



VOLUME V . ISSUE II

THE AUGUSTINIAN

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THE AUGUSTINIAN . VOLUME V . ISSUE II

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Meet Dr. Christopher Edward Hopey, the New President of Merrimack College

In his first year as President of Merrimack College, located in North Andover, MA, Dr. Hopey has brought new energy and swift change to policies, physical space and academic offerings. The changes are predominantly focused on the well being and intellectual growth of the 2,000 students who attend Merrimack, but he has also made changes that are popular with the faculty. This interview with Dr. Hopey gives insight into the man and his thoughts on growing a successful, contemporary Catholic college.

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Awareness and Action at St. Augustine Prep School

The Augustinian Campaign Against Human Trafficking was taken to heart by the faculty and students at St. Augustine Prep in Richland, NJ., when they read the autobiography, *The Road of Lost Innocence*, by Somaly Mam, who was sold to a brothel in Cambodia when she was twelve. She has since become a heroine for the girls she has rescued from the same fate. Her subsequent visit to the Prep turned the students into heroes too.

P. 14
Human Trafficking in the United States—Slavery in a Global Economy

For two years (2010-2012) the Augustinians' International Justice and Peace Commission has chosen to focus on human trafficking. We examine human trafficking in the United States in order to raise awareness about this crime, its prevalence and what we all can do to combat it.



ON THE COVER
 Feet once bound by slavery, now bound by love.
 Cover and principal photography for St. Augustine Prep by Bryan Smith for Scientific Marketing Services Inc.
 Photography for Merrimack College by Kevin Salemm and Teddie Gallagher



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FIND OUT MORE ABOUT WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE DO AND HOW YOU CAN BECOME A PART OF OUR COMMUNITY.



LETTER FROM THE PRIOR PROVINCIAL

Dear Friends,

Welcome to this edition of The Augustinian. Much has occurred since the last magazine was in your hands and in these pages just a few of those things are being highlighted.

Upon assuming the duties as Prior Provincial, in less than a week, I was sitting on the Board of Trustees of Merrimack College and once again becoming acquainted with Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D., the new president of the college. Chris and his wife, Cheryl and their son Christopher, lived in St. Thomas of Villanova Parish during the time I served as pastor of the community. Chris is bringing a new energy to the Merrimack College community especially focusing on the key areas of student life, campus and facilities, academics and alumni relations. He has dedicated much of his professional life to the area of literacy; he was a Literacy Fellow while at University of Pennsylvania National Center on Adult Literacy. I would say at Merrimack College, Dr. Hopey has the enthusiasm and gifts to bring about great change.

For those of you who follow not only the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova but the Order of St. Augustine, you may be aware that, as Augustinians, we are working to shine light on the global problem of human trafficking. Our school, St. Augustine College Prep in Richland, NJ, as a community read the book, *The Road of Lost Innocence: The True Story of a Cambodian Heroine* by Somaly Mam. It is a riveting and beautiful memoir of tragedy and hope by a woman who has been named by Time magazine as one of the 100 most influential people in the world. Somaly was born in a village deep in the poverty stricken Cambodian forest. She was sold into sexual slavery by her grandfather when she was twelve years old. During the next decade she was shuttled through the many brothels that make up the huge sex trade of Southeast Asia. She experienced unspeakable acts of brutality and witnessed many horrors that haunt her to this day. The St. Augustine College Prep community not only met Somaly in her book, but also personally, as she graciously accepted an invitation to visit the campus with some of the young women that Somaly and her foundation saved from a life of horror. In these pages you will have a glimpse of the visit but, more importantly, you will learn how the community at the Prep has responded.

For us, as a community of faith there is the reminder that through education and awareness, hope can be brought out of tragedy. As St. Augustine says in his *Exposition of the Psalms*, "By giving us the Holy Spirit Christ has become our hope, and also enabled us to march on toward our hope, for if we had no hope we could not keep marching."

In Augustine,

Very Reverend
Anthony M. "Fr. Mickey" Genovese, O.S.A.
PRIOR PROVINCIAL
PROVINCE OF SAINT THOMAS OF VILLANOVA

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AUGUSTINIAN VOLUNTEERS, 2011.

