



THE MISSIONS

OF THE AUGUSTINIAN FRIARS

Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova

Easter 2016

Dear Friends of the Augustinian Missions,

May the peace and joy of our risen Lord be with you and your family! In speaking of Easter, Saint Thomas of Villanova preached, "The Resurrection of Christ alone bolsters our faith more than the multitude of his other wonders. This alone is the unmovable pillar, the firm anchor, the stable foundation of the entire Christian religion...it is the vitality of our entire faith, and from it arises a more abundant fruit of believing peoples." (Easter Sunday, Sermon 2, 2).

The beauty of this new life in the risen Christ which we experience during the Easter season can be seen in a variety of ways in our Augustinian missions. We celebrate with joy and thanksgiving the entry into the fullness of life of Bishop John McNabb, O.S.A., who passed to eternal happiness on February 26, at the age of 90. Bishop McNabb was the first bishop of Chulucanas, Peru, where the Augustinians from the United States' provinces have served since 1963. He was tireless in promoting the vitality of the faith of his people, and he instituted a pastoral plan that brought the gospel message to the most remote areas of northern Peru.

New life is also celebrated in the young men who have professed vows in the Augustinian Order in Japan and Peru. Brother Futoshi Matsuo, O.S.A., made his solemn profession of vows in February and will continue his studies for ordination to the priesthood. Meanwhile, in Peru, 14 novices professed first vows in Lima, and 22 new candidates began their novitiate year.

Father John Lydon, O.S.A., who has served in Peru since 1983, has been named Rector of the Catholic University of Trujillo--Benedict XVI. This new position recognizes Father John's tremendous leadership and missionary spirit while serving for over 30 years in Peru.

The Augustinians are grateful to you, our friends and supporters, for sharing your faith in the risen Lord through your prayers and generosity on behalf of our missions. The vitality of the faith that flourishes through the ministry of the Augustinians in Japan and Peru would not be possible without your support. May I ask that the "abundant fruit" of your faith include a gift to the Augustinian Missions. Donations may be made online at www.augustinianfund.org/donate. Please use the "Designation" drop-down menu and choose the appropriate box for missions.

May you have a blessed Easter season!

In the risen Christ and Augustine,

Francis J. Horn, O.S.A.

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





Easter 2016

Brother Futoshi Matsuo, O.S.A., Professes Solemn Vows in Japan

Following the annual retreat and plenary assembly of the Augustinians in Japan, Brother Futoshi Matsuo, O.S.A., professed solemn vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience in the Order of Saint Augustine at a Mass presided by Father Hiroyuki Shibata, O.S.A., Regional Superior of Japan.

Futoshi was born in December 1982 in Fukuoka and was baptized in a local diocesan parish. After moving around Japan due to his father's employment, the family settled again in Fukuoka in 1996, this time in the Augustinian parish of Saint Augustine in the Sasaoka section of the city. There the family met Father Thomas Dwyer, O.S.A., who, Futoshi says, "became like a father to my family. While my parents and their children were struggling to adjust in a new place and new schools, he always encouraged and prayed for us."

Later, Futoshi was inspired by Father Masaki Imada, O.S.A., who came to the parish in 2002 and was in charge of the youth group. Futoshi developed a deep and lasting friendship with Father Masaki. After graduating from high school, Futoshi worked at a number of jobs and then entered the Augustinian formation program in Tokyo in March 2007. He says, "The community life and the joy of the evangelical and apostolic community of the Augustinians attracted me....Having lived in the community, I find that our community life is not merely an ornament to the Gospel, but vital to proclaim the Gospel, grounded in our concrete lives."

Futoshi studied philosophy and theology at Sophia University in Tokyo. He did his novitiate year in Sydney, Australia, and then completed his theological studies there. He is now back in Tokyo, preparing for ordination to the diaconate, and eventually, the priesthood. He hopes to work in areas of social justice, especially with youth, foreigners, and the underprivileged.



Brother Futoshi Matsuo, O.S.A. makes his profession of solemn vows to Regional Superior Hiroyuki Shibata, O.S.A., as fellow friars from Japan witness.

