



# THE MISSIONS

## OF THE AUGUSTINIAN FRIARS

**Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova**

**Autumn 2014**

Dear Friends of the Augustinian Missions,

October 10 is the feast day of St. Thomas of Villanova, a sixteenth century Augustinian bishop in Spain who was known for his concern for the poor. Reared in Villanueva de los Infantes, St. Thomas is the patron of the Villanova Province and the one for whom Villanova University is named. When he was provincial of his own province, Thomas sent the first Augustinian missionaries to the New World. Because of his untiring charitable efforts on behalf of orphans, the homeless, and the sick, he was affectionately known as “Father of the Poor.”

Today, with the help and prayers of many benefactors like you, the Augustinians of the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova continue their patron’s missionary spirit and concern for the poor, especially in Japan and Peru.

In this newsletter you will read about the ministry of our friars in Nagoya, Japan, which began fifty years ago. The Augustinians established their third foundation in Japan in the poorest section of the city and have helped working class families to celebrate their faith and live in dignity. Today that ministry continues with special outreach to Catholic sailors on international cargo ships that dock in that port city.

This year the Diocese of Chulucanas, Peru, founded by the Augustinians, celebrated fifty years of service to the poor of northern Peru. Through the efforts of many devoted Augustinian missionaries, the diocese now has a vibrant native clergy who, alongside the friars who still labor there, continue to support the faith and educational advancement of these hard-working people. The missionary effort in Peru is enhanced by the presence of the Augustinian Volunteers, who assist the friars and the diocese in Chulucanas.

Allow me to take this opportunity to thank Fr. Tony Burrascano, O.S.A., who for several years devotedly served as Mission Director for our Province. Fr. Tony is now stationed at St. Augustine Parish in Philadelphia, but he will continue to be involved in promoting the mission message.

As always, we Augustinians are very grateful to you, the benefactors of our foreign missions. We rely on your faithful support and prayers to help us continue to emulate the concern for the poor modeled by our patron, St. Thomas of Villanova.

May God bless you for your generosity to our missionaries and those we serve.

In Augustine,

Fr. Francis Horn, O.S.A.



*Statue of St. Thomas of Villanova with the poor, outside the Monastery at Villanova.*



### Augustinians Celebrate 50 Years in Nagoya

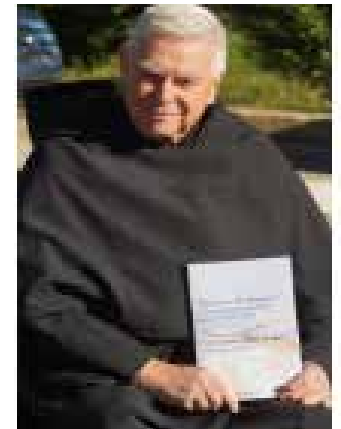


In 1964, when the Augustinians were looking to expand their mission in Japan to a third city (after having established parishes in Nagasaki and Fukuoka), Fr. Thomas Purcell, O.S.A., suggested the port city of Nagoya, where, in 1960, thousands of people had lost their homes during a typhoon. He chose the Minato section of the city because there were many poor young people from Nagasaki who had moved there to obtain employment. Fr. Purcell built the original church, dedicated to St. Monica, the mother of St. Augustine, and established the Catholic Housing Association, a cooperative venture which helped many working families to purchase their own homes. A few years ago, a new church was constructed in a nearby area of the Minato section of the city.

*On June 22, 2014, the Augustinians celebrated the golden jubilee of their ministry in Nagoya with a Mass at which Most Rev. Augustine Junichi Nomura, Bishop of Nagoya, presided.*

Augustinian ministry in Nagoya has always been located in the port district, where the friars have been involved in the Stella Maris ministry to sailors on international cargo ships, on which a majority of the crew are often Filipino and Catholic.

Long-time missionary Fr. Thomas P. Dwyer O.S.A., has written a memoir of his experiences in Japan. Fr. Dwyer focuses on our four parishes in Nagasaki, Fukuoka, Nagoya, and Tokyo and gives insights into Japanese culture, language, and his memories of a happy, fulfilled priestly life. His work, entitled *Memoirs of My Missionary Life in Japan 1959-2010*, includes a description of contemporary life in Japan through fictional short stories. The book is available at Amazon.com. It has been well received by many readers. Fr. Dwyer currently resides at St. Thomas Monastery in Villanova.



