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VOLUME XI . ISSUE II

THE AUGUSTINIAN

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NEW PRIEST p. 4

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Order Augustinian Guild Mass cards online at augustinianfund.org/mass-cards.



New Sympathy Mass Card by Richard G. Cannuli, O.S.A.

Saint Monica Sympathy Card

This new sympathy Mass card features an icon of Saint Monica by Richard G. Cannuli, O.S.A., and the words of Saint Monica at the time of her death, "Only this I ask of you, remember me at the altar of the Lord."



Sympathy Card (Deluxe Padded)

This sympathy card features Our Mother of Consolation, which has been the principal devotion to Mary within the Augustinian Order since the 17th Century. Its origin among the Augustinians is directly tied to the life of Saints Monica and Augustine.

To receive our new brochure of Mass Cards e-mail maria.manna@augustinian.org or call 610-527-3330 ext. 240



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ON THE COVER

Joseph A. Murray is blessed by his brother friars at his Ordination Mass.

Cover by Julie MacCalus for Pravada Photography
 Back Cover Photography © Villanova University

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THE AUGUSTINIAN

A publication of the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova.

CAPTION FOR PAGE 4

Clockwise: Robert P. Hagan, O.S.A.; Christopher J. Drennan, O.S.A.; Francis J. Doyle, O.S.A.; James E. Martinez, O.S.A.; Luis A. Vera, O.S.A.; Craig M. McMahon, O.S.A.; Joseph L. Farrell, O.S.A.; Peter G. Gori, O.S.A.

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Thanks to John J. Sheridan, O.S.A. (Archivist), and June Weiland (Assistant Archivist) of the Augustinian Provincial Archives at Saint Thomas of Villanova Monastery; the Philadelphia Archdiocesan Historical Research Center for access to the archival map of Philadelphia parishes.

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The Blessings of a New Priest

It is a very joyous occasion when an Augustinian brother is ordained to the priesthood. It garners blessings for the newly-ordained priest from his brother friars. And the newly-ordained priest bestows his first blessings on members of his family and his friends, all of whom have anticipated this jubilant day. June 18, 2016 was such a day for Joseph A. Murray, O.S.A. Ordained to the priesthood, he shared the event, as he bestowed the blessings of a newly-ordained priest, bringing his journey to culmination after his long years of formation and study at the National Novitiate and the Theologate, earning a Master's of Divinity, with a concentration in Pastoral Ministry, at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago.

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The Year of Mercy in Action

Saint Thomas of Villanova Church is conducting a Mercy Ministry, a program that deals with addiction and its physical, psychological, and emotional causes and effects, both on victims and family members. The program seeks to encourage healing by educating and lending needed support, accompanying persons on their journey of recovery, providing the physical, emotional, psychological and very importantly, spiritual support needed for successful recovery. Another program that models mercy in action is the Adeodatus Prison Ministry, a program of the Augustinian Defenders of the Rights of the Poor (A.D.R.O.P) which aids those in prison and those reentering civilian life, helping them and their families with support in facing the obstacles they will encounter.

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Fond Farewells

Sweet sorrow is on display as the Augustinians depart from a parish on Staten Island, New York, and from two parishes in Diocese of Venice, Florida. Our Lady of Good Counsel on Staten Island, where the Augustinians had served for 117 years, was established in 1899 and was home to the original Augustinian Academy. Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal on Pine Island and Saint Katharine Drexel in Cape Coral, both in Florida, had been served by the Augustinians, each since the 1990s. The Augustinians have labored in these parishes, shepherding the construction of new church buildings at times, as they were forming parish communities and laying the foundations of community, friendship and faith.



LETTER FROM THE

PRIOR PROVINCIAL

Dear Friends,

The Fall Season promises to bring an end to what is described by some as one of the hottest summers in memory. For many, that spells relief, but conscious of how diverse we humans often are, it is certain that for others it signals a change that is regrettable.

Variation in taste and point of view are just two of our many distinguishing differences—so many in fact, that we do well, at times, to point out with emphasis the many things that unite us. Unity is, after all, a Gospel value, and at the same time, a value greatly cherished and underscored by Saint Augustine, who wrote, in the opening sentence of the *Rule*, “*The main purpose for your having come together is to live harmoniously in your house, intent upon God in unity of mind and heart.*”

This spring offered us friars the opportunity to celebrate and strengthen the unity we strive for, during a week-long assembly or Chapter, that brought 104 of us together at Villanova for discussions, renewal, prayer and fellowship, culminating in the joyful priesthood ordination of one of our brothers.

Later in the summer, many of us from the three North American Provinces—provincials, student-friars and formators—gathered in Chicago for three days, the highlight of which was the first profession of vows of ten of our novices. Ten days later, several of us traveled to Japan for the profession of the eleventh member of that same novitiate class.

These are some of the events you will read about in the following pages of *The Augustinian*, together with others that, perhaps more indirectly, also demonstrate the unity we try to embody and proclaim in the works we do and the way we do them, in the people with whom we collaborate, and in those whose own example exemplifies Augustinian ideals.

I want to announce, particularly in this regard, the inauguration of the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova’s *Saint Augustine Medal*, in recognition of individuals whose lives illustrate the Augustinian values of **Truth, Unity and Charity**. While there are certainly many persons who merit this recognition, our inaugural awardees, whom you see on the facing page, do so in a very special way.

Wishing you many blessings,

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

THE AUGUSTINIAN

Teddie Gallagher
EDITOR

Kitty Sheridan
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LAYOUT AND DESIGN

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Announcing...
The Saint Augustine Medal

The Saint Augustine Medal, presented by the Augustinian Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova, is bestowed upon an individual or a couple who exemplify the spirit and teachings of Saint Augustine, a deep commitment to the Order of Saint Augustine and the Augustinian values of **Truth, Unity and Charity**. The recipients exhibit a strong desire to live life in the path of Saint Augustine in their personal, professional and spiritual lives and demonstrate a commitment of service and generosity to the Province.

INAUGURAL RECIPIENTS: PATTY AND JAY WRIGHT



*“Patty and Jay Wright are the perfect choice to receive the inaugural Saint Augustine Medal. They are committed to the Augustinian values of **Truth, Unity and Charity**. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to recognize them as worthy recipients of the first Saint Augustine Medal.”*

—MICHAEL DI GREGORIO, O.S.A., PRIOR PROVINCIAL,
PROVINCE OF SAINT THOMAS OF VILLANOVA

The Wrights have a long relationship with the Augustinians. Patty Reilly Wright is a graduate of Villanova University. Jay Wright is the William J. Finneran Endowed Head Coach of the Villanova men’s basketball team, where he has served for the past 15 years. Patty and Jay embrace the Augustinian mission and continue to have a positive influence on the athletes and students of Villanova University. They are deeply committed to the Augustinians and collaborate with the Province on many fronts, including their generous support of the Augustinian Fund, which provides funds for Augustinian ministries and programs of the Province.

“Saint Augustine inspires us to a life of service. I can think of no more deserving recipients of the inaugural Saint Augustine Medal than Jay and Patty Wright. Their love of family, support for students, and relentless desire to help people from all walks of life have had a profound effect on countless lives. The Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova is grateful for their active faith, continued generosity, and leadership within our community.”

—ROB HAGAN, O.S.A., ASSOCIATE ATHLETICS DIRECTOR,
CHAPLAIN OF THE MEN’S BASKETBALL AND
FOOTBALL TEAMS

*Please join us to honor our inaugural
Saint Augustine Medal recipients!*

WHAT: Saint Augustine Medal Dinner
WHERE: New York City
WHEN: April 27, 2017

To register for the event, please visit
www.augustinianfund.org/medal-dinner
after December 1, 2016. *Tickets will be available on a first come/first served basis.*

Event sponsorships/gifts will benefit Augustinian Vocation and Formation programs.

For additional information, contact Madonna Sutter, Director of Advancement, at 610-527-3330 ext. 265 or e-mail madonna.sutter@augustinian.org

FIRST BLESSING: FATHER MURRAY'S SISTER
LINDA MURRAY GREENSPAN

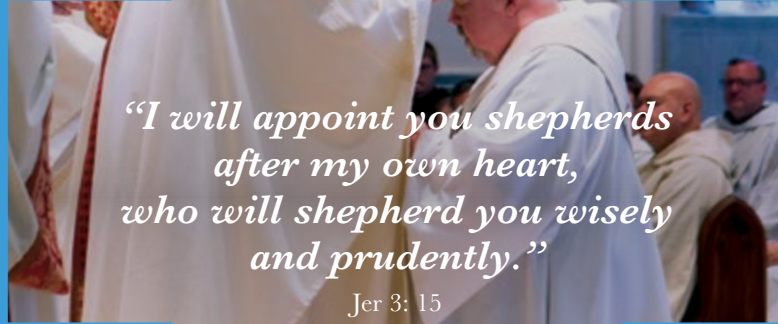
THE *blessings* OF A NEW PRIEST

BY TEDDIE GALLAGHER



*"I will appoint you shepherds
after my own heart,
who will shepherd you wisely
and prudently."*

Jer 3: 15



KATIE AND MICHAEL CAÑEDA



ANNE AND DENNIS MURPHY



JIM MURRAY

ON JUNE 18, 2016, the day after the closing of the Intermediate Provincial Chapter of the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova, Joseph Aloysius Murray, O.S.A., was ordained to the priesthood by Most Reverend Louis De Simone, D.D., retired Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia and an Affiliate of the Order of Saint Augustine.

For the Augustinians, family and friends, this was a joyous day, a blessed day. A day that, for Joe Murray, was the culmination of years of discernment and formation—from his acceptance into the novitiate, to the intense study at the Catholic Theological Union, to pastoral work in parishes.

For the Augustinians of the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova, the ordination of a priest or deacon and the solemn profession of a brother are days that have occurred only six times during the past ten years. These days are set in contrast to the 68 days during the past ten years when a funeral Mass has celebrated the birth to new life for a deceased friar.

