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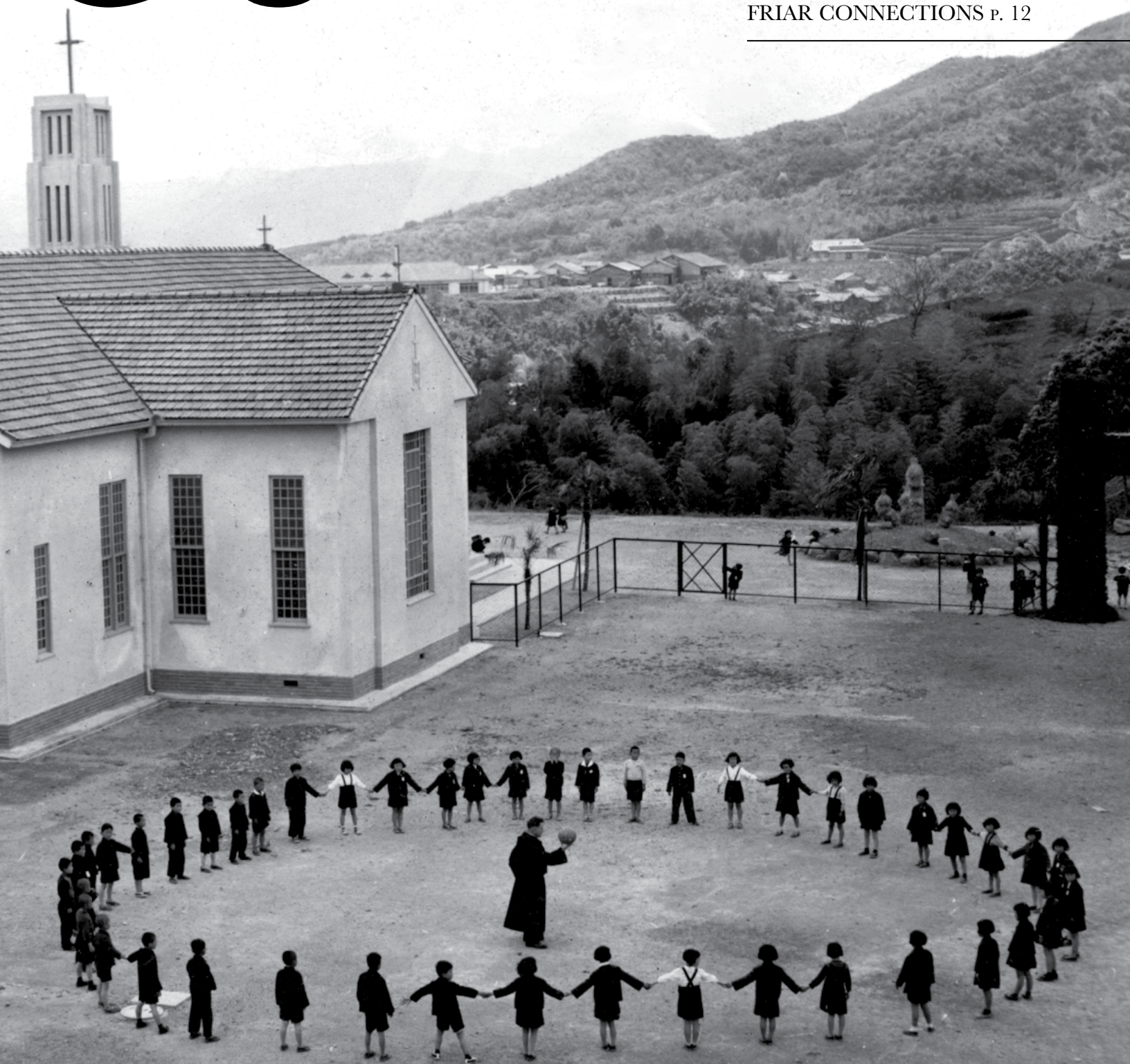
VOLUME XII . ISSUE I

THE AUGUSTINIAN

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PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT AUGUSTINIAN VOCATION AND FORMATION PROGRAMS



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THE AUGUSTINIAN

A publication of the Province
of Saint Thomas of Villanova.

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Augustinian Foreign Missions: Japan

In 1952, over 300 years after Augustinians were persecuted and martyred by non-Christian Japanese because of their Christian faith, an invitation was issued by Paul Yamaguchi, Bishop of Nagasaki, for the Augustinian Friars to return to Nagasaki, Japan. Three Augustinian Friars from the United States answered the call and arrived in Japan in November 1952. Nagasaki, the site for the execution of many Catholic priests and their followers, and where Augustinian Martyrs were venerated, was also the place where many Catholics, whose ancestors had kept the faith alive, lived and worshiped. A mere seven years after WWII's ending, Augustinian Friars began to build and grow a mission a half-mile from the epicenter of the atomic bomb blast.

P. 8

FANA and Vocation Stories from the Theologate

The Federation of Augustinians of North America (FANA) was created to enhance the presence of the Order of Saint Augustine in North America. Comprised of the three provinces in the United States and that of Canada, the Federation seeks to collaborate in areas of mutual interest among the provinces. One of the areas of mutual interest is the education and formation of those called to be Augustinian Friars, who study at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago and live at the Saint Augustine Friary in Chicago. Meet six of the Augustinian Friars of the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova, who are in various points in their journeys, and read their stories of discerning their vocation to the Augustinians.

P. 12

Augustinian Volunteers: Friar Connections

The Augustinian Volunteer Program, a ministry of the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova, was created to provide young people the opportunity to provide a year of service and to inform them of the Augustinian values, particularly that of relationships in community, by enabling and encouraging relationships, with each other and with Augustinian Friar communities that serve as host communities for the Augustinian Volunteer sites with which they are paired.

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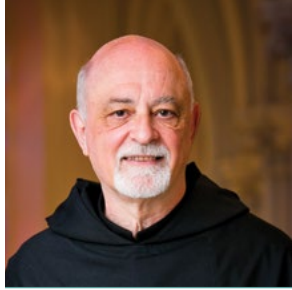
In Paradisum 23

ON THE COVER:

Our Mother of Consolation Parish, Nagasaki, Japan, 1955: Father Edward G. Robinson, O.S.A., the first Director of Saint Mary's Kindergarten, engages the children in afternoon recreation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Thanks to John J. Sheridan, O.S.A., (Archivist), June Weiland, (Assistant Archivist) and Richard C. Ekmann, O.S.A., of the Augustinian Provincial Archives of Saint Thomas of Villanova; Dennis J. Gallagher, O.S.A., (Archivist) Villanova University; Thomas P. Dwyer, O.S.A.; Liam T. O'Doherty, O.S.A.; Joseph L. Farrell, O.S.A.; Martin L. Smith, O.S.A.; Michael George and John Gebhardt, Villanova Graphic Services; Masako Hamada, Ed.D.; Arthur P. Purcaro, O.S.A.; John J. Lydon, O.S.A.



LETTER FROM THE

PRIOR PROVINCIAL

Dear Friends,

“*Trust the past to God’s mercy, the present to God’s love, and the future to God’s providence.*” These words, widely attributed to the pen of Saint Augustine, encourage confident living in the assurance that everything and everyone—all time and all events—come under the attentive and benevolent eye of God. Good advice always, I believe, but especially so as we embark upon the coming months of 2017, ready to meet with opportunity as well as with uncertainty, with things planned and things unforeseen!

Saint Augustine, as we know, reflected long and hard upon his past. He invites us to join him in his thoughts as he walks us through the *Confessions*, profoundly sensitive to the mercy, the love and the providence of God all at once. Sensitivity led the way to gratitude for Augustine, and gratitude to praise, turning the review of his life’s story into a prayer.

In the current issue of *The Augustinian*, we, too, take a look back at a number of events and people in our common story that invoke significant memories for us. Some of these occasions delight at achievements realized; others sorrow, at loss or separation. I invite you to review them with us through Augustine’s lens of mercy, love and providence. In all things let us be thankful so that our remembrances, too, may open out in prayer.

In the months ahead we will be writing new chapters of the Augustinian book of memories as we take up fresh challenges of province planning, deepen our experience of common life, and consider new opportunities for ministry. We invite your prayerful support as we do so, that we might be faithful recipients and dispensers of mercy; icons of God’s gracious love; and genuine instruments of his provident care.

Thank you for all you do for us and with us!

God’s blessings,

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

VOLUME XII . ISSUE I

THE AUGUSTINIAN

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20nine
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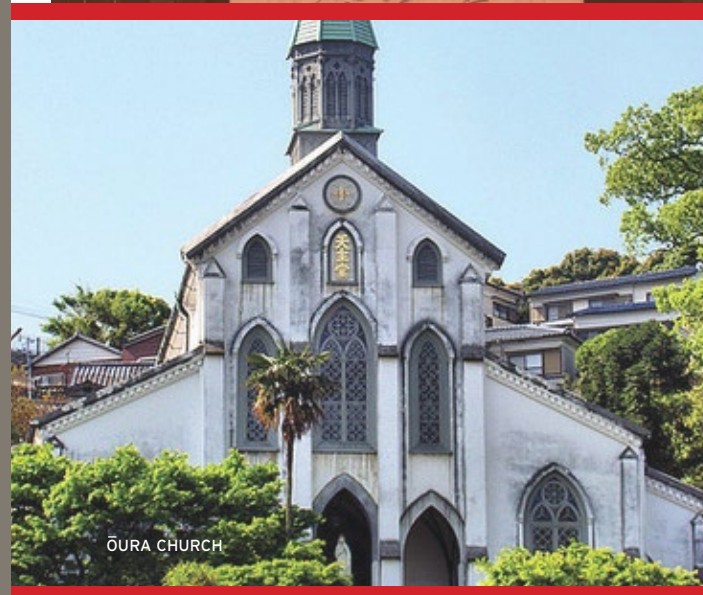
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OUR LADY OF JAPAN



ŌURA CHURCH

AUGUSTINIAN FOREIGN MISSIONS

BY TEDDIE GALLAGHER

The Augustinian Order, founded in Italy in 1244, spread to eastern and western Europe, in Germany, France, England, Spain, Portugal and Ireland. As the great voyagers opened up the trade routes, the Augustinians expanded missionary activities of the Order. Augustinians arrived to preach the Gospel to Mexico in 1533, to the Philippine Islands in 1565, to Goa in 1572, to China in 1575 and to Persia in 1602.

