

VOLUME II . ISSUE I

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# THE AUGUSTINIAN

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## LOOKING AHEAD

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mark your calendars today for these upcoming special events and celebrations throughout the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova.



### Parish Retreat with Fr. Michael Sullivan, O.S.A.

Father Michael P. Sullivan, O.S.A., travels the country year-round providing parishes with unique and dynamic retreats that leave parishioners renewed, inspired, and laughing. Fr. Michael visits the Augustinian parish of Resurrection of Our Lord in Dania Beach in Florida in January. Access his complete schedule at the link below.

**JANUARY 26-30, 2008**

Resurrection of Our Lord Parish  
441 N.E. 2nd St.  
Dania Beach, FL 33004-4800

PHONE 610-519-3019

WEB [www.augustinian.org/preaching.htm](http://www.augustinian.org/preaching.htm)

### Holy Week Retreat

Join the Augustinian friars in beautiful Maggie Valley, North Carolina, for a special weeklong retreat at the Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center.

**MARCH 16-23, 2008**

Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center  
103 Living Waters Lane  
Maggie Valley, NC 28751

PHONE 828-926-3833

WEB [www.catholicretreat.org](http://www.catholicretreat.org)

### Augustinian Retreat

Plan for a different kind of vacation next summer – make a retreat in the Great Smoky Mountains of North Carolina! Fr. Robert Dueweke, O.S.A., will lead retreatants on a special Augustinian-centered retreat dubbed “Ever Ancient, Ever New: Naming One’s Spirituality,” giving participants the opportunity to identify and deepen aspects of their own spirituality. Visit [www.catholicretreat.org](http://www.catholicretreat.org) for a complete list of retreats offered throughout the year.

**JUNE 23-29, 2008**

Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center  
103 Living Waters Lane  
Maggie Valley, NC 28751

PHONE 828-926-3833

WEB [www.catholicretreat.org](http://www.catholicretreat.org)

### Vision of Vatican II Retreat

Fr. Mark Garrett, O.S.A., and Fr. Robert Dueweke, O.S.A., will present a retreat examining the vision of Vatican II and the ways one might live its spirit of dialogue more fully today. Titled “2020 Foresight: Sharpening a Vatican II Vision for the Church and World,” participants will be given the opportunity to reflect on their relationship with God, the Church, and the world.

**JUNE 30-JULY 4, 2008**

Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center  
103 Living Waters Lane  
Maggie Valley, NC 28751

PHONE 828-926-3833

WEB [www.catholicretreat.org](http://www.catholicretreat.org)

### Gregor Mendel: Planting the Seeds of Genetics

This traveling exhibit from The Field Museum in Chicago delves into the life of Gregor Mendel, O.S.A., and the origin of the study of genetics. Learn more about this fascinating friar, naturalist, and botanist, whose experiments have shaped today’s understanding of genes, crossbreeding, and heredity.

**OCTOBER 13, 2007 - JANUARY 6, 2008**

Center of Science and Industry,  
Columbus, OH

**FEBRUARY 2 - APRIL 27, 2008**

Memphis Museums, Memphis, TN

**MAY 24 - SEPTEMBER 28, 2008**

Academy of Natural Sciences,  
Philadelphia, PA

PHONE 312-665-7332

WEB [www.fieldmuseum.org](http://www.fieldmuseum.org)

#### DON'T MISS AN AUGUSTINIAN EVENT!

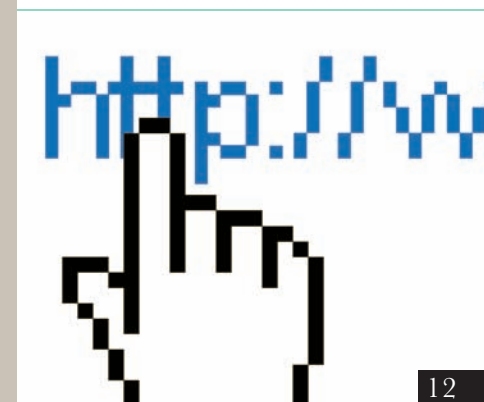
Sign up for Augustinian eNews at [www.augustinian.org](http://www.augustinian.org).



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#### Discovering God in Tuscany

The first foundations of the Order of Saint Augustine popped up in the Tuscan countryside of Italy in the 13th century. One such foundation was the Convento di Sant’ Agostino in the walled town of San Gimignano. Thanks in part to the dedication of Fr. Brian Lowery, O.S.A., the convento thrives still today, standing not merely as a symbol of Augustinian history, but as a living witness to the Augustinian values of community, hospitality, and simplicity.

P. 8

#### Friars Make Solemn Profession & News from the World of Vocations

Five young men begin their novitiate year, two friars make their solemn profession of vows, a house of studies for seminary students opens in Chicago, and a new vocation director takes the helm. Indeed, it has been a busy few months in the world of vocations and formation, as young men continue to be drawn to the Augustinian way of life.

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#### The Confessions Blog: Saint Augustine Goes to MySpace

Augustine may have been born in 354, but he is alive and well today. Perhaps not literally, but certainly spiritually...and now virtually! Yes, Saint Augustine has gone to MySpace, and he’s been busy blogging his famed *Confessions*, reaching out to new friends, and ministering to the online world. With Gus at the keyboard, it’s a pretty powerful ministry.

ON THE COVER  
San Gimignano, Italy.

THE AUGUSTINIAN  
A publication for the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova.



## LETTER FROM THE PRIOR PROVINCIAL

Dear Friends,

Is Saint Augustine relevant in today's world? You bet, and not just to those of us wearing the Augustinian habit. Chances are, if you are receiving this magazine, you already feel the same. Sometimes we can take it for granted. Stories like those found in this issue of *The Augustinian* remind us of Augustine's relevance for all of us searching for meaning in the modern world.

Such relevance can be found at the Convento di Sant' Agostino, a thirteenth century Augustinian convento that plays host to religious and laity from around the world. They come for prayer, reflection, and a deeper connection with God. One of the first foundations of the Augustinian Order, it remains a constant witness to Augustinian spirituality and a more prayerful way of life. In today's world, such witness is needed more than ever. And people are coming.