The world is right on a day like this. For this day, through the Rite of Ordination, the Order, the Church and the world receives a priest, "With the power to offer sacrifice to God and to celebrate Masses for the living and the dead, in the name of the Lord."

The blessing to bless and the first blessing

As the Bishop ordains, he anoints each hand with a cross and then anoints the entire palm of each hand of a newly ordained priest with Sacred Chrism blessed on Holy Thursday. He prays that

"The Lord Jesus Christ, whom the Father anointed with the Holy Spirit, guard and preserve you, that you may sanctify the Christian people..."

On the day of a priest's ordination, many people believe there is a special grace received when blessed by a newly-ordained priest. This is a practice thought to be an "Old World" custom. Nevertheless, the first hour after the sacred ordination is spent with family and friends lining up to receive the blessing from a newly ordained priest.

The Augustinian Formation Program

So what was the process for Joe Murray after he was accepted into the Order after his pre-novitiate year? The next few pages give insight to the novitiate year and the formation years and the pastoral year that prepares men for the Augustinian life as a brother or priest. →



THE NATIONAL NOVITIATE

BY JAMES D. PARADIS, O.S.A.
DIRECTOR OF NOVICES



*“O unchanging God,
this is my prayer:
Let me know myself
and let me know you.”*

Saint Augustine, Soliloquies 2.1

Three years ago, while serving in Philadelphia, I was asked to come to Racine, Wisconsin and take the position of Novice Director. I wasn't at all certain about it, but what enabled me finally to say “yes” was remembering my own experience of novitiate thirty years ago, here in this same building. I often say that it was the most difficult yet most liberating year of my life.

The novitiate is the actual beginning of Augustinian religious life. It's a time apart, a time away, “unplugged” from all that is busy and familiar, a journey unlike any other year of our life. It is a deepening time for each novice in the mystery and absoluteness of God, in coming to know one's inner poverty and dependence upon God. It is a time of discovering God in community life, sharing and friendship. It is the concrete practice, as we say in the Rule, of living “one in mind and heart intent upon God.”

The novitiate journey involves much input and discussion about Augustinian life—our Rule and Constitutions, the spirituality and history of our Order, the discipline of our daily life in community,

prayer and service. But the most important journey of this year is inward. It is the path of interior searching and desiring, opening ourselves in humility with Augustine who prayed, “Lord, let me know myself and let me know you.” This is the journey of transformation: coming to know God in self-discovery, including our imperfection, failure and sin, and finding our true, deepest self in Christ and his compassion. It is this love-relationship with God and trust in the divine call in the midst of our restlessness that forms our identity and undergirds our profession of vows as Augustinians. Rooted in the joy of the Gospel from our own experience, we strive to live a community of relationships—sharing the friendship and generosity of Christ in our community life,

in service to the Church and outreach to the world. The novitiate year strives for an awakening of this intimacy with God that permits discernment toward the embracing of religious life as a free and joyful gift to the Church.

In order to help this awakening to happen, life here is geared toward a mixture of contemplative listening in silence and solitude, personal and communal prayer, spiritual reading, celebration of the Eucharist, and sharing of life in common. The weekday schedule begins at 7:30 AM with Morning Prayer and Eucharist followed by breakfast, one and a half hours of quiet time, daily class, lunch, afternoon manual work period followed by three hours of leisure time to relax and exercise. Community Evening Prayer is at 5:30 PM, followed by dinner, another two hours of quiet time and Night Prayer at 9:00 PM. There is a more relaxed schedule for the weekend.

Ten months out of the year the novices travel each Tuesday to the Chicago area for a day-long Intercommunity Novitiate Program. This experience brings together novices and directors of 10-15 different religious communities, men and women. Presentations are given by speakers on various aspects of religious life. Topics include: prayer and discernment, the vows, ministerial ethics and tools for self-knowledge, e.g. Myers-Briggs, Enneagram. Multi-day workshops are given on topics such as Family Systems, Sexuality and Celibacy, conflict management and addictions.



FRONT ROW (L-R) NOVICES: BILL GABRIEL (VIL), MAURICIO MORALES (CAL), ARTURO RENTERIA (CAL), JOHN ARULTHAS (CHI), JEREMY HIERS (VIL), PATRICK THORP (VIL). BACK ROW (L-R) FRIARS: FRED TAGGART, O.S.A. (CHI), JIM PARADIS, O.S.A. (VIL) JERRY KNIES, O.S.A. (CHI), JIM WENZEL, O.S.A. (VIL), RICH O'LEARY, O.S.A. (VIL).

In addition, Augustinians come to Racine from many locations to offer teaching and reflection with the novices on our life. Topics include interiority, the *Confessions of Saint Augustine*, themes in Augustinian Spirituality, as well as history and saints of the Order.

Our novitiate residence is on the grounds of Saint Rita Parish in a suburban area of Racine. Living with me and the novices are two friars from the Midwest Province, Father Jerry Knies, O.S.A. (Prior) and Father Fred Taggart, O.S.A. (Treasurer and part-time parish assistant); as well as two friars from the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova, Father Rich O'Leary, O.S.A. (Pastor of Saint Rita Parish) and Father Jim Wenzel, O.S.A., a member of the Formation Team.

I meet with each of the novices once or twice a month for the purpose of helping to nurture their vocation and encourage dialogue in discernment. They also have an opportunity to meet with the other friars in

the community and have their own spiritual director outside the community.

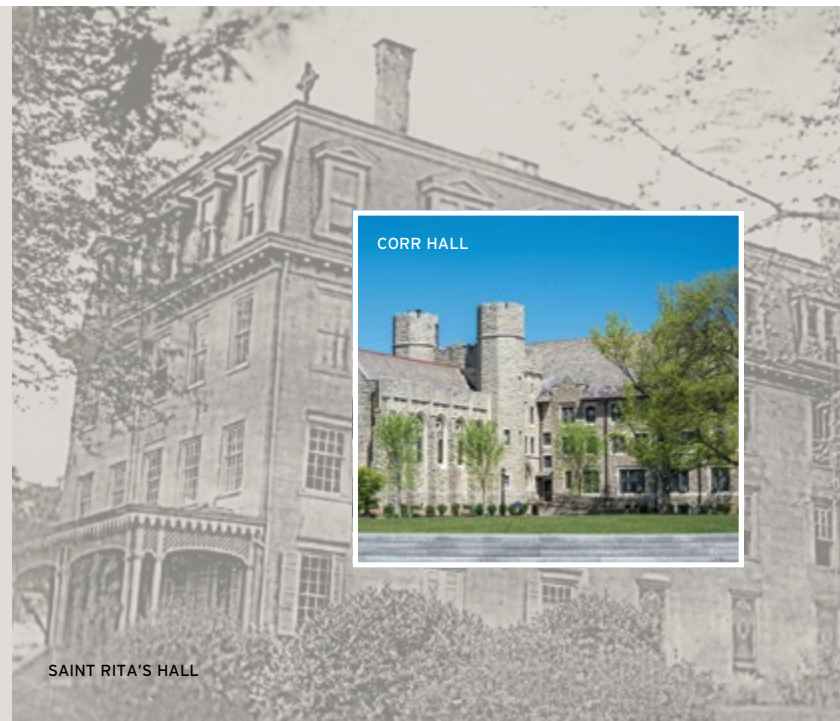
Three years into my time here at the novitiate, I find that it has been a gift to accompany so many men who are awake and risking much to respond in their sense of God's call to be an Augustinian. We walk with novices during a time of major transition from living in an intensely secular world to a commitment in religious life. God is in our newer members—in their lives and stories, in their desiring, in their creativity, in their strengths and fragility. It is a privilege to help our men listen to their own souls and come to trust their own inner wisdom as they commit their lives deeper in Christ. They remind me of the importance of prayer, contemplative practice and surrender in my own life—to really live Augustinian life well and richly. Please pray for our novices—that what God has beautifully begun in them may be brought to fulfillment!

THE HISTORY OF THE NATIONAL NOVITIATE

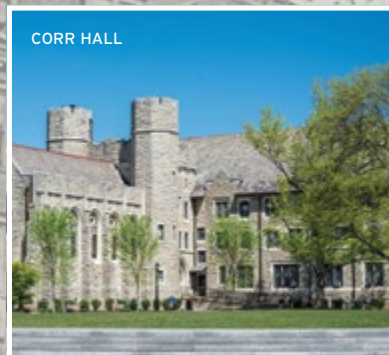
Racine, Wisconsin

BY TEDDIE GALLAGHER

The first Augustinian novitiate was canonically established in 1843, the first year Villanova College students began classes. The rule of common life was spelled out and the novitiate was officially sanctioned. It was housed in Saint Rita's Hall (the former Rudolph mansion) until the mansion was destroyed by fire. In 1912, the novitiate moved to the top floor of a new building called Saint Mary's Hall, now known as Corr Hall.



SAINT RITA'S HALL



CORR HALL

At the 1924 Definitory (Council) meeting it was decided that the novices and professed should be separated. On June 9, 1925, the 200-acre Untermyer estate at Wappingers Falls, one and a half miles south of New Hamburg in Dutchess County, New York, was deeded over to the Order, to be used for the novitiate of the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova.

The history of the decision to move the novitiate from New York State to its current location in Racine, Wisconsin, began in 1975 when the Formation Team of the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova began looking at a national novitiate program as a better alternative to separate programs in the Midwest and California Provinces.



NEW HAMBURG NOVITIATE

An Inter-Provincial Formation Commission was formed and studied the advantages and disadvantages of the national program. During the 1975-1985 interim, the novitiate moved to Lawrence, Massachusetts.

After all was said and done, the National Augustinian Novitiate began in 1985 at Saint Rita's Monastery adjacent to Saint Rita Parish, all of which had been originally founded by German Augustinian Friars from the Canadian Province. Father Jim Paradis, O.S.A., the current director of novices at Racine and Father Joseph Farrell, O.S.A., current Vicar General of the Order were among the first class at Racine.