**“GO YE THEREFORE,
TEACH ALL NATIONS.”
(MATTHEW 29:19)**

THE EARLY HISTORY OF AUGUSTINIANS IN JAPAN

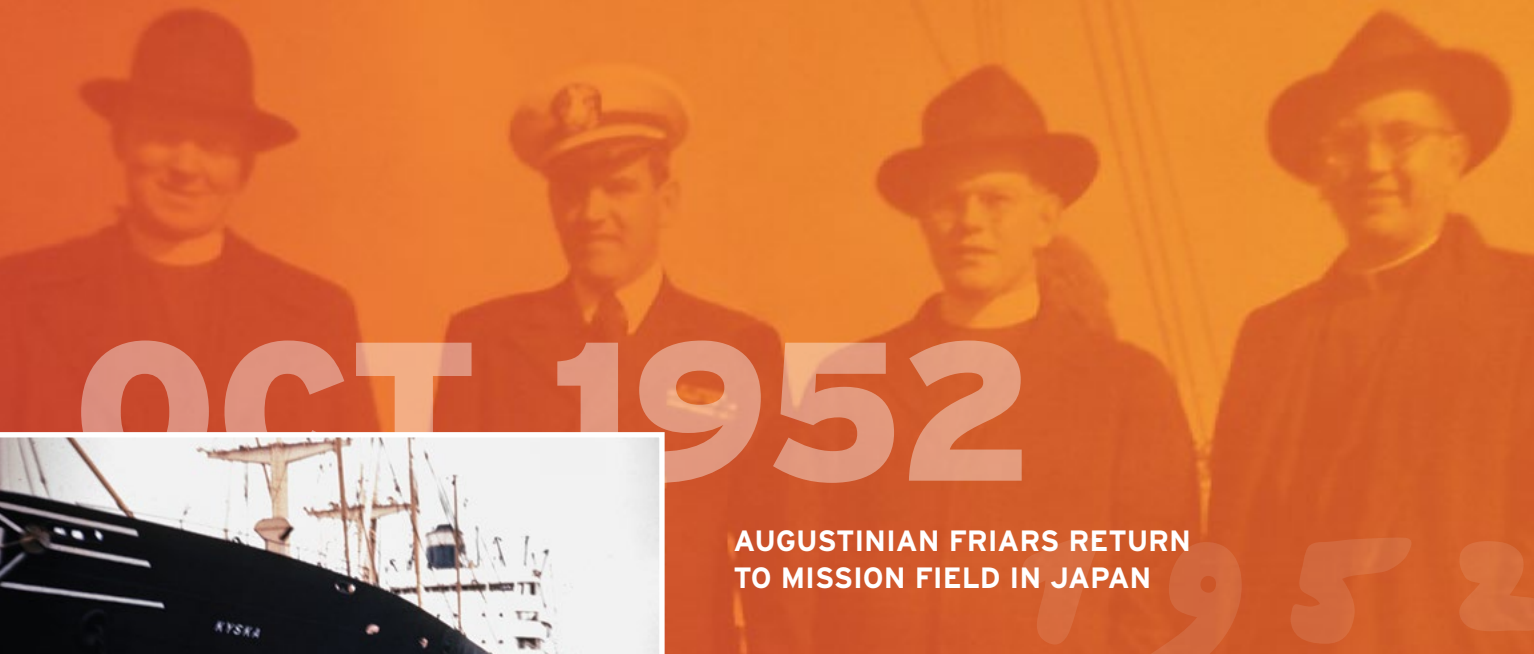
Faithful Augustinian missionaries came to work in the Mission fields of Japan in 1602. Persecutions of Christians had already begun as early as 1597 when warrior-rulers noted that Christians placed loyalty to God above loyalty to earthly rulers and feared invasion from the west. In that year, nine missionaries and seventeen Japanese Christians were captured in Kyoto and marched hundreds of miles to Tateyama Hill in Nagasaki where they were crucified.

Undaunted, the Augustinians established five parishes with many thousands of Catholics on the island of Kyushu. The largest of the five parishes was dedicated to Saint Augustine and located in the city of Nagasaki. An Imperial edict issued on November 1, 1614, put a stop to all mission work and banished foreigners from Japan. After that point, Christianity was outlawed, churches destroyed and thousands of Christians who clung to their faith and missionaries who secretly returned to Japan during the next 25 years were hunted, brutally tortured and massacred. More than 100 Augustinian Friars, tertiaries and members of the Archconfraternity of the Cincture from Japan, Mexico, Portugal and Spain were martyred for their faith. In 1867 twelve of these martyrs were beatified, and Magdalene of Nagasaki was canonized by Pope John Paul II in 1989.

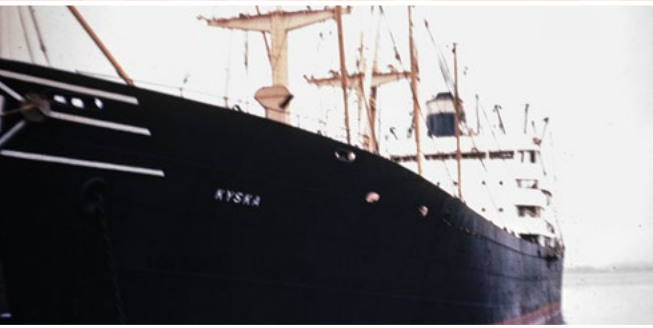
By 1639 Japan closed its ports to foreign trade and cut ties to the outside world.

On July 8, 1853, Commodore Matthew Perry, on behalf of President Millard Fillmore, sailed four ships into Tokyo Harbor with a demand for a treaty to open Japan’s harbors for trade. In 1858 The Treaty of Amity and Commerce opened more ports with Japan and guaranteed them and ultimately other European countries religious freedom.

In 1864, after 225 years of isolation from the world and Christianity, a small Catholic church (left) was built in Nagasaki. At the top of the steps is a statue of Our Lady of Japan, pictured above left. When Ōura Church opened it was discovered that 30,000 Japanese Catholics had kept the faith alive, performing baptisms, teaching Catholic doctrine, praying the Act of Contrition, the Hail Mary and the Our Father, calculating the ritual calendar and maintaining records through the generations. They could now come out of hiding.



AUGUSTINIAN FRIARS RETURN TO MISSION FIELD IN JAPAN



Early in 1952 Prior Provincial Joseph M. Dougherty, O.S.A., learned that the Most Reverend Paul Yamaguchi, Bishop of Nagasaki, wished to see the Augustinians return to Nagasaki, where Augustinian martyrs were still venerated. The Bishop wrote “I wish to have your Fathers here, since Augustinians were among the first who suffered for the name of Christ in this land.”

More than 300 years had passed since the Augustinians had served as Missionaries and only 7 years had passed since the Atomic bomb was dropped on the largely Catholic neighborhood in Nagasaki known as Shiroyama.

Prior General Joseph A Hickey, O.S.A., approved and the Sacred Congregation of the Propagation of the Faith approved on June 16, 1952. Father Dougherty chose Thomas F. Purcell, O.S.A., a native of Shamokin, Pa., and George M. Krupa, O.S.A., a native of Lancaster, Pa. The Provincial of the Midwest Province, Clement C. McHale, O.S.A., joined in the mission and assigned Edward G. Robinson, O.S.A., a native of Albany, NY. The group sailed from San Francisco on October 26, on the SS. KYSKA, a WATERMAN worldwide freighter with passenger service to Yokohama, Japan. They arrived on November 11 and reported to Bishop Yamaguchi in Nagasaki, November 24, 1952.



FATHERS PURCELL, KRUPA AND ROBINSON SPENT THEIR FIRST TWO MONTHS AT THE BISHOP'S HOUSE AND THEN SPENT TWO YEARS STUDYING JAPANESE IN TOKYO. PICTURED LEFT: FATHER PURCELL AND FATHER ROBINSON AT THE BEACH HOUSE WITH DIOCESAN PRIESTS; RIGHT: FATHER ROBINSON, BISHOP YAMAGUCHI, FATHER PURCELL AND FATHER KRUPA AT THE BISHOP'S HOUSE.



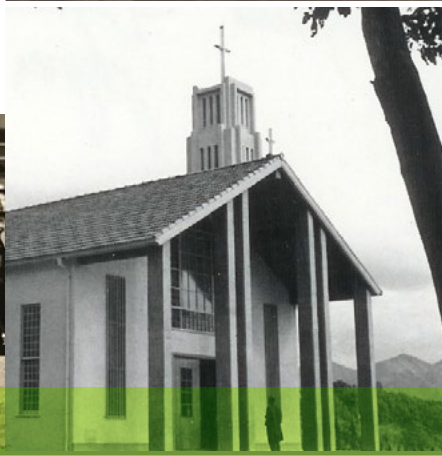
KINDERGARTEN CHILDREN CIRCA 1955

THE MISSION IN NAGASAKI BEGINS

The Order purchased a complex of buildings from the Marist order which was situated about a half-mile from the epicenter of the Atomic bomb. Father Purcell made known his intention was to help the next generation of children whose parents and families had experienced the devastation of the nuclear bomb.

The friars planned to build a church and a friary and open a kindergarten, a parochial grade school, a middle school and a hostel to house University students.

The kindergarten opened at Christmas, 1954, with Father Robinson as its first director. On May 1, 1955 the new church was blessed and Father Krupa was named the pastor. Both the church and the monastery were aptly named after Our Mother of Consolation, who according to Augustinian beliefs, appeared to Saint Monica as she prayed for the conversion of Saint Augustine and gave her the cincture (belt) that Augustinians wear, to find consolation and peace in sorrow, light in darkness and help in need.



ABOVE: A DISPLAY FOR MISSIONS AT VILLANOVA GYM MANNED BY FATHER THOMAS ROLAND, O.S.A.

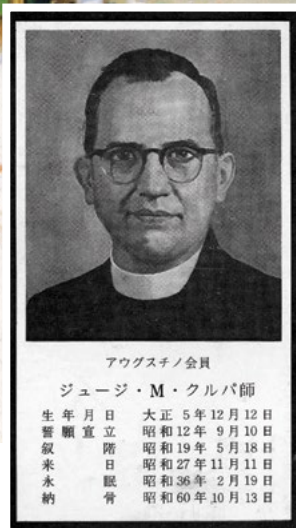
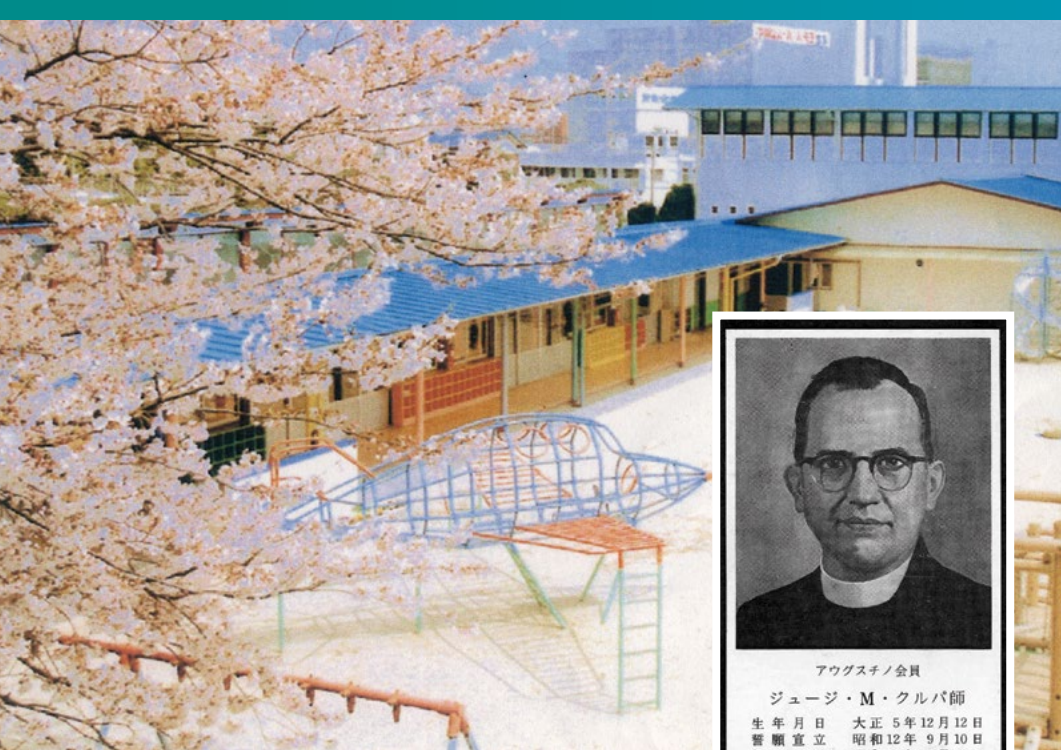
SUPPORT FROM BENEFACTORS

The parish land, church, monastery, Kindergarten, Grade School, Middle School and hostel cost \$215,000. Donations for the Mission in Japan, large and small, came from hundreds of benefactors all over the United States.

Beginning in 1953, Villanova University Friars sponsored a dance called “SHAMOKINAKI,” whose name was a combination of the hometown of Father Purcell (Shamokin, Pa.) with “aki,” meaning “autumn.” The dance, held in the Villanova Field House, became an annual event into the mid 1970s. Thousands of dollars were raised for Our Mother of Consolation Monastery.

The Parish of our Mother of Consolation quickly drew the Catholics in Nagasaki and soon it numbered 2000 parishioners.

LEFT: OUR MOTHER OF CONSOLATION CHURCH



ABOVE: THE FUKUOKA COMPLEX. RIGHT: FATHER KRUPA'S MEMORIAL CARD.

THE MISSION EXPANDS

In 1959 the Bishop of Fukuoka invited the Augustinian Fathers to open a Mission in Fukuoka (Fu-ku-o-ka), where Catholics were few compared to Nagasaki. Five more Augustinians had been sent to Japan, but Father Purcell sent them to language school for two years.

