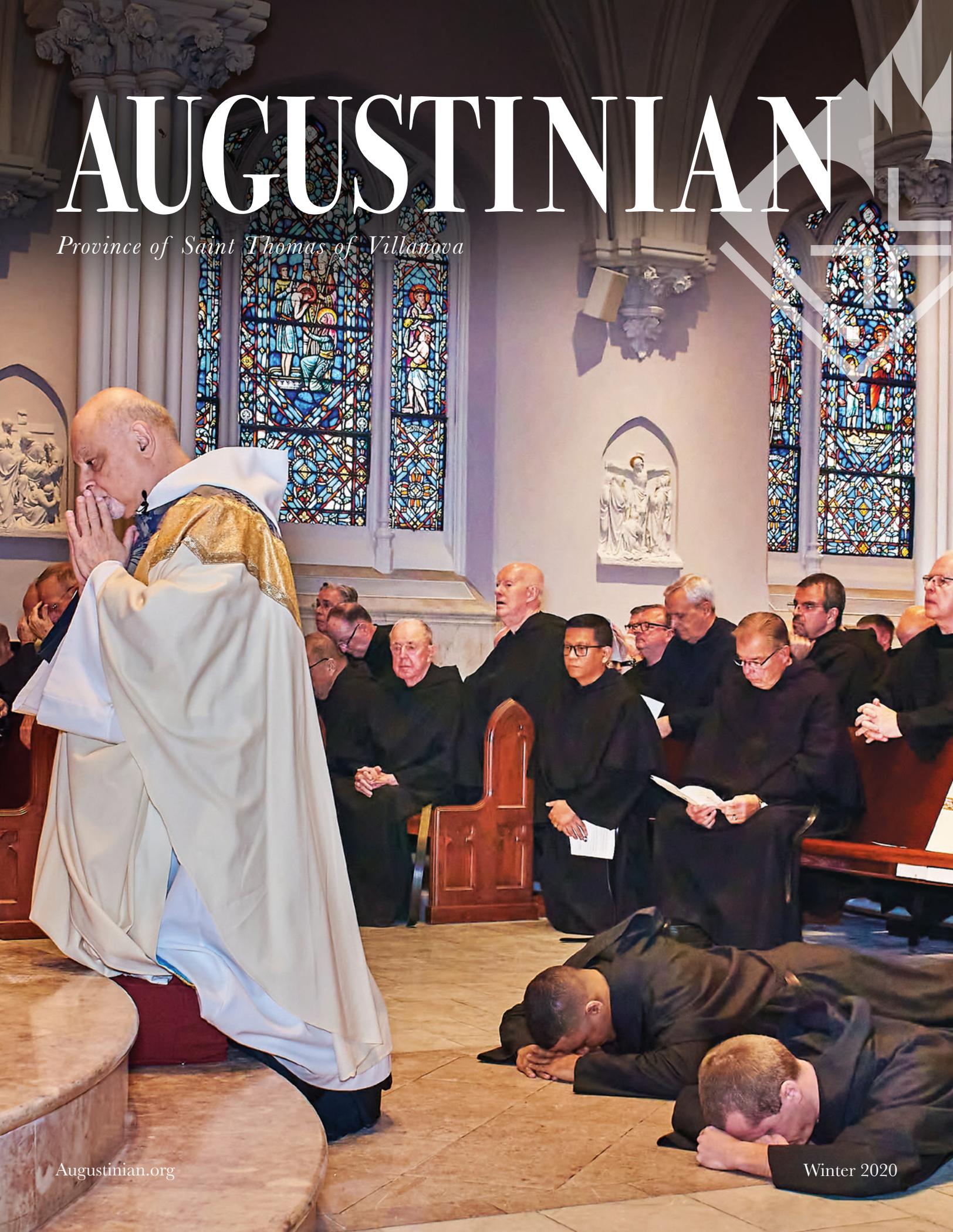


AUGUSTINIAN

Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova





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*"God is Love,
one walks towards
Him in love."*

- Pope Francis



20



28

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Cover

Solemn Profession
Br. Dan Madden, O.S.A. and
Br. Elizandro Contreras, O.S.A.

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



September 26, 2019 • Overbrook Golf Club

BY MADONNA SUTTER

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Leadership

Augustinian Friars were joined in fellowship by over 330 friends on a beautiful Fall evening at the Overbrook Golf Club to hear Fr. Rob Hagan, O.S.A. who was this year's Profile in Augustinian Leadership.

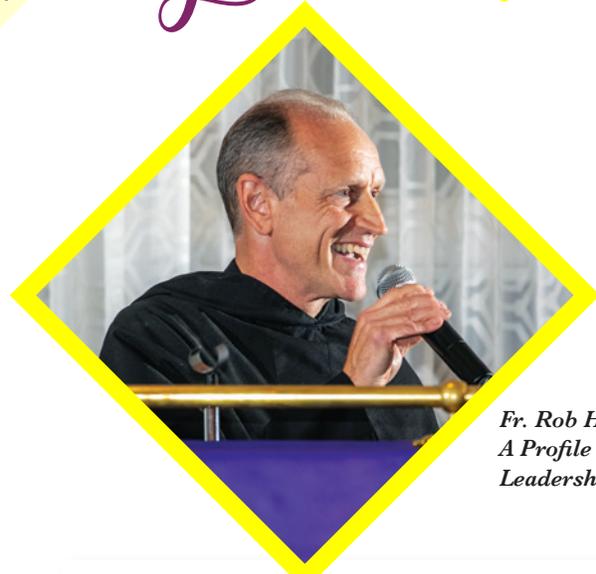
Fr. Rob shared his Augustinian journey and valuable life lessons learned from his mom. She taught him that faith is not a Monday, Wednesday, Friday thing. It's an everyday thing. Fr. Rob remarked, "It's like a muscle. When you exercise it, it's there in your weaker moments." He also learned the power of prayer from his mom and said, "You pray to God, and no matter what happens, God will never abandon you."

"Fr. Rob is very modest about the leadership he exercises. We all know that he has made the basketball court by his presence an arena for evangelization and Augustinian pedagogy."

– Fr. Michael Di Gregorio, O.S.A.

Fr. Rob's call to be an Augustinian began when he found a copy of a book – St. Augustine's Confessions – in the trunk of his father's car right after his dad died. There are four pillars from St. Augustine's teachings that stuck with him. They are humility, gratitude, servant leadership and hope. Fr. Rob shared, "Live with humility. Help people under the radar and see the value of being humble. Be thankful for life's blessings. Life is about serving and not being served. Defend the hope that is within you. Give people who have lost faith, hope."

It was an uplifting evening that raised over \$200,000 in support of the care of the elderly and infirm friars and for the education and training of future members of the Order.



*Fr. Rob Hagan, O.S.A.,
A Profile in Augustinian
Leadership*



*(l-r) Madonna Sutter, Eric
and Chrissy Quisenberry,
Event Co-Chairs and
Fr. Rob Hagan, O.S.A.*



*Fr. Rob
with his mom*

AUGUSTINIAN

*Publication of the Province of
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Prior Provincial

Dear Friends,

Turning the page from the end of one calendar year to the beginning of the next is always an occasion for revision and renewal. We look back to what has been and forward to what is yet to be. What is past invites gratitude; what is to come encourages hope. In its own way, our magazine does this as well on a much simpler and limited scale. Each issue presents events we've celebrated – suggested by the joyful scene on this issue's front cover – and announces others that are to come, inviting us to recognize the cycle of life that continues to envelop and involve us – with things both joy-filled and sober, with fresh beginnings and necessary endings.