Thirty years later, the novitiate, staffed by all three provinces, is largely unchanged. The parish church attached to the monastery has been closed and a new Saint Rita Parish church has been built on another location on the same property.



SAINT AUGUSTINE FRIARY AND NATIONAL THEOLOGATE

BY ROBERT J. GUESSETTO, O.S.A.
DIRECTOR OF STUDENTS



THE CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL UNION (CTU) WAS FOUNDED IN 1968 BY THREE RELIGIOUS ORDERS (THE FRANCISCANS, THE PASSIONISTS AND THE SERVITES) WHO MERGED THEIR RURAL SEMINARIES TOGETHER AND MOVED TO CHICAGO'S HYDE PARK TO RESPOND TO VATICAN II AND ITS CALL FOR RENEWAL IN THE CHURCH.

THIRTY-NINE YEARS LATER, IN JUNE OF 2007, THE AUGUSTINIANS OF THE PROVINCE OF SAINT THOMAS OF VILLANOVA ANNOUNCED THAT IT WOULD CLOSE AUGUSTINIAN COLLEGE, WASHINGTON D.C., AND CEASE ITS CONNECTION WITH THE WASHINGTON THEOLOGICAL UNION TO CREATE AN INTER-PROVINCE THEOLOGATE WHERE THEOLOGICAL STUDIES WOULD TAKE PLACE AT THE CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL UNION (CTU), CHICAGO, ILLINOIS. TODAY, CTU IS SPONSORED BY 24 MEN'S RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES, AS WELL AS OTHER COMMUNITIES WHO SEND STUDENTS TO CTU.



1ST AND 2ND ROWS (L-R): ALDO POTENCIO, O.S.A. (VIL), ROBERT GUESSETTO, O.S.A., DIRECTOR OF STUDENTS (VIL), JEFF RATHS, O.S.A. (CHI), PHILLIP YANG, O.S.A. (CAL), SAM JOUTRAS, O.S.A. (CHI), ADNAN GHANI, O.S.A. (CAL) 3RD ROW: JAVIER AGUILAR, O.S.A. (VIL), JIM THOMPSON, O.S.A., PRIOR (CHI), THOMAS TAYLOR, O.S.A., SECRETARY OF THE MIDWEST PROVINCE (CHI), SARFRAZ ALAM, O.S.A. (CAL), ATSUSHI KUWAHARA, O.S.A. (VIL) 4TH ROW: ROBERT BAICOCCO, O.S.A. (CHI), JOSEPH SIEGEL, O.S.A. (CHI), STEPHEN ISLEY, O.S.A. (CHI), JACK TIERNEY, O.S.A. (CHI), DANIEL MADDEN, O.S.A. (VIL) LAST ROW: ELIZANDRO CONTRERAS, O.S.A. (VIL), JOSEPH ROCCASALVA, O.S.A. (CHI), CARLOS RODRIGUEZ, O.S.A. (CHI), BOBBY CARROL, O.S.A. (CHI)

We live each day around the axes of community prayer, common life, shared meals, common work and study. We begin with Morning Prayer and Eucharist at 7:00 AM and gather again at 5:30 PM for Evening Prayer. Normally, one or two evenings a week include formation sessions together to explore different dimensions of our life as Augustinians or house chapters (the formal gathering of the members of a religious community) and other community meetings to guide and organize our life together and discuss matters of common concern. The care of our house and one another's needs are also important elements of our day. Days of recollection, retreats and spiritual direction nourish and renew our lives of prayer and interiority. As formation director, I meet with each of our friars in formation regularly to speak with them about their experience of the

process of formation and their ongoing discernment as friars moving towards solemn profession.

Without doubt, study is a significant focus of the work of our community. Our student friars are in full-time degree programs in ecclesial studies in preparation for priesthood or for the ministry that brothers who do not seek ordination will be engaged in. They include courses on Scripture, Sacraments, Foundational theology, liturgical and pastoral ministry, intercultural studies, spirituality studies and more.

However, it is not all academic course work. Student friars also dedicate several hours a week to pastoral ministry and service in diverse fields: parish ministry and religious education, support services to immigrant detainees, chaplaincy in schools and hospitals, and others. Ordinarily after the second year of theology, the friar will be assigned to an active community of his province for a full year to experience Augustinian life there and participate in the ministry of that community for the purpose of gaining ministerial skills and further discerning his call to solemn profession.

My work as formator constantly challenges me to be authentic and honest in sharing my faith, my understanding of the Augustinian tradition and charism, and the joys and struggles of ministry. What I receive in return is of no small consequence. I am enriched and challenged by the enthusiasm, the honesty and faith of men from a generation different than mine and particularly gifted in bringing that faith and vision to our contemporary culture and social environment.

In all of that we learn to be brothers one to another. What we hope to accomplish together at Saint Augustine Friary is very much the goal of all committed Christians. That is to say, to grow in our faith in Jesus Christ as brothers, cultivate and deepen our relationship with God in prayer, enlarge our hearts for compassionate service in ministry and learn always to live the joy of the Gospel.

AUGUSTINIAN COLLEGE, WASHINGTON, D.C.



CHAPEL AT AUGUSTINIAN COLLEGE



WASHINGTON THEOLOGICAL UNION

THE AUGUSTINIAN COLLEGE COMMUNITY OPENED IN 1919 UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF FATHER NICHOLAS J. VASEY, O.S.A. AFTER 88 YEARS, THE COMMUNITY THAT WAS HOME TO GENERATIONS OF FRIARS, WHO STUDIED AT AUGUSTINIAN COLLEGE, WERE TAUGHT BY A FACULTY OF AUGUSTINIANS AND EARNED DEGREES AT THE WASHINGTON CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL UNION, WAS CLOSED. THE COLLEGE MOVED TO ANOTHER SMALLER LOCATION IN D.C. BEFORE MOVING TO CHICAGO.

THE REASON CITED FOR THE CHANGE WAS THE LACK OF AUGUSTINIAN MINISTRIES AND APOSTOLATES IN THE REGION OF D.C., WHILE THE CHICAGO AREA AFFORDED NUMEROUS OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS TO EXPERIENCE AUGUSTINIAN MINISTRIES AND APOSTOLATES ON A REGULAR BASIS AND ATTEND THE WELL-ESTABLISHED CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL UNION.

“You have accompanied me on my path, O Truth, teaching me what to avoid and what to desire.”

Saint Augustine, Conf. 10, 40

After completion of the novitiate, newly-professed friars embark on a journey of the daily living of the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity and obedience in common life with their brothers, nourished by the celebration of Word and Sacrament. It is the life of a Christian believer called to a deeper and fuller following of Christ in the light of the Gospel in the Augustinian tradition. For most, it is the beginning or continuation of their study of theology in preparation for ministry with the People of God. Ordinarily, it is a period of four years with renewal of vows each year until the profession of Solemn Vows. The purpose of this stage of formation is, as the Formation Handbook prepared by the Federation of Augustinians of North America (FANA) explains, to help clarify for the individual within the context of community the authenticity of his call to final commitment to God through our Order.



THE 2007 COMMUNITY AT AUGUSTINIAN COLLEGE IN WASHINGTON, D.C., CONSISTED OF FRIARS FROM ALL OF THE NORTH AMERICAN PROVINCES, INCLUDING THE VILLANOVA, MIDWEST, WEST COAST AND CANADIAN PROVINCES. CONSEQUENTLY, THE PROVINCES COLLABORATED TO FORM THE SAINT AUGUSTINE FRIARY NATIONAL THEOLOGATE CORPORATION WITH THE SAINT AUGUSTINE FRIARY (PICTURED ABOVE) AS THE HOME FOR STUDENTS FROM ALL THE NORTH AMERICAN PROVINCES STUDYING AND EARNING A DEGREE AT CTU. THE CORPORATION IS NOW OPERATED UNDER THE FEDERATED AUGUSTINIANS OF NORTH AMERICA (FANA).

Our community of Saint Augustine Friary is located in the Hyde Park neighborhood of Chicago, Illinois, across the street from the Catholic Theological Union. This year, the community will number 17 student friars and three friars who form the Formation Team. Five other student friars are in pastoral ministry in

other communities. As at the novitiate, we are friars from the three North American Provinces. The importance of this area of formation is not only the ongoing preparation for Augustinian life and ministry, but it is also a time of discernment for one's life commitment.

THE YEAR of MERCY IN ACTION



JOSEPH L. NAROG, O.S.A.
PASTOR OF SAINT THOMAS OF VILLANOVA

MERCY MINISTRY

BY TEDDIE GALLAGHER

“Our *Mercy Ministry* began when our business manager in the parish, Karen Farley, spoke to me about some of the issues that people in the area and in the parish were dealing with related to addiction, especially families in the parish whose children were suffering from addiction,” said Father Narog. “This is an area I too had been thinking about because I hear about it so much in my ministry. It’s an area that most people are affected by, either directly or through someone they know. We felt we needed to find out more about what we could do as a parish and a church to help people deal with addictions.”

The outcome of the discussion between Karen and Father Joe evolved into *Mercy Ministry*, a new parish Ministry at Saint Thomas of Villanova Parish where clergy and the laity have teamed up to offer confidential spiritual and practical support to individuals and families dealing with addiction.

Here is the group’s mission statement:

“Mercy is a ministry committed to spiritual, as well as practical, support for families suffering from the effects of addiction. We will provide awareness about the disease of addiction, both chemical and process addiction, along with education. We will be available to pray with, listen to and support anyone who contacts us and will do so in a safe and confidential manner. We are not professionals. We are fellow Christians trying to live as ‘missionaries of mercy.’”

More than a general resource website, the ministry team members take calls on a completely confidential basis and will attend meetings with those who need counseling and support, if desired.