Father Krupa was sent on his own to begin work on the new Mission and began by purchasing and renovating a small cottage. Plans for a church, monastery, Kindergarten and Sisters' convent were drawn up to be built in the Baikoen district of Fukuoka. Much to the sadness of the friars and the Japanese people, who had great love and respect for him, on the day the digging for the foundation began, Father Krupa became very ill. Doctors in Nagasaki advised him to return home and he was taken back to the United States for treatment at Bryn Mawr Hospital. He died on February 19, 1961. Described as an "incurable enthusiast," he was mourned by many, including those who knew him during the years he taught at Malvern Prep, prior to his assignment in Japan. He was buried in the cemetery on the campus of Villanova University.

At the time of his death Father George expressed a wish to be buried in Japan and in 1985, his brother Father William Krupa, O.S.A., returned his remains to the Augustinian cemetery in Nagasaki.

At the time of Father Krupa's death, five additional friars from the Province of Saint

Thomas of Villanova joined the Mission field of Japan, Edward V. Griffin, O.S.A., Edward V. Hattrick, O.S.A., Joseph X, O'Connor, O.S.A., John J. Sheridan, O.S.A. and Thomas P. Dwyer, O.S.A.

Father Griffin took over the construction of the church and schools of the Fukuoka Mission and became its pastor. The Canonical Foundation of Saint Augustine Sasaoka Catholic Church in Fukuoka Japan is dated 1962.

Father Purcell left Nagasaki in 1963 to establish a third mission field in the city of Nagoya, a large port on the eastern side of Japan, closer to Tokyo. Father Purcell founded the site to serve the needs of thousands of Catholics who had recently migrated to Nagoya for work. The ministry, which began in a garage, quickly moved to a building that housed a church, a meeting room and a friary. The Augustinians also built homes for workers that ultimately housed over 80 families. Father Purcell is known for his saying that the poor migrant families from Nagasaki had the immense treasure of their Catholic Faith. The Canonical Foundation of St. Monica Minato Catholic Church in Nagoya, Japan is dated 1964.

Saint Augustine Kasai in Tokyo Japan was canonically founded in 1970. Father Purcell joined the community in 1980. The Augustinian Tanishi House of Formation in Tokyo, Japan was founded in 1990.



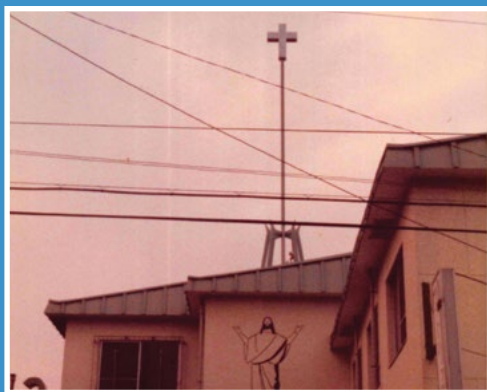
FATHER KRUPA STARTS FUKUOKA MISSION



FIRST CHURCH AT FUKUOKA



FIRST CHURCH AT NAGOYA



FIRST CHURCH AT TOKYO



PIONEERING MISSIONARIES

PICTURED, L-R: J. MASAMI YAMAGUCHI, O.S.A., THOMAS P. PURCELL, O.S.A., TAKASHI ANDREW AKAKURA, O.S.A., MICHAEL J. HILDEN, O.S.A., MAURICE J. MAHONEY, O.S.A., EDWARD, V. HATTRICK, O.S.A., THOMAS P. DWYER, O.S.A., LIAM T. O'DOHERTY, O.S.A., JOHN F. MCATEE, O.S.A., EDWARD V. GRIFFIN, O.S.A. MORE FRIARS FROM THE PROVINCE SERVED IN JAPAN OVER THE YEARS, INCLUDING: JOSEPH X. O'CONNOR, O.S.A., JOHN J. SHERIDAN, O.S.A., MICHAEL H. STANLEY, O.S.A., AND PATRICK B. MC STRAVOG, O.S.A. MICHAEL J. HILDEN, O.S.A., WHO BEGAN SERVING THE JAPANESE MISSION IN 1973, IS THE ONLY FRIAR FROM THE PROVINCE OF SAINT THOMAS OF VILLANOVA WHO IS STILL SERVING IN THE MISSION. MINORU JOSEPH AKAKURA, O.S.A., DIED ON FEBRUARY 20, 1999.

NATIVE JAPANESE AUGUSTINIAN VOCATIONS



THE FIRST JAPANESE AUGUSTINIAN. ACRYLIC BY RICHARD G. CANNULI, O.S.A.

Blessed Thomas "Kintsuba" Jihyoe, O.S.A., (1602–1637) was born to Catholic parents in Omura, Japan. In 1614, when Christians were expelled from Japan, Thomas fled to Manila where he met the Augustinians. He entered the Augustinian Order in 1622 and professed his first vows in 1624. He was ordained to the priesthood circa 1627/1628. Thomas desired to return to Nagasaki to minister to Catholics. He returned to find that the Augustinian superior, Padre Bertolomé Gutiérrez, O.S.A. was incarcerated. Using the name "Kintsuba," he worked as a groomsman for the magistrate and visited Father Gutiérrez everyday and by night administered sacraments to Catholics in hiding. After Gutiérrez, was martyred, Father Thomas became a hunted man, living in a cave and administering to Catholics in various disguises, including a Geisha Girl. He was ultimately caught and suffered unspeakable, prolonged torture. He died on the Hill of Martyrs on November 6, 1637. He and 180 Japanese martyrs were beatified on November 24, 2008.



Minoru Joseph Akakura, O.S.A.

was the first native Japanese Friar in the modern era to profess vows in the Order of Saint Augustine.



Masami Joseph Yamaguchi, O.S.A.

(above) was the first native Japanese Friar to be ordained in 1975.

Brother Minoru Joseph Akakura was ordained by Saint Pope John Paul II in 1981 at the rebuilt Nagasaki Urakami Church, which suffered near-total decimation from the Atomic bomb.

THE BLESSINGS OF THE MISSION

The Japanese Mission is now staffed primarily with native-born Friars, men who came to the Augustinian Order through the work and prayers of the pioneering missionaries. Those men and the benefactors who supported the effort



FRONT: MITARU TOYAMA, O.S.A., ANDREW TAKASHI AKAKURA, O.S.A., HIROYUKI SHIBATA, O.S.A. BACK: KIYOTSUGU YAMANO, O.S.A., MASAYA IDE, O.S.A., MASAKI IMADA, O.S.A., TETSUYA HIRANO, O.S.A., MASAMI YAMAGUCHI, O.S.A.

MEN IN FORMATION



FUTOSHI MATSUO, O.S.A. ATSUSHI KUWAHARA, O.S.A.

brought the Augustinian charisms back to Nagasaki and enabled priests and brothers to hear their "Call" to serve.

The native Augustinians who serve in the Augustinian Missions are missionaries in their own country, where Shinto and Buddhism are the prevailing religions in Japan, but the light of Christ is the beacon they provide in each port. Nagasaki is still the largest center of devoted Catholics, while the other Missions in Fukuoka, Nagoya and Tokyo serve Catholics in their own parish as well as Catholics coming through the ports.

Our Lady of Japan, pray for us.

SEE OUR PHOTO GALLERY ON JAPAN AT
WWW.AUGUSTINIAN.ORG/PHOTO-GALLERIES



FANA

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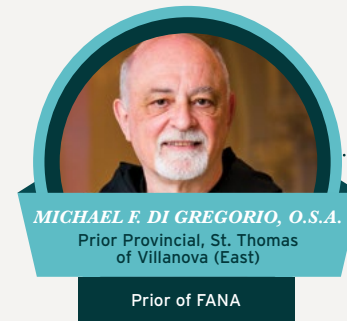


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BY FATHER MICHAEL F. DI GREGORIO, O.S.A.

February 2017, will mark the fifth anniversary of the formation of the association of Augustinians, commonly known as FANA, which unites friars of the four North American Augustinian Provinces: Saint Thomas of Villanova in the East; Our Mother of Good Counsel in the Midwest; Saint Augustine on the West Coast; and Saint Joseph in Canada. The Federation was officially established by the Prior General of the Order, at the request of the four provinces, in order to renew and develop a greater and more effective Augustinian presence in North America. This objective is carried out, both through regular communication, formal and informal, among the Priors Provincial, and through the work of various commissions established to oversee agreed-upon responsibilities entrusted to the Federation.

The process that led up to the formation of the Federation began with informal conversations in 2007. The Priors Provincial of each province and their respective councils met on a number of occasions to discuss ways of furthering collaborative efforts that had existed for many years, and possible new ones which might be desirable. A high point in the process was a convocation of friars from all of the provinces in the summer of 2009. Some 195 friars met together for five days of prayer, conversation, conferences, talks and fraternal sharing in St. Charles, Illinois. Subsequent to this historic gathering, the membership of each province voted on its wish to be a part of this new collaborative initiative. The positive decision of each province was communicated to the Order's Curia General, and conversations continued on practicalities, as well as on the development of statutes and structure, with the final approval granted by the Prior General on February 21, 2012.



MICHAEL F. DI GREGORIO, O.S.A.
Prior Provincial, St. Thomas of Villanova (East)

Prior of FANA



BERNARD C. SCIANNA, O.S.A.
Prior Provincial, Our Mother of Good Counsel Province (Midwest & Canada)



KEVIN MULLINS, O.S.A.
Prior Provincial, St. Augustine (West)



GARY N. MCCLOSKEY, O.S.A.
Executive Director of FANA

FEDERATION OF AUGUSTINIANS OF NORTH AMERICA

Father Michael Di Gregorio is the Prior of FANA (Federation of Augustinians of North America). The other Priors Provincial comprise his Federation Council. The Executive Director of the Federation, Father Gary N. McCloskey, O.S.A., works at the Prior's direction, and brings matters to the Prior for discussion with his Council.

In matters involving the Federation, the Prior requires the unanimous approval of his Council.

While various areas of responsibility have been entrusted to the Federation and its commissions, under the existing structure each province retains its autonomy. The Priors Provincial comprise the Council of the Federation, and are assisted by an executive director who is charged, among other things, with the coordination of shared initiatives.

One of the most successful areas of collaboration under the direction of the Federation has been that of initial formation, which is situated primarily in the novitiate and theologate programs, in Racine, Wisconsin, and Chicago, Illinois, respectively. More recently, this collaboration has been extended also to the design of the pre-novitiate programs that are conducted jointly by the Villanova and Midwest Provinces on the East Coast, and the California Province on the West Coast.

The Augustinian Secondary Education Association (ASEA), a joint venture of the provinces long before the establishment of the Federation, has recently come under the aegis of FANA, and manages common programs of enrichment for administrators, faculty and students in a three-pronged initiative: Augustinian Values Institute (AVI), Student Augustinian Values Institute (SAVI), and the City of God Project (Building the City of God), a recent initiative of the Augustinian Secondary Educational Association that grew out of a desire to offer a more intense experience of Augustinian values for those who have already participated in the Augustinian Values Institute.

The goals of the City of God Project are four-fold:

- To develop a deeper understanding of the personal nature of conversion*
- To explore the ideals of living in Christian community in the Augustinian tradition*
- To grasp a deeper understanding of the core values of Augustinian schools*
- To explore shared mission of serving as a gateway and pathway to the Kingdom*

Other areas in which the Federation operates through its joint commissions are foreign missions, Justice and Peace initiatives, Vocation Ministry and Augustinian Laity. On the horizon are the revitalization of commissions on Hispanic Ministry and Communications, as well as the broadening of the Augustinian Laity Commission into an Augustinian Spirituality Commission to serve both friars and laity.

In June 2017, a second convocation of friars from each of the provinces will be celebrated at Villanova in order to assess the performance of the Federation thus far, to evaluate the present reality of Augustinian life and ministry in North America today, and explore possible new avenues and methods of collaboration.

VOCATION STORIES *FROM THE THEOLOGATE*



**JAVIER ALEJANDRO
AGUILAR, O.S.A.**

Profession August 1, 2015
Hometown Choluteca, Honduras, C.A.