In the midst of it all we stand as men and women of faith, not simply as observers, but as celebrants of the opportunities, the challenges, the blessings and achievements that life affords us. As you scan these pages I invite you to celebrate with us the many good things that life has brought us in recent months. These are all signs of the grace of God at work – in things serious and light but marked always with the familiar Augustinian values of communion and hospitality.

We are grateful to you, our readers, for your interest, support and prayers. We also welcome your comments on what you read here as well as your suggestions on what else might interest you. Please take note of our Province website: **Augustinian.org** and contact us if you would like to be included in our e-News mailing list.

May this year 2020 truly be a time of grace for us all. As the months pass by, may they find us ever-more attuned to the good things we're privileged to experience and eager participants in the opportunities which life offers. ✠

Many blessings,

father Michael



Around the Province



Augustinian Family Educators' Congress 2019

In November, the Asia Pacific Augustinian Conference held the Augustinian Family Educators' Congress 2019 in Bacolod, Philippines with the theme of "Truth, Unity, Love: Typically Augustinian Values." Fr. Gary McCloskey, O.S.A. gave the keynote and closing addresses. Fr. Masaki Imada, O.S.A. of the Vicariate of the Japanese Martyrs of the Villanova Province, also took part and discussed intercultural and interfaith challenges.

✳ Click to Learn More

Recruitment has Begun for Augustinian Volunteers

Believe it or not, recruitment for our next Volunteer class has begun! Many thanks to the alums who have represented the Volunteers at fairs across the country, or will do so in the coming weeks. We would love to make new connections this Winter and Spring. Please let us know if there is a parish, high school, college, etc. in your area where we could recruit for the AVs. We are happy to send you fliers and other materials! AugustinianVolunteers.org



Learning from Kindergartners

Travis Vermulm, the Augustinian Volunteer at A.D.R.O.P., wrote a series of blog posts entitled, "The Random Creativity of Kindergartners."

Check out the series at RightsOfThePoor.org/news to learn about his interactions with the St. Anthony of Padua Regional Area Catholic School kindergarten class where he volunteers part time.

Vocation Motivation



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

In one's vocation journey, answering God's call to be an Augustinian Friar culminates in the profession of solemn vows of chastity, poverty, and obedience. Much like marriage, it represents a lifelong commitment, as the friar dedicates himself forever to God and the Church in the Augustinian Order. It certainly is a powerful moment for those professing solemn vows, but it also is quite moving for those of us who already have done so. I believe this is because it leads us to reflect on our own vocation story and commitment, calling us to rededicate ourselves as Augustinians on the journey together. The vow formula vividly reminds us of this as each friar professes the desire "to continue my quest for God together with my brothers and serve the people of God in community life and mutual sharing of goods." In the spirit of our holy Father St. Augustine, we know that we can't - and don't - do it alone. Though each friar is responsible for remaining faithful to his vows, we recognize, as Augustinians, that we must rely on God's grace and one another. This is essential in our vocation, motivating us to encourage and support those who feel called to be a friar. So let's pray for them, as we give thanks to God for the witness of our most recently solemnly professed friars in the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova - Elizandro Contreras and Dan Madden!

Solemn Profession Reflection

Brother Dan Madden, O.S.A.

There were a few particularly moving moments during the solemn profession. The first was during the questioning of readiness to dedicate myself to God. While Fr. Michael was asking a series of questions, to which I responded, "I am," I could see the crucifix to the right of Fr. Michael, and so while listening to such questions as 'are you resolved to embrace perfect chastity, poverty, and obedience' and 'are you resolved to commit fully to following the Gospel and observing the *Rule*,' I also found myself looking at Jesus, which I think was the only way I could really answer, "I am."

The second moment was the prostration and litany of the saints. I've always found it moving when I've watched other brothers lie on the floor while we ask the saints to



pray for them and us. Now, Elizandro and I were the ones supported by the prayers of these holy men and women who had resolved to spend their lives in service. I could sense, beyond just assenting to it, that yes, the communion of saints is real.

Finally, after the actual profession of vows and solemn blessing, came the fraternal embrace. It was a great gift to be welcomed by so many good people. It was also a comfort to know that this journey toward God happens with others, particularly brothers who have lived this life for many years now supporting us who are beginning the journey.



What was it like for you as you made your solemn vows?

Brother Elizandro Contreras, O.S.A.

St. Augustine has been my role model in my desire to become a better Christian. It has been a long journey for me to reach my goal to become a full member of the Augustinian family. But the challenges have not been obstacles too big to overcome, with the conviction that God is always intervening in my path. And here I am, at the foot of his altar saying an outright and perpetual “I do” looking to St. Joseph, who bravely said his own “I do” to God’s redeeming plan, without thinking of any objection from the stubborn world of his time, committing himself to God’s will. I can say that this commitment to profess my solemn vows fills my heart with joy and gives me the sense of belonging to a community that promises an encounter with Christ by embracing Veritas, Unitas, Caritas (Truth, Unity and Charity). One of the happiest days of my life was the day when officially I became who I am now – a solemnly professed Augustinian.



Vows

Solemn Profession

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. In this year of our Lord 2019, on the 21st day of December, I, Br. Elizandro Contreras and I, Br. Daniel Madden, led by the Holy Spirit, declare my intention to follow Jesus Christ more closely and to give a fuller expression to my baptismal consecration. Therefore, calling upon the Virgin Mary and our holy Father Augustine, I give myself to God and unite myself to his will by the solemn vows of chastity, poverty and obedience, in the Order of Brothers of St. Augustine and according to the *Rule* of our holy father. I wish to continue my quest for God together with my brothers and serve the people of God in community life and mutual sharing of goods. For the love of God and in the presence of my brothers, I promise obedience to you, Fr. Michael Di Gregorio, in the name of Fr. Alejandro Moral Anton, Prior General of the Order. I pray that the Lord will enable me to live faithfully with you in unity of love and have one mind and heart intent upon God.

Amen.

[▶ Click to Play Solemn Profession Slide Show](#)

[✿ Click to Learn More about Vocations](#)

General Chapter

Some 100 friars from 52 countries met this past September in Rome to celebrate the 186th General Chapter of the Order of St. Augustine. Ordinary General Chapters are held every six years to choose leadership, review the life and mission of the Order and to meet contemporary challenges of Church, society and religious life. Chapters reflect the life of the friars – in prayer, conversation, fraternal sharing and the necessary concerns of government and administration. Daily Eucharist provides the opportunity for friars from various regions to reflect on the Gospel in order to nurture the spirit of brothers gathered to seek the common good of the Order.



Homily *Father Joseph Farrell, O.S.A., Vicar General*

Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up, as indeed you do

In our first reading this morning, we heard those words from St. Paul's First Letter to the Thessalonians. He certainly puts these words into practice by what he wrote in the first part of our reading. Throughout the letter he offers encouraging words to remind the people of Thessalonica that they are living in the light, that they know that the Lord is coming, that they are saved through Jesus Christ, and that they should stay awake and be alert and sober. He is building up and encouraging the community as he implores them to do the same... and, in fact, as he sees them doing, as living witnesses, for he adds... "as indeed you do."

From our Gospel story, we read about the testimony of Jesus building up the community in a very specific way. In this Gospel passage, Jesus heals a man possessed by an unclean demon. He was able to purify the man from the demon that had been torturing him, and the people in the community are amazed by the authority and power of the words of Jesus Christ. THE Word uses words to assist a man in the community who is suffering, who is being tormented by an unclean demon, who is in need of healing. THE Word uses words to give the possessed man

freedom. THE Word uses words to assist someone who is suffering and in need and by doing this, the whole community is built up and encouraged.

During our days in General Chapter, we have the responsibility to continue to follow Christ and build up one another and encourage one another in the service we provide to the Church, to society as a whole and each other as Augustinians in community. We have the responsibility to be followers of Christ, THE WORD, who spoke with authority and power. We also have the opportunity to put the command to encourage one another into practice.