So too are people coming to the Order. In our own Province, friars Jorge Cleto, O.S.A., and Michael Scuderi, O.S.A., recently made their solemn vows to the Order. You'll be introduced to these young men in the pages of this magazine. You'll also meet our new vocation director, Kevin DePrinzio, O.S.A. Attracting vocations in today's world is an ongoing challenge, but Saint Augustine and his spiritual legacy are not only relevant today, they are appealing. I am excited by what our way of life has to offer, and as we share our story, the Augustinians have faith that others, perhaps you, will be called to join us.

One of the people we've recruited to help tell that story is Saint Augustine himself. The Province has established a MySpace profile for Augustine, and he's busy blogging his *Confessions* online. It's been an immensely popular initiative for us, confirming Augustine's relevance in the modern world, particularly among the young. We are excited by this new online ministry and its engagement with new audiences and new friends.

In Augustine's blog, he writes "You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you."

These are indeed powerful words, words that call us to reflect both on how and where we find meaning in our lives. The words themselves challenge us to respond.

"Our hearts are restless until they rest in you."

Will you accept the challenge?

In Augustine,

*Donald F. Reilly, O.S.A.*

Donald F. Reilly, O.S.A.  
PRIOR PROVINCIAL  
PROVINCE OF SAINT THOMAS OF VILLANOVA

VOLUME I . ISSUE II

### THE AUGUSTINIAN

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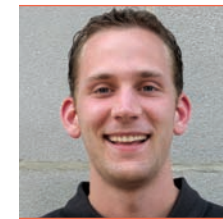
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AUGUSTINIAN VOLUNTEERS, 2007-08.

## VOLUNTEER LETTERS

### San Diego



The more we learn (and suspect) about the lives of all the kids, the sadder it is. I have said before that I do not leave feeling depressed. That is still true, but there are those moments. The moments when I'll hear something that happened, or a thing that one of them endured, and it is almost too much. The kinds of things that make anyone feel sick and upset when you think about them, and are especially upsetting because we care so much about these kids. Anger. Frustration. Sadness. I give into all of these emotions at times. To be completely honest, though, these feelings do not stay with me long. Despite all that they've gone through and the challenges

they face, I cannot be with these kids and not feel happy. It is a talent they have. I love spending time with them. I love being called over to sit next to them for the movie, helping them with their English (or Spanish) homework, playing soccer, a game we make up, or just sitting and talking. It feels good to know that our presence really means something to them. I guess those negative feelings that creep up when I think of all the hardships in my kids' lives doesn't really help anybody. Instead, I think they are all transformed to strengthen my motivations, convictions, and compassion. These things are far more useful and productive when it comes to issues like these. To be faced with the sometimes very depressing issues presented by my kids' lives and yet feel happy and inspired—that is the power of Hogar Infantil La Gloria.

#### DAN RODERICK

*Augustinian Volunteer, San Diego Community*

*Dan Roderick, 22, is from Burlington, MA, and graduated from Merrimack with a B.S. in Sports Medicine. This year, he is volunteering at Hogar Infantil La Gloria orphanage in Tijuana, St. Patrick's School in San Diego, and the Villa Nueva housing community in San Ysidro.*

### Chicago



"Ordinary people who make a simple, spiritual commitment under the lordship of Christ make an extraordinary impact on their world" is a quote by John Maxwell, hanging on the wall of the St. Margaret's of Scotland library that I now call "my office." This bright and cheerful space filled with scattered sunlight was not always a desirable destination for the nearly 400 students who roam the halls of St. Margaret's. A space that is intended for learning and exploring the works of hundreds of writers looked like an attic that had been untouched for years, expect for the occasional visit to switch boxes of decorations for the different holidays...

My days are now filled with students stirring around the bookshelves choosing a new book to read and it is hard to imagine the library in those first few weeks. The excitement on students' faces as they walk into the library for the first time is priceless. Looking into their eyes has clarified why I chose to commit to a year of service.

#### JEANNIE MACCUNE

*Augustinian Volunteer, Chicago Community*

*Jeannie MacCune, 22, from Plymouth, MA, is a recent graduate of Merrimack College, where she majored in Sociology and Communication Studies. She is spending her volunteer year working as the librarian at St. Margaret of Scotland School in Chicago.*

ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEER REFLECTIONS CAN BE FOUND AT [WWW.OSAVOL.ORG](http://WWW.OSAVOL.ORG)

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS! LETTERS TO THE EDITOR MAY BE MAILED TO [COMMUNICATIONS@AUGUSTINIAN.ORG](mailto:COMMUNICATIONS@AUGUSTINIAN.ORG), OR WRITE TO: THE AUGUSTINIAN, P.O. BOX 340, VILLANOVA, PA 19085



# DISCOVERING GOD IN TUSCANY

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OVERLOOKING ITALY'S TUSCAN COUNTRYSIDE, IN THE SMALL WALLED MEDIEVAL TOWN OF SAN GIMIGNANO, IS ONE OF THE AUGUSTINIAN ORDER'S EARLIEST FOUNDATIONS - THE CONVENTO DI SANT' AGOSTINO.

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BY MICHAEL T. DOLAN

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*The convento was officially founded in 1280, and for centuries the Augustinians have found themselves ministering to the people of San Gimignano and the many pilgrims and tourists who pass through the “Town of Towers.” Today, just as in 1280, the convento stands as a witness to Augustinian community, hospitality, and simplicity.*

It survives today in large part due to the work and dedication of Fr. Brian Lowery, O.S.A. A Philadelphia native, and ordained in 1967, Fr. Lowery has spent over 25 years ministering in Italy, both in Rome and more recently in San Gimignano. In 1995, the leadership of the Order of Saint Augustine decided to create an international community at the convento, a place of quiet and recollection where friars from throughout the Order could spend brief or extended periods to dedicate time to the contemplative dimension of their vocation. The community was charged with leading a balanced and simple life of prayer, manual work, pastoral service and hospitality.

Fr. Lowery was part of that first community, and he remains there today. Fr. Lowery, together with Fr. Ian Wilson, O.S.A., from the Province of Ireland and Scotland, attend to the needs of the people of San Gimignano; provide hospitality to the many visitors to the convento and its adjacent church, the Chiesa di Sant’ Agostino; and maintain the physical upkeep of the 13th century building where they reside. All the while, they maintain a dedicated life of prayer, contemplation, and simplicity.

Overseeing the convento’s attached church, Chiesa di Sant’ Agostino, just one of two churches in San Gimignano, keeps the friars busy.

“The Augustinians have been in San Gimignano for over 700 years and its people expect a lot from us,” says Fr. Lowery. “We marry them, baptize their children, accompany them in their sickness and bury them.”