My vocation began when I was just 5 years old, I always wanted to be a priest and serve the Church, the community. Since I was very little, I remember I had the desire to go to Mass not just on Sundays but also on weekdays. I wanted to be very close to the altar of the Lord and see the priest's gestures and movement while he was celebrating Mass. To be at the church for Masses began to be one of my greatest passions as a young Christian, which my mother and grandparents noticed and supported ever since. Then my faith and commitment to the Church was growing even more so that when I

was 17, I decided to go to a Minor Seminary in order to begin my formation for priesthood. After three years at the Minor Seminary the time came to transfer to the Major Seminary, so I went and did my philosophy and, right after I finished, I had the fortune to meet the Augustinians from Casa San Lorenzo in Miami, a discernment program for Hispanics. I remember when I first came to visit them I felt in the depths of my heart: this is my place, this is the life in community that I have been searching for since I was a child, this is where my heart always was even though I did not have a clear understanding of what God was preparing me for.

roots are based on strong values. Since I was a child, I was involved in Church life, so my family's faith and its relationship with the Church played an important role in my decision to join religious life. Everything in life has its difficulties and challenges. In my process of discernment, facing myself in my whole reality, seeing myself as a sinner, confronting my weaknesses, and accepting and loving myself is a challenge that I have had to face in the process of discernment. Having the feeling of being welcomed, validated and supported by the community is something that I really enjoy. Being a pastor is very attractive to me because it involves service and closeness with the people of God. But my disposition is to do what I have to do in order to cover the needs of our province. My goal is to serve.

Saturday. We had a dinner sometimes and I joined a discernment retreat with some guys. I just kept communicating with them. After I graduated from the University, I started working as a sales person at a company in Tokyo. However, I thought I didn't want to offer my whole life to the company. I was struggling for a couple of years. There were many difficult times in my family and Augustinians supported us spiritually. Eventually, when I decided to join the Augustinians, my family and relatives were pleased very much, and still are supporting me with prayers. This year is the third year of my formation. Through Pre-Novitiate and Novitiate, now I am very comfortable at the Theologate House as to who I am, as an Augustinian.



BRYAN KERNS, O.S.A.

Profession August 3, 2013
Hometown Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania

Saint Augustine makes an important distinction in *de doctrina christiana*, one between *uti* and *frui*; that is, between what it means to use—*uti*—and what it means to enjoy—*frui*. In his view, only God can be enjoyed. The rest is *uti*, or use. So what Augustine is saying is that all of creation, including us, is used in God's service. So that's how I like to think of my vocation now: in what way can I be of the greatest use to God. And so I've come to a growing understanding that my best use to God will be in using the talents and gifts he has given me as a member of the Order of Saint Augustine, engaged in sacramental ministry as a priest. In a sense, my

vocation story is a familiar tale for an Augustinian of the Villanova Province: I went to Bonner High School and then to Villanova and then into the Order. In the friars at both places I saw a love of God and neighbor, of their apostolates, and of each other—not sentimentally either, but in a very real way. Even more at Villanova, I was able to develop a supportive community of friends and mentors, all of whom encouraged me to pursue my vocation when I shared with them that I would be entering the Augustinians. So, as I stand here near the end of initial formation, I'm left asking myself a question that Augustine asks us: what is the best way for me to be of use to God so that I might lead others to enjoy God?

Profession July 31, 2016
Hometown New Hope, Pennsylvania

My vocation began when Father Kevin DePrinzio, O.S.A., invited me to join an upcoming discernment retreat my senior year at Villanova. After college I continued to spend time with friars who, through our relationships, fostered my vocation. Father Joe Mostardi, O.S.A., and Father Joe Farrell, O.S.A., were particularly important during that time. With them, I began to see where God was calling me. My family's support and encouragement also affirmed my decision to enter the Augustinian Order. My time as a pre-novice, with Father Joe Mostardi, O.S.A., and Father Frank Doyle, O.S.A., leading me, began the process of forming me into the Augustinian I am now and the one I hope to be

in the future. The formation process continues to deepen my understanding of the Order and my life in community and God. It's a great blessing to be surrounded by so many genuine and caring brothers, who each day show me how to be a better person. Formation has taught me that, no matter what I do as an Augustinian, I will have an incredible foundation of God and community from which to work.



**DANIEL MADDEN,
O.S.A.**

Profession August 3, 2013
Hometown Iriga, Philippines

I grew up in the Philippines where my parents grounded our family in our Catholic faith and the Church. Even though diocesan priests ran our parish, I became aware of religious life through the Augustinian Sisters running our local Catholic school. It was during these years that I learned about Saint Augustine and Augustinian spirituality. When I was a senior in high school I started more seriously discerning a vocation to religious life—specifically to be a missionary. But the time wasn't right. Instead, I went to college. Later, I came to the United States, where I worked as a physical therapist. Eventually, I went back to school for an MBA. In 2010, at the age of 36, I was working in New York City when I acknowledged my continuing call to religious

life and priesthood. I had no experience with Augustinians in the US, but I called Father Kevin DePrinzio, O.S.A., who was the Province's vocation director at the time. That was the beginning of my discernment with the Augustinians, culminating in my solemn profession in December and ordination to the diaconate in January. There was no single experience that led to my decision to become an Augustinian. Rather, it was meeting the friars one by one, and getting to know them, living in community, spending time in our various ministries, and then eventually working during my pastoral year in campus ministry at Merrimack College, that enabled me to discern my call to be an Augustinian. I don't have a set plan for my life's work as an Augustinian. I try to be open to the Spirit's guidance as to my future ministries.



**ATSUSHI
KUWAHARA, O.S.A.**

Profession August 11, 2016
Hometown Kitakyushu, Fukuoka, Japan

When I was a child, I never expected that I would take up religious life. I did not grow up in a religious parish and know what a religious life is. Moreover, I thought I am not worthy to be given such a great gift. I moved from my home town Kitakyushu, Fukuoka, to Tokyo to study at Teikyo University when I was 18. I began living at my uncle's house, which was located near St. Joseph Friary (Augustinian formation house) in Tokyo. There I met Augustinian Friars for the first time, Peter Tetsuya Hirano, O.S.A., Thomas Masaki Imada, O.S.A., Thomas Hiroyuki Shibata, O.S.A., Francis Masaya Ide, O.S.A., and John Futoshi Matsuo, O.S.A.. I attended Mass at St. Joseph Friary every



PRIOR PROVINCIAL FATHER MICHAEL DI GREGORIO, O.S.A., WITH THE AUGUSTINIAN VOLUNTEERS AT THE 2016 COMMISSIONING MASS

AUGUSTINIAN VOLUNTEERS:

friar connections

BY JOANNA BOWEN, DIRECTOR OF THE AUGUSTINIAN VOLUNTEERS

Since 2000, the Augustinian Volunteers program has provided opportunities for young adults to serve others, live in intentional community, and grow in their spirituality. The Augustinian Volunteers is not unique in its mission; it is one of over 200 post-graduate, faith-based, service organizations in the United States. That said, the Augustinian Volunteer program stands apart from its peers for many reasons including a strong emphasis on community living, mentoring from the Augustinian Volunteer Director and staff throughout the volunteer year, and, most notably, a strong connection to the Augustinian Friars.

Father Joe Mostardi, O.S.A., founder the Augustinian Volunteers, was adamant that the volunteers must always maintain a strong connection with the Augustinian Friars. He noted that many other post-graduate volunteer programs, while associated with a particular religious order, did not necessarily mean its volunteers had the opportunity to become acquainted with the sponsoring religious congregation. Father Joe felt that, if the Augustinians were to sponsor a lay volunteer program, it must be truly Augustinian by promoting relationships. Volunteers must not only learn about the values of Augustinian spirituality, but must have the opportunity

to get to know Augustinians and their ministries on a personal level. Therefore, from its inception, the Augustinian Volunteers Program was formed specifically so that:

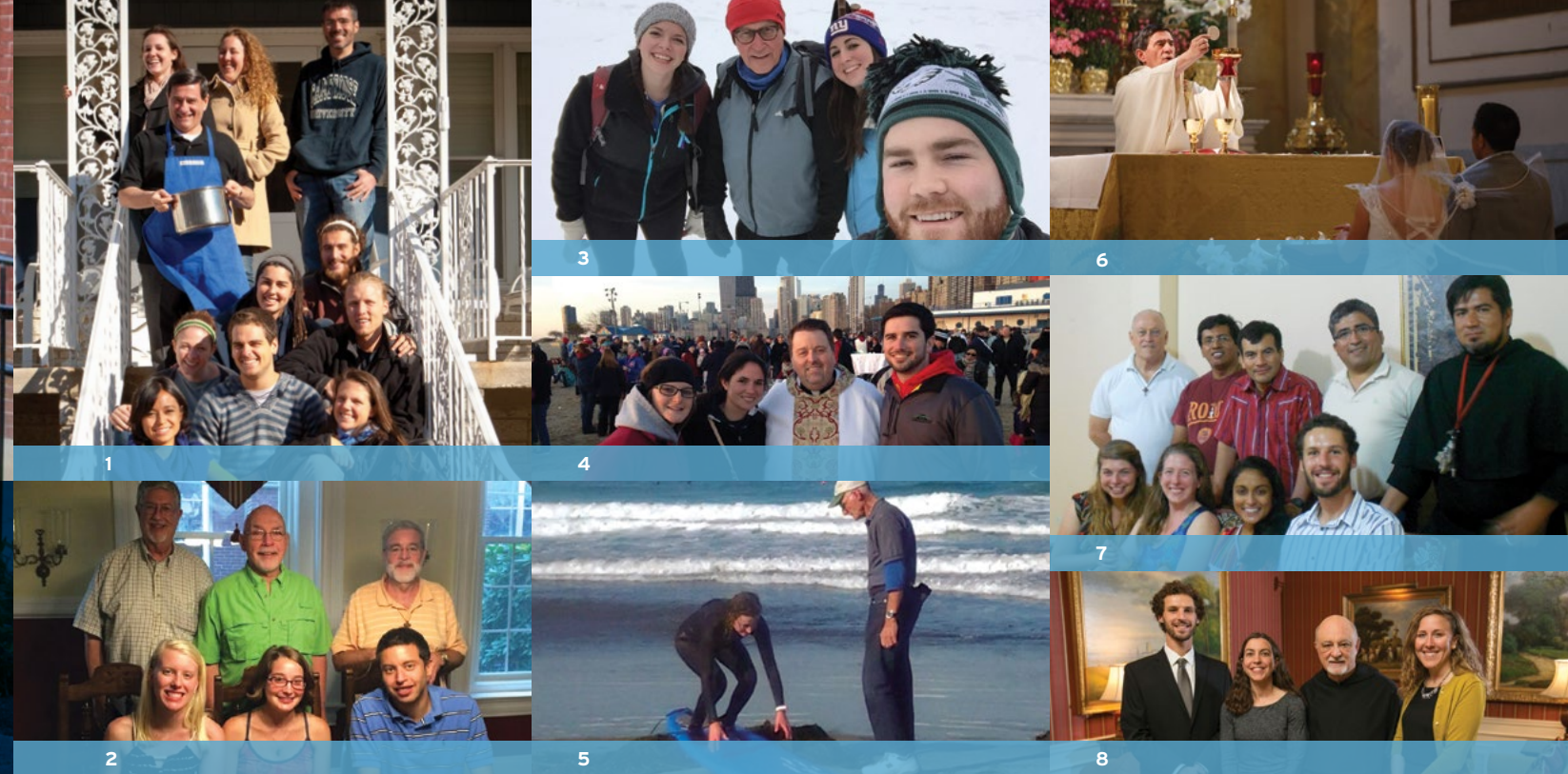
- Volunteers could be in partnership with the Priors Provincial and Augustinian Friars in the three provinces across the United States.
- Volunteers would only be placed in cities in which Augustinians were serving.
- Volunteers in each community would serve in Augustinian ministries, which most often were local schools.
- Volunteers would not just model Augustinian values in community life, and learn about Augustinian spirituality, but they would have the opportunity to take part in how the Augustinians live out their mission in service to others.

Today, the Augustinian Friars continue to be co-creators of the Augustinian Volunteer experience. Each volunteer community is paired with an Augustinian Friar, who serves as a supervisor for the group, providing guidance and support throughout their experience. The community in which the Augustinian site supervisor resides is considered the host community for the volunteer community. True to the Augustinian way of life, it is a community commitment, as friars commit to sharing

meals and fellowship with the volunteers on a regular basis. Volunteers often attend Mass at local Augustinian parishes and participate in other local events.