Sometimes, we can become focused on the problems or differences among us instead of searching for creative ways to encourage each other. At times, our communities can become places for tearing down, instead of building up. And yet, we have such marvelous potential in our midst. We have what it takes to encourage and build each other up, instead of tearing each other down through criticisms or jealousies. Augustine's *Rule* gives us the blueprint on how to do this in an authentic way. In all things, we must work to contribute to the common good, because it is then that we grow in charity.

We encourage each other to build up the common good, not to build up the individual alone, but to build up that which we hold in common. The greatest of what we hold in common is, of course, that which we are, the Body of Christ in whom we live and move and have our very being.

As St. Paul reminds us, we are destined to "gain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ." It is because of this, that we are called to remember the vocation to which we are called to live as brothers. When we are sincere in our commitment to live our baptismal promises in a radical way and when the vows of Chastity, Poverty, and Obedience that we make as professed Augustinians become the foundation of the road we travel, and when we rely on the Bread of Life we receive at this altar, we have all we need to live our lives as friars who encourage and build up each other and the global community, we become witnesses to the world of our faith in Jesus Christ, the WORD who speaks with power and authority. May we be open to the challenge from our scriptures and pray for the grace to be able to be true witnesses of what we profess and believe. ☩



On September 13th at 10:20 am in the Clementine Hall of the Apostolic Palace, the Holy Father, Pope Francis received in audience the participants in the General Chapter of the Order of St. Augustine. Below we publish the talk that the pope addressed to those present during the audience:

Dear brothers,

[Click to Play Video](#)

Iwelcome you all, gathered in Rome for the General Chapter, and I thank the Prior General for his words. In this Chapter you have proposed to face the most important challenges of the moment, in the light of the Word of God, and of the teaching of the Church and of the great Father Augustine. You are well aware that communities of consecrated persons are places where we want to live the experience of God from a deep interiority and in communion with our brothers and sisters. This is the first basic challenge that consecrated persons face and which today I wish to entrust to you in particular: to experience

God together so that we can show God to this world in a clear, courageous and uncompromising way. It is a great responsibility!

I remember the words of Saint Paul VI in the wonderful Exhortation, *Evangelica testificatio*: “From the beginning, the tradition of the Church – is it perhaps necessary to recall it? – presents us with this privileged witness of a constant seeking for God, of an undivided love for Christ alone, and of an absolute dedication to the growth of His kingdom. Without this concrete sign there would be a danger that the



charity which animates the entire Church would grow cold, that the salvific paradox of the Gospel would be blunted, and that the “salt” of faith would lose its savor in a world undergoing secularization” (3).

You Augustinians have been called to witness to that warm, living, visible, contagious charity of the Church, through a community life that clearly manifests the presence of the Risen One and His Spirit. Unity in charity – as your Constitutions also explain well – is a central point in the experience and spirituality of Saint Augustine and a foundation of all Augustinian life. From this perspective, in the Apostolic Exhortation *Gaudete et exsultate* I wished to recall “the sublime spiritual experience shared by Saint Augustine and his mother, Saint Monica!” (142): a moment in which their souls merged in the intuition of divine Wisdom. We always reread it with emotion on the liturgical memorial of Saint Monica. That desire of the Saint who in the end had what she sought, and even more. That “*cumulatius hoc mihi Deus meus prestihit*” (Saint Augustine, *Confessions*, IX,11). This must encourage us to move forward.

“Such experiences, however”, I immediately added, “are neither the most frequent nor the most important. The common life ... is made up of small everyday things. ... A community that cherishes the little details of love, whose members care for one another and create an open and evangelizing environment, is a place where the risen Lord is present, sanctifying it in accordance with the Father’s plan” (*ibid*, 143, 145).

Certainly, keeping alive this flame of fraternal charity will not be possible without that “*in Deum*” of your Rule: “Primum, propter quod in unum estis congregati, ut unanimes habitetis in domo et sit vobis anima una et cor unum *in Deum*” (3). That is, *tending*

towards God. This addition to the expression of the Acts of the Apostles is proper to Augustine, to underline that this is the profound dynamism of your communities, the first great source from which there springs all your service to the Church and to humanity. The *anima una et cor unum* is born of this perennial Wellspring: *in Deum*. Your hearts, always *tending towards God*. Always! May every member of the community be orientated, as the first “holy intention” of every day, towards the search for God, or letting oneself be sought by God. This “direction” should be declared, confessed, witnessed among you without false modesty. The search for God cannot be obscured by other aims, even those that are generous and apostolic. Because that is your first apostolate. We are here – you should be able to say, every day, among yourselves – because we walk towards God. And since God is Love, one walks towards Him in love.

As the dear father Agostino Trapé wrote: “According to the Rule, charity is not only the end and the means of religious life, but it is also its centre: from charity it must proceed and to charity it must be oriented, with a perpetual movement of circular causality, every thought, every affection, every attitude, every action” (Saint Augustine, *La Regola*, Milano 1971 Ancora, p. 137).

Writing to Saint Jerome, Saint Augustine expressed his own experience of community in this way: “Upon the love of such friends I readily cast myself without reservation, especially when chafed and wearied by the scandals of this world; and in their love I rest without any disturbing care: for I perceive that God is there” (*Letters* 73,10). And in the face of the scandals of the Church or the scandals of your family too, peace is on this road.

Going back to this... and scandals fall by themselves, because they show that there is no other way, this is the way.

It is good to return often to that meditation that Augustine



offered to his faithful, in the First Letter of John, where the Church is called by him “*mater charitas*”, a mother who weeps at the division of her children and calls to and recalls the unity of charity: “Then if you would know that you have received the Spirit, question your heart: lest haply you have the Sacrament, and have not the virtue of the Sacrament question your heart. If love of your brethren be there, set your mind at rest. There cannot be love without the Spirit of God: since Paul cries, The love of God is shed abroad in your hearts by the Holy Spirit which is given unto us. Romans 5: 5” (*ibid*., VI, 10).

Your Constitutions refer to this fraternal charity as “a prophetic sign”, and their warning is wise when they say:



“We will not be able to accomplish all this if we do not take our daily cross for the love of Christ, with humility and gentleness.” The cross is the measure of love, always. It is true that one can love without a cross, when there is no cross, but when there is a cross, the way in which I take up the cross is the measure of love. That is how it is.

Let us return to the Augustinian meditation to listen from him, father and guide, what the *via caritas* is, in the final analysis: “A new commandment, says the Lord, give I unto you, that you love one another (*Jn 13: 34*) ... What is perfection of love? To love even enemies, and love them for this end, that they may be brethren. ... For so loved He

who, hanging on the cross, said, Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do (*Lk 23: 34*). ... He was fixed upon the cross, and yet was He walking in this very way: this way is *the way of charity*” (*ibid.*, I, 9).

Dear brothers, this is also the challenge and the responsibility for you today: to live in your communities in such a way as to have the experience of God together, and to be able to show him, living, to the world! The experience of the Lord, as He is, as He looks for us every day. May Mary, mother of Jesus and luminous figure of the Church, accompany you and keep you always. I bless you heartily, and I ask you, please, to pray for me. Thank you. †

BY FATHER DAVID CREGAN, O.S.A.

Soul



Photography by Br. Dominic Smith, O.S.A.

“The human body shares in the dignity of “the image of God”: it is a human body precisely because it is animated by a spiritual soul, and it is the whole human person that is intended to become, in the body of Christ, a temple of the Spirit.”