The Augustinians also oversee a parish retreat group and a *lectio divina* prayer group. In addition, Fr. Wilson is also a volunteer in the town ambulance corps as well as its chaplain.

But the ministry of the Augustinians goes much beyond the townspeople.

Originally intended to provide hospitality to the Order, the community’s mission at San Gimignano has grown in its outreach.

“With the passage of time,” says Fr. Lowery, “the range of hospitality has broadened to embrace the whole Augustinian family: Augustinian Recollects and Augustinian Discalced, Augustinian Sisters, and particularly Augustinian laity and lay groups.”

They come for many reasons – retreats, spirituality courses, congresses, experiences of prayer and community, artistic interests, or simply as a spiritual pit-stop for pilgrims walking to Rome by the Via Francigena, the medieval road that went from Canterbury to the Eternal City.

Of the 300 or so people who stay at the convento during the course of a year, the vast majority are closely connected to the Order of Saint Augustine. Courses and workshops on Augustine, his writings, and Augustinian spirituality have been held for friars from throughout the Order. The convento also plays host to a growing number of lay travelers from throughout the world who are seeking a first-hand encounter with the roots of the Augustinian Order.



**“THE AUGUSTINIANS HAVE BEEN IN SAN GIMIGNANO FOR OVER 700 YEARS AND ITS PEOPLE EXPECT A LOT FROM US.”**

Merrimack College brings a group of students, faculty and staff through San Gimignano each spring as part of its *Pellegrinaggio in Italia*, a pilgrimage to sites throughout Italy that are significant in the life of Augustine and the history of the Order. In fact, Fr. Jim Wenzel, O.S.A., who established the *Pellegrinaggio* program at Merrimack, was a convento community member with Fr. Lowery when the first international community was established there in 1995. Villanova University is developing a similar pilgrimage experience, including a stay at the convento, set to begin in the spring of 2008. In addition, many groups from Augustinian parishes from throughout the world – Australia, Spain, the United Kingdom, and more – visit the convento as part of their own pilgrimage experiences.

And that is just what Fr. Lowery hopes the Augustinian community offers – a pilgrimage experience, a spiritual journey within oneself and toward God.

More than a vacation house, Fr. Lowery sees the convento as a place for prayer, study, and community experience. Daily life

within the convento gives witness to this.

The Augustinian community gathers four times each day for prayer, and guests at the convento are encouraged and welcomed to join the community in prayer. In the small chapel of the convento, one discovers the Church at work: a community of individuals from all walks of life, from all parts of the globe, gathered together in prayer.

Leaving the chapel, one needs to only take a few dozen paces to enter the historic 13th century church attached to the convento, Chiesa di Sant’ Agostino. The church is a must-see for tourists visiting San Gimignano, and the Augustinian community provides constant hospitality and outreach to passersby. Among other famed works of art, the church is home to Benozzo Gozzoli’s seventeen-panel fresco depicting the life of Saint Augustine.

Fr. Lowery and Fr. Wilson can often be seen providing guests, pilgrims and tourists alike with a fascinating overview of the Gozzoli frescoes. Not only is it a lesson in art history, Church history, and Italian culture, but most importantly, it is a lesson in the life of Saint Augustine and Augustinian spirituality.

“We try to make it a different experience from what they have had so far as tourists,” explains Fr. Lowery, “by creating an atmosphere of silence and prayer and being helpful and informative in showing the artwork of the church.”

Living in a 13th century convento and being charged with a mission of hospitality



provides its own set of challenges. Over the past several years, Fr. Lowery and Fr. Ian have worked to maintain and improve the physical plant itself. Parts of the convento have been restored, with additional work planned for the future.

That future work is dependent upon grants from foundations and financial support the community receives from guests.

“There is no underwriting or subsidy of any kind,” shares Fr. Lowery, noting that the community supports itself through contributions from guests, church offerings, a small bookstore at the convento, and by celebrating weddings and conducting retreats.

Fr. Lowery’s work thus far gives him hope for the success of the Augustinian community at the Convento di Sant’ Agostino.

That success is measured in the Augustinians’ ability to maintain a 13th century convento, a place of rest and simplicity where the entire Augustinian family can find quiet, prayer, and ultimately, God. ✚

**TO CONTACT FR. LOWERY AND THE AUGUSTINIANS AT SAN GIMIGNANO, PLEASE WRITE:**

Convento S. Agostino  
Piazza S. Agostino, 10  
I-53037 San Gimignano (SI), Italy

EMAIL [sangimignanoconvento@yahoo.it](mailto:sangimignanoconvento@yahoo.it)

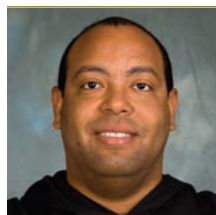


# Friars Make Solemn Profession & News from the World of Vocations

## FRIARS MAKE SOLEMN PROFESSION

On November 4, 2007, two friars made their solemn profession of vows to the Order of Saint Augustine – Jorge L. Cleto, O.S.A., and Michael R. Scuderi, O.S.A. Fr. Donald F. Reilly, O.S.A., Prior Provincial of the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova, received the vows of both friars at the ceremony, held at Saint Thomas of Villanova Parish in Rosemont, PA. Congratulations to both friars. The Augustinians are proud to introduce these men to you here.

### Jorge L. Cleto, O.S.A.



Jorge Cleto, O.S.A., age 37, was born and raised in the Dominican Republic. He has 11 siblings, four brothers and seven

sisters. After studying for seven years at a diocesan seminary in the Dominican Republic, Jorge was introduced to the Augustinians and left the seminary to discern his calling. That discernment led Jorge to Lawrence, MA, in 1999, where he confirmed his calling with the Augustinians. Jorge spent a year as a pre-novice at Augustinian College in 2000-2001, before entering the Augustinian Novitiate in Racine, WI, in 2001. At the end of his novitiate year, Jorge made his first profession of vows to the Order on August 10, 2002. He pursued studies at the Washington Theological Union in Washington, DC, and will earn a Masters in Divinity degree from the Catholic Theological Union this coming spring. On January 13, 2008, Jorge will be ordained to the diaconate at Saint Rita

Church in Chicago, IL. His ordination to the priesthood will be held in June of 2008, after which Jorge would like to pursue ministry in a parish setting.

### Michael Scuderi, O.S.A.



Michael Scuderi, O.S.A., the oldest of three siblings, was born and raised in the Philadelphia suburbs. He is 41.