When the new volunteers arrive at Orientation in Philadelphia in late August, they immediately experience Augustinian hospitality. Friars host dinners at their friaries throughout the week, providing volunteers an opportunity to begin building relationships. Augustinians also speak to the group on topics such as spirituality, community living, and history, providing a context about the Augustinian way of life. Friars attend the annual Commissioning Mass, sending forth the volunteers with blessings. When the volunteers depart for their service cities at the end of Orientation, they typically have visited five Augustinian communities and have met many Augustinians.

The many ways that Augustinian Friars connect with the Augustinian Volunteers only tells part of the story of the relationship between both parties. Over the seventeen-year history of the program, the uniqueness of each Augustinian community has added to the individuality of the experience in each volunteer service city. In Lawrence, Massachusetts, where volunteers have been serving since 2001, the experience often begins by joining the



1. FATHER JOE MOSTARDI, O.S.A., COOKS FOR RETURNING INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERS AT OCEAN CITY, NEW JERSEY. 2. THE FRIARS AT ST. AUGUSTINE PARISH IN ANDOVER SHARE A MEAL WITH THE LAWRENCE '15-'16 COMMUNITY. 3. FATHER BILL DONNELLY, O.S.A., TAKES THE LAWRENCE '14-'15 COMMUNITY SNOWSHOEING. 4. THE 2013-2014 CHICAGO COMMUNITY ATTENDS EASTER MASS WITH FATHER TOM MCCARTHY, O.S.A. 5. DEACON DICK HARDICK, O.S.A., TEACHES CAROLINE KEMP (SAN DIEGO, '13-'14) HOW TO SURF. 6. FATHER JOSEPH MOSTARDI, O.S.A., CELEBRATES THE WEDDING MASS OF JOANNA BOWEN (SAN DIEGO '07-'08) AND GAVIN VILLACORTA. 7. THE PERU 2014 COMMUNITY VISITS WITH THE FRIARS IN CHULUCANAS, PERU, INCLUDING FATHER ART PURCARO, O.S.A., STANDING ON THE FAR LEFT. 8. THE AUGUSTINIAN VOLUNTEER STAFF: (L-R) TAYLOR GOSTOMSKI, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR; JOANNA BOWEN, DIRECTOR; FATHER MICHAEL DI GREGORIO, O.S.A., PRIOR PROVINCIAL; HANNAH KUNBERGER, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR.

Augustinians in the Merrimack Valley for the Saint Augustine's Day celebration. This celebration is the first of many times that the volunteers will connect with the Augustinians for meals and evening prayer. Generations of Lawrence volunteers have stories of celebrating friars' birthdays, holidays, and other special events together. In Chicago, the monthly Novena at St. Rita of Cascia High School has become part of the fabric of the volunteer experience. Each month, the volunteer community shares a meal with the Augustinian community at St. Rita HS and assists with the Novena, allowing the volunteers to engage in an important school tradition. In San Diego, Deacon Dick Hardick, O.S.A., who has been the Augustinian site supervisor for ten years, shares his love of the ocean with the volunteers by teaching the volunteer community how to surf year after year. In Chulucanas, Peru, in addition to connecting with the local Augustinian community, the volunteers enjoy visiting and learning from Augustinians in Morropón, Cusco, and Lima.

Augustinian Volunteers often form friendships with Augustinians in formation.

It is not uncommon for volunteers to serve alongside an Augustinian Brother in his pastoral year. During a pastoral year, an Augustinian in formation is sent to serve in an Augustinian ministry, and to live with the local Augustinian community.

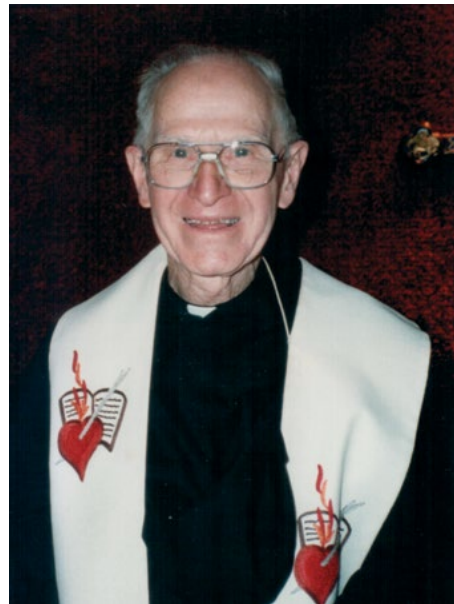
The relationships with Augustinian Friars does not end when the volunteer year ends. Many Augustinian Volunteer alumni turn to the Augustinians for support through the most important moments of their lives. Augustinians preside at weddings of volunteer alumni, they baptize their children, counsel them through difficult times, and even walk with them through the deaths of loved ones. Many alumni choose to worship at a local Augustinian parish, or maintain regular communication with a friar. For many alumni, this may be the first time that they have cultivated a friendship with a priest or a religious brother.

Each year during Orientation, Father Joe Mostardi, O.S.A., explains to the volunteers that, simply because of their commitment to the Augustinian Volunteers, they have become part of the Augustinian

family. They will be met with hospitality and now have a community of people who will encourage them on their journey, both during their volunteer year and beyond. The Augustinians' commitment to the Augustinian Volunteers, and, perhaps even more importantly, everyone who has participated in the program, is a contemporary example of the values that Saint Augustine himself espoused. Volunteers learn Augustinian values in a variety of ways, but perhaps most notably by being the recipient of the Augustinian Friars' commitment to hospitality and community.

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

WWW.AUGUSTINIANVOLUNTEERS.ORG



JOHN J. MCKNIFF, O.S.A., AUGUSTINIAN SERVANT OF GOD

Augustinian Father Bill Atkinson, O.S.A., is not the only friar of the Villanova Province whose Cause of Beatification and Canonization is underway. The Cause of Father John McKniff, O.S.A., was initiated in 1999 in Chulucanas, Peru, where Father McKniff had served in the missions.

Father John J. McKniff, O.S.A., devoted 51 years of service in missions in Cuba and Peru. He also served the Order for three years in the Philippine Islands. The desire to serve where the need was greatest continually characterized this friar.

John McKniff entered Villanova Preparatory Seminary and was accepted into the novitiate in 1923, professed simple vows in 1924 and solemn vows in 1927. He studied theology at the Order's International College, Santa Monica, in Rome, Italy, and was ordained to the priesthood there by Cardinal Pamphili on July 6, 1930.



FATHER JOHN WITH THE PAROCHIAL SCHOOL BASEBALL TEAM IN HAVANA, CUBA

Father McKniff's first ministry was in formation work, first at Villanova and then at Augustinian Academy, on Staten Island. In 1935, he volunteered to go to the Philippine Islands, where he taught chemistry at the College of Saint Augustine, Iloilo. Due to an accident in the laboratory, he was hospitalized for 80 days, and in 1939 he was sent to Villanova Preparatory School in Ojai, California, to recuperate. A few months later, he was sent to Cuba to teach at the *Colegio San Agustin*. Within two years he was named pastor of *Santo Cristo del Buen Viaje* Parish in the old section of Havana City, where he served for the next 27 years.

With the revolution of 1961, foreign priests and religious were expelled from Cuba, but Father McKniff managed to remain. For the next seven years he was the sole Augustinian in Cuba. In 1968, concerns of health brought him to the United States for treatment. The Cuban government revoked his passport, refusing him permission to return. From 1969 to 1972 he assisted Augustinian pastors back home in New York and Massachusetts. His heart, however, was still in the missions.

In 1972 Father McKniff was permitted to go to the missions in Chulucanas, Peru. Despite his years, he traveled the prelature extensively. On return trips to the States

he would stop in Miami to visit former members of Santo Cristo Parish living in exile. In 1994, taken ill, he was brought to Palmetto Hospital in Miami, where his condition steadily worsened. He died at the age of 88, on March 24, 1994, with several Peruvian confreres, Fathers John Lydon, O.S.A., Dan Turley, O.S.A., and John Tyma, O.S.A., at this bedside.

At the request of the Cuban Community in Miami, Father's funeral and interment were held in Miami. Father John Lydon, O.S.A., superior of the Peruvian mission, celebrated the Funeral Mass. Father McKniff's close friend, Father John Kelly, O.S.A., was the homilist. Internment was in the priest's section of Miami's Our Lady of Mercy Cemetery. A Memorial Mass was celebrated in Chulucanas, Peru on May 20, 1994. Bishop John McNabb, O.S.A., presided and Father John Lydon, O.S.A., preached.

Father McKniff, as friar and priest, was focused, generous, apostolic and unpretentious. His life was marked by simplicity and availability and his ministry was marked by characteristics valued in today's Church: outreach to the marginalized and identification with the poor. May this Servant of God inspire many others by his selfless example.

FOND FAREWELL



Farewell to Saint Elizabeth Seton Parish GOLDEN GATE, FLORIDA

In the summer of 1983, the Augustinian Order was invited to administer St. Elizabeth Seton Church and Father Joseph A. Spinelli, O.S.A., was assigned pastor. The parish experienced growing pains during the 1990s, expanding from 300 registered families to over 2000. By 1998, the Sunday School program totaled over 400 children and the elementary school had nearly 300 children enrolled. Clearly, a new church was needed to serve the increasing numbers.

Under the guidance of Father Joseph Spinelli, O.S.A., the parish raised \$2.7 million dollars for the beautiful church being used today. The 21,000 square foot sanctuary in the newly-built church was able to seat 1,100 people and included a 25-seat children's chapel and a covered drive-through entry for inclement weather. This church is especially dear to the parishioners as everything from the furniture to the carpeting, marble, altar, windows, statues, etc. were selected with love by Father Spinelli, who served as pastor for over twenty years. The St. Elizabeth Seton Church was dedicated on January 4, 2000. The original church building still stands and serves as a location for many parish activities, including lectures, prayer meetings and other services. Vacation Bible School is held there each summer. It will always be an important part of the campus.

Upon the retirement of Father Spinelli, Father Dennis Harten, O.S.A., who



ALTAR OF SAINT ELIZABETH SETON CHURCH

had joined the parish in 2002, became pastor in 2006, serving until 2015. He encouraged the parishioners' service by organizing their efforts and enthusiasm. He formed committees on Liturgy, Education, Christian Service, Family Life, Welcome, and Administration & Finance. These have provided a wonderful opportunity for parishioners to offer service and realize the parish truly belongs to them.

During the 35 years Augustinian Friars have been charged with administering the parish, many visiting Augustinian priests have offered retreats and missions for parishioners. They offered a deeper understanding of St. Augustine, his life, his writings, and the value of community working for the common good. Father Spinelli chose these words of Saint Augustine to greet those who entered St. Elizabeth Seton Church:

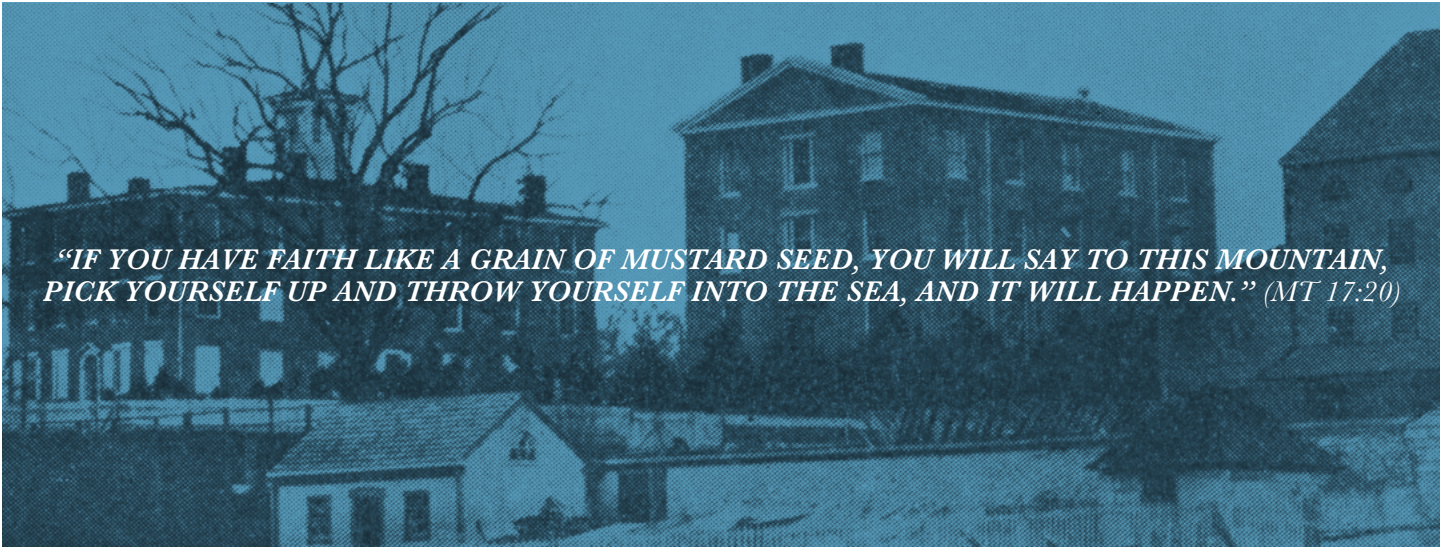
To fall in love with God is the greatest of all loves; to seek him is the greatest adventure; to find him, the greatest human achievement.