– Catechism of the Catholic Church No. 364



Life can often lead us astray towards a distorted understanding of what it means to be fully human. Culture can encourage us to separate the mind, the body and the spirit. Catholic Christian spirituality, with its foundational Doctrine of Incarnation, requires the wholistic reunification of the fullness of our humanity in order to grow in our understanding of God our Creator. In this sense, Christian spirituality is counter-cultural in its imperative to unify our experience



Friars in formation take on the August 2019 Tough Mudder

of equality and respect for all of the elements of ourselves which God has created. All too often today, the learning of the mind has largely become disconnected from the greater search for Wisdom, and popular spirituality has drifted towards a self-help agenda that excludes both God and service. Christian faith offers a much more integrated and global truth. Our faith informs us that through Jesus the fullness of our humanity is not only redeemed but is, in fact, our pathway towards spiritual wisdom and salvation. In the unity of our complex human experience we encounter the unique qualities of our life, as well as the best way for us to discern God's vocational call, a vocation personally crafted for each of us. To do otherwise, or to segment and ignore one or more parts of who we are, is to miss a source of vital information through which God communicates with us.

But how can the knowledge of our bodies as the discernment of our spiritual growth be implemented? Consider the ways in which we treat God's gift of our fullness. Imagine that your morning jog, afternoon walk or time at the gym is an act of gratitude to God. Those simple acts of selfcare can then, in turn, give us abilities to serve others around us. This might be seen in our assistance to a friend who needs help moving, or in going into the city and distributing sandwiches to the poor. By eating nutritious food we praise God by protecting our health, but we also create clarity of mind so we can receive the spiritual gifts of understanding. That same understanding grows

towards the wisdom we might be able to offer a family member, or our encouragement to another whose faith is faltering.

Augustinian spirituality has a great deal to add to these manifestations of a social impulse to coming home to our humanity as incarnation of God's immediate presence. St. Augustine recommends that we come to know ourselves so that we can come to know God. Augustinian spirituality is shaped by Augustine's guidance towards self-knowledge. Simply put, knowing ourselves is thus, the portal to understanding God. Consequently, as spiritual people, we are compelled to unify all of our self, mind, body and spirit, as a project of respect for what God has created. Augustine himself understood that much of worldly values invokes an outward distraction that encourages and perpetuates a restlessness that distracts the mind, body and spirit from its true purpose and call. Augustine recommends an intimate homecoming to self through interior knowledge as an antidote to an anxious exterior life. Spiritual energy requires a counter-directional intentionality to what much of life demands of us, and Augustine discovered this spiritual opportunity first by grace and secondly by his own metanoia or turning around.

While these ideas are attractive to us as guides for wholeness, they can feel out of our grasp to actually make happen. And yet, the pathway towards spiritual growth is directly in front of us. Restlessness is most fundamentally a physical, and then, a psychological experience and is thus embodied.

In other words, restlessness is not intellectual but is foundationally initiated by adrenal responses in the body that contradict our truest human calling, cueing us that we need to reconsider the direction we are moving. Consequently, restlessness must be identified as a physical experience inviting us to the spiritual grace that initiates personal and, in turn, communal transformation. We turn our gaze towards our self in order to assess our life-values and recalibrate our intentionality to become all that God is calling us to be.

If we are to take God's love communicated most clearly in Incarnation, in the life of Jesus, we are compelled to use the fullness of who we are to understand our emerging self-awareness. Our bodies are concrete conduits of our experiences and, thus, we need to include attention to our body in our spiritual journey. The body is honest and receptive to our search to discover God. Augustine's journey inward was a journey towards the sacred path of discovering who he was, not the things he did. Relying on what we do, as opposed to who we are, is the great deception of our time. By knowing who we are we discover what we are called to be for others.

Restlessness by definition is an inability to rest or relax due to anxiety or boredom, physically recognizable by overactivity or lethargy. Could we then understand restlessness as the Holy Spirit's way of warning us that we are off-balance? We often neglect the contemplative because we have been so tightly





wound by our doing.
Community life is always calling us to engage with who we are in a proportional balance with what we do. As brothers and sisters in the common life we are compelled to warn one another when we have diverted from the path of being contemplatives in action, using restlessness to propel ourselves away – rather than towards – the place where God waits for us, within. ✠

“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?”

— 1 Corinthians 6:19

The Blessing of Good Counsel

BY CHER A. RAGO

Novitiate



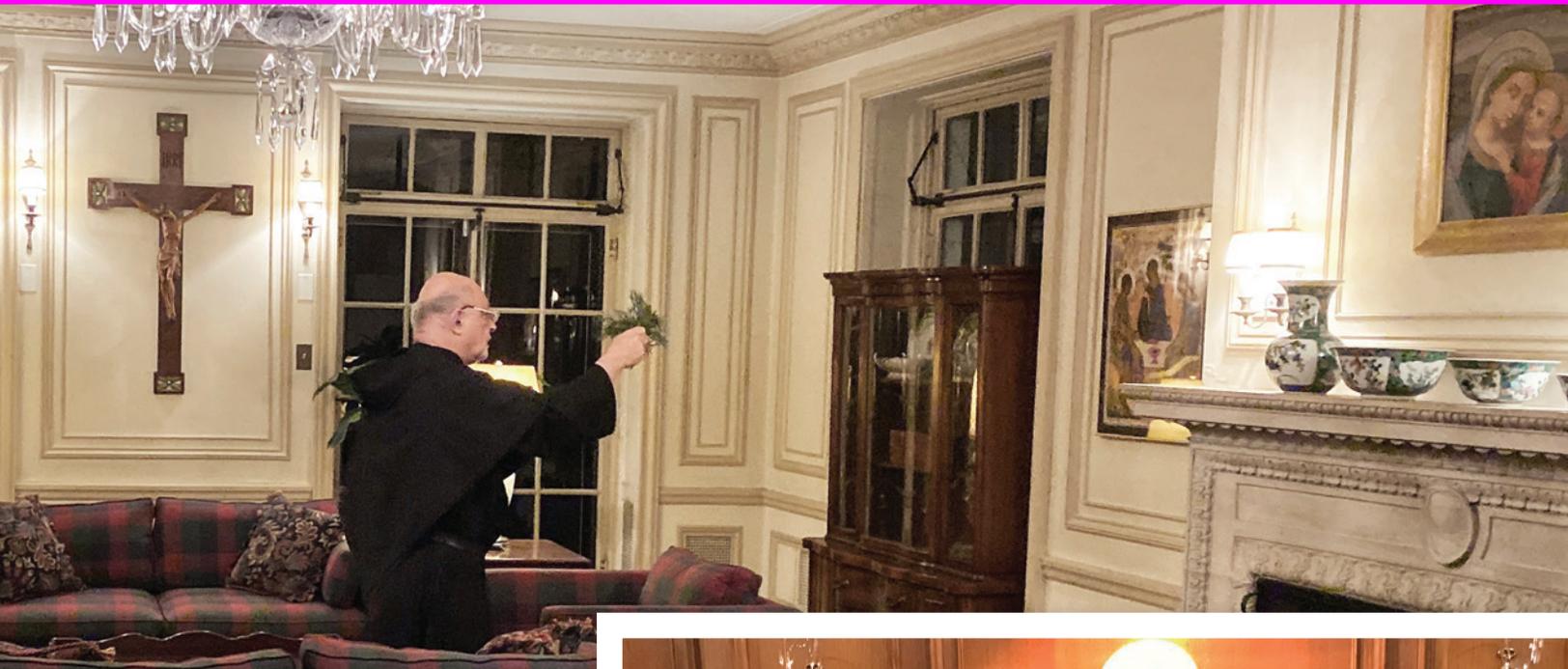
This past October a ceremony took place that was made possible by the generous gift and insightful compassion of James and Mary Colleran. The Colleran Family joined the Priors Provincials of the three United States provinces with grateful hearts for the blessing of the newly gifted home, now named *The Novitiate of Our Mother of Good Counsel*.