The newly formed group has had two major motivational and educational events, one last spring, with Father Bill Hultberg, OSFS, and one this fall, *We Thirst, Lessons in Mercy* with presenter Nina Marie Corona, MA, CRS, who is a Pennsylvania Board Certified Recovery Specialist and is currently teaching at Villanova’s College of Professional Studies in its Drug and Alcohol counseling program. (See Father Hultberg’s story on the opposite page.)

Karen Farley, who pushed for the program and now spearheads it, says “It’s something we need to do right now. The number of deaths from overdoses in local communities like Havertown (Pa.) are up 41 percent. They are burying their children.”



MERCY MINISTRY TEAM MEMBERS ANDY ROYSDON, KAREN FARLEY AND FATHER JOE

Since the spring, the number of team members have doubled from 7 to 14 and others have volunteered to help setup. “Privacy is key to many people,” says Karen, “so we leave ‘grab and go’ literature in places where they can pick it up and maintain anonymity.”

“The ministry was not started because of the year of mercy,” said Father Joe, “but the year of mercy made us think about how we are called to be missionaries of mercy, and so the name Mercy Ministry seemed to work. Addiction is a disease and not a disgrace. We have to help people overcome the unwillingness to get help with addiction. We need to take it on head on and deal with it. I’m glad that we are moving forward on this because it’s so important.”

FORBEARANCE
benevolence **FORGIVENESS**
GENEROSITY set free
peace with God charity
HEALING salvation
loving compassion clemency
spared from judgement gift
MERCY kindness grace

Mercy Ministry

SAINT THOMAS OF VILLANOVA PARISH
BRYN MAWR, PENNSYLVANIA

www.stthomasofvillanova.org



FATHER JOE AND REV. WILLIAM J. HULTBURG, OSFS

MERCY MINISTRY IN ACTION

An Evening with Reverend William J. Hultburg, OSFS

The room was starting to fill up at the first event of Saint Thomas of Villanova Parish’s newest ministry aptly called “Mercy Ministry.” Father Joe Narog, O.S.A., was running to get more chairs as people poured into the meeting room below the Rosemont Chapel. Eventually, the rows of chairs pushed in place were not enough to hold the crowd who stood or formed a gallery on the stairs.

The evening’s speaker, Rev. William J. Hultberg, OSFS (Oblates of Saint Francis de Sales), an 85-year old Roman Catholic priest, was introduced as “The Spiritual leader of Caron (an addiction treatment Center in Wernersville, Pa.) for more than three decades, who has profoundly changed thousands of lives with his remarkable ability to reignite the passion for life that so many people lose to their addiction.” Father Bill introduced himself as a very grateful recovering alcoholic, 54 years as a priest, 41 years as a recovering alcoholic,

45 years in the field of addiction, 33 years at Caron. He said on his father’s side of the family his father, grandfather, five uncles and four half brothers were or are alcoholics and he’s the only one in recovery.

His mother died when he was very young and his father remarried, so he doesn’t know the history on his mother’s side. Physically abused by his step mother as a toddler, he was made a ward of the state and removed from his family at the age of three. He was moved from foster home to foster home until Catholic Welfare placed him with an Irish Catholic family.

He went to a high school run by the Salesian priests, entered the Order, left the Order, was drafted into the Navy and did a post-Korean War tour of duty in Japan. Upon his return he re-entered the Salesian Order, was ordained and became a high school teacher and Sports coach.

Later, it was his students who urged him to help them cope with the Vietnam War that led him to become a Marine Chaplain assigned to the platoon of U.S. Marines featured in the movie *Full Metal Jacket*. He witnessed war and death, began drinking and says he “came back a mess.” He says his pusher was a doctor who treated his post-traumatic stress with prescriptions for pills. He faced nightmares, anger and was so full of shame and guilt, telling himself he was a disgrace to the priesthood. Two years later he found himself in a Caron addiction treatment facilities parking lot wondering how did he ever get there.

Father Bill often uses the phrase “and then something happened” to note significant events that changed his thoughts and one of the biggest “something happened” moments was when he befriended a tragically addicted young man named Michael while they were both in treatment at Caron. The bond between the priest and the boy was their disease and their shame.

Michael left Caron prematurely and called Father from a bar. Shortly after that, Michael’s self-inflicted death changed the way Father Bill looked at himself—and the theology of addiction, because he realized Michael was innocent. He was in heaven because it was the disease that killed him, not his sin. It was in this moment that Father prayed to God that if he was given the help to overcome his addiction, he would spend the rest of his life as a priest helping others to overcome their addiction.

Father Bill was able to overcome his addiction and he has been in recovery since 1975. It is through his recovery and his 33 years as Director of Pastoral Care at Caron that he has learned so much about the disease and its impact on families. “This is a family disease. Those who live with us get as sick, if not sicker, than us.”

Father focuses on the spiritual side of the disease. “This disease goes right to your soul. It disconnects you from every relationship you have...from yourself, your family, the universe and your God. The only relationship you have in the later stages of the disease is your relationship with the drugs.”

Families say, “Can’t you see what you’re doing?” Father Bill responds, “An untreated addict is not capable of an intimate lasting relationship or able to love or be loved.”

Many people had come to the evening’s presentation with aching hard questions they were working through with a family member. Many other people stood to express their gratitude to Father Bill for the help he had given them.

FATHER BILL IS SEMI-RETIRED FROM CARON TREATMENT CENTER IN WERNERSVILLE, PA, WORKING EVERY OTHER WEEKEND IN HIS MISSION TO REACH AND RECONNECT THOSE WHOSE LIVES AND FAMILIES HAVE BEEN SEIZED BY THE IMPACT OF ADDICTION.

Adeodatus Prison Ministry

Together with the Laity

A SPIRITUAL FIELD HOSPITAL IN PHILADELPHIA

www.adeodatusprisonministry.com



BY PAUL F. MORRISSEY, O.S.A.
FOUNDER OF ADEODATUS PRISON MINISTRY

A SUBURBAN TALE OF HORROR AND SALVATION

There is an epidemic of opioid abuse going on in our country, including in the suburbs. In a recent issue of *Voices From Prison and the Edge*, which is published quarterly by Adeodatus, we have the privilege of hearing from “Ray,” one of the men who attends our weekly spiritual support group meetings. Ray, a suburban guy, has been drug-free for nine months.

I grew up in the suburbs and became a heroin addict. My parents had alcohol addiction problems. They were divorced when I was two. I was with my mom and brother. We all ended up with my grandparents. My mother was evicted so we stayed with the grandparents. They were good wholesome people. We had a good childhood. We would see my dad every other weekend and my mom whenever she would come around. That wasn't very often. There were a lot of incidents. She would show up at soccer games. She'd be drunk and fighting with my father. At puberty I started smoking cigarettes and drinking with the wrong crowd. It was the cool thing. It was the route I took. I was attracted to trouble.

I dropped out of high school in my senior year and found a place to live. My mom would give me money. She never knew I was on heroin. Finally her money ran out. She moved into my apartment. I couldn't handle it. She was thirty-eight. There were times I had to pick her up naked from the ground, pull her off the highway, trying to stop cars.

Real out there stuff. We were back in Cherry Hill again. She had bought a condo. I ended up living there. Later, ended up just moving from friend to friend. I was stealing from everyone, friends and family. I panhandled in the subway. Then my mom passed away. I had ended up convincing her to do a bag of heroin. She ended up dying from that. She was thirty-nine.

This is the *first* part of Ray's story, the horror part. He attends our Adeodatus' weekly support group meetings on Thursdays at Saint Rita's Shrine in South Philly (Broad and Ellsworth St, 7:30-9:00 PM). The *second* part of his story, the salvation part, tells of his incredible and gritty journey out of the gutter of his addiction into a path of sobriety—one day at a time—with the help of Jesus Christ and his fellow community members at the rehab center, The Open Door, in South Philadelphia.

It is a joy to see the light of God spark in the eyes of these men and women who come to our weekly meetings. They tell us we bless them by our presence around the Gospel which we share each evening. We—including myself as a priest—are surely blessed by these laypeople too as we stand around the Gospel, hands held in solidarity, praying the Our Father at the end of our meeting each week. Come and join us when you can. You will be blessed too.

Adeodatus is named after Augustine's son who died young and forgotten like so many young people in our prisons and our inner city streets. They are a “Gift of God,” as Augustine viewed his son and so named him. We are a program of A.D.R.O.P., The Augustinian Defenders of the Rights of



FATHER TONY BURRASCANO, O.S.A., JOE MICCUCI, FATHER JACK DEEGAN, O.S.A., GEORGE MUNYAN AND FATHER PAUL MORRISSEY, O.S.A.

the Poor, founded by Father Jack Deegan, O.S.A. and currently directed by Father Anthony Burrascano, O.S.A. A.D.R.O.P. is the ministry arm of the Office of Justice and Peace for the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova. In the photo, you can see Fathers Jack, Tony and myself, together with our lay colleagues, George Munyan and Joe Micucci, in the Healing Garden at Saint Augustine's Parish in Philadelphia. Together with the laity, we are fostering the justice and peace at the heart of our Augustinian ministry to the poor in Philadelphia.

LEARN MORE ABOUT AUGUSTINIAN DEFENDERS OF THE RIGHTS OF THE POOR (A.D.R.O.P.) AT WWW.RIGHTSOFTHEPOOR.ORG

THE LAST DAY...

The Journey of a Layman to the Augustinians

BY GEORGE MUNYAN



GEORGE MUNYAN, ADMINISTRATOR OF ADEODATUS PRISON MINISTRY, IN THE HEALING GARDEN AT SAINT AUGUSTINE PARISH IN PHILADELPHIA.

It was my last day as an educator. Thirty-nine years of joy were ending in a few minutes. What could ever replace the intense happiness of thousands of kids? I had seen heaven and now I was leaving it for the foreign lands of retirement, absolutely positive that nothing in the future could equal the happiness of the past.

