

the Augustinian

FALL 2023



ANNOUNCING CARDINAL ROBERT FRANCIS PREVOST, O.S.A. *Page 2* >

Celebrating Special ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

65 YEARS



Fr. Thomas P. Dwyer, O.S.A.

60 YEARS



Fr. William R. Faix, O.S.A.



Fr. Arthur D. Johnson, O.S.A.

50 YEARS



Fr. Joseph D. Calderone,
O.S.A.



Fr. Francis X. Devlin,
O.S.A.



Fr. Michael F. Di Gregorio,
O.S.A.



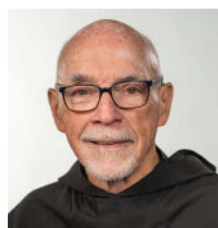
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O.S.A.



Fr. Michael J. Hilden,
O.S.A.



Fr. David J. Kelley,
O.S.A.



Fr. Richard T. O'Leary,
O.S.A.



Fr. Robert P. Terranova,
O.S.A.

the Augustinian

Publication of the Province of
Saint Thomas of Villanova

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DEAR FRIENDS IN CHRIST,

Welcome to the fall edition of *The Augustinian*. With the merger of the Province’s Offices of Advancement and Communication this summer, we’re pleased to reveal a new design of our magazine in this first abbreviated issue. As with all things new, the evolution and growth of this publication will take shape with time.

The photo you see on the cover of this issue celebrates a milestone within our Augustinian Order—the elevation to Cardinal of our brother Robert Francis Prevost, O.S.A., a Villanova University graduate and a member of the Midwest Province. Many of our friars from the U.S. and Rome joined Cardinal Prevost in Rome for this celebratory occasion. Cardinal Prevost accepts his new role with humility and love and shared, “a cardinal is called to give his whole life in service to the Church.”

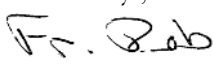
I am delighted to feature our men in formation in this issue who are taking their next steps on their journey to become an Augustinian priest or brother. On the inside back cover, you will see all our men across three provinces who are in various stages of formation. I ask you to please keep them in prayer as they continue with their education and training.

The Cause for the Beatification and Canonization of Fr. Bill Atkinson, O.S.A. received much visibility and promotion through a special symposium held at Villanova University in October. We were honored to have Archbishop of Philadelphia Nelson J. Perez, D.D. join us as well as two esteemed academicians: Dr. Brendan Sammon from St. Joseph’s University, who shared his research and perspective on the spirituality of disability; and Fr. Thomas Dailey, O.S.F.S., a professor of theology at St. Charles Seminary, who addressed the process of canonization of Fr. Bill Atkinson, O.S.A.

Our annual Profile in Augustinian Leadership featured guest of honor Randy Foye, Villanova alumnus, who shared his heartwarming story and how his life has been shaped by the Augustinian values and charism that he learned at Villanova University. As you can see from the photos, this is always a fantastic evening filled with friendship and Augustinian hospitality.

In this issue, you will find noteworthy anniversaries of several of our friars who have given decades of service to the Order, the Church, and God’s people. Congratulations also to Saint Thomas of Villanova Parish in Villanova, Pennsylvania on 175 years of serving the Church. Monsignor Bonner & Archbishop Prendergast Catholic High School (where the friars spent over 50 years) celebrates their 70th anniversary this year, and Austin Preparatory School in Reading, Massachusetts (founded by the Augustinians in the 1960s) celebrates its 60th anniversary.

Saint Augustine famously wrote of a “Beauty ever ancient, ever new,” so even as we delight in the newness of the season, may we also find peace in the ancient and unending love of God. Whatever you have going on in your own life this season, know that you remain in the prayers of the Augustinian Friars.

Peace always,


Fr. Robert P. Hagan, O.S.A.
Prior Provincial

“
EACH OF US
STRENGTHENS
ALL OF US.
”
— Saint Augustine



ANNOUNCING

*Cardinal
Robert
Francis
Prevost,
O.S.A.*

On September 30, our Augustinian brother Robert F. Prevost, O.S.A. was elevated to the rank of Cardinal. He was one of 21 new cardinals created during a ceremony at the Vatican and is the first Augustinian cardinal since His Eminence Prosper Grech, O.S.A., a Maltese Augustinian, became a cardinal in 2012.



