



THE MISSIONS

OF THE AUGUSTINIAN FRIARS

Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova

Easter 2013

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Dear Friends of the Augustinian Missions:

The dark days of Lent have come to an end. The forty days of Lent give way to the joy of the new life of Easter. Jesus experienced his forty days in the desert to emerge to new life. Has our Lent given way to new life?

We see the beauty of new life in our missions. In this edition of the *Mission Newsletter* we see many blessings of new life. In Japan, a young man has taken his vows as an Augustinian Friar. In Peru, we are blessed with many vocations. In South Africa and Peru, a new group of Augustinian Volunteers begin their year of service. We are filled with joy and gratitude for these signs of new life for our Order and ministry. Please read on to share this "Good News" of new life.

We are grateful to you, our supporters and donors, for your sharing in our life and ministry. None of this would be possible without you. We rely on you for your prayers and support that allow this new life to take root and grow.

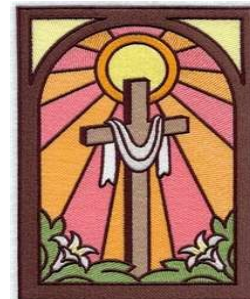
New life is the theme of Easter. Life is seen in the cultures throughout the world where our friars bring the message of life through faith in the risen Christ.

May the Easter celebration be a time for you to reflect on the gift of life around you, especially the gift of eternal life given to us by our faith in the risen Lord.

May you have a blessed Easter Season.

In St. Augustine,

Anthony P. Burrascano, O.S.A.
Director, Mission Office





The New Augustinian Volunteers Have Arrived



Fr. Tony (center) with Volunteers for Peru (left, l-r) Lacie Michaelson, Britt DeLine and Chantelle Davis; and Volunteers for South Africa (right, l-r) Caitlyn Geraci, Brian Manning and Jimmy Kane.

On Thursday, January 17, 2013, two men and four women gathered in the Augustinian house in Ocean City, N.J., for a few days of retreat, reflection and relaxation before heading for a year's service in the missions. On Monday morning they began their long journey. Two men and one women boarded a South African Airways plane at JFK and began the very long trip to South Africa. Three women journeyed to Newark Airport to board a UNITED Airlines flight to Lima, Peru.

In South Africa this year the Augustinian Volunteers are Caitlyn Geraci, Jimmy Kane and Brian Manning. In Peru we have Chantelle Davis, Britt DeLine and Lacie Michaelson.

As they settle in and begin to experience the missions they have promised to share their thoughts on their ministry. Please pray for them as they begin their year of service as part of the Augustinian family in the missions.

The Future of the Order: Students in Formation in Peru

When a Religious Order begins a ministry in a mission territory they look to a future staffing of the mission territory by native vocations. In this Newsletter you will read that we welcome a young Japanese man into the Order through his First Profession of vows. The majority of friars in Japan are now no longer Americans, but native Japanese. This is a great blessing.

In Peru the majority of friars serving are now native Peruvians. This year the Vicariate of Chulucanas, Peru, which is a part of the American Augustinian Provinces, has a total of 38 young Peruvian men preparing for the Augustinian life. In the entire country of Peru there are over 60 Peruvian men in various levels of the formation program.



Formation Students in Peru

We have been tremendously blessed by native vocations in both mission areas. Please continue to pray for these young men, and help us to provide for their living and educational expenses.

Can You Help?

*The main source of financial support for our missions is through the preaching of Mission Appeals in parishes during the summer months. The other important source of support is from you, our generous benefactors receiving this **Newsletter**. Can you offer support? Please visit the [Augustinian Fund](#) page on the web.*

Thank you!



Feast of St. Martin de Porres in Peru by Fr. John Lydon, OSA

Each year in the parish of Pacasmayo, Peru, a mission of the American Augustinian Provinces, there is a weeklong liturgical celebration to mark the feast of St. Martin de Porres. In Pacasmayo the feast is always celebrated on the third Sunday of November, not on the date that appears in the universal calendar (for reasons of local custom). One of the important events is always the special breakfast



Children in Peru receiving food on the Feast of St. Martin de Porres, a Peruvian Saint.

organized by the group of laity that oversees the entire celebration. This breakfast of hot chocolate, fruit and sandwiches is shared in the poorest parts of Pacasmayo and is a great treat for the families that rarely receive this kind of breakfast. At 8:00 AM, in an old pickup truck, organizers drive to three designated areas of the town and begin to distribute their breakfast of love. In this way they imitate the example of the charity of St. Martin. They are accompanied on this mission by Fr. John Lydon, OSA, the pastor, who conducts the blessing at each stop and expresses the thanks of the whole parish for this gesture of solidarity. In addition to this breakfast, people donate food stuffs during the weeklong series of Masses and these are prepared into food baskets to be shared with those living in the most dire situations of poverty.

A New Friar in Japan

On Monday, February 11, 2013, John Futoshi Matsuo, professed his First Vows as an Augustinian Friar in Japan. The celebration took place in the Augustinian parish of St. Augustine, Fukuoka, Japan. Brother Futoshi joins a number of native Japanese Friars in the Vicariate of the Martyrs of Japan. This Vicariate is part of the American Province of St. Thomas of Villanova.

Brother Futoshi was born in Fukuoka and is a native of the Augustinian parish of St. Augustine in Fukuoka, Japan, where his parents and two sister's continue to live. He entered the Augustinian Order at the formation house in Tokyo. After completing his undergraduate degree in theology at Sophia University in Tokyo he traveled to the Augustinian community in Sydney, Australia, taking courses in English. He entered the Australian novitiate in Sydney for his novitiate year before returning to Japan to profess his vows.

In March, 2013 he will return to Sydney to resume studies at the Catholic Institute of Sydney in the area of theology, living with the Augustinian Formation community.



Bro. Matsuo, OSA

We ask you to pray for Brother Futoshi as he begins his life as an Augustinian Friar.

A Reflection by a New Augustinian Volunteer in South Africa by Jimmy Kane



Augustinian Volunteers in South Africa:
Jimmy, Brian and Caitlyn

Since our arrival several weeks ago, Brian, Caitlyn and I have settled into a routine and are enjoying life in Botha's Hill. We live in an area known as the Valley of a Thousand Hills and the views as you drive around are incredible. In our first few days here, we learned for the first time how to drive stick shift on the "other" side of the road. We also started work at our service sites and began our year together as a community.

On our first day of work at Hillcrest AIDS Centre Trust, Brian and I arrived early to the respite unit. It was there that we got to participate in the staff meeting, where the caretakers come together each morning to pray and sing. As I stood there holding hands with those around me and listening to the Zulu women sing, an overwhelming feeling came over me as their voices filled my body. I looked around and it was the community I was in the presence of that brought me a great sense of comfort, like "This is where I belong." This experience welcomed us into this special place and got us excited for the

year to come. I look forward to learning and growing during my time here in South Africa and will share my experiences as this year unfolds.

At the Passing of a Loved One ...

When a loved one or friend passes from this life to the next we often wish to memorialize them through flowers, cards, etc. Would you consider a Memorial Donation to the Augustinian Missions? If you include the name and address of the next of kin and the name of the deceased, we will send a note acknowledging your donation.

Checks may be made payable to: Augustinian Fund—Missions

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