Then he came into my office. His name was Juan, and he had the mean look of the streets in his eyes. Anger and violence were his shields from too much sorrow. Rescued by an aunt from the toxic city and placed in an affluent suburb, his father was unknown, and his mother had died from a heroin overdose. Intelligent but illiterate, he was 17 and officially flunking 9th grade, facing four

uncertain additional years pursuing a high school diploma.

Somehow I had found an alternate program which allowed him to work, learn and graduate in just a few years. I told Juan the good news and gave him a little Spanish bronze statue of the crucified Jesus. He looked into my eyes and all the ugliness washed out in a flow of tears. He said, “I will never forget you.” He left and I soon followed, both of us wandering into a new world.

I drove directly from school to my church, Saint Augustine, and for the first time I met Father Paul Morrissey, O.S.A. He was calming and patient. Eventually we discussed his new ministry to the imprisoned. Like Saint Paul, struck on the road to Damascus, I experienced an epiphany of new purpose. The fire, the passion and gentility of this priest enveloped me. Through him the Lord showed me that talents given were not extinguished but, rather, refined and redirected.

A world of young prisoners awaited me, and the Augustinians had set the stage for this next act of the George Munyan play. Talents of administration, communication and compassion turned to a new sun. There would be many more Juans! Again, life was not ending, but only changing and always directed to the same goal...loving God through the children he entrusted to me. I joined the Augustinian journey as a layman with a new purpose.



“However many mistakes and sins there may be in our life...It is there, in the wounds of Jesus, that we are truly secure; there we encounter the boundless love of His heart.”

—Pope Francis



Mary Mother of Captives

Give us your compassion for those in prison.

Mend in mercy the broken in mind and memory.

Soften the hard of heart, the captives of anger.

Free the innocent, parole the trustworthy.

Awaken the repentance that restores hope.

May prisoners' families persevere in their love.

Jesus,

Heal the victims of crime: they live with the scars.

Lift to eternal peace those who die.

Grant victims' families the forgiveness that heals.

Give wisdom to lawmakers and to those who judge.

Instill prudence and patience to those who guard.

Make those in prison ministry bearers of your light,

for all of us are in need of mercy.

Amen.

Farewell to *Our Lady of Good Counsel* and to *Staten Island*



BY LIAM O'DOHERTY, O.S.A.
PASTOR OF OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL
FROM 2010 UNTIL 2016

Six years ago, in its 111th year as an Augustinian parish, I began my term as pastor at Our Lady of Good Counsel. (OLGC). Rich in history, OLGC has always had a reputation of openness and hospitality to immigrants, while at the same time faithfully serving more established populations. From the very beginning immigrants from Europe, especially from Ireland and Italy were welcomed by the friars, the Presentation Sisters, later the Sisters of Charity of Halifax, and, of course by the Catholics already living there. In more recent years, many Catholics from Latin America, as well as Sri Lanka, India, Africa, Haiti and many other nations have become part of the community. The parish is just about 50-50 English- and Spanish-speaking.

Ministering to such a diverse and multifaceted parish community can be very challenging. From the beginning, I was deeply impressed with the devotion, dedication, cooperation and hard work of so many of the parishioners and staff, including the very dynamic parish school community. Through the hard work of the principal, faculty and parents, OLGC School has a reputation among the very highest on Staten Island.



CHILDREN (L-R) AVA PAONE, JILLIAN SHEA, MEGHAN RUSSO, MICHAEL RUSSO, HARRISON ROACHE AND LUKE O'BRIEN PICTURED WITH HIS EMINENCE, TIMOTHY CARDINAL DOLAN, AND PASTOR, LIAM O'DOHERTY, O.S.A., DURING THE CARDINAL'S VISIT TO OLGC GRADE SCHOOL.

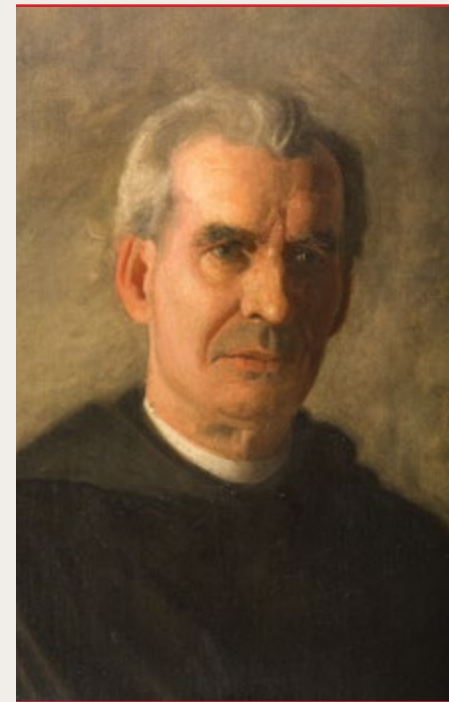
It was a sad day when early in April we announced that in consultation with the Archdiocese of New York, the Augustinian Friars had made the very difficult decision to withdraw from Staten Island and turn over the pastoral care and administration of OLGC to the Archdiocese.

I tell everyone how proud I am of the parishioners at OLGC. As I informed small groups of staff and lay leaders, and then the larger parish population, the first reactions to the news were those of shock and some very raw emotions. All natural human reactions. Then, in less than 25 minutes, in each case the conversations

shifted to the need to form a task force to try to help the parish community to get through all of this, to prepare to welcome the new pastor, and to make the transition as smooth as possible for all concerned. I think that nothing could have made me feel prouder as a pastor than to hear our parishioners express that sentiment!

One reason for this decision is related to the number of friars available to work in parish ministry. Therefore it was both ironic and bittersweet that one event marking the last two weeks of our tenure at OLGC was the festive celebration of the First Mass of Father Joe Murray, O.S.A. Father Joe was ordained to the priesthood the day before (June 18, at Villanova Church) and became an Augustinian largely because of his participation in parish life at OLGC.

We Augustinians have been blessed by the Lord though our 117-year association with the people of OLGC and the larger community of Staten Island. We continue to pray for them and rely on their prayers for us. In his homily at our Mass of Farewell and Thanksgiving, Prior Provincial, Father Michael DiGregorio, O.S.A., spoke for all of us when he promised the people of OLGC, "You have not seen the last of us!"



JOHN J. FEDIGAN, O.S.A.

HISTORY OF OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL PARISH, STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK

BY TEDDIE GALLAGHER

On October 14, 1898, when John J. Fedigan, O.S.A., met with New York's Archbishop Monsignor Corrigan on his way to Bar Harbor, Maine, Father Fedigan asked His Grace "What about the Mission we expected and for which we have waited so long?" Monsignor Corrigan said, "That has been settled...I offered an Italian Mission and it was declined by Monsignor Martinelli, and that ends the matter." Fedigan begged for an audience on his return from Bar Harbor to settle the matter one way or another. Monsignor Corrigan agreed.

"On my return, I did have an audience with him (Monsignor Corrigan) in which I presented the case from first start...and yielding somewhat, he told me things I cannot write out here, but said he would bring the case up again before his Council and he did at the monthly meeting on the first Wednesday, in Dec., '98."

It was decided at that meeting to offer the Augustinians the Staten Island property Villa de Sales, owned by the Visitation Sisters, with a newly built school, convent and Chapel. The land was donated to

the sisters by Mme. Mallmann, a devout Catholic. The July 20, 1898 edition of *The Evening Times*, a Washington, D.C. paper, ran an article entitled "CHURCH PROPERTY IN DISPUTE." The article stated: "Mme. Constance Mallmann, of New Brighton, Staten Island, gave her handsome house to found a house for the Roman Catholic Order of the Visitation, her intent to enter the Order. When part of it was complete the sisters took up residence...as the building progressed there were several aspects of the work as it was being conducted which were not in accord with Mme. Mallman's ideas." After appeals to the builder, the architect and the Archbishop, a breach was declared.

Fedigan visited the property in mid-December. The sisters wanted \$75,000 for the building, but Fedigan did not think the building was suited for a parish. He called Archbishop Corrigan and asked if they had to take the building to get the Mission. Archbishop Corrigan said, "Yes, that was the intention of offering it to us...we had to take it or nothing." In the end, Father Fedigan paid \$70,000 for the Mission, on the condition they could get the property in May 1899.

On May 18, 1899, Nicholas J. Murphy, O.S.A., was appointed first pastor. The Augustinians took possession of the property on May 30, 1899. On June 1, Brother Thomas Wright, O.S.A., arrived to ready the boys school. Charles J.

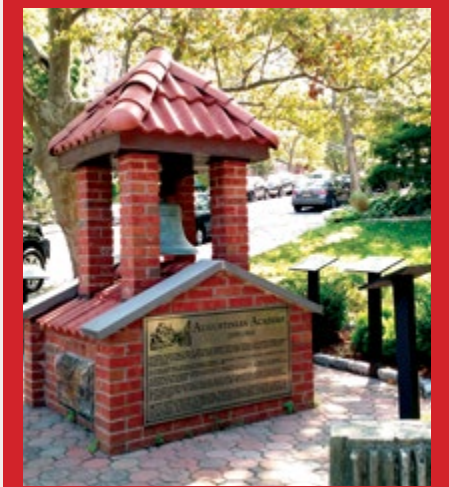


NICHOLAS J. MURPHY, O.S.A.

McFadden, O.S.A., was sent to open the Augustinian Academy, a private boys school for grades six through twelve.

On September 10, 1899, Archbishop Martinelli, O.S.A., Apostolic Nuncio, blessed Our Lady of Good Counsel Church and the Augustinian Academy. The Church was the Chapel built by the Visitation sisters, which would serve the parish for the next sixty-nine years. On September 13, 1899, The Augustinian Academy opened with thirteen boys in attendance. On June 19, 1919, The Augustinian Academy closed due to lack of students. In September, 1921, a new Augustinian Academy, grades nine through twelve, opened on the grounds to serve the Order as a preparatory seminary. In September, 1923, the parish erected a parochial grade school. The seminarians

remained in residence until January, 1926, when they moved to the new Augustinian Academy building on Grymes Hill. The Augustinian Academy closed in 1969. The Our Lady of Good Counsel parochial school is still going strong.