Opposite page: Newly elected Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost, Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops, right, receives his biretta from Pope Francis as he is elevated in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican on September 30, 2023. Photo: Associated Press.

Left: Cardinal Prevost's Augustinian brothers joined him in Rome for the ceremony. L to R: Fr. John Lydon, O.S.A., Fr. Peter Donohue, O.S.A., Fr. Paul Galetto, O.S.A., Fr. Arthur Purcaro, O.S.A., Fr. Jack Flynn, O.S.A., Cardinal Prevost, Fr. Joseph Mostardi, O.S.A., Fr. Kevin DePrinzio, O.S.A., Fr. Joseph Farrell, O.S.A.

Below: The newest cardinals on the steps of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome as they await the presentation of the birettas. Photo: Vatican News.

Cardinal Prevost, O.S.A. is originally from Chicago, Illinois. An alumnus of Villanova University, he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics in 1977. Upon graduating he entered the novitiate in the Province of Our Lady of Good Counsel in St. Louis and made his solemn vows in 1981. He studied at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, graduating with a degree in Theology. After studying Canon Law at the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas in Rome, he received priestly ordination in 1982. He received his Licentiate in 1984, then was sent to work in the Augustinian mission in Chulucanas, Piura, Peru while earning his doctorate.

He served in Peru for a decade and a half before returning to the States to teach and become Prior Provincial in his native Province in the Midwest. Shortly thereafter he was elected Prior General of the worldwide Augustinian Order (a role he served for two terms) and was later appointed Bishop of the Diocese of Chiclayo, Peru.

Pope Francis appointed Cardinal Prevost the Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops in January 2023. The Dicastery for

Bishops is the department of the Roman Curia that oversees the selection of most new bishops, and traditionally has been considered one of the Vatican's most powerful departments. Now as a cardinal, he has been appointed a member of the Dicastery for Evangelization's Section for the First Evangelization and New Particular Churches and a member of the dicasteries for the Doctrine of the Faith, for the Eastern Churches, for Clergy, for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, for Culture and Education and for Legislative Texts. Pope Francis also named him to the Pontifical Commission for Vatican City State.

As to his new appointment, Cardinal Prevost recalled the words of Saint Pope Paul VI, saying that "being a cardinal is a mission of love with Christ, our Savior," and that "a cardinal is called to give his whole life in service to the Church." He also says, "I just pray to the Lord that I will be faithful in trying to fulfill what Pope Francis and the Church is now asking me."

Join us in praying for Cardinal Prevost as he assumes his important role in the Church. ✚



Our Men *in* FORMATION



In May, **Fr. Atsushi Kuwahara, O.S.A.** was ordained to the priesthood at St. Augustine Sasaoka Church in Fukuoka, Japan. Fr. Atsushi began his journey with the Augustinians as a pre-novice in Pennsylvania, studied with his Augustinian Brothers in Chicago and completed his studies in Japan. He has built many relationships across the globe. Several friars from the States (including Prior Provincial Robert P. Hagan, O.S.A., Secretary-Treasurer Fr. Aldo Potencio, O.S.A., and some of Fr. Atsushi's classmates and formators) traveled to Japan for Fr. Atsushi's ordination. Many diocesan priests who work closely with us in Japan also attended. All told there were nearly 50 priests and religious from around the world concelebrating.



In June, **Br. Michael Riggs, O.S.A.** was ordained to the diaconate. Bishop Dan Turley, O.S.A. presided over the ordination at Our Mother of Good Counsel in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, where friars, friends, family, and parishioners gathered to celebrate with Br. Michael. He is now what we call a transitional deacon who is on his way to be ordained a priest. For a minimum of six months, Dcn. Michael will serve in Our Mother of Good Counsel Parish preaching, celebrating baptisms, weddings and ministering to God's people. He will have an opportunity to immerse himself in the sacramental life of the Church before culminating his journey with his priestly ordination.

