



THE MISSIONS

OF THE AUGUSTINIAN FRIARS

Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova

Easter 2015

Dear Friends of the Augustinian Missions,

May the peace and joy of our risen Lord be with you and your family! Saint Augustine, reflecting on this Easter season, which reminds us of the new life offered to us by the One who has overcome sin and death, urges us to praise God for this great gift. He adds, "*But see that your praise comes from your whole being; in other words, see that you praise God not with your lips and voices alone, but with your minds, your lives and all your actions*" (*Discourse on Psalm 148*).

This new life in Christ is experienced in many ways. On December 29, 2014, Father Moe Mahoney, O.S.A., who had spent 52 years as a missionary in Japan, entered into the fullness of that life. His belief in the resurrection is symbolized on the front of the prayer card for the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood, which appears on this page.

New life is also celebrated in our missions. Our newest vocation in Japan is discerning his call to be an Augustinian with the pre-novitiate community in Ardmore, Pennsylvania. In Peru, the latest group of Augustinian Volunteers began their year of service in Chulucanas in January. Read about these young people and how they are praising God with their lives in this newsletter.

Other stories tell about new leadership in the Order of Saint Augustine in Latin America coming from the Vicariate of Chulucanas, and the celebration of faith fostered by the Augustinians in the city of Pacasmayo. Thanks to Father John Lydon, O.S.A., for the information for these articles.

The Augustinians are grateful to you, our friends and supporters, for your praise of God through your prayers and generosity on behalf of our missions. The faith and new life that flourishes through the ministry of the Augustinians in Japan and Peru would not be possible without your support. May I ask that your praise to God this Easter season include a gift to the Augustinian Missions. Donations may be made online at www1.augustinian.org/augustinian-fund.

May you have a blessed Easter season!

In the risen Christ and Augustine,

Francis J. Horn, O.S.A.

Father Francis J. Horn, O.S.A.





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Missionary to Japan Passes to Eternal Life

Father Maurice J. Mahoney, O.S.A., who served as a missionary in Japan for more than 52 years, died on December 29, 2014, in Nagasaki after a prolonged illness. Arriving in Japan in 1962, Father Moe served in all four of our Augustinian parishes in Japan and taught English at universities in Kyushu, Fukuoka, and Nagasaki. He also served on the Augustinian vocation/formation team for twenty years.



Memorial to Father Maurice Mahoney, O.S.A., in the chapel of the Augustinian monastery in Nagasaki, Japan.

At a memorial Mass celebrated at Saint Thomas Monastery in Villanova, Father Thomas Dwyer, O.S.A., a long-time friend and co-worker in Japan, described Moe as a "gentle trooper," whose heart went out in empathy to the poor, the handicapped, the sick, and people who were mentally confused. He had complete dedication to the mission of spreading the gospel in a foreign land, as well as an absolute openness to another culture. At the same Mass, Father Liam O'Doherty, O.S.A., delivered the eulogy, Japanese-style, by addressing his sentiments directly to Father Moe, who had been his mentor when he served in Japan.

According to his wishes, Father Moe was buried at the Augustinian parish of Our Lady of Consolation in Nagasaki. He will be fondly remembered by the many people he touched during his ministry in Japan. May he experience the fullness of life with the risen Lord!

Japanese Pre-Novice Is Part of American Formation Program

The newest vocation to the Augustinians from Japan feels he has been very blessed by God, and he desires to share his gifts with others in ways that he believes God will show him. He is presently exploring that path as a member of the pre-novitiate program at Bellesini Friary in Ardmore, Pennsylvania.

Atsushi Kuwahara was born, baptized, and raised in Fukuoka (but not in the Augustinian parish there). He began his university studies in Tokyo at age 18, and it was there that he first met the Augustinians while attending weekly Mass for students offered by Father Tetsuya Hirano, O.S.A., at the Order's formation house close to the university.

After graduation in 2008, Atsushi worked for three years as a salesman in Tokyo. When the tsunami hit northern Japan in 2011 and destroyed the nuclear power plant in the north, he and several members of his family moved back to Fukuoka to escape the possible radiation effects that threatened the area as far south as Tokyo. He was then invited to work with his uncle in Egypt, where he served as a travel agent for two and a half years before political unrest in that country forced him to return to Japan.

(continued on page 3)



Vicar for Japan Father Hiro Shibata, O.S.A., (right) visits with pre-novice Atsushi Kuwahara at the Augustinian Formation House in Ardmore, Pa.