Longtime parishioner Judy Mankowski expressed her opinion this way: "Because of the presence of the Augustinian Order, we have come to see ourselves as a family. It is our mission and our desire to serve one another and our community. St. Elizabeth Seton parish is made up of many races, nationalities and personalities. We are known for our hard work and our warm welcomes. We will cherish the legacy the Augustinians are leaving with us and we will pray many young men will choose to become Augustinian priests and brothers in the future."

These words are a fitting tribute to the Augustinian shepherds of St. Elizabeth Seton Parish. It harkens to the relationship shared by Mrs. Seton and Father Michael Hurley, O.S.A., (1780-1837), an early Augustinian Friar and priest, subsequent to their becoming acquainted in New York, when Hurley was assigned there for two years, 1805-1807. During this stay, Hurley became a spiritual advisor to Elizabeth Seton. And while Hurley did return to Philadelphia, there were occasions when Elizabeth Seton and Father Hurley saw each other, and they maintained contact through correspondence. Their letters are thought to have been lost in the burning of Saint Augustine Church during the riots of 1844. Augustinians are honored to have served St. Elizabeth Seton Parish.

NEWS AND NOTES

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



VILLANOVA COLLEGE CIRCA 1856: (L-R) THE MONASTERY (FORMERLY THE RUDOLPH MANSION); THE COLLEGE (NOW ALUMNI HALL) AND THE BARN.

The 175th Anniversary of the Augustinian Foundation at Villanova

To understand the enormous leap of faith involved in purchasing the property in Radnor township, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, on January 5, 1842, is to know that only five Augustinian Friars were in the U.S. at the time of the purchase. Three (Patrick Moriarty, John O’ Dwyer and Thomas Kyle) were in Philadelphia at Olde Saint Augustine Parish, and Fathers Nicholas and James O’Donnell were in Brooklyn, New York.

Dr. Patrick Eugene Moriarty, O.S.A., the head of the Order in the U.S., had said Mass for the Rudolph family at the estate they owned. When it came up for sale, he saw it as a place to fulfill an urgent need to grow native U.S. vocations and provide a school for Catholic laity.

“...VILLANOVA STILL LIVES!—LIKE THE STARS OF THE MORN, MAY SHE LIVE, MAY SHE SHINE, THRO’ THE AGES UNBORN!”

An “Ode for the Golden Jubilee of Villanova College” by Eleanor Donnelly written in 1892

The property was purchased the day before it was to be auctioned off at a price that was a fraction of its worth. Aside from the Rudolph Mansion, the 197-acre property was a working farm with a fresh-water spring, gardens, apple and peach orchards, structures for horses and cattle, a smokehouse, a hog house and a poultry house. The property was perfect for a school that would literally feed the body, minds and souls of postulants and Catholic boys. The College was named after Saint Thomas of Villanova, a 16th-century Augustinian priest, scholar and bishop from the Augustinian Province of Castille, in Spain. He is known for his care and concern for the poor, and for founding a college in Valencia.

In late 1842 or early 1843, Father O’ Dwyer was sent abroad to recruit brothers, priests and teachers for the school. William Harnett, O.S.A., a Philadelphia native trained in Rome, was one of the friars recruited to teach. The first day of school was September 18, 1843.

The anti-Catholic riots and the violence and burning of Olde Saint Augustine Church was a troubling and anxious period for the friars and students at Villanova. To protect the assets of the College, in 1848, Francis R. Shunk, Governor of Pennsylvania, signed an act to incorporate the Augustinian College of Villanova. The first meeting of the Board of Trustees took place on May 1, 1848.

Today, guided by its 32nd Augustinian President, Father Peter M. Donohue, O.S.A., Villanova continues to grow the institution, together with faculty, staff and students, within the tradition of gratitude, compassion and generosity, while attaining scholastic and sporting achievements.

The seeds planted by five friars 175 years ago continue to grow and Augustinians throughout the world are united in their gratitude for Villanova’s legacy as a University and a community united in charity and truth and hope for the future.

—Teddie Gallagher

THE FOUNDING FATHERS
OF VILLANOVA COLLEGE

JOHN P. O'DWYER, O.S.A.



1814–1850
b: Callan, Ireland
1st and 3rd President of Villanova
Buried at Saint Augustine Church, Philadelphia, Pa.

JAMES O'DONNELL, O.S.A.



1806–1861
b: Tipperary, Ireland
1st Head of Students
Founded Saint Mary’s Lawrence, Mass.
Founded Saint Augustine’s Andover, Mass.
Buried at Saint Mary’s Cemetery, Lawrence, Mass.

WILLIAM HARNETT, O.S.A.



1820–1875
b: Philadelphia, Pa.,
2nd, 4th and 6th President of Villanova
Buried at Saint Mary’s Cemetery, Lawrence, Mass.

DR. PATRICK E. MORIARTY, O.S.A.



1805–1875
b: Dublin, Ireland
With Father Kyle, purchased Belle Air estate.
5th President of Villanova
Buried at Saint Augustine Church, Philadelphia, Pa.

THOMAS KYLE, O.S.A.

1798–1869
b: Castlebar, Ireland
With Dr. Moriarty, purchased Belle Air estate.
Superior at Saint Augustine Church during 1844 riots; fled to Villanova as church burned.
Buried at Saint Augustine Church, Philadelphia, Pa.

FRANCIS ASHE, O.S.A.

1820-1848
b: Cork, Ireland
Came to U.S. in 1843.
Among the first faculty members of Villanova
Buried at Saint Augustine Church, Philadelphia, Pa.



Province Ministry of Secondary Education

In a letter addressed to the friars and friends of the Augustinians at the end of November 2016, I made known the assignment of two friars of the Province in a somewhat unusually public way. I began the letter by saying,

“...I take great pride in announcing new leaders for the two Preparatory Schools of our Province.

I joyfully name Father Robert J. Murray, O.S.A., Ph.D., the next leader at Saint Augustine Preparatory School, Richland, New Jersey. At the same time, I am pleased to make known the selection of Father Donald F. Reilly, O.S.A., D. Min., as next Head of School at Malvern Prep, Malvern, Pennsylvania. These two friars bring a wealth of experience and a proven record of leadership in the Province and in the field of education.”

Conscious of the implications of these appointments for two large school communities and their many constituencies—students, parents, faculty, administrators, board members and benefactors—it was important to convey



DONALD F. REILLY, O.S.A.

these assignments in a timely and well-defined way. Equally important for me, however, was the communication of a clear and forceful message of the Province’s commitment to its

two preparatory schools and to the ministry of secondary education.

Over the years, the Province had found it necessary to withdraw sponsorship or ministerial presence from a number of the

secondary schools which we had founded or staffed. Each of these decisions had been made for reasons which were largely specific to the institution in question, but it is true to say that one of the factors that led to these decisions was a diminishment in the number of friars available for the ministry of education at the time.

While history and human experience advise that it is often unwise to predict



ROBERT J. MURRAY, O.S.A.

what the future may necessitate, I want to underscore, with the appointments of Fathers Murray and Reilly, the Province’s commitment to the secondary education apostolate in accordance with what our Constitutions advise, namely, that “*we should have the greatest esteem for the educational apostolate and consider it as one of the special missions of our Order.*”

Gratitude goes to Fathers Murray and Reilly for accepting the positions of leadership at Saint Augustine Prep and Malvern Prep respectively, and to all the friars who collaborate with them in those places, as well as to the many lay men and women who, imbued with dedication to Augustinian values, undertake the “*beautiful and truly solemn*” task of education.

—Fr. Michael F. Di Gregorio, O.S.A.



VINCENT MCQUADE, O.S.A., FIRST PRESIDENT OF MERRIMACK COLLEGE

Merrimack College Celebrates the 70th Anniversary of its Founding

Merrimack College in North Andover, Massachusetts, celebrates the 70th year of its founding by the Order of Saint Augustine this year. In 1947, at the invitation of the Archbishop of Boston, Richard Cardinal Cushing, Augustinians responded to a request to serve the needs of returning G.I.s, by founding the College. Father Vincent McQuade, O.S.A., a native of nearby Lawrence, Massachusetts, scouted the Merrimack Valley for a suitable location for the college. In March of 1947, Augustinians secured a charter from the state of Massachusetts for the school, and thus opened Merrimack College. Father McQuade served as the first President of Merrimack College. Over the 70 years the college has experienced significant growth. Today, Merrimack serves a student body that comes from across the United States and from foreign countries. From a commuter college founded to serve the local community, it has grown to a residential college, boasting a variety of residence accommodations, including the traditional dorms to apartments. Today, the College offers about 100 programs of study. True to its Augustinian heritage of seeking understanding through knowledge, Merrimack has consistently been ranked by US News & World Reports in the top ten colleges in the northeast. Congratulations to Merrimack College as it celebrates its anniversary!



ON THE LEFT: ALDO POTENCIO PROFESSED HIS SOLEMN VOWS TO PRIOR PROVINCIAL MICHAEL F. DI GREGORIO, O.S.A. ON THE RIGHT: ALDO STANDS WITH BISHOP DANIEL TURLEY, O.S.A., FOLLOWING HIS ORDINATION TO THE DIACONATE.

Aldo Potencio, O.S.A., Solemnly Professed and Ordained a Deacon

Aldo Potencio, O.S.A., who has been in formation at the Theologate these last few years, studying at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, professed final vows in the Order of Saint Augustine before Prior Provincial Michael Di Gregorio, O.S.A., at Saint Thomas of Villanova Church on Saturday, December 17, 2016. Brother Aldo was then ordained as a deacon at Saint Rita’s parish in Chicago, on January 7, 2017. Congratulations to Brother Aldo, as he continues on his path to priesthood.



SAINT AUGUSTINE CHURCH, ANDOVER, MASS.



Saint Augustine Parish in Andover Celebrates its 150th Anniversary

Saint Augustine Parish in North Andover, Massachusetts, is observing a yearlong celebration of its 150th Anniversary, which began this past August on the feast of Saint Augustine, Sunday, August 28, 2016. Originally a mission church of Saint Mary’s in Lawrence, the people of Andover were awarded their own independent parish when the Archdiocese of Boston assigned the parish to the Augustinians, with Father Michael F. Gallagher, O.S.A., as the first pastor. As the population grew, so did the need for a larger church structure. Land was acquired and a wooden structure was built on the present site. After a fire destroyed the structure, the cornerstone for the present brick building was laid in 1895, With the steadfast determination and support of the parishioners a new church building was erected and it was dedicated in 1900. For 150 years, it has been an honor for the Augustinians to serve the people of North Andover. Congratulations to Saint Augustine Parish on your 150th Anniversary.

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AUGUSTINIAN FUND IS CELEBRATED AT THE OVERBROOK GOLF CLUB!

As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Augustinian Fund, I want to express my appreciation to all members of the Augustinian Advancement Council—past and present—who have graciously given of their time, talent and treasure to advance our mission.

I also want to thank our benefactors who have generously responded to our needs. Lastly, I’d like to recognize my predecessors, Father Mickey Genovese, O.S.A., and Father Donald Reilly, O.S.A., for their leadership and valuable efforts to build a strong foundation for the Augustinian Fund. It is important that we continue to collaborate with all who have been so generous to us. Your partnership with us is critical to our future success and to the future of our Province.

