



THE MISSIONS

OF THE AUGUSTINIAN FRIARS

Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova

Summer, 2013

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Dear Friends of the Augustinian Missions:

The lazy days of summer are upon us. It is a time to think of slowing down a bit, relaxing in the nice weather more or even getting away for a much needed vacation. We need these breaks in our lives to recoup and revitalize. Our missions in Peru and South Africa are located below the Equator in the southern hemisphere, so our summer is their winter. Their break time is not during these months but more in the northern hemisphere winter. So there is a lot going on in the missions.

In the pages of this *Mission Newsletter* I would like to share some of the great activity and hope of the missions. We are so proud that the friars in Peru have begun a new elementary school in the town of Trujillo. It is a modest start, just 18 students, but it is a beginning and the school is dedicated to our Holy Father St. Augustine. The educational apostolate by the friars in Peru is a new, but an exciting adventure. We are able to expand our service to the poor in Peru because there are Peruvian vocations to our Order. Thank God for that gift.

Our Augustinian Volunteers continue their tremendous impact on the people of the missions of South Africa and Peru. Please read about their great service.

Many wonderful activities are happening in the southern hemisphere due to the presence of our missionaries. But, none of this would be possible without YOUR continued support by prayer and donations. Thank you for helping us to help others.

In St. Augustine,

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



The dedication of our new school in Trujillo, Peru.



Augustinians Open a New School for the Poor

by John Lydon, O.S.A.

On the second Monday of March, 2013 the official school year in Peru got off to a start with a new school opening its doors in Trujillo. This is the first school to be founded by the Augustinian Vicariate in Peru and it is a short distance from our formation house in Trujillo. The school's name is "St. Augustine's" and it represents a new commitment to the ministry of education in the Augustinian Vicariate.

The school began with grades 1, 2 and 3 on the primary level. Each year a new grade will be added until the school holds all of primary and secondary education. With 18 students in the initial classes, St. Augustine's school of Trujillo was born.

This is the second school that the American Augustinians sponsor in Peru. In the town of Pacasmayo we sponsor an elementary and high school named Senor de los Milagros. Additionally, we serve in the local parish under the patronage of Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe.



Fr. Carlos Castro, O.S.A., the Vicar of Chulucanas, blesses the new school.

A Hope Filled Future

Throughout history the philosophy of the missionary has been to bring the Gospel to a new part of the world and establish the local Church and the ministers for that Church. It was never the intent of foreign missions that the future of the local Church relied on the mother country but rather the development of their own Catholic Church. The United States was considered "mission territory" until sometime in the 1920s. Some areas of the southern part of America remained "Home Missions" for many years after that.



Young Peruvian Augustinians in Formation

The American Augustinian Friars have served in Peru since the 1960s. The Spanish Augustinian Friars have served there for hundreds of years. The blessing we now see is the development of the Augustinian Order with Peruvian Friars. In the American Vicariate of San Juan de Shagun the majority of the Augustinians are Peruvian, not North American. We are also blessed in the number of young men in our Augustinian Formation Program who are preparing for the Augustinian Life and for some, ordination to the priesthood. At the present time we have 38 young Peruvians at various levels of Formation for the American Vicariate. This is truly a hopeful future! God has blessed us with the growth of the Order in Peru. None of this would have been possible without the prayers, support and donations of our American benefactors. We thank you for sharing in establishing the Church and Order of St. Augustine in Peru.



A World Of Guardian Angels

by Chantelle Davis (an Augustinian Volunteer in Peru)

Walking home from my service site one afternoon, a woman called to me from behind, “Señorita Chantelle!” I turned around with a smile and saw a woman, Señora Roxana, carrying her youngest child. She is the mother of a patient I am working on trying to get funds for from an organization in the U.S. Her son’s name is Junior and, at age 18, he has been living with Leukemia for nine years. He makes monthly trips by bus from Chulucanas to Lima (about a twenty hour bus ride) to receive his treatment and is currently waiting for a bone marrow transplant. I told her that the letter and application for support from the organization was ready to be sent in and her eyes welled up with tears. She kept telling me how appreciative she is of the work I have been doing to help her family and Junior, and told me that she is sure that I am a guardian angel that was sent here to take care of them.



The meat counter in a Peruvian market

I was deeply touched that she thought of me as a guardian angel for Junior. As volunteers, we aren’t looking for praise or thanks, but when someone comes along and offers such sincere appreciation it is impossible not to cherish it. I started thinking of all of us Augustinian Volunteers as guardian angels sent to our respective communities. Not in an attitude of superiority sent to help those less fortunate than ourselves, but rather in the manner that we are here to share our talents with our brothers and sisters just by doing our part to lift their spirits.

So then it is not just us volunteers being guardian angels to those in our communities, but they are guardian angels to us as well. It is a completely mutualistic relationship. What if we all lived as guardian angels to each other? What if we all did our part to serve our neighbors?

Meeting Christ in AIDS Patients

by James Kane (an Augustinian Volunteer in South Africa)

As I look back on the last five months, I feel very blessed each day with the opportunity of getting to experience this beautiful country and the people that are a part of it. I work at Hillcrest AIDS Centre Trust which is an amazing organization with a variety of programs whose mission is to bring unconditional love to all infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. My position is within the respite unit and my role is multifaceted, helping the center with anything they need. I act as a driver, linking patients to services in the community and the many clinics and hospitals in the area. I am also an advocate for the patients, helping them obtain disability grants while they are unable to work. Work is different everyday, which I enjoy. We have a constant turnover of patients who either get discharged or pass away. Since being in South Africa, one of the most surprising things that my fellow volunteer, Brian, and I talk about is the health care system. We drive patients early in the morning around 6 AM and then they wait all day in queues (waiting lines) just to see the doctor or pick up their ARV's (antiretroviral meds) or TB treatment. Witnessing this has made us more fully appreciate the care we receive back in the states. The respite unit is a very special place and Brian and I really value the work we get to do here every day, experiencing Christ's love through our interactions with the patients and staff.



Augustinian Volunteers at the Respite Center



A New “Home”

by Britt DeLine (an Augustinian Volunteer in Peru)

“Hey guys! We live in Peru!” Chantelle Davis yells from the bathroom one morning, like it had just sunk in for her and therefore, for all of us. We moved to Peru. We're not here for a week long service trip to get this awesome spiritual, do good, save the world high. We're here to live with the people of Chulucanas. We're here to experience how the third world lives; we're here to live their everyday struggles, face our own struggles, and learn more everyday. Because of this, we have good days and we have bad days. I have strong feelings of frustration and belly aching fits of laughter. Never have I felt so much like I am constantly in need of a shower, my stomach is constantly in a state of discomfort, bugs are constantly crawling on me, not to mention biting me, and I'm still constantly sweating.

But, everyday is a new adventure full of awkward, funny, and sometimes surprisingly deep conversations. Every chance I get to look out at the landscape is a blessing. Never have I seen such open, luscious, green land leading up to beautiful big pointy blue mountains that look so close you can touch them. Never have I been stopped in the street by a stranger wanting to thank me for being there. Nor have I met people before who, only ten minutes after introducing ourselves, are inviting me over to their house to feed me, or wanting to take me to see their favorite place in the Chulucanas area. Chulucanians are so proud of their city, their culture and, of course, their food, so much so that they can't wait to share anything they have with us.

At the Passing of a Loved One ...

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

Checks may be made payable to: Augustinian Fund—Missions
Mail to:
Augustinian Mission Office | PO Box 340 | Villanova, PA 19085

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

Any donation is greatly appreciated!

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