He received his secondary education at Haverford High School in Havertown, PA, and graduated from Villanova University in 1989 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Commerce and Finance. After graduating from Villanova, Michael went into the workplace for 13 years before entering the Order of Saint Augustine. He spent a year as a pre-novice at Augustinian College in Washington, D.C., from 2001-2002, then went to the Augustinian Novitiate in Racine, WI, for a year. On August 10, 2003, Michael made his first profession of vows to the Order. Since then, he has pursued a Masters of Divinity degree at



FOUR OF THIS YEAR'S NOVICES ENTERED THE NOVITIATE ON AUGUST 14: (LEFT TO RIGHT) PETER LAMPRECHT, JOHN PAYNE, CRAIG MCMAHON, AND EUGENE MARIANO.

the Washington Theological Union. During his pastoral year, which he completed this past summer, Michael ministered at Saint Augustine Church in Philadelphia, PA. He is now finishing up studies in Chicago at Saint Augustine Friary and plans to complete his degree at the Catholic Theological Union in the fall of 2008. When his formation and studies are completed, Michael would like to work with the underprivileged and handicapped.

## Five Men Enter North American Novitiate

This August, five young men formally began their novitiate year at the Augustinian Novitiate in Racine, WI. As novices, these men will spend an intense year in reflection and growth in self-knowledge, exploring Augustinian spirituality, the Augustinian way of life, and developing their prayer lives. This year's novices hail from four different Provinces: Craig McMahon of the Villanova Province, John Payne and Eugene Mariano of the West Coast Province, Peter Lamprecht of the Poland Province, and Carlos Jerónimo Díaz Pesquera of the Province of Michoacán (Mexico).

## House of Studies Established in Chicago

As reported in the previous issue of *The Augustinian*, the North American Provinces established a new house of studies in Chicago, IL. After the closing of Augustinian College in Washington, D.C., this past spring, students moved to

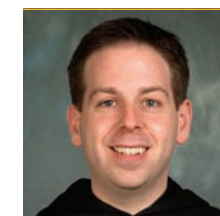
Chicago late this summer to begin studies at the Catholic Theological Union. The new community at Saint Augustine friary consists of ten professed students and four friars from the Villanova and Midwest Provinces. Fr. Joseph Genito, O.S.A., serves as the Formation Director for the students and Fr. Luis Vera, O.S.A., serves as the community's prior. A dedication and blessing for the new building and community was held on November 17.

### TO CONTACT SAINT AUGUSTINE FRIARY:

Saint Augustine Friary  
5413 S. Cornell Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60615-5606

PHONE 773-358-6500  
FAX 773-358-6501

## New Vocation Director Named



This past summer, Fr. Kevin DePrinzio, O.S.A., took the helm as Director of Vocations for the Province, succeeding

Fr. James McBurney, O.S.A. Fr. Kevin professed his vows as an Augustinian in 2000 and was ordained in 2004. Before coming to Villanova as Director of Vocations, Fr. Kevin served as campus minister at Merrimack College. A native of Upper Darby, PA, Fr. Kevin is a 1994 graduate of Monsignor Bonner High School, Drexel Hill, PA. He then graduated from St. Joseph's University, Philadelphia, PA, in 1998 with a B.A. in English and went on to graduate studies at

## PRAYER FOR AUGUSTINIAN VOCATIONS

Please join the Augustinians in praying for vocations to the Augustinian way of life:

Let us pray to the Lord of the harvest  
Who calls men and women to  
loving service.

All glory and praise are yours,  
God of truth, light of our hearts,  
for you guide your people  
in the ways of holiness.

Help those who follow  
in the footsteps of Augustine  
to seek you through mutual love  
and worship  
and to be servants of your Church  
as examples that others may follow.

Enlighten men and women to see  
the beauty of common life  
in the spirit of Saint Augustine  
and strengthen them in your service  
so that the work you have begun  
in them  
may be brought to fulfillment.  
We ask this through Christ, our  
Lord, Amen.

INTERESTED IN THE AUGUSTINIANS?  
VISIT [WWW.AUGUSTINIAN.ORG](http://WWW.AUGUSTINIAN.ORG)

the Washington Theological Union in Washington, D.C. His office is located in the Augustinian Way of Life Center on Villanova University's campus. For more information on becoming an Augustinian, contact Fr. Kevin at 610.519.7548 or visit [www.augustinian.org](http://www.augustinian.org).



## A GLIMPSE

St. Leo School sits adjacent to the Augustinian mission church of St. Leo's in the "Valley of a Thousand Hills" in the impoverished Kwa Zulu Natal region of South Africa. For the vast majority of the children attending school there, the simple meal they receive at St. Leo's is their only sustenance of the day. Thanks to donors to the Augustinian missions, these impoverished children now receive fruit each and every day at school, providing them not only with nourishment, nutrition, and energy, but with hope as well. The Augustinians are grateful for the support of donors to the missions, and the children of St. Leo's send their thanks!



“ST. AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO JUST GOT A WHOLE LOT HIPPER,” REPORTED THE CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE EARLIER THIS YEAR, WRITING OF THE PROVINCE OF SAINT THOMAS OF VILLANOVA’S INITIATIVE TO BRING SAINT AUGUSTINE TO MYSPACE.

*Yes, MySpace, the social networking website popular among today’s youth.*

*And yes, Saint Augustine, the fifth-century doctor of the church.*

The Augustinians created a profile for Saint Augustine on MySpace to reach out to new audiences and new friends, and Augustine is doing just that.

Through his profile, “Gus” is able to socialize in cyberspace by creating online friendships with those interested in learning about the Augustinian tradition and Augustinian spirituality. The page includes links to music and books written by Augustine, a listing of Augustinian related websites, a video about the Augustinians, photos of Augustine and the places he lived, and a blog written by the saint himself. Also included on the profile are standard biographical information and interests found on most social networking sites, including Gus’ favorite books, music, movies, and hobbies, not to mention his zodiac sign (Scorpio) and a list of his heroes (Saint Paul, among others!).

The blog, as posted twice weekly by Augustine himself, started on his feast day, August 28, and continues through April 24, 2008, the feast of his conversion. Augustine will blog *The Confessions* in its entirety, using a translation edited by the late Fr. John Rotelle, O.S.A., and published by New City Press in association with the Augustinian Heritage Institute. With the book’s autobiographical nature, *The Confessions* is well suited for the blog medium, and friends and visitors to

the site regularly post comments and share their own reflections.