The *novitiate* is that stage of religious formation in which candidates for religious life devote their time and attention to the essential elements of Christian discipleship within and according to the specific charism or nature of a religious community. For those who have entered this stage of formation in the Augustinian way of life, the novitiate program consists of a year of introductions into the spirituality, history and traditions of the Order of Saint Augustine.



Centered, Mary Colleran and James Colleran and family with (l-r) Fr. Gary Sanders, O.S.A., Fr. Michael Di Gregorio, O.S.A., Fr. Joseph Farrell, O.S.A. and Fr. Anthony Pizzo, O.S.A.

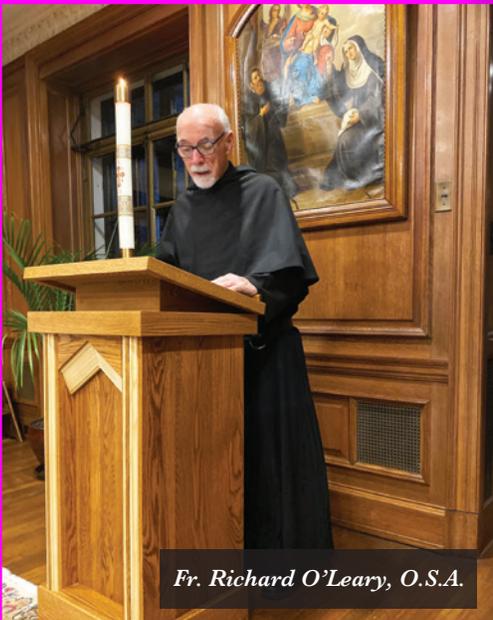
With friars and novices present, Fr. Michael Di Gregorio, O.S.A., Prior Provincial of the Villanova Province, blessed the common areas of the novitiate building. Mr. James Colleran expressed his gratitude to the friars, "We could never have imagined the joyous passing of our beautiful home and property to the Augustinians, so filled with wonderful memories for the Colleran Family. Many things are more valuable than money and the Augustinian Novitiate certainly is to us. We want it to be a very holy place, filled with the Holy Spirit and the Blessed Mother and Saint Augustine. More than ever, we are thankful for having gifted our beloved property to the Augustinians. One can question many decisions made in a lifetime, but this will never be one of them."



Fr. Anthony Pizzo, O.S.A., Prior Provincial of the Chicago Province, commented; “We are grateful for the kind-hearted generosity of the Colleran family which has offered the Augustinians of North America the opportunity to continue our collaborative ministry of formation in our joint efforts to work together and provide a new venue to our novices and formation team to accompany them. ✠



(l-r) Fr. Aldo Potencio, O.S.A., Ramon Riesgo (Novice), Fr. David Cregan, O.S.A., David Relstab (Novice), Fr. Richard O’Leary, O.S.A.



Fr. Richard O’Leary, O.S.A.

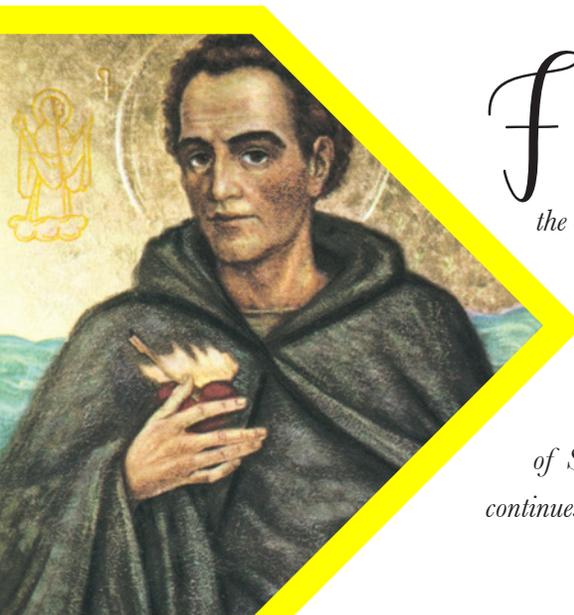
“We want it to be a very holy place, filled with the Holy Spirit and the Blessed Mother and St. Augustine.”

- James Colleran



WISDOM OF THE AUGUSTINIAN TRADITION

How do you honor others?



*F*ollowing his conversion and baptism in 387, Augustine established a monastic community for himself and some friends in the house he grew up in, in Tagaste, North Africa. In 391, he was unexpectedly called to the priesthood in Hippo. There, in the garden near the cathedral church, he founded a second community and continued his monastic ideal while assisting the bishop, Valerius. Within a few years, he succeeded Valerius as bishop of Hippo and moved from the garden monastery to the bishop's house where he continued to live in community with his assistant priests and deacons. It was at this time that Augustine put to paper his thoughts on monastic life in eight brief chapters. This Rule of St. Augustine has been followed through the centuries by many religious Orders, and continues still today to give guidance and inspiration in living the Christian life in community.

Contemplation

Father Brian Lowery, O.S.A.
+ (1941-2019)



Excerpt

"Let all of you then live together in oneness of mind and heart, mutually honoring God in yourselves, whose temples you have become."

The Rule of
St. Augustine,
Chapter 1, 9

Augustine wrote that everyone in the community should be honored because everyone possesses the dignity of being the temple of God. He got the idea from Paul when he wrote to the Corinthians: "Don't you realize that you are the temple of God, with the Spirit of God living in you?" (I Cor 3, 16). That's quite a statement when you think about it. It changes things drastically in a community setting. It makes you step back and ask: "Is that really true about my brothers, about this one or that one? Are they really temples of God? Do they really possess such dignity and deserve such honor? Do I really believe that? I didn't realize how much these people had to do with God. Sometimes you need a lot of faith!"

"Honoring" is another way of saying "loving." It is something positive, not passive or neutral. It is active from the very start. You can honor a person by giving him a medal, a gold watch, keys to the city or an honorary doctorate. You can honor a person by giving him a gift. But you can honor a person much more effectively every day in many more ways:

- by having time for him, by listening to him, by taking seriously what he says,
- by trusting him, by letting him know you trust him, by making space for him,
- by including him, by forgiving him, by asking his forgiveness,
- by sharing your possessions with him, by praying with him,
- by enabling him, by working together with him,
- by sharing in decisions with him, by not repeating things about him,
- by not speaking badly of him, by not speaking badly to him
- by encouraging him.

But you can also honor a person:

- by letting him encourage you,
- by enabling him to give time to you,
- by getting him to trust you,
- by letting him pray with you,
- by allowing him to teach you something,
- by allowing him to enable you in some way,
- and much more. ✠

BY JONATHAN JEROME



*Jonathan Jerome
Director of the National
Shrine of St. Rita of Cascia*

to Faith Alone

In my very first theology class at The Catholic University of America, Sr. Kate Dooley, OP wrote a simple phrase on the board: "no one comes to faith alone." While we would spend the rest of the semester reflecting on this idea through a liturgical and sacramental lens, my experiences as a campus minister, as a student at Villanova University, and now as the director of the National Shrine of St. Rita of Cascia, echo the same thing: God, who is love, is experienced in communion with others.

It's at our baptism when we are first welcomed into a community of faith, and it's every moment after, that has the potential to invite us into deeper relationship with God and with one another. This belonging and this co-journeying are at the heart of the Christian life and have served as the basis of my own ministry for over a decade.

From my parents and siblings in North Carolina, to youth and campus ministers in Johnstown, PA; from friends and colleagues in Washington, D.C., to students and patrons of the Shrine in South Philadelphia; every relationship, in one way or another, has given me a deeper awareness of, and appreciation, for God working among us. And, I'd like to believe that these encounters with the Divine have allowed me to more readily witness to and share God's love, compassion and mercy.