Let us celebrate this milestone and look to continue to do great things together in the future. May God bless you and reward you for your kindness.

In Augustine, Father Michael



FATHER MICHAEL F. DI GREGORIO, O.S.A., EXPRESSED HIS GRATITUDE FOR THE GENEROSITY, SUPPORT AND FRIENDSHIP OF AUGUSTINIAN BENEFACTORS



BROTHERS ATSUSHI KUWAHARA, O.S.A., DAN MADDEN, O.S.A., ELIZANDRO CONTRERAS, O.S.A., AND JAVIER AGUILAR, O.S.A., WITH PRIOR PROVINCIAL MICHAEL F. DI GREGORIO, O.S.A. (CENTER). BROTHER DAN, A FORMER AUGUSTINIAN VOLUNTEER WAS A FEATURED SPEAKER, SHARING HIS MOVING VOCATION STORY.



KAREN WILLIS, CHARLEY AND MARI CONNOLLY AND JOAN DONOHUE



DR. HELEN K. LAFFERTY, TONY ALFANO AND MICHELE ALFANO



HARRY HALLORAN AND PETER GREENHALGH



ADVANCEMENT DIRECTOR MADONNA SUTTER WITH FATHER GEORGE RILEY, O.S.A., AND COUNCIL MEMBER TERRY SOUSA



PEGGY AND PETER FEDERICO WITH FATHER JOE MOSTARDI, O.S.A.



FATHER CHRISTOPHER DRENNAN, O.S.A., AND COUNCIL MEMBER, CHRISTOPHER SOLTIS



NORM MCMAHON AND FATHER ROB HAGAN, O.S.A.



COLLEEN TEGLER, BETTY HARVEY AND COUNCIL MEMBER TERRY COFFEY



THE BEAUTIFUL EVENING OF CELEBRATION TOOK PLACE AT THE OVERBROOK GOLF CLUB



FATHER ROBERT HAGAN, O.S.A., DELIVERED THE HOMILY AT THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY MASS FOR FATHER BILL

Father Bill Atkinson's 10th Anniversary Memorial Mass

Father Bill Atkinson's 10th Anniversary Mass was celebrated by Prior Provincial Michael Di Gregorio, O.S.A., at Saint Thomas of Villanova Church on the evening of Thursday, September 15, 2016. Father Rob Hagan, O.S.A., gave the homily. Nearly 400 people attended, Augustinian Friars, members of Father Bill's family—sisters, brothers, nieces and nephews—along with friends, former caretakers, and students, to honor and remember this Augustinian priest, whom the Vatican had declared "Servant of God," opening his Cause for sainthood.

Following Mass, a dinner was held at the Connelly Center on the campus of Villanova University. In the President's lounge of the Connelly Center, a film with reminiscences of friars, family, caretakers and friends was shown. This video and the video of the Mass and homily are important steps in recording memories of Father Bill for this beatification and canonization process that may extend beyond our generation.

The Atkinson film and video of the Mass and homily are available at:

www.augustinian.org/multimedia-news

Fr. Bill Atkinson, O.S.A., was injured at the age of 19 in a tobogganing accident, which rendered him a quadriplegic. With a dispensation from Pope Paul VI, he was ordained to the priesthood by John Cardinal Krol, at his home parish of Saint Alice, in Upper Darby, PA. For nearly 30 years, Father Bill was assigned to his alma mater, Msgr. Bonner High School in Drexel Hill, Pa., where he was a teacher, chaplain, and mentor to students and faculty.



THE ATKINSON FAMILY: FATHER BILL'S SISTERS AND BROTHERS, HIS NIECES, NEPHEWS, GRANDNIECES AND GRANDNEPHEWS, GATHERED IN SAINT THOMAS OF VILLANOVA CHURCH FOR THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY MASS



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



FRIARS PROCESS IN FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE MASS



JOAN MULLEN, FATHER BILL ATKINSON'S SISTER, JOINS IN SINGING WITH HER HUSBAND JOHN



FATHER FRANCIS HORN,
O.S.A.

PRIOR PROVINCIAL MICHAEL F.
DI GREGORIO, O.S.A., PRESIDED



FATHER BILL'S NIECES AND GRANDNIECES BRING THE GIFTS UP FOR THE EUCHARIST



GEORGE F. RILEY, O.S.A.

George F. Riley, O.S.A., Retires from Villanova University

Father George F. Riley, O.S.A., has retired from Villanova University where he has served 52 years in various assignments, including teaching, Vice President of University Relations, the University's liaison for the Peace Corp, and his most recent position as Special Assistant to the President for Alumni and External Relations, which he held for 25 years. A native of Lawrence, Massachusetts, Father Riley attended Merrimack College for two years. He was received into the Order of Saint Augustine and professed vows in 1956. He then came to Villanova University, graduating in 1958. After completing his theology studies in Washington, D.C., he returned to Villanova University, where he remained. The inaugural *Villanova Magazine* was created by Father Riley, and he played a major role in two capital campaigns, Covenant I and II, which helped to raise the funds to build the Connelly Center and The Pavilion. Father Riley has served the Augustinian Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova as Vocation

Director and as Secretary to the Provincial. His service has also included parishes in South Jersey, where he has assisted during weekends for the past 50-plus years. He has received numerous awards, including The Commodore John Barry Award from the American Catholic Historical Association, and he has been named Man of the Year by the Hebrew Academy of Atlantic County, the Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick of Southern New Jersey, and others.

During Father Riley's tenure, he has witnessed the expansion and growth of the campus, the community and the alumni of Villanova University. As Father Riley recalls, "When I got there, there were probably about ten buildings in the whole school. Sheehan and Sullivan had just been built when I arrived here, then...it just got bigger and bigger." When asked about the alumni, he says he sees an interested and vibrant alumni, "They loved their time at Villanova and they'll do anything for Villanova."

Best Wishes to Father Riley from the Villanova Community and the Augustinians!



THE BLUE AWNING MARKS THE ENTRANCE TO THE HERITAGE ROOM AT SAINT THOMAS OF VILLANOVA MONASTERY

The Augustinian Heritage Room

The Heritage Room, celebrating the history of the Augustinians in the United States, houses artifacts relating to the presence of Augustinians in the U.S., since the arrival of Father Matthew Carr, O.S.A., in Philadelphia, in 1796. It is located in Saint Thomas Monastery, on the campus of Villanova University, and tours of the Heritage Room can be arranged by calling Father Dennis McGowan, O.S.A., at 610-519-7500.

ANNIVERSARIES 2017

ANNIVERSARIES OF RELIGIOUS PROFESSION

50 YEARS

Jack D. Stagliano, O.S.A.
Donald F. Reilly, O.S.A.
John P. Stack, O.S.A.
Patrick F. Leonard, O.S.A.
Joseph D. Calderone, O.S.A.
William J. Wallace, O.S.A.

ANNIVERSARIES OF ORDINATION

50 YEARS

Michael P. Sullivan, O.S.A.
John J. Shea, O.S.A.
William J. Donnelly, O.S.A.
Allan D. Fitzgerald, O.S.A.
Brian S. Lowery, O.S.A.
J. Thomas Pohto, O.S.A.
Paul F. Morrissey, O.S.A.
Kail C. Ellis, O.S.A.



REMEMBERING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY MEMORIAL OF RICHARD D. APPICCI, O.S.A.

1928-2007

1. RICHARD D. APPICCI WAS 26 WHEN HE PROFESSED HIS SIMPLE VOWS AT OUR MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL NOVITIATE, NEW HAMBURG, NY, ON JANUARY 17, 1955. 2. JORGE, THE FIRST PERMANENT DEACON IN PERU ON THE LEFT, WITH FATHER ART PURCARO, O.S.A. AND FATHER DICK APPICCI, O.S.A., IN SAN JOSE OBRERO, PERU. 3. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. IN HIS 1965 ADDRESS TO VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, BROUGHT TO THE UNIVERSITY BY FATHER APPICCI.



In his homily at Father Appicci’s Mass Burial on February 5, 2007, Prior Provincial John E. Deegan, O.S.A., said: “In

1965, when he was the Vice President of Student Affairs, Dick was instrumental in bringing Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to the campus of Villanova, at a time when Dr. King and many Villanova students were against the Vietnam War. Father Appicci petitioned the powers that be to offer Rev. King an honorary degree from the University, but later said he had to settle for offering him a perpetual membership in the Augustinian Seminary Guild.” In 1967, Father Appicci resigned his position at Villanova and for the next twenty years served as a missionary in Chulucanas, Peru. Father Art Purcaro, O.S.A., who served with Father Appicci remembers him as man whose unconventional methods got results. “He purchased a small canteen-bar and saw it as a potential parish center.

He used generators on the property to show movies, he held reading and writing classes for adults and sewing and cooking classes. He started a savings and loan cooperative, and projects to raise goats, pigs and chickens. He helped locals dig wells for water. “He was the president of the municipal committee to provide 24-hour power to the community. In 1999, when power was achieved, at Father’s insistence, the electricity was provided first to the shanty towns surrounding Chulucanas, leaving the main square of the town the last area to receive the power. It is still celebrated today as a testimony to Christ’s admonition that the last will be first.” Father Appicci returned to the U.S. in 1988 and spent the rest of his life coordinating mission appeals to make known the needs of mission activities in Peru, Japan and South Africa. He also served for 15 years as a chaplain in regional prisons in Pennsylvania, providing spiritual care and clothing for newly-released prisoners. To help continue his work, in 2006 the Province established “The Richard D. Appicci, O.S.A., Endowment for the Augustinian Missions,” a fund to support Province mission efforts abroad.

YOU ARE INVITED TO MAKE A GIFT

to the Richard D. Appicci, O.S.A., Endowment for the Augustinian Missions in memory of Father Appicci on the 10th anniversary of his death. Let us continue to celebrate Father Appicci’s life and legacy by supporting what he loved doing best—helping others in need.

TO MAKE A GIFT ONLINE VISIT:
WWW.AUGUSTINIANFUND.ORG/APPICCI

“He saw Christ in all people and responded accordingly—with love, compassion and absolute friendship.”

-FATHER DONALD F. REILLY, O.S.A.

IN PARADISUM

The following friars were called home to God. You can read full biographies of these Augustinians, and post your own reflections or favorite memory, online at www.augustinian.org



Maximo J. Ortiz, O.S.A.

BORN: 10/8/1939
FIRST PROFESSION: 9/3/1968
ORDAINED: 9/14/1974
DIED: 10/12/2016

Maximo Jose Ortiz was born on October 8, 1939, in Havana, Cuba, the son of Maximo Ortiz and Sylvia Ramirez-Cartaya Ortiz de la Fuente, and was baptized on January 1, 1940 at the Cathedral of Havana. He attended schools in Havana and in New York. He attended Villanova University, Villanova (1961–1963), receiving a BS in Economics. He then worked in his family’s business in Puerto Rico. Received into the Order on September 2, 1967, after a year at Good Counsel Novitiate, New Hamburg, N.Y., he professed simple vows on September 3, 1968. He received an MA in Theology at Villanova University (1970) and an STL from Catholic University (1971). He professed solemn vows on September 3, 1971, and he served as a deacon at Saint Mary’s, Lawrence

Massachusetts. He was ordained to the priesthood on September 14, 1974. He did graduate studies at the Catholic University of America (1975–1978) and then returned to Saint Mary’s. Transferred in 1982 to Washington, he ministered as chaplain at Saint Elizabeth’s Hospital. His particular contribution was to the Spanish-speaking. Father Maximo offered pastoral care to the residents of Saint Elizabeth’s for over 25 years. In August 2010, he was prior at Casa San Lorenzo, Miami Gardens, Florida. In February 2012, he resigned as prior and was assigned *de familia* at St. Elizabeth Seton Parish in Golden Gate, Florida while continuing to minister in the area to the Spanish and Haitian communities. In August 2016, he was brought to the Health Care Unit of Saint Thomas Monastery, Villanova, with health concerns. He was soon diagnosed with brain cancer. He was cared for at the monastery until his death on October 12, 2016.



Eugene A. DelConte, O.S.A.