The Augustinians also hope professors and students take advantage of the *Confessions* blog and Gus’ MySpace page. Professors who include *The Confessions* as reading material on their syllabi can use Augustine’s profile as a supplement to course materials, and students are able to post comments on individual entries of the text.

The site is proving to be very successful, a testament to the popularity of Augustine, his *Confessions*, and the very human life narrated therein. Featured in dozens of newspapers, websites, blogs, and magazines, Augustine’s page has collected over

those seeking to delve deeper into Augustinian spirituality. To cite just a few:

“Looking forward to blogging to *The Confessions*. I want to read it again.”

“You’ve just given me reason to enjoy MySpace again. *The Confessions* changed my life, and brought me to the Augustinians.”

“These words give me insight into the depth of God in us and the world.”

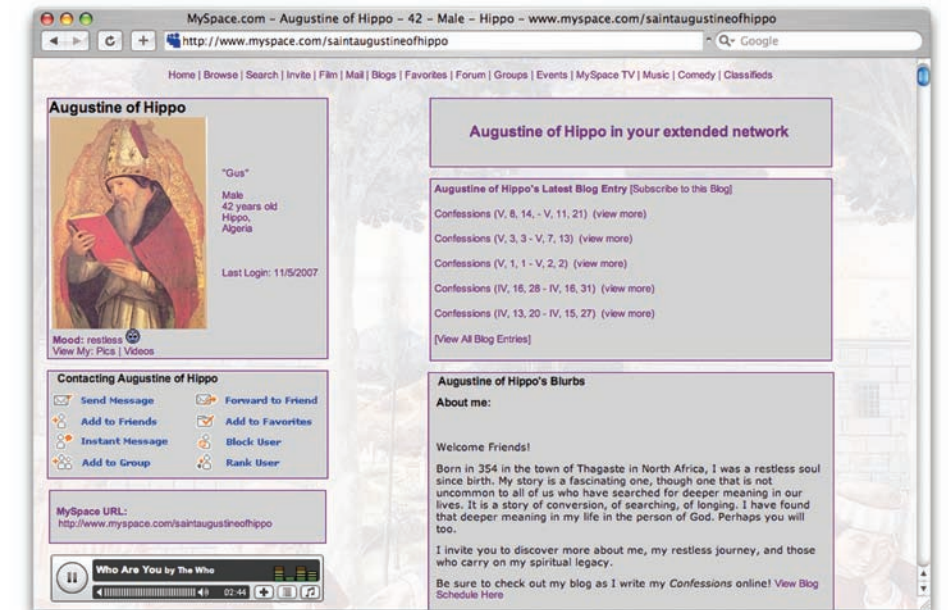
“*The Confessions* were a real blessing in my healing. Thanks for making it accessible to so many.”

“Prior to reading Augustine’s *Confessions*, I thought of Saint Augustine as the Doctor of Theology. I imagined him living a perfect, saintly life in a time so long ago

<http://www.myspace.com/saintaugustineofhippo>



The Confessions Blog: Saint Augustine Goes to MySpace



12,000 hits since its launch midyear. He also has a growing number of “friends” from all across the globe – over 800 and counting – who Augustine can contact regularly through special news bulletins.

“The site has certainly been a marketing success, but it has gone much beyond that,” says Michael Dolan, Director of Communications for the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova, who launched the site together with Villanova University student Theresa Kozul, a senior communications major.

“More than simply marketing,” he says, “the site has become a springboard for ministry.”

Evidence of this can be found in frequent comments that Gus’ friends post to the site and the emails he receives from

that I could never relate. After reading his *Confessions*, the centuries of time separating us melted away. I realized he too was a flawed person. He too struggled to overcome temptation, make sacrifices, and find meaning to life. His *Confessions* are an inspiration.”

Such comments reflect the true potential of the Province’s MySpace initiative.

More than marketing, it is ministry. And with Augustine himself at the keyboard, it’s quite a powerful ministry at that. ✚

VISIT GUS ONLINE AT  
[WWW.MYSPACE.COM/SAINTAUGUSTINEOFHIPPO](http://WWW.MYSPACE.COM/SAINTAUGUSTINEOFHIPPO)





THE AUGUSTINIAN FAMILY: A SERIES OF CONVERSATIONS

WILLIAM J. MAHONEY

*After graduating from Merrimack College in 1964, Mr. William J. Mahoney joined the Augustinians and ministered in various capacities for the Province – as high school teacher, Vocation Director, and Personnel Director. He left the Order in 1981, but his love for the Province is still strong today. He continues to admire so many Augustinians and value the important work they do. He is a Charter Member of the Province’s Development Council, and has worked tirelessly to help raise funds to support the Augustinians and their ministries.*

**AM:** When did you first encounter the Augustinians?

**WJM:** I went to Boston College High School, a Jesuit school, and played hockey there. Although I thought of continuing with the Jesuits at Boston College, I was given a hockey scholarship to Merrimack College. It was at Merrimack that I first became familiar with the Augustinians.

**AM:** What were your impressions of the friars when you got to Merrimack?

**WJM:** I liked the Jesuits, but there was something really special about the Augustinians. I was greatly influenced by them as teachers, but most impressed with their passion for being deeply involved on every level with their students. They helped us academically, but were concerned about the “whole student” – physically, emotionally, psychologically and spiritually.

Fathers Bob Wesson, Bill Mahedy, Paul Kamide and Don Burt were Augustinian priests, teaching us in the classroom and living with us in the dormitories. We knew they really cared about us and wanted to help us become “all that we could be.” They were an influence on you everywhere – in the classroom, at meals, on the ball field, at hockey games, at dances and in the dorms.

They were present in good times, bad times, happy times and sad times. In October of my junior year, it was Fr. Burt who came to my dormitory room to comfort me after informing me that my father had died. They were always available. Students could go to them when they were struggling with a problem, whether academic or personal. They made a very positive impact on your daily life.

**AM:** What brought you to consider joining the Augustinians?

**WJM:** What attracted me most to become an Augustinian was admiring the Augustinians at Merrimack, not only their energy and enthusiasm in working with the students, but also the way they related to one another. They had a good time together and it was obvious that they were proud of each other and loved being an Augustinian. I wanted to follow their example.