At the National Shrine of St. Rita of Cascia, we strive to model these virtues, and the virtues of our patroness every day. In the smallest of tasks, to the grandest liturgical celebrations, we aim to recognize that all is gift given to us by God, and that our love of one another is a testament to the giver of these gifts.

Our patrons and pilgrims know that when they stop by the Shrine to light a candle, offer a prayer, or adore the Blessed Sacrament, that they are both celebrating the faith that has been handed on to them, and sharing what they have been given with those around them. This is the beauty of community built and sustained in love. ✠

[Click to Play Shrine Welcome Video](#)

Photography by Fr. Daniel McLaughlin, O.S.A.



St. Rita's Church



Jonathan greets pilgrims in the Lower Shrine



Fr. Robert Guessetto, O.S.A. discusses the meaning of the artwork by Anthony Visco in the Lower Shrine to the newly appointed Shrine Director, Jonathan Jerome

Justice & Peace

BY FATHER JOHN DEEGAN, O.S.A.

A book on the life of St. Augustine was recently released by James Smith. The book entitled, "On the Road with Saint Augustine," reflects the goal of the many friars who have worked with the readers of this magazine. The friars have shared the "road" in the schools, parishes, preaching ministries, and one to one contacts over the years. These friars have taught us many good things and, more importantly, asked us to be part of their community, a 'restless' community which is the heart of the Augustinian way of life. As an ongoing commitment of the friars and the Province, an Office of Justice and Peace was established many years ago and is committed to educating the friars and their ministry communities and encouraging activities in the areas of Justice and Peace. The office

is currently directed by Fr. John Deegan, O.S.A. In 2004 Fr. Deegan founded the Augustinian Defenders of the Rights of the Poor (A.D.R.O.P). This organization serves as the praxis arm of the Province working directly with the poor and needy.

Every four years, the friars come together in Chapter to reflect on their work and to set personal and Province goals for the next four years. The 2018 Provincial Chapter, through prayer and deliberation, identified as a key initiative, a re-commitment to the "cause

of the poor and marginalized." This effort would be accomplished by enhancing the Province Office

of Justice and Peace and enabling it to provide educational resources to help the friars in their ministries. The resources should include the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, promoting dialogue within the Province so that the condition of the poor and marginalized is understood in light of the teaching of St. Augustine to live our lives in the reflected truths of the Gospel. These efforts will be promoted through workshops, immersion experiences, and other appropriate means.

As with all good Augustinian efforts the task at hand could only be accomplished through a community effort. A commission was formed of friars and collaborative laity and they set out to provide a concrete response to the will of the Chapter. A Province wide educational effort is being developed and will be offer to friars and lay collaborators in their ministries. The program will share Augustine's view of Catholic Social Teaching and, for the first time, unite friars and laity in the same program.

The program will help all of us understand the theological, intellectual and social basis for our commitment to the poor and marginalized among us. From this point, we can move forward to addressing, by our actions, the root causes of the societal issues that keep our brothers and sisters chained to a life of quiet desperation. This is a program which is intended to bring us, through education and prayerful reflection, to a commitment to act on behalf of the poor and marginalized as we endeavor to create a more just and peaceful world. †



Fr. Kevin DePrinzio, O.S.A.

The Office of Justice and Peace was established to educate and encourage the friars and their lay collaborators to champion the causes of justice which will lead to a just and lasting peace. Learn more: Augustinian.org/justice-peace



New Online Community Program: Catholic Social Teaching in the Spirit of Augustine

beginning
March 18, 2020
for an interactive
community building
webinar where we
collaborate together
on important social
issues.

Register to participate:

[click here for online form](#)

call or text
347.719.0855

email
jpaugustinian@gmail.com

Part 1:
March 18
Time 7:30-8:30 PM

An overview of “Augustine on Catholic Social Teaching.”
*Presenter Fr. Kevin DePrinzio, O.S.A.
Assistant Professor of Theology*

Part 2:
April 22
Time 7:30-8:30 PM

A reflection on “Augustine on Catholic Social Teaching as Applied to Restorative Justice with an emphasis on Prison Ministry.”
Presenters Br. Jeremy Hiers, O.S.A. and Fr. Paul Morrissey, O.S.A., Founder of Adeodatus Ministry

Part 3:
Sept. 23
Time TBA

A reflection on “Augustine on Catholic Social Teaching as Applied to the challenge of Immigration.”
Presenter TBA

Part 4:

A presentation on “Augustine on Catholic Social Teaching on a Topic Determined by Those who have Participated in the Program.”
Presenter and Date TBA



An Augustinian Thread of Common Good

BY FATHER JOSEPH GENITO, O.S.A.

[Click to View More Photos](#)

At a time in the life of the Catholic Church when people are troubled and questioning, it is refreshing to rejoice and acknowledge what is right with the Church, as was the case when the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova celebrated the affiliation of Anne and Dennis Murphy, and Ellen and Anthony DeCarlo, on November 3. Both couples, long-time parishioners of St. Thomas of Villanova Parish, individually and collectively have assisted the Province in the Augustinian Missions, Augustinian Defenders of the Rights of the Poor (ADROP), the Augustinian Legacy and Leadership Circle, the Augustinian Advancement Council, and the Committee for the Laity, sharing their time, talent and treasure generously with the Order and the Church.

“Ellen and I want to thank you and the entire community of Augustinian Friars for the honor you have bestowed upon us by inviting us to become Augustinian Affiliates. It has been our pleasure to share in the work of the Augustinians over these past forty years.”

— Anthony DeCarlo

Ellen and Anne collaborated with the Augustinians and Sisters of Mercy in an outreach program in Chulucanas, Peru, which Fr. Dick Appicci, O.S.A. and the Sisters had devised about twenty years ago. Funded by the parish with the aim of providing economic support to the residents of Chulucanas, this animal husbandry project assisted local and rural communities by establishing small, family-owned industries, which raised a



Newly Affiliated Members: Anne and Dennis Murphy (left), Ellen and Anthony DeCarlo (right) with Augustinian Friars

variety of farm animals. Populated mostly by single women with children, this was a program ahead of its time as it enabled women to assume financial responsibility, increasing their self-esteem by their successful management of these businesses. Both Ellen and Anne hold fond memories of their visit to Chulucanas, a very moving experience for them as they remember the women and families who shared their experiences as first time business owners, finding their voices as leaders in the community and positively impacting the economic life of the community.

Ellen graduated from Villanova University in 1985, with a B.A. in the area of Peace and Justice, and followed along that path for many years afterwards. Tony and Ellen were invited by Fr. Jack Deegan, O.S.A.



Anne Murphy and Ellen DeCarlo in Chulucanas, Peru in 1982



onto the Advisory Board of ADROP at its inception. In an effort to observe the community organizations already successfully serving the poor, Tony and Fr. Jack visited health clinics and educational programs that served the working poor in Philadelphia. They met with the leaders of South Philadelphia community organizations who served the poor and marginalized in order to incorporate their ideas into the concept of ADROP as it took form in 2004 to serve the immigrant population in South Philadelphia. They engaged foundations and institutions to invest in this work of enriching the lives of the locals. Because South Philadelphia was the

community in which both of them were raised, the DeCarlos were delighted

to serve on ADROP's Board, enjoying a feeling of "giving back" to the community where their faith journey began.

Anne Murphy is a member of the Augustinian Legacy and Leadership Circle, currently serving on the Augustinian Advancement Council and The Committee for the Laity. From

her start as a part-time staff member in 1988, she retired in 2018 after 30 years of serving with six Augustinian pastors and numerous parochial vicars in service to the parishioners of St. Thomas in the areas of Christian Service, Family Life and Pastoral Care. Anne attained superstar status as the "go-to" person for information about any parishioners, seeming to have a remarkable capacity for knowing their situations and needs. She developed a Christian service formation program locally for junior high school students, and several of her programs have progressed beyond the parish to other areas.