In August, six Augustinian Novices made their First Profession of Vows at St. Clare of Montefalco Chapel in Chicago. Lou San Vicente, David Marshall, Nathan Fernandes, Frank Connor (Villanova Province), Tony Moreno, and Shon Alam will now continue their Augustinian Formation at the Chicago Theological Union with course studies in theology. They joined Br. Nicholas Stone, O.S.A. of the Villanova Province who is in simple vows, as well.

Also in August, three new novices received their white habits, including Nicholas Anderson of the Villanova Province, at Our Mother of Good Counsel Novitiate in Radnor, Pennsylvania. They will spend one year discerning more intentionally if God calls them to profess first vows as Augustinian Friars. They learn about themselves, their relationship with the Lord, and Augustinian community life more deeply. They immerse themselves in personal prayer and gain insights and skills to live as vowed members of the Order of Saint Augustine.

Eric Hollander joined the community of Blessed Stephen Bellesini Friary in Ardmore, Pennsylvania as a pre-novice in August. He will spend one year further discerning his call to the Order. †



Steps in Augustinian Formation

All men in formation are called first to be an Augustinian Friar. The call within the call is how they minister as friars either as a brothers or priests.

- Discernment
- Associate Program
- Pre-Novitiate
- Novitiate
- First Vows
- Pastoral Year
- Solemn Vows

Additional steps for those called to the priesthood:

- Ordination to the Diaconate
- Ordination to the Priesthood

Photos, this page, top: The six Augustinian novices who made their First Profession of Vows on August 5, 2023. L-R Lou San Vicente, Tony Moreno, Frank Connor (Villanova Province), Shon Alam, David Marshall, and Nathan Fernandes.

Center: Br. Nicholas Stone, O.S.A. makes his First Profession of Vows on August 6, 2022.

Bottom: In their newly bestowed white habits, Nicholas Anderson, Javier Medina, and Fr. Cody Ford (a diocesan priest) begin their year at the Novitiate.



Interested in learning more about vocations or joining the Order as an Augustinian Friar? Visit beafriar.org or email vocations@augustinian.org

CELEBRATING THE LEGACY OF SERVANT OF GOD **FR. BILL ATKINSON, O.S.A.**



Though paralyzed from the neck down as a young man, Servant of God Fr. Bill Atkinson, O.S.A. remained determined to follow his calling to become an Augustinian priest. Ordained the first quadriplegic priest by special papal dispensation in 1974, Fr. Bill served many years as a teacher, friar, and friend, expanding the notion of what a quadriplegic person can accomplish and inspiring those around him to look beyond their own limitations.



We began planning for this symposium with an eye to create more visibility of Fr. Bill's Cause. Our friends at Villanova University graciously hosted and co-sponsored the event with our Province. We looked for speakers who would discuss different aspects of the spirituality of disability, and we were delighted to host Dr. Brendan T. Sammon, Ph.D., associate professor at St. Joseph's University. Dr. Sammon spoke on the beauty of all God's creation during a very enlightening academic presentation. He particularly highlighted the virtue of dependence. There is incredible value to each of us and to our community when we recognize how much we need each other, and how much we need God and God's grace.

The Most Reverend Nelson J. Pérez, D.D., Archbishop of Philadelphia, shared his reflections on the value of the Communion of Saints and some of the many lessons we can learn from Fr. Bill's life. The afternoon session began with a talk by Fr. Thomas F. Dailey, O.S.F.S., Professor of Theology at St. Charles Seminary in Philadelphia, on the process of canonization of Fr. Bill Atkinson, O.S.A.

The day culminated in a panel discussion featuring four very special individuals whose lives were impacted by Fr. Bill: his sister Joan Mullen; his student and caretaker Ted Donnelly; Anne Marie Dolceamore, assistant principal of Monsignor Bonner & Archbishop Prendergast Catholic High School, who attributes a significant healing in her life to God through the intercession of Fr. Bill; and Michael Gaynor, executive director of undergraduate admissions at Villanova University, who spoke both as a friend of Fr. Bill and as a caregiver of his own disabled children who have brought joy and meaning to his life and the life of his family.