In addition to those Augustinians living in the dormitory, other members of the Augustinian community also positively impacted my life and influenced my thoughts of joining: Fathers Vince McQuade, Ed Daley, John Driscoll, Joe Flaherty, Pat Rice, Paul Thibault, Mike McGuinness, Bill Murray and Kevin Dwyer.

**AM:** Why are you involved with the Province’s Development Council?

**WJM:** I was asked by Fr. Jim McCartney, who was a classmate of mine in the seminary and a good friend for many years. I was thrilled to be asked to join the Council and to help the Augustinians with their important work.

I received so much from the Augustinians. I am a product of the Augustinians educationally, having received from their institutions an undergraduate and two graduate degrees. More importantly, I had the opportunity for a number of years to live, work beside and learn a great deal from many wonderful, dedicated men who gave so much of themselves to help others. Working with the Council is, for me, a way of giving back, at least a little, for the vast amount I received.

In fact, one of the by-products I am now enjoying is seeing again many of the Augustinians I knew so well years ago. Some are now retired and being well cared for at the Villanova monastery. I admire these men and remember how, in their earlier days, they had dedicated their lives to the various ministries of the Province and worked tirelessly in helping others.

**AM:** What does the Development Council need to do to succeed?

**WJM:** The quality of the people who are also serving on the Council is excellent. Most of them and/or their children were the recipients of some Augustinian ministry and were deeply impressed and touched by one or more Augustinians.

I believe our primary job is to be advocates for the Augustinians in telling their story. We need to let people know the new challenge they are facing. Due to an aging Province population, the friars can no longer count, as in the past, on their salaries to meet their financial obligations. This is true not only in caring for their aged and infirm, but also in supporting their traditional ministries.

In addition, they now need financial support to continue and grow the new initiatives of the Province, such as the Augustinian Volunteers, the Prison Ministry, Peace and Justice and a new (in addition to Peru) third world mission in South Africa. Asking for money is something new for Augustinians and for most people on the Development Council. It is not easy. We need to become more comfortable doing it!

People give to people. The Augustinians and those on the Development Council have countless friends and contacts. Our most important job is to share the Augustinian story with them and provide them with the opportunity to help – to be part of something powerful.

**AM:** What value do Augustine and Augustinian spirituality have for people today?

**WJM:** Our world today is more complicated and complex than in years past. For this reason, using Augustine as a role model is even more appropriate today.

In his early life we know that Augustine struggled. His mother, Monica, was constantly praying for him, hoping that he would mend his ways. However, he was a person who spent most of his life searching – trying to find God, but later admitted to looking in so many of the wrong places. What was special about Augustine was that he continued to search. He persevered until he finally realized that all along it was God who was actually pursuing him!

Today, in this fast-paced world, a role model like Augustine can inspire us to persevere in taking the time to identify the beauty of life and to recognize how God’s love touches us and those around us. †

DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

*The Province’s Development Council works tirelessly to advise and assist the Augustinians in raising awareness and funds to support the many good works the friars are engaged in. At its fall meeting, the Council welcomed six new members: Karen and Jack Morey, Anthony and Claudia Madrigale, Robert Saldutti, and Thomas Buckley. The Province is indebted to all who serve on the Development Council:*

- Donald F. Reilly, O.S.A., *Prior Provincial*
- Charles P. Connolly, Jr., *Chairman*
- Natalie Agraz, *Development Director*
- Margaret S. Boova
- Thomas Buckley
- James Delaney
- Anthony Dellomo
- Basil DiSipio
- Peter Federico
- Anthony Genovese, O.S.A.
- William Hallissey
- Gary Holloway
- Bradley MacDonald
- Anthony Madrigale
- Claudia Madrigale
- Mary Ellen Maggitti
- William Mahoney
- Joseph Makoid
- James J. McCartney, O.S.A.
- Jack Morey
- Karen Morey
- William “Tip” O’Neill, Jr.
- James O’Connor
- Michael Picotte
- Robert Saldutti
- John Smock

## NEWS AND NOTES

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

Stay on top of news and events from the Augustinian world – sign up for Augustinian eNews at [www.augustinian.org](http://www.augustinian.org).



STATUE OF ST. AUGUSTINE

### St. Augustine Statue Marks Merrimack's 60th

Merrimack College in North Andover, MA, founded by the Augustinians in 1947, celebrated its 60th anniversary with a special celebration on October 12. In addition to a campus-wide liturgy and reception, a statue called "St. Augustine, the Learner" was dedicated and blessed as a new addition to Merrimack's campus. The statue originally resided at Augustinian College in Washington, D.C., but traveled north to Merrimack when Augustinian College closed its doors earlier this year with the founding of the Augustinians' new North American theologate in Chicago.

### Father Joseph Farrell, O.S.A., Earns Doctorate



This summer, Fr. Joseph Farrell, O.S.A., earned a doctorate in sacred theology and *summa cum laude* honors from the Gregorian Pontifical University in Rome. After successfully defending his doctoral dissertation, titled "Rendering an Account: An Augustinian Spirituality of Accountability," Fr. Joe returned to the United States, where he currently works as Director of Programming and Outreach at Villanova University's Office of Mission Effectiveness. In this role, he is coordinating a spring semester pilgrimage to Italy for faculty and staff. The *Pellegrinaggio*, similar to one started by Fr. Jim Wenzel, O.S.A., for Merrimack

College, will give faculty and staff the opportunity to visit sites significant in the life of Saint Augustine and the Order of Saint Augustine.

### Four Make Promises as Augustinian Seculars

On August 27, the Feast of Saint Monica, the Saint Rita Chapter of the Augustinian Seculars in upstate New York welcomed four new members. Fr. Joseph Getz, O.S.A., spiritual director for the Saint Rita Chapter, received the promises of Richard LaRose, Robert DeFreest, Vickie Messimer, and Barbara Feyl. To learn more about the Augustinian seculars, visit [www.augustinianfriends.org](http://www.augustinianfriends.org).

### Augustinian eCards Online!

Augustinian eCards have made their made to [www.augustinian.org](http://www.augustinian.org)! Augustinian eCards, which combine Augustinian artwork with your own personal message, are available for many occasions – including holidays, graduations, and birthdays – and for several types of greetings, such as notes of gratitude, encouragement, friendship, and more. Visit [www.augustinian.org](http://www.augustinian.org) to send an Augustinian eCard to a friend or loved one today.