Established family-owned farms in Chulucanas, Peru, enabling single women with children to become financially responsible.

Visited health clinics and educational programs that served the working poor in Philadelphia.

Served in the areas of Christian Service, Family Life and Pastoral Care. Developed a Christian service formation program for junior high school.

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 the spiritual benefits of the Order. All the friars, in their heart and actions, are to show their gratitude to all those who are affiliated. Affiliation is granted by the Prior General on his own initiative or upon the request of any community of the Augustinian Family. The certificate of affiliation should be granted with some solemnity.

From what has been said, it is clear that all of us constitute one family under our Holy Father Augustine. The union of this family is to be promoted with the assistance of all its members, so that the oneness of heart and mind intent upon God, prescribed by Saint Augustine himself in the *Rule*, will be faithfully preserved and increased among his sons and daughters.

The Augustinian Constitutions, numbers 50 and 51

Dennis Murphy, a proud graduate of Monsignor Bonner High School, served his country in Vietnam and returned home to become a productive, energetic advocate of Catholic education. As a member of its Board, Dennis recently received the Saint Augustine Medal from Bonner, was inducted into its Hall of Fame, and is currently active on numerous committees in enrollment, reunions and fund-raising. Dennis was instrumental in spearheading the rehabilitation of the Veterans Memorial at Bonner that honors graduates who gave their lives in service to our nation. He also started a cross-country and track program at St. Thomas-Good Counsel School and served on the Home and School Board, as well as teaching in the “Word of God” Sunday program for 10 years. In addition, he worked at Villanova in Enrollment Management, and served as the Senior Advisor for the winter break experience for Villanova students in the

Augustinian parishes and school of Durban, South Africa.

“My life has been so graced by the Augustinian Friars and I will be forever grateful!”

– Anne Murphy

The DeCarlos, members of the parish since 1979, were joined at the ceremony by their children, Tony and Michelle and their two granddaughters, and the Murphys by their three daughters, Katie, Maura and Lupita. Katie and Maura served as Augustinian Volunteers, carrying on the family tradition of collaborating with the Augustinians. †

Photography by Fr. Daniel McLaughlin, O.S.A.

Active in enrollment, reunions and fund-raising. Teacher in the “Word of God” Sunday program.

The thread of common good continues in the next generation by people of faith instilling Augustinian values in their family tradition.





50 Years in Tokyo

BY FATHER MICHAEL J. HILDEN, O.S.A.

On Sunday morning, the 22nd of September 2019, blessed by warm and sunny skies, a congregation of more than 400 Christians of many diverse nationalities, gathered with profound joy and united as one family, to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the founding of their parish community in Tokyo, Japan. The Augustinian flavor of the community was evident by the atmosphere of thanksgiving and joy permeating the anniversary celebration presided over by Archbishop Kikuchi of Tokyo.

In a less well to do working-class section of Eastern Tokyo, with more than a million residents residing in tiny dwellings, Fr. Ed Griffin, O.S.A. in 1969 constructed a small store front chapel on a busy street in a district called Matsue. The Matsue Catholic Church served the tiny Christian community for 15 years until the growing parish community realized that a larger plot of land would soon be needed to serve the ever-increasing number of the faithful.

With the tireless efforts of Fr. Tom Purcell, O.S.A. and the able help of Fr. Masami Yamaguchi O.S.A.,

suitable land was found in the Kasai section of the city and there in 1984 a new Church with the compact Augustinian friary on the second floor was constructed. Three stained glass windows from the former Augustinian Novitiate in New Hamburg, New York, were donated from the Villanova Province to the new Church of





Japanese mission. As a special guest, Professor Hamada of Villanova and her husband made the long journey to participate in the celebration of the first 50 years of the Matsue-Kasai's Pilgrimage to our heavenly homeland.

The present pastor, Fr. Jesus Mernillo Daño, O.S.A., celebrating the golden anniversary with profound joy proclaimed, "Let us worship and praise God together. Let us work for and build our church together. No matter what our ethnicity or culture may be, no matter how different our opinions and lifestyles may be, I think we can be one under the leadership of our Lord and God, Jesus Christ. Let there be in our church community only one language and culture embraced, that is, love and unity. Let us all together speak the language of Christ. Let us make this church a community that welcomes all, and which always prays and serves together."



Masami J. Yamaguchi, O.S.A., with Kasai parishioners

With God's providence and the intercession of St. Augustine, may the community of Kasai Catholic Church maintain unity of heart and continue to shed the light of faith to guide future generations to the path of true happiness! ✠

St. Augustine in Kasai. The parishioners were deeply impressed by the beauty of the windows and the Augustinian Friars felt very connected to their roots in the Villanova Province each time they prayed in the new church.

Soon, the area around the new church began to boom with the influx of people from all over the globe. With a large increase in the Filipino and Indian communities, a Sunday afternoon English Mass was started and a large

international community continues to be served by the Augustinian Friars at Kasai.

On the day of the 50th Anniversary, many former parishioners joined in the festivities along with a few graduates of Villanova University, among them, Mr. John Sugiura and his wife who have been great benefactors of our



(l-r) Hiroyuki Shibata, O.S.A., a former parishioner, Archbishop Kikuchi, Jesus Dano, O.S.A., Michael Hilden, O.S.A. and Tetsuya Hirano, O.S.A.

Contact Us!

Augustinian Foreign Missions
missions@augustinian.org

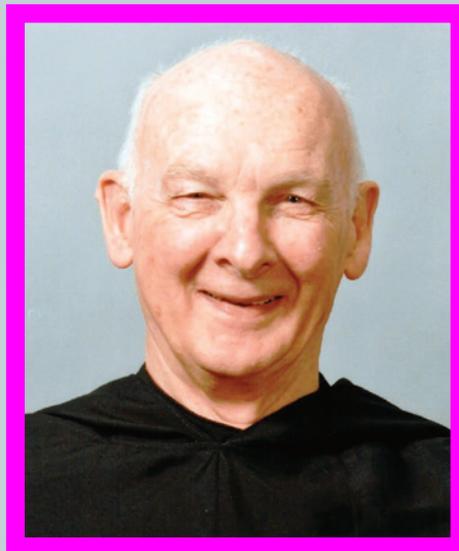
In Paradisum

Fr. William M. Cleary, O.S.A.

March 23, 1935 – October 13, 2019

William M. Cleary, was born on March 23, 1935, in Washington, D.C., one of seven sons and three daughters of William F. Cleary and Mary V. Roche. He was baptized on April 4, 1935, at Holy Name Church, Washington, D.C., and received his early education at Holy Name School from 1941 to 1947, and St. Aloysius School from 1947 to 1949. He then attended Gonzaga High School, Washington, after which he was received into the Order at Good Counsel Novitiate, New Hamburg, NY on September 9, 1953. He professed simple vows on September 10, 1954, and then attended Villanova University, where he received a BA in Philosophy. He made profession of solemn vows on September 10, 1957. He pursued theological studies at Augustinian College, Washington, D.C., from 1958 to 1962 and obtained his master's degree. Bill was ordained to the priesthood on June 3, 1961, at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C., by Bishop Philip Hannan.