AUGUSTINIAN ACADEMY MONUMENT

THE AUGUSTINIAN ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION HELD A DEDICATION CEREMONY ON OCTOBER 6, 2012, ON THE GROUNDS OF OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL AT AUSTIN PLACE, WHERE THE FIRST ACADEMY WAS OPENED. MORE THAN 100 ALUMNI WERE PRESENT AT THE UNVEILING AND DEDICATION.

THE MONUMENT, WHICH HOUSES A BELL THAT WAS PART OF THE ACADEMY, CONTAINS A DEDICATION TO THE AUGUSTINIAN GRADUATES WHO SERVED OUR MILITARY, ESPECIALLY TO THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN SERVICE. AUGUSTINIAN ACADEMY WAS THE FIRST CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL ON STATEN ISLAND. OPENED IN 1899 AND CLOSED IN 1969, IT OPERATED AS A PREPARATORY DAY SCHOOL FOR BOYS GRADES 6-12 AND LATER AS A MINOR SEMINARY AND HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS.

In 1962, Cardinal Spellman granted permission for the building of a new church and rectory. James A. Donnellon, O.S.A., approved the work. On the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel, April 26, 1968, the new church was blessed and dedicated by the Most Reverend Terence J. Cooke, D.D., with James G. Sherman, Prior Provincial and Robert E. Regan, O.S.A., pastor, among the many Augustinians in attendance.



ORIGINAL PARISH AND SCHOOL



Farewell to *Our Lady of Miraculous Medal*

PINE ISLAND, FLORIDA



BY MICHAEL J. HUGHES, O.S.A.
PASTOR OF OUR LADY OF MIRACULOUS MEDAL
FROM 2005 UNTIL 2016



Farewell to *Saint Katharine Drexel*

CAPE CORAL, FLORIDA



BY JOHN F. DEARY, O.S.A.
PASTOR OF SAINT KATHARINE DREXEL
FROM 1993 UNTIL 2016

In 1997, the Augustinian Friars of the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova assumed pastoral leadership of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Parish on Pine Island, Florida. With the installation of Father Thomas Pohto, O.S.A., as pastor, a nineteen year era of Augustinian leadership began. During the Augustinian period, the parish grew both in membership and parishioner involvement. In 2004, the beautiful new church was dedicated and in 2015 the new entrance, Marian Garden and storage area were added to the church. In 2012 the Parish Life Center was completely renovated, including a state-of-the-art DVD projection system for both entertainment and educational purposes. In addition to these construction projects, the parish developed various new programs in the area of adult Faith Formation, with a special emphasis on the sacred scripture.

OLMM, as the parish is affectionately referred to, is primarily a senior citizen parish. Two thirds of this South West Florida parish consists of seasonal members who arrive in early winter and return north shortly after Easter. The seasonal membership contributes greatly to the life of the parish in terms of service involvement in outreach programs, such as the Food Pantry and the annual Rummage Sale. Many of the social programs in the

parish are not only well attended by the seasonal community but also organized and conducted by the “snow birds.” The parish is typified by a warm, welcoming hospitality, which is one of its drawing cards, and one of the reasons why many parish members commute from off the island to be a vital part of this vibrant community.

In the spring of 2016, the difficult decision was made by the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova to withdraw from pastoral leadership of the parish and return the parish to the Bishop of the Diocese of Venice in Florida. Much prayerful reflection went into the making of this decision. As was to be expected, the announcement was received with both shock and sorrow by all involved. A simultaneous withdrawal from a second Augustinian parish in the Diocese of Venice, Saint Katharine Drexel, served only to compound the disappointment. In large part, the decision to withdraw was prompted by a shrinking number of Augustinian Friars available to serve in these parishes and the advancing age of the Friars who were serving in them.

Every parish community has its own distinct personality. Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal parish, from its earliest days, has been steeped in a genuine

Stewardship tradition. Parishioners have had a keen sense of ownership and responsibility for their parish from the start. While this sense of commitment predates the first Augustinian pastor, it certainly was encouraged and enhanced by subsequent Augustinian leadership. It is our sincere prayer and belief that this spirit and commitment will endure well into the coming years.



The parish of Saint Katharine Drexel in Cape Coral, Florida, celebrated its 25th Anniversary on September 1, 2015. The Augustinians began to service the parish community in 1993, three years after it was established. At that time there were about 300 families in the parish and they met at a public school auditorium for the celebration of Mass and for religious education classes. The parish office was on the second floor of an animal hospital. Now the parish has over 2000 families and four buildings, a church, a parish hall, an office building and an education center.

The Augustinian spirit became stronger over the years due to the many Augustinians that served with me there. Fathers Thomas Pohto, O.S.A., John Sheridan, O.S.A., Frank Gallogly, O.S.A., and Jim Wenzel, O.S.A., were all part of the parish staff at one

time or another. Many other Augustinians served the community as directors of parish retreats, such as, Michael Sullivan, O.S.A., Anthony Genovese, O.S.A., Stan Smith, O.S.A., Tom McCarthy, O.S.A., and Prior Provincial Michael Di Gregorio, O.S.A. Others like Tony Burrascano, O.S.A., and Kevin Dwyer, O.S.A., came frequently to ask the people to support our Augustinian foreign missions. There were other Augustinians who just came to enjoy the Florida sunshine and meet the people of the parish.

More than 500 children attend Saint Katharine Drexel's Religious Education program from kindergarten through high school. In the summer, the parish holds a Vacation Bible School where, a month before it begins, volunteers transform the parish hall with drawings and props that express the theme of the year's Vacation Bible School.

On June 1, 2016, the Augustinians withdrew their ministry from the parish and the Bishop of the diocese of Venice was able to send two priests of the diocese to continue to serve the people there.

A feature of the Vacation Bible School is a prayer room or little chapel. This year, especially because the Augustinians were leaving the parish, parishioners wanted the Vacation Bible School to remember Saint

Augustine and his mother, Saint Monica and also Saint Rita of Cascia. Volunteers made beautiful stained glass windows of Augustine and Monica out of paper, and when the children came to the Chapel for prayer time, parishioners dressed as the saints and in character told the children who they were and what they did.

As Saint Augustine taught us by his actions and in his writings of the importance of a faith community, the Catholic Community of St. Katharine Drexel lived that spirit. The people of the parish express that spirit by the way they worship as a faith community. When you enter the church, the many greeters welcome the people, but also the worshipers themselves greet each other and become concerned when someone is not present. Members of the parish really care about each other and always welcome new members. The Augustinian Seculars, who were established in 1999, also help to foster that spirit of Augustine by meeting bi-weekly to pray, to study the works of Augustine, and to share that spirit with the rest of the community, by their service in different aspects of parish life. The Augustinian Seculars continue today and will certainly keep the spirit of Augustine and the community life very present in the parish.

NEWS AND NOTES

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



(L-R) VICAR GENERAL JOSEPH FARRELL, O.S.A., THE PRINCIPAL CELEBRANT, PROCESSES INTO MASS WITH JOHN DEARY, O.S.A., JAMES PARADIS, O.S.A., AND JOHN MCATEE, O.S.A., FOR THE MASS DURING THE MID-CHAPTER HONORING THOSE CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARIES OF THEIR FIRST PROFESSION OR ORDINATION.

Provincial Mid-Chapter

Friars of the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova held their Mid-Chapter at Villanova University. The Mid-Chapter opened Sunday, June 12, with an opportunity for friars to socialize and share a meal, followed by Evening Prayer. During the Mid-Chapter there was a Mass and dinner honoring those friars celebrating anniversaries of their first professions or ordinations. Each day there were morning and afternoon sessions devoted to the business of the Province. Mass was celebrated daily. The Mid-Chapter drew to a close on Friday, June 17, after Mass.



Pre-novices at Blessed Stephen Bellesini Friary in Ardmore, Pennsylvania

(L-R) THOMAS ABBOT (CHI), JOSH STEWART (CHI), JAVIER ARDILA (CHI), SPENCER THOMAS (CHI)



Novices at Racine, Wisconsin

FRONT ROW (L-R): BILL GABRIEL (VIL), MAURICIO MORALES AND ARTURO RENTERIA (CAL), JOHN ARULTHAS (CHI), JEREMY HIERS AND PATRICK THORP (VIL). BACK ROW (L-R): FRED TAGGART, O.S.A. (TREASURER AND PART-TIME PARISH ASSISTANT), JIM PARADIS, O.S.A. (DIRECTOR OF NOVICES), JERRY KNIES, O.S.A. (PRIOR), JIM WENZEL, O.S.A. (FORMATION TEAM), AND RICH O'LEARY, O.S.A. (PASTOR, ST. RITA, RACINE, WIS.)

The Ordination of Joseph A. Murray, O.S.A.

Many friars attending the Intermediate Mid-Chapter and professed men in formation stayed to attend the Ordination to the priesthood of Joseph A. Murray, O.S.A., held on Saturday, June 18, 2016, the day after the Mid-Chapter closed.

For more pictures of the day go to our photo gallery at WWW.AUGUSTINIAN.ORG/PHOTO-GALLERIES/



FATHER KEVIN DE PRINZIO, O.S.A., GUIDES THE GROUP OF PROFESSED MEN IN FORMATION WHO WILL PROCESS IN WITH JOE MURRAY (SECOND FROM THE END), THE PROVINCIAL AND THE BISHOP.