New Augustinian Volunteers Begin Year of Service in Peru

A fresh group of Augustinian Volunteers arrived in Peru the last week of January to begin a year of service in Chulucanas. After an orientation program and a brief stay with host families, the group moved into their communal home on March 1. They will be involved with a variety of ministries sponsored by the Diocese of Chulucanas.

Michael Donovan is from Fullerton, California, and graduated from Michigan State University in 2010 with a degree in Crop and Soil Science. He will be working at Centro Pastoral and San José Obrero Parish to promote health in the region.

Alyssa Mall is from Chillicothe, Illinois, and graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 2014 with a BA in English Literature and Psychology. She will be teaching computer classes at CEO Betania, an educational center for women living in poverty, sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy.

Kristin Van Spankeren comes from Western Springs, Illinois. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a BS in Spanish and Community and Non-profit Leadership. Kristin will be teaching English at Santisima Cruz, the local Catholic elementary school.

This is the eleventh group of Augustinian Volunteers to serve in Chulucanas, where the first North American Augustinian missionaries to Peru arrived in 1963.



Augustinian Volunteers Michael Donovan, Alyssa Mall, and Kristin Van Spankeren at the city overlook in Chulucanas.

Fr. Edinson Farfan, O.S.A., to Head OALA

Father Edinson Farfan, O.S.A., a friar of the Chulucanas Vicariate and prior of the formation community in Trujillo, was recently elected Secretary General of the Organization of Augustinians of Latin America (OALA). The organization unites all of the Augustinian jurisdictions of Latin America (17, with about 800 friars) and offers common programs for renewal, days of reflection, ongoing formation, courses for those preparing for solemn profession, and other projects.

Pre-Novice from Japan (continued from page 2)

During his time in Egypt, Atsushi was discerning a call to the priesthood assisted by Father Hiro Shibata, O.S.A., who was in email contact with him from Japan. Upon his return to Japan in 2013, Atsushi entered the Augustinian formation program in Tokyo. In September 2014, he joined the pre-novitiate program at Bellesini Friary, where he is currently studying at the English Language School at Saint Joseph's University. Upon completion of the program in May, he will spend six weeks in Japan and hopes to begin the novitiate year in Racine, Wisconsin, in August.



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Patronal Feast Celebrated in Pacasmayo

The second Sunday of March is the celebration of the Patronal Feast of Pacasmayo, a seaport town of Peru where the Augustinians staff the parish of Our Lady of Guadalupe and a primary and secondary school with 450 students. The feast is in honor of the Virgin of Guadalupe, but it is not the same devotion so well known in Mexico and places with large Mexican American populations. The Virgin of Guadalupe in northern Peru is in reference to a statue of Mary that is found in the town of Guadalupe, Spain, and which was brought to the Augustinian Monastery in a town named after her in northern Peru in 1560. Since then, the Virgin of Guadalupe became a source of great devotion and pilgrimage for northern Peru.



The faithful of Pacasmayo carry the statue of their patron as the procession through the city begins from the Augustinian Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

In 1900, a group of fishermen from Pacasmayo was lost at sea. They were all members of the same family, and after several days they had run out of food and water and were drifting north toward Ecuador, following the current off Peru's coast. There was no wind to help them and their only oar was lost in the turbulence of the waters at night. In light of their desperate situation the oldest brother, Manuel, started to get all of them to pray to the Virgin of Guadalupe asking for help. Manuel tells that as they all slept on what they thought would be their last night on earth, he had a vision of the Virgin who told him not to fear and that all would be well. The next morning their boat was on the beach of Pacasmayo! Since the current goes in the opposite direction, all were convinced that this was a miracle of the Virgin of Guadalupe, and so they gathered resources little by little to bring a statue of the Virgin from Spain to Pacasmayo. The statue arrived the first week of

March in 1906, and from that point the devotion has been celebrated as the patronal feast of Pacasmayo.

The feast is a grand affair that is celebrated over the course of two weeks, including the reenactment of the miracle off the shore of Pacasmayo and a parade through the city, which this year brought the statues of the patron saints of all the neighboring parishes in the county. The parade ends in the fair grounds and with an opening Mass. The celebration culminates with a Mass on the morning of the second Sunday of March. After a soccer championship match in the afternoon, the feast concludes with a six-hour procession through the main streets of Pacasmayo. The Augustinians and their parish play a central role in the celebrations.

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