ECARD AVAILABLE AT [WWW.AUGUSTINIAN.ORG](http://WWW.AUGUSTINIAN.ORG)



VILLANOVA PROVINCE FRIARS AT THE GENERAL CHAPTER. FRONT ROW: DONALD REILLY, O.S.A., MASAKI IMADA, O.S.A., MICHAEL DIGREGORIO, O.S.A., JOHN LYDON, O.S.A. MIDDLE ROW: ROBERT GUESSETTO, O.S.A., JOHN FLYNN, O.S.A., KEVIN DEPRINZIO, O.S.A. BACK ROW: ARTHUR PURCARO, O.S.A., JOHN DEEGAN, O.S.A., BRIAN LOWERY, O.S.A.

### General Chapter Held in Rome

Every six years, the leadership of the entire Order of Saint Augustine gathers together for the Order's General Chapter, where decisions are made to help guide next steps for the Order. This past September, the 182nd General Chapter was held in Rome, with nearly ninety friars from 29 countries participating, representing over 50 nations where the Augustinians have a presence. During the chapter, Fr. Robert Prevost, O.S.A., was reelected Prior General of the Order and Fr. Michael DiGregorio, O.S.A., was elected as one of six Assistants General for the Order. Most recently, Fr. Michael served for 15 years at the National Shrine

of Saint Rita of Cascia in Philadelphia. Also at the chapter, Fr. Arthur Purcaro, O.S.A., stepped down from his role as Assistant General, a position he held for the past 12 years, and has since returned to missionary work in Peru.

### Augustinian Martyrs to be Beatified

Within a year's time, the Augustinian Order will have witnessed the beatification of nearly 100 holy men and women. On July 11, Pope Benedict XVI confirmed the martyrdom of nearly 400 servants of God. Of these 400, 98 were friars who were martyred in Spain during the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939). Fr. Joe Pieteria, O.S.A., who was martyred in

1936 and was among those beatified this October, would be the first Cuban-born saint. The newly confirmed martyrs also included Thomas Kintsuba Jihyoe, O.S.A., and 187 others persecuted in Japan in the 17th century. Thomas was born in Japan circa 1600, joined the Augustinians while in the Philippines, and returned to Japan – despite the risk of persecution – to minister to the people of his homeland. He was martyred in 1637. His beatification, along with 187 fellow martyrs, will be held November 24, 2008, in Nagasaki.

### Cornerstone Blessed at St. Augustine Prep

Students, faculty and staff at St. Augustine College Preparatory School in Richland, NJ, are set to move into the Buondonno Forum, a new 100,000-square-foot building nearing completion on the school's campus. Bishop Joseph Galante, Bishop of the Camden Diocese, presided over a ceremony to bless the cornerstone on November 28. The Buondonno Forum includes science and computer labs, an eight-lane swimming pool, an 1,100-seat gymnasium, administrative offices, and a cafeteria.

### Augustinian Youth Encounter in Sydney

The Ninth Augustinian International Encounter for Young Adults will be held July 21-27, 2008, in Sydney, Australia. The first such gathering to be held outside of Europe, the event brings together young adults from around the world to join together in celebration and sharing of Augustinian community. It directly follows next year's World Youth Day, which will take place July 15-20 in Sydney. For complete information – including a blog, photo gallery, and song competition for the Augustinian Young Adult Encounter – visit [www.aye2008.org](http://www.aye2008.org).

KEEPING TRACK

*Following the vow of obedience, friars find themselves called to where they are needed. Each issue of The Augustinian hopes to connect you with some familiar faces as we provide brief updates on friars serving throughout the Province. Watch here to track down that old classmate, pastor, chemistry teacher, chaplain, philosophy professor, coworker or friend.*

John T. Denny, O.S.A.



Since his ordination in 1990, Fr. John T. Denny, O.S.A., has ministered less than half a dozen miles from his hometown of Havertown, PA.

For eleven years he served at Monsignor Bonner High School in Drexel Hill, first as chaplain and teacher, later as principal, and eventually as president. In 2002, after working for a year as the Vocation Director for the Augustinians, he was named the first chaplain of Villanova University's Law School, where he served through this past summer. Now Fr. Denny finds himself trading in the suburbs of Philadelphia for the mountains of North Carolina, where he serves as pastor of Saint Margaret of Scotland Parish in Maggie Valley. Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, a retreat house also staffed by the Augustinians, is directly adjacent to the small parish, and both sit in the foothills of the beautiful Great Smoky Mountains.

TO CONTACT FR. DENNY:

Blessed of Lecceto  
27 Murphy Dr., P.O. Box 1359  
Maggie Valley, NC 28751-1359

Alfred J. Ellis, O.S.A.



After 42 years of serving in parishes throughout New York and Massachusetts, Fr. Alfred Ellis, O.S.A., answered a call – at the age of 71 – to join the Augustinian mission in South Africa. Today he serves as pastor of Our Lady of Mercy Church in the Durban suburb of Kloof. The parish supports two mission churches which serve the Zulu people of Kwa Zulu Natal in the nearby “Valley of a Thousand Hills.” Fr. Ellis was recently joined by Fr. Frank Doyle, O.S.A., and together they are working to strengthen the Augustinian mission in South Africa.

TO CONTACT FR. ELLIS:

Our Lady of Mercy Church  
79 Old Main Road, Kloof 3610  
Kwa Zulu Natal, South Africa

Joseph F. Girone, O.S.A.



After ordination in 1981, Fr. Joseph Girone, O.S.A., was assigned to Saint Nicholas of Tolentine Parish in the Bronx, NY.

He served there for thirteen years when, in 1994, he began a four-year stint as a missionary in Peru. Returning to the United States in 1998, Fr. Girone has since served as prior at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in Staten Island, NY, and at Saint Augustine Friary in Villanova, PA. While at Villanova, he also held the position of Associate Director of Hispanic Ministry for the Diocese of Wilmington, Delaware. In 2005, Fr. Girone returned to the Bronx, where he ministers as pastor of Saint Nicholas of Tolentine Parish.

TO CONTACT FR. GIRONE:

Saint Nicholas of Tolentine Friary  
2345 University Avenue  
Bronx, NY 10468-6102

William A. McGuire, O.S.A.



Fr. Bill McGuire, O.S.A., recently stepped down from his role as Vice President for Administration at Villanova University

to assume the role of Treasurer for the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova. Fr. McGuire, who served in a variety of roles at Villanova since 1979, succeeds Fr. Tony Burrascano, O.S.A., who served for 15 years as Province Treasurer. In his new role, Fr. McGuire oversees the finances of the Province and the financial needs of its missions in Japan, Peru, and South Africa.