Stay on top of news and events from the Augustinian world—sign up for Augustinian E-News at WWW.AUGUSTINIAN.ORG/ENEWS-SIGNUP



FRONT ROW (L-R): DOMINIC SMITH, O.S.A. (CAL), FATHER JOSEPH BROUDOU, O.S.A. (CHI), ADNAN GHANI, O.S.A. (CAL), JEFF RATHS, O.S.A. (CHI), ATSUSHI KUWAHARA, O.S.A. (VIL), SAM JOUTRAS (CHI) BACK ROW: BOBBY CARROLL, O.S.A. (CHI), JOE ROCCASALVA, O.S.A. (CHI), ELIZANDRO CONTRERAS, O.S.A. (VIL), SARFRAZ ALAM, O.S.A. (CA)

Interprovincial First Profession of Novices in Chicago

Ten novices from three provinces in the United States professed first vows on Sunday, July 31, 2016, at Saint Rita Shrine Chapel in Chicago. Vicar General of the Order in Rome, Joseph Farrell, O.S.A., was the principal celebrant. Priors Provincial from each of the provinces were concelebrants and also received the vows of each novice from their provinces: California, Chicago and Villanova. The novices will move on to the theologate in Chicago to begin their studies at Catholic Theological Union.



SEATED (ROW 1): NEWLY-PROFESSED ATSUSHI KUWAHARA, O.S.A., AND PRIOR PROVINCIAL MICHAEL DI GREGORIO, O.S.A. (VILLANOVA) STANDING (ROW 2): THOMAS MASAKI IMADA, O.S.A., FRANK DOYLE, O.S.A., REGIONAL SUPERIOR HIROYUKI THOMAS SHIBATA, O.S.A., ANTHONY KIYOTSUGU YAMANO, O.S.A., AND JESUS DANO, O.S.A. ROW 3: THOMAS MCCARTHY, O.S.A., JOHN FUTOSHI MATSUO, O.S.A., PRIOR PROVINCIAL BERNARD SCIANNA, O.S.A. (MIDWEST), FRANCIS MASAYA IDE, O.S.A., AND MICHAEL HILDEN, O.S.A.

Novice Atsushi Kuwahara, O.S.A., Makes First Profession in Vicariate of Japan

A novice from the Vicariate of Japan, Atsushi Kuwahara, who made his novitiate in Racine, Wisconsin, made his first profession on Thursday, August 11, 2016, in Japan. Superior of the Vicariate, Hiroyuki Thomas Shibata, O.S.A., received his vows at a liturgy at Saint Augustine Kasai Church in Tokyo. Atsushi rejoined his class in Chicago in August.



TONY BURRASCANO, O.S.A., BLESSES NEWLY-ORDAINED JOSEPH A. MURRAY, O.S.A.

Tony Burrascano, O.S.A., Named Executive Director of A.D.R.O.P.

In July 2016, Father Tony Burrascano, O.S.A., was named the Executive Director of the Augustinian Defenders of the Rights of the Poor (A.D.R.O.P.), an Augustinian ministry which serves the needy in Philadelphia. Father Tony, as well as having served as a parish priest, has previously served the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova as Director of the Missions, Province Treasurer and a member of the Formation Team. Father Tony will report to the Province's Director of Justice and Peace, Father Jack Deegan, O.S.A.

NEW E-MAIL?

PLEASE SEND YOUR NAME, YOUR OLD EMAIL ADDRESS AND UPDATED INFORMATION TO COMMUNICATIONS@AUGUSTINIAN.ORG



FATHER BILL'S FAMILY AND FRIARS ATTEND THE ASSEMBLY: FRONT ROW (L-R): TARA BRAMWELL, COLLEEN TEGLER HOLDING PRESLEY THORNTON, JOAN MULLEN, BETTY HARVEY, JILL HOUGH, ERIN THORNTON. BACK ROW (L-R): JANINE ZOZAYA, JOHN MULLEN, FRANCIS HORN, O.S.A., ALLEN ATKINSON, ROBERT HAGAN, O.S.A.

Bonner-Prendie High School Assembly Recalls Father Bill Atkinson, O.S.A., Augustinian Servant of God

Monsignor Bonner and Archbishop Prendergast Catholic High School in Drexel Hill, Pa., held an all-class assembly in May 2016, to learn more about a distinguished alumnus and beloved former faculty member, Father Bill Atkinson, O.S.A., Servant of God, who graduated from Msgr. Bonner in 1963. Father Bill entered the Augustinians in 1963 and was severely injured in a toboggan accident when he was at the Augustinian Novitiate in 1965. In 1975, he was the first quadriplegic to become a priest. He was subsequently assigned to Bonner as a teacher and served as a chaplain, coach, counselor, friend and mentor to many students and faculty during the nearly 30 years he was there. Father Bill died in 2006. The assembly brought together speakers who knew Father Bill: his sister, Joan; niece, Janine; friend, Orlando Barone; former Bonner math teacher Ralph Celidonio and Father Rob Hagan, O.S.A., to speak to the students. The purpose of the assembly was to celebrate the former alum and Augustinian Servant of God, but also to help students know Father Bill Atkinson, who, at one time, was a student facing the same frustrations, problems and challenges that students today face.



Group Attends 2016 Augustinian Youth Encounter (AYE) in the Czech Republic

In late July, a group of young women and men, along with several friars, traveled to Europe to attend the Augustinian Youth Encounter (AYE), which was held at the Augustinian Monastery of Saint Dobrotiva in Zajecov, Czech Republic. The group went to Krakow in Poland, where they toured the Jewish Ghetto and Auschwitz. They went on to Wadowice, birthplace of John Paul II. Next they toured Vienna and the Augustinian Church there, and learned of the history of the Augustinian presence there since 1327. The group traveled on to Zajecov, to attend the AYE, which took place July 19-25.



STEPHEN BAKER, O.S.A., BLESSES NEWLY-ORDAINED JOSEPH A. MURRAY, O.S.A.

Stephen Baker, O.S.A., Ed.D., Has Two Articles Published in Journals

Father Stephen Baker, O.S.A., an assistant professor at Villanova University's Department of Education and Counseling, has had two articles published recently. First, "Augustinian Caritas as an Expression of Concern for Social Justice and Equity in Teacher Education," published in *The Journal for Peace and Justice Studies*, Vol 25, Issue 1, a biannual publication, available through the Center for Peace and Justice Studies at Villanova University. The second, "The Augustinian Values Institute: Preserving a Legacy of Augustinian Education" was published in the *Journal of Catholic Education*, Vol 19 Issue 3, and can be viewed at the following url:

WWW.AUGUSTINIAN.ORG/DOCUMENTS/



John Futoshi Matsuo, O.S.A., Ordained Deacon in Vicariate of Japan

John Futoshi Matsuo, O.S.A., was ordained to the Diaconate on Saturday, July 23, 2016, at St. Augustine Kasai Church in Tokyo, during a Mass celebrated by Archbishop Peter Okada, concelebrated with Regional Superior Hiroyuki Thomas Shibata, O.S.A. (left). Brother Futoshi, a member of our Vicariate in Japan, has been in formation in Australia.

2016 CATHOLIC PRESS AWARDS

OUR 5TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR OF EXCELLENCE!

2012 2013 2014 2015 2016

Catholic Press Association of the U.S. and Canada Honors *The Augustinian* Magazine

"*The Augustinian* stands as a model

for those seeking to create a heavyweight publication for a religious community...in a word, *Elegant.*"

2016 FIRST PLACE, GENERAL EXCELLENCE

RELIGIOUS ORDER MAGAZINE AWARD



TEDDIE GALLAGHER
Editor



KITTY SHERIDAN
Associate Editor



Father Art Purcaro, O.S.A., garnered First Place for Best Essay Originating with a Magazine or Newsletter: Religious Order Magazine, for his essay, "Freedom of Religion."



Father George Lawless, O.S.A. and Teddie Gallagher, Editor of *The Augustinian*, were awarded an Honorable Mention in the category of Best Personality Profile for "Saint Augustine from Doubt to Certitude," a profile of Saint Augustine given in a lecture by Father Lawless, transcribed with an illustrated chronology by Teddie Gallagher.

Father Lawless, who died in March 2016, was an Augustinian scholar.

Augustinians move ahead with innovative model of collaboration and partnership for South Philadelphia Parishes and Saint Rita's Shrine

BY KITTY SHERIDAN



“It’s taking the place of one parish that had been administered by the Archdiocese and saying, “We will cover that...you don’t need to provide a priest there anymore, we will take care of that.” I think the Archdiocese saw the idea as future-looking and so they were very amenable to this.”

—Father Michael Di Gregorio, O.S.A.,
Prior Provincial, former pastor of Saint Rita Parish and Shrine



SAINT RITA'S IS NOW A DEDICATED SHRINE CHURCH
PHOTO BY C. DI CARLO

The Augustinians have long served in South Philadelphia; their roots are deep in the area. As with many dioceses, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia faces the challenges brought by diminishing and/or shifting populations. Already serving at two parishes in the area, Saint Nicholas of Tolentine and Saint Rita of Cascia, the Augustinians were eager to maintain their presence, fulfilling their mission as religious and friars, serving the Church and the people of God. Located between these two Augustinian parishes is Annunciation B.V.M., served by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Knowing that the Archdiocese has been and continues to examine parish structures in the city, the Augustinians considered the parish structure in South Philadelphia and wondered, “Can we bring something new to this reality?” The Augustinians saw an opportunity to address the changing needs in the Archdiocese while maintaining their presence in the area. After much discussion and soul-searching with representatives from each of the parishes and the then pastors of the parishes, they arrived at a proposal presented and accepted by the Archdiocese, which aids the Archdiocese with its own resources and allows the Augustinians to continue their service and establish a new centralized religious community.

The three parishes of Annunciation B.V.M., Saint Nicholas of Tolentine and Saint Rita of Cascia, in South Philadelphia, have initiated a process whereby Annunciation B.V.M. parish and Saint Rita of Cascia parish are merged. The newly formed Annunciation parish and St. Nicholas of Tolentine parish are partnered, where the pastoral and administrative responsibilities are combined, while the parishes remain as independent parishes under the administration of the Augustinians. The National Shrine of Saint Rita of Cascia operates as just that—a Shrine Church.