Fr. Bill's first assignments were to parishes of the Province: St. Nicholas of Tolentine, Jamaica, NY, from 1962 to 1964; Our Lady of Good Counsel, Staten Island, NY, in 1964; Holy Rosary, Lawrence, MA, from 1964 to 1966; and St. Mary, Lawrence, from 1966 to 1968. He was then assigned to St. Joseph Friary where he taught at Msgr. Bonner High School, Drexel Hill, PA, and in 1972 was transferred briefly to St. Nicholas of Tolentine Parish, Atlantic City, NJ. From 1972 to 1975, he served in the California Province, and from 1975 to 1984 assisted in parishes in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. In 1984, he was assigned to Austin Friars Hall, Silver Spring, MD, and then to St. John of Sahagun Friary, where he taught at Archbishop Carroll High School and pursued Canon Law studies at The Catholic University of America. He received the JCL degree in 1989 which he used particularly to offer assistance to married couples. From 1990 to 1993, he was assigned to the Collegio Santa Monica, Rome, Italy where he did further studies in Canon Law.



Fr. Bill returned to the United States in July 1993 and was assigned to the Austin Friars community in Silver Spring, MD until April 1997 when he became a member of the Cassiciacum Community in New Rochelle, NY, while working as a parochial vicar at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. In June 1999 he returned to the Austin Friars Community in Silver Spring, MD. In July 2004 Fr. Bill was named pastor of St. Augustine Parish in Andover, MA, where he remained until November of 2007.

He was then assigned to St. Thomas of Villanova Monastery, assisting in the Development Office of the Province until June of 2008 when he retired. For a number of years thereafter, he continued to assist in local parishes, until failing health impeded this service.

Fr. Bill passed away in his room at the monastery on Sunday morning, October 13, 2019 after a short period of hospice care. During his years in the health care unit he was noted for his cheerful good humor, engaging conversation and generous spirit.

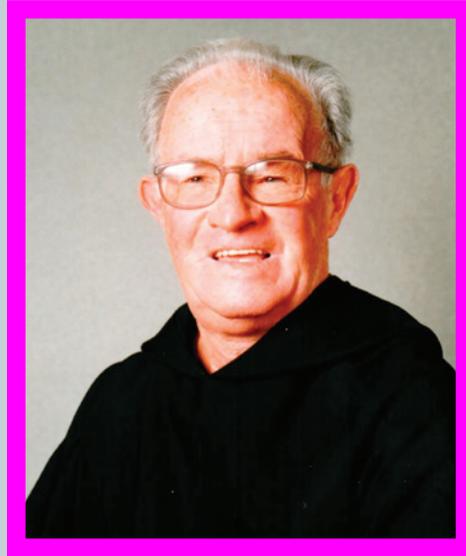
Fr. James G. Glennon, O.S.A.

February 11, 1925 – November 9, 2019

James George Glennon was born on February 11, 1925, in Boston, MA, one of three sons and one daughter of John J. Glennon and Elizabeth Norton. He was baptized on March 1, 1925 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Boston, and attended Cheverus Grammar School, Jamaica Plains, and Mission High School, West Roxbury, graduating in 1943. He spent a year as a postulant at Augustinian Academy, Staten Island, NY, and was received into the Augustinian Order as a novice on September 9, 1944. After a year at Our Mother of Good Counsel Novitiate, New Hamburg, NY, he professed simple vows on September 10, 1945. He then attended Villanova College, and received his BA in Philosophy in 1949. He professed solemn vows in the Order on September 10, 1948, and pursued theological studies at Augustinian College, Washington, D.C. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 9, 1952, at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C., by Bishop John McNamara.

Fr. Jim was assigned as a teacher to Archbishop Carroll High School, Washington, D.C., in 1953. From 1960 to 1962, he was assigned to St. Mary Parish, Lawrence, MA where he served as associate pastor. In 1962, he returned to the classroom at Msgr. Bonner High School and was assigned to St. Joseph Friary, Drexel Hill, PA. From 1976 to 1991, he taught at St. Nicholas of Tolentine High School, Bronx, NY, where he served for a time as prior of the community as well.

Following 36 years in the education apostolate of the province, in 1991 Fr. Jim left academia and accepted an assignment to Resurrection of Our Lord Parish, Dania



Beach, FL, where he served as associate pastor until 2007. In that latter year, he stepped down as associate pastor but continued as a member of the Augustinian community in Dania assisting in the ministry of the parish on a limited basis. In February 2009, he moved to St. Thomas of Villanova Monastery, Villanova, PA where he remained until the time of his death. At Villanova, he took advantage of the opportunity for daily exercise at the University swimming pool well beyond his 90th year.

Fr. Jim was a faithful member of the province and a steadfast, quiet laborer in our education and parochial apostolates. In his last years, with the aid of his walker, he concelebrated the early morning Mass in the monastery chapel. He passed away during the early hours of November 9, 2019 following a brief illness. He was 94 years old, was professed for 74 years and was a priest for 67 years.



Coming Together

BY MADONNA SUTTER

One Mind One Heart



Madonna Sutter
*Director of
Advancement*

The Province will launch its very own, first-ever giving day on April 24, 2020. Unlike #GivingTuesdayOSA – where we compete with other charitable organizations globally – we will come together with one mind and one heart for a 24-hour giving extravaganza to celebrate our Augustinian community and the profound impact the friars have had in our lives. Moving forward, we will participate in one giving day only, to maximize our resources and minimize our outreach.

It is no coincidence that our giving day falls on the feast of the Conversion of St. Augustine and that we've named this day, TOLLE LEGE DAY. To learn more about the Conversion of St. Augustine and the meaning of Tolle Lege, listen to Fr. Michael Di Gregorio, O.S.A. tell the story at TolleLegeDay.AugustinianFund.org. You may also visit: www.Augustinian.org/saints-1/april-24.

I invite you to be a part of something extraordinary as we come together as an Augustinian religious and lay community to celebrate the Augustinians, their ministries, and our relationships with the friars. Stay tuned in the coming months.

Contact

email: madonna.sutter@augustinian.org
mobile: 267.272.3048



MARK YOUR CALENDAR
Friday, April 24, 2020!

Volunteers are needed to serve as Tolle Lege Day Ambassadors to help spread the word. To learn more and to sign up to volunteer, please visit: AugustinianFund.org/TolleLege/Ambassador. Your task will be light, your participation will make the difference, and we'll do the heavy lifting. But we can't do this without YOU!

Since this day is about the friars and those to whom they minister, we are interested in collecting your Augustinian story and how you are connected to us. Please submit photos via email to Andrew McKeough, Assistant Director for Engagement, at andrew.mckeough@augustinian.org with brief descriptions of you/family members with Augustinian(s) who have made a difference in your life. Photos will be shared on our Tolle Lege Day website. ☩

Help us to ...
Raise awareness of the Augustinians,
Support the friars' needs
Celebrate the Augustinians!

Join the Movement

TolleLegeDay.AugustinianFund.org
#TolleLegeDay
#OneMindOneHeart

the
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i *For the safety and well being of our friends, due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Augustinian Spiritual Gathering on Staten Island, NY, on April 30, 2020 and the Giving Societies Mass and Recognition Brunch on May 3, 2020, have been postponed. We will be in touch with new dates for both events!*

Reconnect with the Augustinians on Staten Island



Staten Island, New York
Augustinian Spiritual Gathering
Thursday, April 30, 2020 • Notre Dame Academy High School • 5:30 PM
Celebration of Mass, Augustinian Reflection and Prayer Service
To register and/or make a donation, visit: augustinianfund.org/staten-island
Questions: Contact Madonna Sutter at madonna.sutter@augustinian.org or 610.527.3330, ext. 265.

Augustinian Fund Giving Societies' Celebration

St. Thomas of Villanova Leadership and St. Augustine Legacy Societies
Sunday, May 3, 2020 • 214 Ashwood Road, Villanova, Pa
10:30 AM Celebration of Mass followed by brunch
Members of these two giving societies will receive a St. Thomas of Villanova pin or a St. Augustine legacy coin.
Questions: Contact Madonna Sutter at madonnasutter@augustinian.org or 610.527.3330, ext. 265.



Connect with Us!



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