#### All Souls Remembrance

During the month of November the Augustinian friars in Japan and Peru will remember in prayer in a special way your deceased family, friends, and loved ones. Please visit the [AugustinianFund](#) page to donate and send their names to the Mission Office at [missions@augustinian.org](mailto:missions@augustinian.org).



## Diocese of Chulucanas Marks 50th Anniversary

The Augustinians began their missionary service in Peru in 1963 at the request of Pope John XXIII for religious orders in the United States to evangelize Latin America. One year later, John McNabb, O.S.A., began leading the Prelature of Chulucanas, and in 1967 he was ordained a bishop. Chulucanas was later elevated to the status of a diocese and Bishop McNabb continued to serve as its leader until 2000, when Bishop Dan Turley, O.S.A., who was one of the earliest Augustinian missionaries to serve in Peru, succeeded him. During the week of May 25, 2014, the diocese concluded its yearlong jubilee anniversary. The Augustinians also celebrated the priestly ordination of their brother, Reydin Alvarado, O.S.A., by Bishop Turley.

*Founding Bishop John McNabb, O.S.A. (left) and current Bishop Dan Turley, O.S.A., enjoy a living history of the Diocese of Chulucanas presented during the golden jubilee celebration in May.*



## Augustinians in Peru Celebrate Vicariate Chapter



*Regional Vicar Fidel Alverado, O.S.A., and Midwest Prior Provincial Bernie Scianna, O.S.A., (both in center of picture), join the Augustinians of the Vicariate of San Juan de Sahagún at their annual chapter.*

During the week of September 15, the Augustinians of the Vicariate of San Juan de Sahagún gathered for their vicariate chapter, which is held every four years. The event was preceded by their annual retreat. At the chapter, Fr. Fidel Alverado, O.S.A., was re-elected to a four-year term as vicar. He is the first native Peruvian to serve as regional vicar. He and his council were installed by Fr. Bernie Scianna, O.S.A., Prior Provincial of the Midwest Province, under whose jurisdiction the Peruvian vicariate is entrusted. Besides the four American Augustinians now serving in the vicariate, there are 21 native Peruvians in solemn vows, 19 of whom are ordained priests. In addition, nine simply professed and 13 pre-novitiate students are in formation to become Augustinians.

The Augustinians of the vicariate serve in seven parishes and three schools, in addition to the house of formation in Trujillo.



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## Augustinians Provide Meals for Students

The Augustinians began serving the parish of Our Lady of the Assumption in Pacaipampa, Peru, in 1984. In the parish, located high in the Andes Mountains, there are approximately 71 villages covering 380 square miles, with a population of 27,000 people. There are only few high schools in the region, so many parents send their children to the main town of Pacaipampa to get a secondary education. Because some of their homes are hours away, commuting daily is not a possibility, so many students have to stay with local families during the week. One of the obstacles for many is the cost of feeding their children in the town when they are there for classes from Monday to Friday.



To assist these young people in the pursuit of continuing their education, the Augustinians set up the Santa Rita comedor estudiantil (student cafeteria) to provide the main meal each day for those students that are not from the town of Pacaipampa.

## Augustinian Volunteers Assist the Poor in Chulucanas

Since 2002, the Augustinian Volunteers have been sending young lay men and women to participate in the missionary work of the Augustinians in Peru. Currently there are four Augustinian Volunteers serving in Chulucanas, living 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 the area. This year volunteers are teaching English at Santísima Cruz, a parochial school through the local Augustinian parish; teaching computer classes at CEO Betania, a cooperative and educational community center; and assisting local health offices, including educating the community on health-related issues, coordinating medical campaigns from the U.S., and providing basic medications to local residents. Additionally, all of the volunteers assist with English classes at the local Catholic university.



*Augustinian Volunteers Tina Teofilo, Anna Thomas, Taylor Gostomski, and Casey Papuga visit with a multi-generational family in Chulucanas.*

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