



THE MISSIONS

OF THE AUGUSTINIAN FRIARS

Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova

Christmas 2016

Dear Friends of the Augustinian Missions,

Christmas blessings as we celebrate God's infinite love for the human race in sending his only Son to live among us and to show us the way to true and lasting happiness.

God's love never ceases to unfold as the Lord leads us on various paths on the journey to his Kingdom. In this newsletter we celebrate the call to Augustinian religious life and ordained ministry of two of our friars who have heard the Lord's call through the witness and preaching of our missionaries in Japan.

Three Augustinian Volunteers recently completed a year of service among the poor in Chulucanas, Peru. The AVs have been a tremendous blessing to the Augustinian mission effort in Peru since 2002. The experiences of the volunteers of living simply in community and learning important life lessons from their interaction with hard-working and faith-filled people are blessings that they bring home with them.

The efforts of the Augustinians in Peru to offer a sound education to the young people they serve is moving ahead with the construction of Colegio San Agustín in Trujillo. Although progress has been slow, the initial phase of the project (building the wall around the property) has been completed and the erection of classrooms is about to begin.

The good work of bringing the gospel to Japan and Peru by the Augustinians would not be possible without the generous support and prayers of our many benefactors. During this season of blessings, please consider a gift to the Augustinian Missions to continue the work of evangelization and education in these parts of the world.

Thank you for all that you do for our Augustinian missionaries and their people. May the New Year be filled with many blessings for you and your loved ones.

In Christ and Augustine,

Francis J. Horn, O.S.A.

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





Japanese Friars Advance in Formation

Two friars from Japan whose stories have appeared in recent editions of this Mission newsletter have achieved significant milestones on their formation journey.



Deacon Futoshi Matsuo, O.S.A. (right) elevates the chalice at his ordination Mass, at which Archbishop Okada of Tokyo (center) presided. Also pictured is Father Hiroyuki Shibata, O.S.A., Vicar of Japan.

Brother Futoshi Matsuo, who made his solemn commitment in the Order of Saint Augustine in February 2016, was ordained a deacon on July 23 at Saint Augustine Kasai Church in Tokyo by Archbishop Peter Okada. Since September he has been participating in a diaconate program required by the Japanese bishops which includes academic studies and pastoral activities. Brother Futoshi has gained valuable experience through his ministry to juveniles in prison, students in Catholic schools, and those in rehabilitation centers who are suffering from alcoholism and drug addiction. He hopes to be ordained to the priesthood in April 2017.

Brother Atsushi Kuwahara completed his novitiate year in Racine, Wisconsin, and professed first vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience in the Order of Saint Augustine on August 11, 2016, also at the Augustinian church in Kasai. After a brief visit with his family, Atsushi returned to Saint Augustine Friary in Chicago, where he is continuing his studies of the English language and taking philosophy and theology courses at Catholic Theological Union.

Brother Atsushi Kuwahara, O.S.A. (right), professes his first vows to Father Hiroyuki Shibata, O.S.A. (seated), while Prior Provincial Michael DiGregorio, O.S.A. (standing) witnesses the profession.



Both of our Japanese brothers participated in the gathering of all the students in formation from the North American Provinces held at St. Xavier University in Chicago on July 29-31.



Progress on New School in Peru Continues

On November 18, the first phase of construction of the new Augustinian school in Trujillo, Peru, culminated with the blessing of the wall surrounding the property. Accompanied by students, families, and friars, Father Fidel Alvarado Sandoval, O.S.A., Vicar of the Chulucanas Vicariate, processed around the perimeter of the property, blessing the wall and then presiding at the official ribbon-cutting ceremony at the main entrance.

Ground breaking for the school (Colegio San Agustín) took place in January 2014. After nearly two years of paperwork and red tape to acquire the needed permits, construction of the wall began in January 2016. The next phase will be the erection of classrooms to house the upper grades of the school, which is currently being operated on the grounds of a parish staffed by the Augustinians in Trujillo. The school, established in 2013, presently offers grades 1-5. The plan is to add one grade each year, through high school.

The Father Richard Appicci, O.S.A., Mission Endowment Fund of the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova has provided a grant of \$500,000 to help fund the construction. The continued progress of the project will depend on available resources. You can help with this important educational endeavor by designating your contribution for the Trujillo School Project.

San Agustín is the first school founded by the Augustinians of the Chulucanas Vicariate. Providing solid educational opportunities is considered an important ministry that will enable many to advance from a life of poverty.



Students from San Agustín School in Trujillo prepare for the blessing of the main entrance and wall of their new school on November 18.



Father Fidel Alvarado Sandoval, O.S.A., blesses the entrance to Colegio San Agustín,



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Augustinian Volunteers Serve in Peru

Augustinian Volunteers (AVs) have served alongside the Augustinian missionaries in Peru since 2002. The AVs live together in the local community while sharing meals, prayer, and their experiences with one another. They each serve in different ministries and are a part of the larger Augustinian and Diocesan communities in Chulucanas.

The current group of AVs returned from their year-long service in Chulucanas on December 7. This past year, **Taylor De la Pena** served as a computer teacher at CEO Betania, a cooperative and educational community center run by the Sisters of Mercy. **Kiely Kreitzberg** taught English at Santisima Cruz, the parochial school of San Jose Obrero Parish, which is staffed by the Augustinians. **Bridget Hennessy** worked at Centro Pastoral Betania, which offers a variety of health-related services to the people of the Diocese of Chulucanas.

The next class of AVs, which consists of three volunteers, will arrive in Peru in mid-January 2017.



AVs Bridget (far left) and Taylor and Kiely (far right) are visited in their home in Chulucanas by Haynes and his family, parishioners of San Jose Obrero Parish, who served as a host family for the volunteers during their first month in Peru.

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