It was a joyful day in the company of friends, family, and an extended Augustinian community. This day was a day of prayer, a day of awareness, and a day in solidarity with so many others who are waiting for healing, forgiveness, and peace. And hopefully it was a day when people discovered a new friend in Fr. Bill, who can offer them inspiration and hope as they move through their daily lives. ✚



Archbishop Nelson Pérez, D.D. addresses the crowd.



Over 160 people gathered in the Villanova Room of Villanova University's Connelly Center.



A student from Pope John Paul II High School asks the afternoon speaker a question about relics.



Fr. Thomas Dailey, O.S.F.S. discusses the steps of canonization.

PHOTOS, OPPOSITE PAGE | *Top left: Fifteen students from Pope John Paul II High School in Royersford, Pa. attended the symposium.*

Top right: Dr. Brendan Sammon delivers the morning keynote.

Bottom left: Afternoon panelists (L-R) Joan Mullen, Ted Donnelly, Anne Marie Dolceamore, and Michael Gaynor.

Bottom right: Members of the Atkinson family pose with Prior Provincial Fr. Robert Hagan, O.S.A. and Philadelphia Archbishop Nelson Pérez, D.D.

Blessed are you,
Father of life, source of goodness and peace,
in whom all creation has its origin
and by whom every person is loved.

In Father Bill Atkinson, O.S.A.
your mercy and compassion were made manifest
as he brought solace to the suffering
and hope to the needy.

By carrying the cross of life faithfully
he proclaimed confidence in your love
conformity to your will,
and so drew others to you
and to the generous gift of your grace.

Hear our prayers
which we offer through his intercession
so that as your work continues to unfold among us
it may bring honor to you,
comfort to your people
and, according to your will, glory to your servant.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



SERVANT OF GOD FR. BILL ATKINSON, O.S.A., PRAY FOR US!

For favors received or for more information, email FrBillsCause@augustinian.org, visit augustinian.org/the-cause, call (610) 527-3330, ext. 240 or mail: Fr. Robert P. Hagan, O.S.A., Prior Provincial, Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova, 214 Ashwood Road, Villanova, Pa. 19085.

A PROFILE IN Augustinian Leadership

Almost 200 people gathered at the Overbrook Golf Club in Villanova, Pennsylvania on September 28 for a Profile in Augustinian Leadership featuring guest of honor **Randy Foye**, Villanova alumnus, former NBA player, founder of the Randy Foye Foundation and president of Friends of Nova.



Having lost both his parents by age six, Foye has seen firsthand the difficulties for kids growing up in a tough urban environment. In 2008, he established the Randy Foye Foundation (RFF) to raise funds and develop programs and projects aimed directly at improving the lives of the children in Newark, his hometown. Foye understands firsthand the difference a positive role model and nurturing environment can make in a young person's life. Through Foye's own story and contacts in the worlds of professional sports, entertainment and business, and working hand in hand with the corporations and people of Newark, the RFF serves as an example of what a grass roots movement can accomplish through special events if everyone is focused on working hard and giving back.

Randy shared how his time at Villanova University shaped his desire to give back to his community and how the Augustinian values he learned there made him the man he is today and continue to influence his life. ✚

“

My faith was tested as a boy but has strengthened as a man. I saw God's grace in my early mentors in high school. I saw God's grace in my angel, Grandma Ruth. I saw God's grace at Villanova in the community that surrounded me. And I see God's grace every day in the eyes of my wife and my daughters. Basketball was the vessel for my blessed life, and I thank God every day for that. When you are a true believer, there's no such thing as losses; there are only lessons.”