BORN: 5/21/1926
FIRST PROFESSION: 9/10/1949
ORDAINED: 6/4/1955
DIED: 11/20/2016

Eugene Anthony DelConte was born on May 21, 1926, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the son of Antonio DelConte and Maria Baratta. Baptized on July 4, 1926, at Saint Donato Church, he attended

public schools, graduating high school in 1944. He then worked for two years, before entering Augustinian Academy, Staten Island, New York. Received into the Order as a novice on September 9, 1948, after a year at Good Counsel Novitiate, New Hamburg, N.Y., he professed simple vows on September 10, 1949. He attended Villanova College (1949–1952) earning a BA in Philosophy. He professed solemn vows on September 10, 1952, and pursued theological studies at Augustinian College, Washington, D.C. He received an MA in Sociology from Catholic University (1956). He was ordained to the priesthood on June 4, 1955, at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Father DelConte first taught at Msgr. Bonner High School (1956–1960). He then served at parishes in New York, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania. In 1999, he became prior of the Augustinian National Novitiate in Racine, Wisconsin. In 2007, he was assigned to Saint Rita of Cascia Shrine, Philadelphia, where he assisted the parish and the Shrine. Father underwent surgery on November 8, 2016 and, while in recovery, suffered a debilitating stroke. On November 16 he was brought to the Health Care Unit of the Villanova Monastery, where he passed over to the Lord on Sunday, November 20, 2016. Father Gene is remembered as a faithful friar and a devoted priest. His talents were many, and will continue to be the gift he shares for a long time to come through the art he created.

OUR PROVINCE CALENDAR

Save the date!

SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 2017

Augustinian Lenten Retreat

St. Augustine Church, Philadelphia, PA
10:00 AM–1:00 PM
Speaker: William F. Waters, O.S.A., Pastor

For details and to register go to:
WWW.AUGUSTINIANFUND.ORG/LENTEN-RETREAT

MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2017

Lenten Reflection

Saint Thomas of Villanova Parish, Rosemont, PA
7:00 PM
Speaker: Allan D. Fitzgerald, O.S.A., Director,
The Augustinian Institute

For details and to register go to:
WWW.AUGUSTINIANFUND.ORG/LENTEN-REFLECTION

THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2017

Saint Augustine Medal Dinner

Inaugural Recipients: Patty and Jay Wright
583 Park Avenue, New York, NY

WWW.AUGUSTINIANFUND.ORG/MEDAL-DINNER

SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 2017

South Philadelphia Health Walk and Expo

Sponsored by Augustinian Defenders of the
Rights of the Poor (A.D.R.O.P.) and Methodist
Hospital Foundation

Contact:
JMICUCCI@RIGHTSOFTHEPOOR.ORG



BUILDING A STRONG FOUNDATION

BY MADONNA SUTTER
DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT

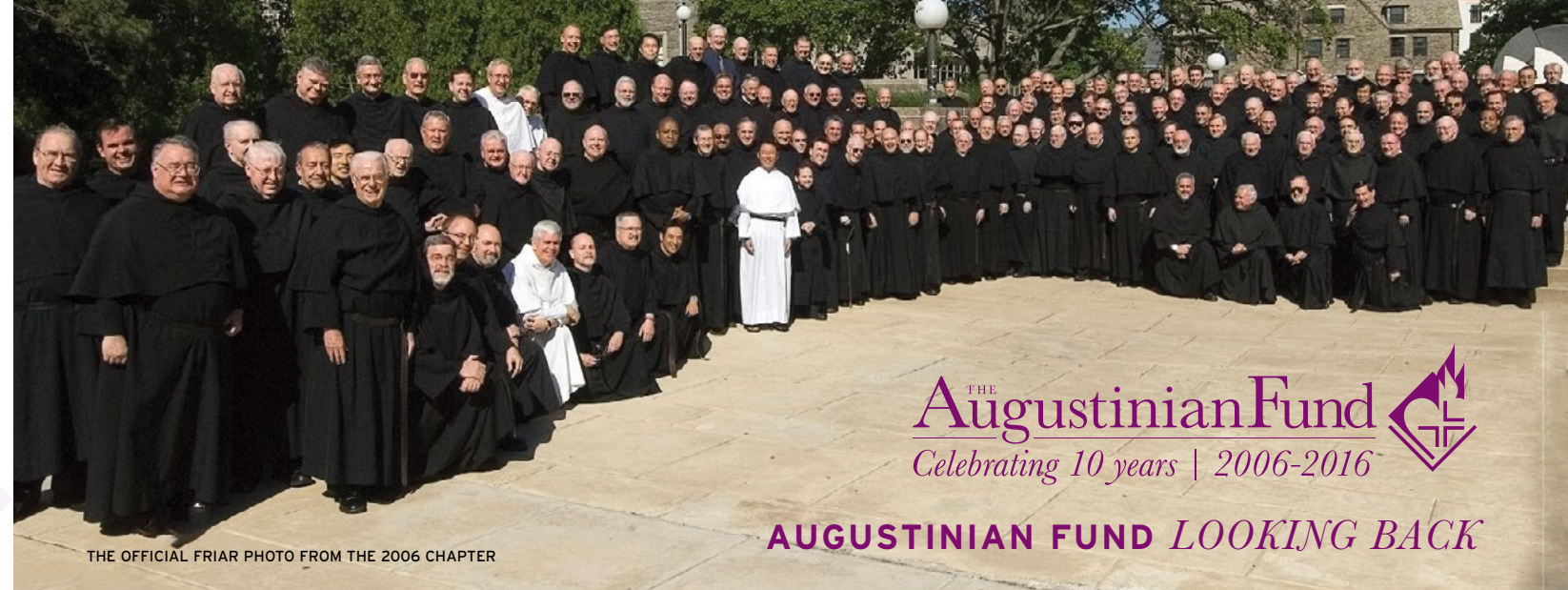
In my role as Advancement Director for the Province, many have asked me, “What are your biggest challenges?” I would say one of my top challenges is finding new donors and renewing their support each year. The key to building a strong base of annual support is through renewable gifts (donors who give year after year). When we lose donors, it’s hard work to replace them. We don’t have the luxury of a built-in donor base such as an alumni database or parish list. We have to find our donors one-by-one through referrals and those we proactively seek. Our primary prospects are constituents and alumni of our Augustinian-sponsored schools and parishes and friends/relatives of the Augustinians.

We provide many opportunities for donors to give throughout the year such as our annual fall appeal, #GivingTuesday, other segmented appeals and fundraising events. Some consider fundraising events a waste of time, but for me it’s more about raising awareness, meeting new donors *and* raising funds. We hosted an event to celebrate the Augustinian Fund 10th anniversary in November, and in April we will host the inaugural Saint Augustine Medal Dinner in New York City honoring Patty and Jay Wright.

We will commemorate the 10th anniversary of Father Appicci’s death with a special appeal in February for the Richard D. Appicci, O.S.A., Endowment for Augustinian Missions. Other sources of revenue come from Augustinian Mass cards, and Villanova Coach Jay Wright has once again named the Augustinian Fund as his charity for the Infiniti Coaches’ Challenge.

Annual gifts provide support for today, but what about the future? The members of the Saint Augustine Legacy Society provide gifts for the Augustinians that extend beyond a lifetime. These donors have provided estate and life-income gifts or transfer of assets as well as naming the Augustinians as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy. I invite you to join the Saint Augustine Legacy Society with a gift that will have a lasting impact on the Province and the friars.

Consider renewing your gift to the Augustinian Fund every year and help us to build a strong base of annual support for the friars.



Care of Sick and Elderly Friars

JOHN J. “FIGGY” FARRELL, O.S.A., AND ROGER M. HANOUILLE, O.S.A. (FRONT LEFT), AT A MONASTERY HALLOWEEN PARTY



Vocation and Formation Programs

FATHER PETER M. DONOHUE, O.S.A., AT THE ORDINATION OF CRAIG M. MCMAHON, O.S.A.



Augustinian Volunteers

AUGUSTINIAN VOLUNTEERS FROM VARIOUS YEARS PROCESS IN WITH FRIARS AT THE 2006 INSTALLATION OF FATHER DONALD F. REILLY, O.S.A.



Justice and Peace Initiatives

PICTURE OF ATTENDEES AT 2011 CONFERENCE “PURSUING THE PATH OF JUSTICE AND PEACE,” WHICH DREW AUGUSTINIANS AND LAY PEOPLE FROM THIRTEEN AUGUSTINIAN CONSCRIPTIONS AROUND THE WORLD



Augustinian Defenders of the Rights of Poor (A.D.R.O.P.)

FATHER JACK DEEGAN, O.S.A., THE FOUNDER OF A.D.R.O.P., AT THE UNITY CLINIC



Augustinian Missions

PICTURE OF FORMER PRIOR PROVINCIAL JOHN J. HAGEN, O.S.A., WITH AUGUSTINIAN MISSIONARIES THOMAS PURCELL, O.S.A. (JAPAN), AND RICHARD D. APPICCI, O.S.A. (PERU), ON THE STEPS OF THE SAINT THOMAS OF VILLANOVA MONASTERY

Make a gift to the Augustinian Fund and please renew your support every year.

WWW.AUGUSTINIANFUND.ORG/DONATE

Encourage one friend who shares your Augustinian connection to consider a gift to the Fund.

Let your abundance... supply their need.



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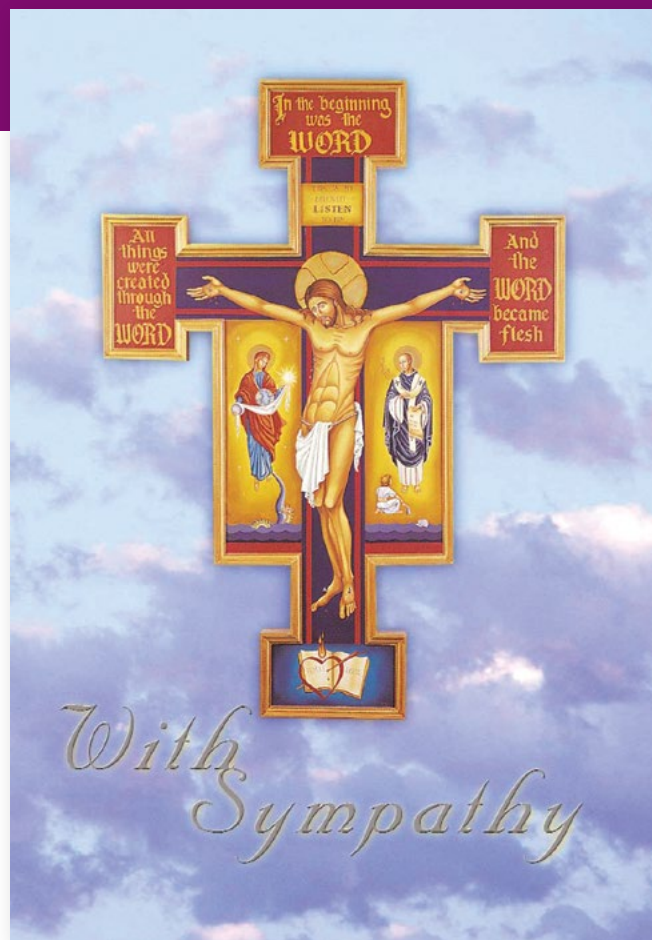
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The Augustinian Guild

Praying for others has always been an important element of the Christian life. It is also one of the ways in which we Augustinians are united in petition and thanksgiving with family, benefactors and friends.

We echo the sentiments of Saint Augustine when he writes, "O Lord my God, pay heed to my prayer. Look with mercy on my desire, which is not concerned with myself alone but with my neighbor's good as well" (Conf. 11,2).

THE AUGUSTINIAN GUILD was established as a ministry of prayer so that we might share with others the spiritual riches of our religious community. Individuals enrolled in the Guild, both living and deceased, share in our Masses, prayers and works. Donations to the Guild, in turn, assist us in our Province Mission, in the care of elderly and infirm friars, and in the training of new Augustinians.



To receive an Augustinian Guild brochure or order Mass Cards, contact Maria Manna at 610-527-3330, ext. 240 or maria.manna@augustinian.org.

Order Mass Cards online at augustinianfund.org/mass-cards.