professed first vows on September 10, 1951. He earned a BA from Villanova and attended Augustinian College for his theological studies. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 6, 1959. In 1960, he received an MA in American History from Villanova. Father Jim’s first assignment was as a teacher at Monsignor Bonner High School. In 1969, he went to Biscayne College (now Saint Thomas University), in Miami, where he served until 2015, residing at the friary, *Casa San Lorenzo*. He served at the school as a teacher of History, Religious Studies and American Political Science; as campus minister; as chair of the Social Sciences Division and as prefect in the

student dormitory. In 2005, he reduced his teaching schedule from full time to part-time, but continued to help in campus ministry. In July 2015, Father Jim was assigned to Saint Nicholas of Tolentine Friary, Bronx, New York.

John F. McAtee, O.S.A.



John F. McAtee, O.S.A., was received into the Order on September 9, 1957. Following his novitiate year, he professed first vows on September 10, 1958. He received a BA from Villanova and attended *Collegio Santa Monica* in Rome for his theological education, and received the STL. He was ordained in Rome on February 12, 1966. Returning to the States, Father Jack was first assigned to teach at Archbishop Carroll High School, Washington, D.C. In 1967 he volunteered for the mission in Japan, where he served at parishes in Nagoya, Nagasaki, Tokyo, and Fukuoka. He was headmaster at the Sei Maria school in Nagasaki and at the kindergarten in Fukuoka. After 25 years in Japan, Father Jack returned to the United States and served in campus ministry at Villanova University. He volunteered for the mission in South Africa and served there from 2009 to 2014. In 2015, he was assigned to Saint Mary’s Parish Friary in Waterford, New York. Father Jack is also a certified acupressure practitioner since 1995 and a Tai Chi practitioner and teacher since 1997.

TO CONTACT FATHER CURRY:

Saint Rita of Cascia High School
7740 S. Western Avenue
Chicago, IL 60620-5867

TO CONTACT FATHER DONNELLY:

Saint Elizabeth Seton
5260 28th Avenue SW
Naples, FL 34116

TO CONTACT FATHER MACDOUGALL:

Saint Nicholas of Tolentine Friary
2345 University Avenue
Bronx, NY 10468-6102

TO CONTACT FATHER MCATEE:

Saint Mary of the Assumption Friary
119 Broad Street
Waterford, NY 12188-2397



IN PARADISUM

The following friar was called home to God.

George P. Lawless, O.S.A.



BORN: 9/26/1930
FIRST PROFESSION: 9/10/1948
ORDAINED: 2/4/1956
DIED: 3/9/2016

George Patrick Lawless was born on September 26, 1930, in Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He was the son of George P. Lawless and Margaret J. McGinley, and one of five brothers and three sisters. He was baptized on October 5, 1930, at Our Mother of Consolation Church in Chestnut Hill, and attended Our Mother of Consolation Parish School (1935-1943), and Augustinian Academy, Staten Island, New York, as a postulant (1943-1947). He was received into the Order as a novice on September 9, 1947, and following his formation at Good Counsel Novitiate, New Hamburg, New York, he professed simple vows on September 10, 1948. He then attended Villanova College, and received a BA in Philosophy (1952), having professed solemn vows on September 10, 1951. He went to Augustinian College, Washington, D.C., for his theological studies (1952-1956), and, at the same time, studied at The Catholic University of America, where he received an MA in Latin and Greek. Father George was ordained to the priesthood

on February 4, 1956, at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C., by Bishop John McNamara. Father George was assigned to teach at Augustinian Academy, Staten Island, during the 1956-1957 academic year. He was transferred in 1957 to Saint Mary’s Hall, Villanova, and in 1958 became a member of the Saint Thomas Monastery community there. He taught at Villanova University and also studied at the University of Pennsylvania, where he received an MA in Classical Studies (1963). In 1968 he was appointed to Our Mother of Good Counsel Monastery and Merrimack College, where he taught in the Religious Studies Department (1968-1975). During this time he attended Princeton Theological Seminary and received a ThM in Ecumenics and Ethics. In 1975 he was named prior of Augustinian College. He was assigned briefly, in 1979, to Saint John of Sahagun Friary, Washington, D.C., and, in 1980 to the *Collegio Santa Monica*, Rome, where he taught at the *Augustinianum*, the Order’s Patristic Institute (1980-2011). He received his doctorate from the *Angelicum*, Rome (1985). He also taught at the *Angelicum* as adjunct professor, and at the Gregorian University until 2005. In 2009, Father George received a Doctorate in Augustinian Studies, honoris causa, from Merrimack College, North Andover, Massachusetts. In January 2012, due to declining health, he returned to his home

Province and was assigned to St. Thomas of Villanova Monastery, Villanova, Pa. Father George was the author of many articles and books, and gave many retreats, conferences and workshops on Saint Augustine, his Rule, and his writings. Always an articulate speaker, he was known for his skill for turning a phrase with flair and elegance, and bringing humor, through his speech, into even the most scholarly discussions and conversations. After an extended decline in health, Father George Lawless passed over to the Lord on Wednesday afternoon, March 9, 2016, in his room at Saint Thomas of Villanova Monastery, Villanova, Pa., in his eighty-fifth year and the sixty-eighth of his religious profession.