– Randy Foye



PAST HONOREES

2015: CHRIS GHEYSSENS
CEO, Wawa

2017: JOHN J. BRENNAN
Chairman Emeritus & Senior Advisor,
The Vanguard Group, Inc

2018: MARK W. JACKSON
Director of Athletics, Villanova University

2019: FR. ROBERT P. HAGAN, O.S.A.
Sr. Associate Athletic Director,
Villanova University
and Member, Augustinian Provincial Council

2022: JAMES HICKEY, PH.D.
Head of School, Austin Preparatory School

2022: KYLE NEPTUNE
William B. Finneran Head Men's Basketball
Coach, Villanova University



Augustinian *Anniversaries*



Saint Thomas' Church at Villanova - From a photograph by J.E. McClees, Philadelphia

SAINT THOMAS OF VILLANOVA PARISH VILLANOVA, PENNSYLVANIA - 175 YEARS

On August 15, 1848, a baptism was celebrated as the first official act of the parish of Saint Thomas of Villanova, which had been established soon after the Augustinians founded Villanova University. The parish kicked off a series of celebrations in honor of the 175th anniversary of the parish on Sunday, August 13. The parish community enjoyed a liturgy where Archbishop Nelson Perez, D.D., presided and many Augustinian Friars served as concelebrants. The parish choir, recalled from their summer break for this important occasion, did a wonderful job leading the congregation in song. About 350 people enjoyed brunch after the service at the Connelly Center of Villanova University.

The second celebratory event, a ministry fair, followed on September 17, with the final celebration on October 8. The parish rented out the nearby Inn at Villanova for four hours of family fun: face painting and balloon animals for the young (and young at heart), outdoor games, and a silent auction to benefit the parish. A whole section of the Inn was set aside as the Eagles Nest—a place for all the Philadelphia Eagles fans (including former pastor Fr. Rich O’Leary, O.S.A.) to gather, eat nachos and pretzels, cheer on the Birds, and sing the fight song under the enthusiastic direction of the parish’s choir director.



MONSIGNOR BONNER & ARCHBISHOP PRENDERGAST CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL DREXEL HILL, PENNSYLVANIA - 70 YEARS

Seventy years ago on September 9, 1953, Archbishop Prendergast High School for Boys welcomed its first students. From that day until June 2009, the Augustinian Friars of the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova provided inspiration (and the mascot) for what is now Monsignor Bonner & Archbishop Prendergast Catholic High School. During those 56 years, more than 150 Augustinian Friars served as administrators, teachers, counselors, chaplains, moderators of activities and athletic teams, and friends and confidants to numerous students, faculty, and staff at the school. Additionally, a great many Augustinian vocations were nurtured and realized at Bonner. In one way or



another, the friars touched the lives of the more than 20,000 graduates during that period. Bonner & Prendie kicked off a year of celebratory events with a field day on September 9, featuring food trucks, a photo booth and—most importantly—a celebration of Mass where Fr. Joe Mostardi, O.S.A. presided and several friars concelebrated.



AUSTIN PREPARATORY SCHOOL READING, MASSACHUSETTS - 60 YEARS

Sixty years ago, when the first students stepped through the door of Austin Preparatory School, the Augustinian Friars were there to greet them. For 24 years, the friars taught the young men of Austin Prep, shaping not only their education but their spiritual lives, creating learned, well-rounded men of heart. Even though the school is no longer sponsored by the Augustinians, Saint Augustine remains the school's patron saint, and to this day the community strives toward the Augustinian ideal of "one mind, one heart, intent on God." A Mass on the field and gala were held on September 15 to commemorate this special milestone in the school's history.



IN PARADISIUM

THE FOLLOWING FRIARS WERE CALLED HOME TO GOD.

You can read full biographies of these Augustinians online at augustinian.org/necrology

FR. JOHN JOSEPH SHERIDAN, O.S.A.

Born: April 16, 1929
First Profession: September 15, 1948
Ordained: May 4, 1985
Died: February 9, 2023



As Archivist of the Province, Fr. John oversaw the move of the archives from the Provincial Offices to a larger, state-of-the-art archives facility, consisting of a large vault and work room located in Saint Thomas of Villanova Monastery. He also orchestrated the copying of Province documents onto DVDs so that the documents could be electronically accessed and not physically handled, assuring their preservation.

FR. JOHN JOSEPH FERRENCE, O.S.A.