“Saint Rita Parish parishioners understand that Annunciation B.V.M. may not be the parish that they’re used to at Saint Rita’s, but now it’s an Augustinian parish; we’re involved over there. Those of us who are living here at Saint Rita’s Shrine are ministering here as well at Annunciation...we’re part of that.”

—Father Joe Genito, O.S.A.,
former Pastor of Saint Rita Parish

The rector of the Shrine, Joseph Genito, O.S.A., will no longer have the administrative responsibilities of a pastor, leaving him free to devote his energies to the Shrine and developing appropriate programs. The existing parish building will be used to run programs until the Cascia Center is completed and ready for occupancy. Masses, the celebration of feasts and devotions will continue at the Shrine Church as usual and Saint Rita of Cascia Shrine, which lies within the geographic area, will also be a worship site for the newly-formed parish of Annunciation B.V.M.

Each church will remain open; the National Shrine of Saint Rita of Cascia will remain an independent entity. The partnered parishes of Annunciation B.V.M., and Saint Nicholas of Tolentine, with each parish independent of the other, share one pastor, Augustinian Friar, Father Nicholas Martorano, O.S.A.

Administration of the partnered parishes will operate from Annunciation B.V.M. parish offices. Along with the administrative operations located at Annunciation B.V.M., it’s rectory, following renovations, will be used as the friary for the new centralized religious community. From there, friars will continue to serve at the Shrine of Saint Rita of Cascia, at the parish of Saint Nicholas of Tolentine, and in Annunciation B.V.M.

The official “launch” of this initiative is October 23, 2016, when Father Nicholas Martorano, O.S.A., will be installed as pastor of Annunciation, B.V.M. Augustinians are pleased that their proposal was acceptable to the Archdiocese, and they are pleased to accept the administration of the partnered parishes, assuring that their presence will continue in South Philadelphia, enabling them to fulfill their call to serve the Church.

IN PARADISUM

The following friar was called home to God.

John T. Denny, O.S.A.



BORN: 10/19/1957
FIRST PROFESSION: 8/2/1986
ORDAINED: 8/18/1990
DIED: 6/20/2016

John Thomas Denny was born on October 19, 1957, in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. He was one of seven sons and one daughter of Joseph G. Denny and Mary K. Schubert. John was baptized at Saint Laurence Church, Upper Darby, Pa., on November 3, 1957, and attended Saint Laurence Parish School from 1963 to 1971. He then entered Monsignor Bonner High School, Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania, and graduated in 1975. From 1975 to 1979, he attended Boston College, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, where he received a BA in History. He entered the Order at Good Counsel Novitiate, Lawrence, Massachusetts, in August, 1980, but withdrew the following March. He then worked for a year in a real estate office and from 1981 to 1985, taught at Monsignor Bonner High School. He re-entered the Order, and began a second novitiate, on August 15, 1985. He professed simple vows on August 2, 1986, and moved to Augustinian College, Washington, D.C. There he pursued theological studies at the Washington Theological Union, and received

an MA in Ecclesiastical History. He professed solemn vows on May 20, 1989, and was ordained to the priesthood on August 18, 1990 at Our Mother of Good Counsel Parish, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, by Bishop Howard Hubbard, bishop of Albany, New York.

Father Jack was first assigned to Saint Joseph Friary, Drexel Hill, and to Monsignor Bonner High School, where he served as a teacher (1990-1999), as chaplain (1990-1993), as principal (1993-1999), and as school president (1999-2001). In 2001 he was appointed the Province’s Vocation Director, and a member of Fray Luis de Leon Friary on the campus of Villanova University. From 2002 to 2007 he was Adjunct Professor of Theology at the University, and chaplain of the University Law School. In 2004 he was assigned to the Saxony Hall community in Rosemont, and in 2007 he was appointed pastor of Saint Margaret of Scotland Parish, Maggie Valley, North Carolina.

When the Province withdrew from ministry in Maggie Valley in 2011, Father Jack was assigned as pastor of Our Mother of Good Counsel Parish, Bryn Mawr. In August, 2014, he was appointed prior of the community as well. For some time he suffered with ailments of the back and leg. Due to progressive weakness he moved to the infirmary wing of the Villanova Monastery on March 24, 2016. Shortly after, it was discovered that he was suffering from cancer. He underwent a series

of treatments, and on June 13th was admitted to Bryn Mawr Hospital for additional tests. He died there peacefully in the early morning hours of June 20, 2016 accompanied by several friars and family members.

Father Jack was a keen gardener and planted flower beds around the friaries where he was assigned. While at Monsignor Bonner High School, he assigned students in detention to care for these at the school. He was also a devoted student of American Presidential history and enjoyed visiting various significant presidential sites. He was possessed of a good sense of humor, an infectious laugh, and deep appreciation of, and dedication to, his vocation as an Augustinian and a priest.

SHARE YOUR OWN REFLECTION ON THIS FRIAR

VISIT THE NECROLOGY PAGE AT WWW1.AUGUSTINIAN.ORG/WHO-WE-ARE/OUR-HERITAGE/NECROLOGY AND FILL OUT THE FORM. REFLECTIONS WILL BE POSTED SOON AFTER RECEIVED. THANK YOU FOR TAKING PART IN THIS INTERACTIVE NECROLOGY.

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Augustinian Fund Celebrates 10TH ANNIVERSARY

**BY MADONNA SUTTER
DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT**

A special milestone anniversary provides a time not only to celebrate how far we've come, but to look back and remember all those who are responsible for getting us to this point. This year marks the tenth anniversary of the Augustinian Fund and the establishment of the Augustinian Advancement Council.

In those initial years when programs, infrastructure and procedures were being put into place, members of the Advancement Council rolled up their sleeves and did whatever needed to be done. These men and women provided their time, talent and resources to organize events, solicit gifts, improve communications and to launch many other initiatives that have brought us where we are today. I wish to express the Province's sincere appreciation to the men and women listed here who have paved the way for the Fund's future success.

Typically, new fundraising programs begin with developing an annual giving program, but because there was such great need to renovate Saint Thomas Monastery, we began with planning a capital campaign. Thanks to the leadership of former Prior Provincial Don Reilly, O.S.A., Charlie Connolly, and many dedicated volunteers, the campaign raised in excess of \$25,000,000 to renovate the Villanova monastery which houses upwards of fifty friars, including infirm and elderly friars, so that they can continue to live in community with the spiritual and health care they require.

The Augustinian Fund has raised nearly \$14,000,000 over the past ten years which provides much-needed support to the care of the elderly and infirm friars, those studying to become Augustinian priests and brothers, as well as our foreign missions, Augustinian Volunteer programs and the Province's Justice & Peace Initiatives, including the Augustinian Defenders of the Rights of the Poor (A.D.R.O.P.).

As we celebrate this tenth anniversary throughout the year, I ask you to reflect on our theme for this year's Augustinian Fund campaign—*Let your abundance...supply their need*. Many of us are blessed to have more than we need to live a good life and yet we often think it's not enough. This made me think about my own life and how fortunate I am. I'm not wealthy by any means, at least not in dollars and cents, but wealth isn't always measured by how much money we have. I believe it's measured by how we live our life, the kindness we show to others and by the love that surrounds us.

How much do we really need? What can we offer to those in greater need?

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



RICH DEVINE, 2013



CHARLIE CONNOLLY, JAY WRIGHT, FATHER DON REILLY, 2007



ADVANCEMENT COUNCIL, FALL 2012

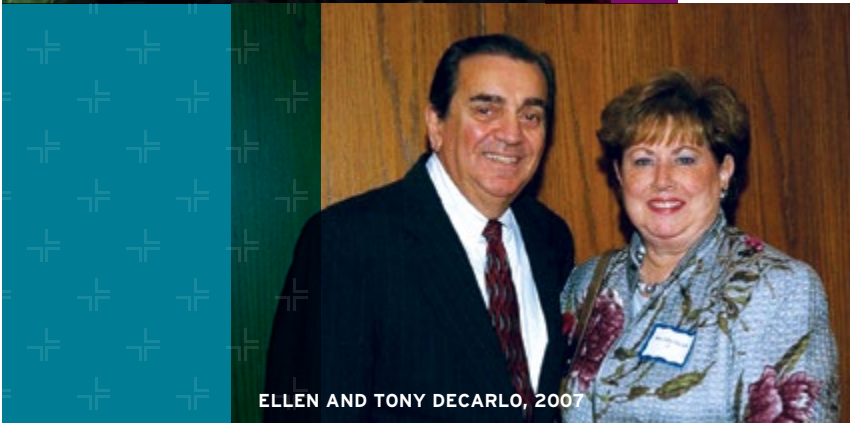


2007: JIM O'CONNOR & FATHER APPICCI



ANTHONY DELLOMO & FATHER JIM MCCARTNEY, 2007

THE
Augustinian Fund 
Celebrating 10 years | 2006-2016
Looking Back



ELLEN AND TONY DECARLO, 2007



ADVANCEMENT COUNCIL MEMBERS AND THEIR WIVES, FALL 2014



BOB MCKIERNAN, 2013



BILL AND MARY ANN DISIPIO & FATHER MICKEY, 2012



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OUR PROVINCE CALENDAR

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**Augustinian Fund
10th Anniversary Celebration
Cocktail Reception**

Overbrook Golf Club, Villanova, PA
6:00 – 8:30 PM

Register online at:
WWW.AUGUSTINIANFUND.ORG/ANNIVERSARY

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2016

#Giving Tuesday

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JANUARY 2017

**Infiniti Coaches Challenge:
Voting Begins**

WWW.AUGUSTINIANFUND.ORG/INFINITI-COACHES-CHALLENGE

THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2017

Saint Augustine Medal Dinner

New York City
Recipients: Patty and Jay Wright

Register online after December 1, 2016:
WWW.AUGUSTINIANFUND.ORG/MEDAL-DINNER