Friars Celebrate Annual Retreat and Assembly in Japan



From February 14 through 19, the entire membership of the Vicariate of the Augustinian Martyrs of Japan gathered at the Passionist Retreat House in Fukuoka for their annual retreat and plenary assembly. Father Arthur Purcaro, O.S.A. (front row, second from left), from Villanova University, directed the retreat. During the assembly, the friars discussed the formation of new members and financial matters. More importantly, the gathering was a time to celebrate their fraternal life as friars who are bringing the Gospel to the people of Japan. During their time together, Brother Futoshi Matsuo, O.S.A., made his solemn profession in the Order.

2.

www.augustinian.org



Bishop John C. McNabb, O.S.A. (1925-2016)

Bishop John C. McNabb, O.S.A., founding bishop of the Diocese of Chulucanas, Peru, where the Augustinians have served since 1963, died peacefully on February 26, 2016, at the age of 90, in Chicago, Illinois.

John McNabb was born in 1925 in Beloit, Wisconsin. He entered the Order of Saint Augustine in September 1945 and professed his first vows a year later. After studies at Villanova University, DePaul University, and Augustinian College, he was ordained to the priesthood on May 24, 1952. For twelve years he served mostly in the secondary education apostolate of the Midwest Province, including as principal of Mendel Catholic High School in Chicago.



Pope Paul VI named him the first Prelate of Chulucanas in 1964. Three years later, on June 17, 1967, he was ordained a bishop. In 1989, Pope John Paul II raised Chulucanas to the status of diocese, and Bishop McNabb continued to lead the Church there until his mandatory resignation at age 75, in 2000. Among his many achievements, he established a pastoral plan for the diocese in the spirit of Vatican II with tremendous participation from the laity and clergy, including the many Augustinians who were serving throughout the diocese.

After his resignation was accepted by the pope, he became Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese. He returned to the United States in 2002 to serve as pastor of Saint Clare of Montefalco Parish in Grosse Point Park, Michigan, for four years. Due to failing health, he entered full retirement in 2006.

Fourteen Augustinians Profess First Vows in Peru



On January 16, fourteen Augustinian novices (pictured in black habits) from various parts of South America made first profession of vows at the house of formation in Chorrillos, outside of Lima. On the same day, the community welcomed a new group of 22 novices. The international novitiate is composed of friars and novices from the Augustinian provinces and vicariates in Brazil, Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, and Peru.



Easter 2016

Father John Lydon, O.S.A., Named Rector of Catholic University

Most Reverend Héctor Miguel Cabrejos Vidarte, O.F.M., Archbishop of Trujillo, Peru, has appointed Father John Lydon, O.S.A., Rector of the Catholic University of Trujillo--Benedict XVI. Father Lydon was installed in this office on April 1. Bishop Cabrejos specifically asked Father Lydon to assume this important responsibility.

John Lydon was born in Toronto, Canada, in 1955. He entered the Order of Saint Augustine in 1978 and professed his first vows in 1979. He was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop John McNabb, O.S.A., of Chulucanas, on May 12, 1984.

Father Lydon began his life as a missionary in Peru in January 1983. He served at the parish of San José Obrero for five years, and then he studied in Rome, where he earned a doctorate in missiology from the Gregorian University. He returned to Peru and was elected Vicar (superior) of the Vicariate of San Juan de Sahagún de Chulucanas, a position he held from 1991 to 1999, as well as from 2007 to 2010. Father John has worked in the formation of Peruvian Augustinians, taught at the diocesan seminary in Trujillo, and served as pastor in three parishes, most recently at *Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe* in Pacasmayo. He has led for several terms the Organization of Augustinian in Latin America (OALA) as Secretary General, and since 2010 he has also represented the archbishop as Episcopal Vicar for the northern region of the Archdiocese of Trujillo.

Father Lydon's appointment as rector is a recognition of his outstanding dedication and leadership as an Augustinian who has cultivated the Gospel of Jesus Christ among the people of northern Peru.



Father Lydon, as Christ seated on a donkey, during Palm Sunday procession in Pacasmayo.



Father Lydon, wearing the medallion of office, at his installation as Rector by Archbishop Cabrejos.

AUGUSTINIAN MISSION OFFICE

PO Box 340

Villanova, PA 19085-0340

Phone: 610-527-3330 Ext. 233

E-mail: missions@augustinian.org

Donate online at www.augustinianfund.org/donate