Born: May 8, 1926
First Profession: September 10, 1945
Ordained: June 9, 1952
Died: February 26, 2023



Fr. Ferrence spent 38 years teaching chemistry at Msgr. Bonner High School, and though he retired from teaching in 2002 he continued to reside in the friary, helping out in the school when needed and remaining connected with many of his former students and their families. He officiated at the weddings of many of these former students and said that his success in teaching was credited to his “way of making sure that the students are treated as young adults”.

FR. MICHAEL PATRICK SULLIVAN, O.S.A.

Born: March 11, 1940
First Profession: September 10, 1960
Ordained: September 9, 1967
Died: August 3, 2023



Fr. Michael spent much of his life as a preaching apostolate, traveling around the United States (as well as Australia and South Africa) giving retreats to parishes and other groups. He was profoundly grateful for good friends and for a wonderfully rewarding life as a preacher of the Gospel. He was grateful for the opportunity to help fellow travelers along the road with Jesus, the compassionate Savior, and to illuminate the way for others and serve others in their search for God.

FR. EDWARD JOHN DIXEY, O.S.A.

Born: May 31, 1929
First Profession: September 10, 1953
Ordained: June 8, 1957
Died: August 31, 2023



Fr. Ed spent much of his life teaching at Msgr. Bonner High School and in parish ministry, in addition to serving as sub-master of professed and Master of Professed at the Augustinian Collegiate Seminary, Villanova University. Fr. Ed faced the decline in his physical mobility the way he faced everything in life, with a peaceful and prayerful demeanor.

FR. WILLIAM HOWARD MCGRAW, O.S.A.

Born: March 19, 1931
First Profession: September 10, 1954
Ordained: April 7, 1962
Died: September 15, 2023



A Korean War veteran of the United States Army, Fr. Howie began the Marian Healing Ministry, which he ran for 24 years. For those who knew him well, Fr. Howie was known for being jovial, kind-hearted and spiritual. He demonstrated a grateful spirit, especially for the people who cared for him at the monastery.

Men of Heart

Is God calling you to be an Augustinian Friar?

Augustinians in Formation

Pre-Novices



Justin Agathon-Ma
Union City, CA



Justin Hata
Honolulu, HI



Eric Hollander
Bedford, MA



Jonathan Lutz
Fairmount, MN



James Schloegel
Gilbert, AZ



Jeremy Welch
Terre Haute, IN

Novices



Nick Anderson
Havertown, PA



Fr. Cody Ford
Poca, WV



Javier Medina
McFarland, CA



Augustinian
VOCATIONS
of North America

Professed



Br. Shon Maqbool Alam
Hyderabad, Pakistan



Br. Frank Connor
Glen Rock, NJ



Br. Nathan Fernandes
Mississauga, ON



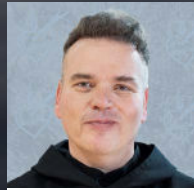
Br. David Marshall
Oakwood, OH



Br. Tony Moreno
Live Oak, CA



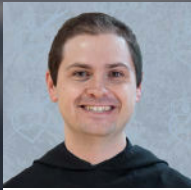
Br. David Relstab
Palos Hills, IL



Br. Lou San Vicente
San Diego, CA



Br. Nicholas Stone
Winston-Salem, NC



Br. Spencer Thomas
Tulsa, OK

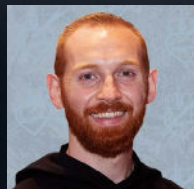
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Newly Solemnly Professed



Br. Mauricio Morales
Granada, Nicaragua



Dcn. Michael Riggs
Centereach, NY



Fr. Atsushi Kuwahara
Fukuoka, Japan

Newly Ordained





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Let your *abundance*, supply their *need*.



BE THE
DIFFERENCE...

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THE AUGUSTINIAN FUND — established in 2006 — builds a reliable source of annual revenue to help the Province meet its financial responsibilities and critical needs. Years ago, the friars' earned salaries were sufficient to cover all of the friars' needs. However, today, with fewer friars in active ministry and salaried, the friars must rely on the generosity of friends and benefactors to help them sustain the Augustinian way of life and the ministries they perform. Your donation:

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