TO CONTACT FR. MCGUIRE:

Augustinian Provincial Offices  
214 Ashwood Road  
Villanova, PA 19085



Francis A. Eigo, O.S.A.

BORN: 12/10/1925  
FIRST PROFESSION: 9/10/1959  
ORDAINED: 2/8/1964  
DIED: 6/15/2007

*“Fr. Eigo and I shared a love of the Stone Harbor, New Jersey beaches and of the simple beauty of St. Paul’s Church. On the day before Father kissed the face of Jesus, I promised to walk the sandy shore of Stone Harbor and lift his body and Spirit up to His Savior, Jesus Christ. His eyes lit up and he squeezed my hand. Thank you, Father, for sharing your stories and last months with me at the monastery. I feel blessed to have shared our memories by the sea together.”*

*“Father Eigo was a gentle, kind, and compassionate priest, who was deeply concerned with everyone in his life and was respected and loved by the faculty, staff, and students at Villanova University. May he rest in peace and joy with God forever.”*

*“What a fabulous teacher!... Who can ever forget those warm blue eyes, instant smile and kind words. Father taught us self-discipline and a love of learning, love for each other and love of God.”*



Joseph L. Shannon, O.S.A.

BORN: 1/8/1911  
FIRST PROFESSION: 9/11/1930  
ORDAINED: 7/25/1937  
DIED: 8/21/2007

*“Father Shannon will be remembered by this family as a true friend and great comfort to my family, most especially, when my husband was ill and subsequently celebrated his funeral Mass at St. Mary’s in Fishkill, NY.”*

*“Joe Shannon was one of the best teachers I ever have had. He was most generous to me in giving me his notes from the General Archives on several early American Augustinians, which I used to write several historical articles.”*



Edward V. Hatrick, O.S.A.

BORN: 11/27/1929  
FIRST PROFESSION: 9/10/1949  
ORDAINED: 2/4/1956  
DIED: 10/10/2007

*“His everyday life poured out with faith in action.”*

*“Father Edward Hatrick is a concrete example of the Augustinian zeal, always responding to the needs of the time.”*

*“He was not only a quiet gentleman – he was also a man of action – actions both seen and unseen.”*

IN PARADISUM

*The following friars were recently called home to God. You can read full biographies of these Augustinians, and post your own reflections or favorite memory, online at [www.augustinian.org](http://www.augustinian.org).*

*“The Augustinians are indebted to our many friends and supporters. They enable us to continue to fulfill our mission of serving God by serving others.”*

— Fr. Donald F. Reilly, O.S.A., Prior Provincial, Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova



TOP: Development Council member Brad MacDonald is joined by Fr. Anthony Genovese, O.S.A., and Michael Picotte. MIDDLE: Annual Fund co-chair Mary Ellen Maggitti and Malvern's Larry Legner share a moment with Fr. Steve Curry, O.S.A. BOTTOM: Charley Connelly, Chair of the Development Council, Jay Wright, Head Coach of the Villanova men's basketball team, and Donald F. Reilly, O.S.A., Prior Provincial of the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova.

### Support the Augustinian Fund

On October 18, the Augustinians of the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova launched their 2nd annual fund drive with a special kick-off event at the historic Montrose Mansion in Radnor, PA. Jay Wright, head coach of Villanova University's men's basketball team, was the featured guest speaker for the evening.

The Augustinian Fund was established in 2006 to provide support for the Augustinians and their many ministries. In its inaugural year, \$624,000 was raised for the Augustinian Fund, easily surpassing its \$500,000 goal. Building on last year's success, the Augustinians hope to raise \$700,000 through this year's annual fund campaign.

Chairing this year's Augustinian Fund are Mary Ellen Maggitti of Devon, PA, and James Delaney of Haverford, PA, both strong supporters of the Augustinians and members of the Province's Development Council.

### Annual Report Update

The Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova would like to report the following emendations to its recently published Annual Report of Gifts: 6/1/2006-5/31/2007.

#### Capital Campaign contributors include:

- Mr. Joseph Mooney (*The Bread of St. Nicholas of Tolentine*)
- Mr. and Mrs. Patrick O'Hara (*The Bread of St. Nicholas of Tolentine*)
- Connolly Family Foundation, Mr. and Mrs. Charles P. Connolly, Jr. (*The Charity of St. Thomas of Villanova*)
- Dr. Joan and Mr. Thomas Lynch (*The Vision of Lorenzo Spirale*)
- Dr. Helen and Mr. James Lafferty (*The Vision of Lorenzo Spirale*)
- Mr. and Mrs. J. Eustace Wolfington (*Gifts in Kind*)

#### Augustinian Fund contributors include:

- Dr. Joan and Mr. Thomas Lynch (Ministry Advocates)

The Province is grateful to all its donors and supporters for their generosity and friendship.

## A contribution to the Augustinian Fund goes far – in miles, in lives and in spirit.

In today's world, the selfless work of the Augustinians is invaluable. How can we make sure the work continues? By asking you to pray for our success and support our vision by contributing to our annual appeal – the Augustinian Fund.

Contributions to the Augustinian Fund support key missions and programs of the Augustinian friars of the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova, including the Augustinian missions, the Augustinian Volunteers, and new initiatives including justice and peace and prison ministries. The Augustinian Fund also supports our aged and infirm friars.

Please choose to make the Augustinian Fund part of your annual giving. Be part of something powerful.



Contribute online at [www.augustinianfund.org](http://www.augustinianfund.org)

Donations to the Augustinian Fund may also be sent to:  
The Augustinian Fund, P.O. 340, Villanova, PA 19085-0340

Questions or additional information, please call 610.527.3330, ext. 221.

### Remember the Augustinians in your Will

Remembering the Augustinians in your will is a special way to help the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova continue its many good works:

Augustinian Province of St. Thomas of Villanova  
214 Ashwood Road, Villanova, PA 19085

For more information on legacy gifts, call 610.527.3330, ext. 265, or write to us at [development@augustinian.org](mailto:development@augustinian.org).



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Dan Mason, Augustinian Affiliate

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The Augustinian Press features books on Augustine and Augustinian life and spirituality, cards and prints featuring artwork by contemporary Augustinian artists, music by Augustinians, and much more. All proceeds from sales of the Augustinian Press support the care of the infirm and elderly friars of the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova.

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