SHARE YOUR OWN REFLECTION ON THIS FRIAR

VISIT THE NECROLOGY PAGE AT WWW1.AUGUSTINIAN.ORG/WHO-WE-ARE/OUR-HERITAGE/NECROLOGY AND FILL OUT THE FORM. REFLECTIONS WILL BE POSTED SOON AFTER RECEIVED. THANK YOU FOR TAKING PART IN THIS INTERACTIVE NECROLOGY.



PROVINCE LAUNCHES LEADERSHIP GIVING SOCIETY

BY MADONNA SUTTER
DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT

When I think of leadership I think of individuals who inspire and motivate others. They think big, set a tone and create a culture. Leaders often influence others by their character, humility and example.

The Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova is pleased to announce a new leadership giving society—named in honor of our patron, Saint Thomas of Villanova. This society recognizes donors who provide gifts of \$1,000 or more in support of the Augustinians. The members of The Saint Thomas of Villanova Leadership Society play a key role in creating a strong, sustainable, annual source of revenue that will respond to meet the needs of the Augustinians today and in the future.

It is fitting that we name this society in honor of Saint Thomas of Villanova who was thoroughly Augustinian in his choice of life, spirituality and in his ministry, especially as a bishop and leader of the Church. He demonstrated the power of Augustinian leadership, reform and renewal and by his own example, became a symbol of hope in the midst of a seemingly hopeless situation.

While creating strong leadership giving is quite important, I don’t want to discount the significance that gifts under \$1,000 play to create a robust annual giving initiative. To that end, we have established The Saint Monica Loyalty Society, named in honor of Saint Augustine’s mother, which recognizes donors who make gifts three years consecutively under \$1000. If you have given to the Province for two years consecutively, you will receive an invitation to join this new loyalty society. If you’ve already given three years consecutively, you will receive a letter welcoming you into this Society.

Please take a moment to think about how the Augustinians have influenced your life. Consider becoming an inaugural member of the Saint Thomas of Villanova Leadership Society to inspire and motivate others by your example. Think big, set a tone and help us to create a culture of leadership giving that will allow the Augustinians to realize their vision for the future.

Members of the Saint Thomas of Villanova Leadership Society will be invited to the Celebration of Mass followed by brunch and a private tour of the Augustinian Heritage Room on Sunday October 16, 2016.

Saint Thomas of Villanova Society Co-Chairs



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



CHRISTOPHER SOLTIS

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE!

MAY 15, 2016
Reception at Saint Augustine Parish, Andover, Mass., following 11:30 A.M. Mass

AUGUST 19, 2016
Cascia Classic Golf Outing 11:00 A.M.

OCTOBER 16, 2016
Saint Thomas of Villanova Leadership and Saint Augustine Legacy Societies Mass and Brunch

Private tours of the Augustinian Heritage Room will be available.

NOVEMBER 2016
Cocktail Party
Overbrook Country Club
Villanova, Pa.

APRIL 2017
New York City Cocktail Party

For membership materials or more information, please contact Madonna Sutter, Director of Advancement, at (610) 527-3330, x265 or madonna.sutter@augustinian.org



Saint Thomas of Villanova Leadership Giving Society

Giving Levels



Saint Nicholas of Tolentine Circle (\$25,000+)

A model of inspiration to this day, Saint Nicholas exemplifies the balance between Augustinian life and ministry: love of God and love of neighbor; prayer and good works; contemplation combined with generous service.



Our Mother of Good Counsel Circle (\$10,000-\$24,999)

Mary, mother of Jesus, is even more blessed for being his disciple. She represents a deep spiritual, constant truth as the first disciple of her son presenting him to us as our teacher, our way, our truth and our life.



Saint Rita of Cascia Circle (\$5,000-\$9,999)

Peacemaker and reconciler, Saint Rita of Cascia exemplifies faith and grace in the midst of life’s challenges. She reminds us that nothing is impossible with God.



Blessed Stephen Bellesini Circle (\$2,500-\$4,999)

An extraordinary example of fidelity, Blessed Stephen exemplified perseverance in the midst of trials and generously spent himself in the service of God’s people, especially the poor and the infirm.



Clare of Montefalco Circle (\$1,000-\$2,499)

Endowed with extraordinary gifts of grace, Saint Claire was admired for her deep spiritual perception. She reminds us that holiness is the work of grace and not of human effort.

SAINT THOMAS OF VILLANOVA LEADERSHIP GIVING SOCIETY BENEFITS

- The Augustinian Magazine
- Augustinian E-News
- Inside the Province (Communication from the Prior Provincial)
- Special events hosted by the Prior Provincial
- Recognition in the Province’s Annual Report
- An opportunity to support the friars’ way of life
- Remembrance in the daily Masses of the Augustinians



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