AUGUSTINIAN VOLUNTEERS

LETTERS

South Africa



On World AIDS Day this year I was lucky enough to be part of the 20th anniversary of the Hillcrest AIDS Centre. That day, around 50 people gathered at the front of the Centre

to commemorate those we have lost and to talk about the strides that have been made to assist those who are fighting AIDS. I held in my arms a wonderful little boy who may have had the cutest smile I have ever seen. I watched Julie speak about starting the organization when AIDS was still largely a mystery.

The thing about working at Hillcrest Centre, a place where many people are struggling with death and dying, is that it is very difficult to maintain a sense of hope. After months of feeling like all I could do was bear witness to someone while they were dying, I began to fear God's plan and to feel helpless.

Julie's words made me think of the small bits of work that I had done in my year there. I finally began to confront my own sense of hopelessness, to realize that as

volunteers, our dedication, our persistence, and our love make a difference to the organizations we serve...even if it is not visible until 20 years down the line.

The future of that little boy I held is infinitely more secure because of the AIDS Centre, which will help him go on to live a healthy life. My struggle has taught me to persevere, to maintain hope because that's what the people I serve require of me. The AIDS Centre has held up the light for people who are afflicted in South Africa, and in the same way, I am called to follow their example.

MARY KATE CRANE
Durban, South Africa

Chicago



Merrimack College taught me the ways of Augustine, and "community" was a word that you couldn't go a day without hearing. My life now is no different. The

community of Catholic Charities, where I serve as an Augustinian Volunteer is extremely diverse, welcoming, and spiritual. My coworkers have taught me what it means to be faithful and how to live a life that is devoted to praising God and everyone around us. Ms. Tyson, the Case Manager that sits in the cubicle behind me, always says to her clients on the phone, that she is blessed, which always makes me smile. I was never able to fully understand it and live by it until

I went to a home visit before Christmas to see a client and her daughter and give them Christmas presents for the family. As I walked into the room with a big black bag filled with Christmas goodies, I was greeted by two little boys. Throughout the whole conversation they sat on the couch, patiently waiting for our conversation to be over. Right before I was about to leave the house, one of the boys asked, "What's in the bag?" I said, "Presents for you, from Santa." With huge eyes, he asked, "You know Santa?" My client then said, "Yes she does. He was at her work and gave her the gifts to bring to us." Then the little boys ran over and gave me big hugs saying, "Thank you! Thank you!" The mom just sat there and smiled. As I was leaving, I wished my client a Merry Christmas. She gave me a hug and said, "Ms. Moretti, I hope you have a blessed holiday and a blessed day." At first I was overwhelmed with emotion, but after a few seconds I found myself saying, "You too. I hope you have a blessed day." For the first time in my life, I truly felt blessed to be alive, healthy, and where I am today. I know that my faith is stronger than it has ever been, and I know that is because God is with me at all times. This is what I have learned about my faith this year and I hope all of you will take a chance to remember how blessed you are and know that faith will always be your guiding grace.

JANINE MORETTI
Chicago, IL

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MEET DR. CHRISTOPHER EDWARD HOPEY

The New President of Merrimack College

BY TEDDIE GALLAGHER

“I have a service job. I am in service to the organization. And as I do that, I think I’m teaching others how to be the same way. And that in itself is very Augustinian and very Catholic.”

DR. CHRISTOPHER E. HOPEY
President, Merrimack College



In his presentation *Saint Augustine on Leadership*, Gary N. McCloskey, O.S.A., Province Counselor for Education and former vice president and dean of Merrimack College, speaks of Augustine as a servant-leader within the framework of Augustine’s values of unity, truth and love (*unitas, veritas, caritas*).

Fr. Gary portrays St. Augustine as a leader who is rarely alone, who serves his community through dialogue with them, by knowing them, listening to them, empowering them. He describes Augustine’s value of truth as a restless journey to do meaningful things, to be transparent, to go forward creating change to serve others. He depicts Augustine’s value of love as respect for his fellow human beings, building them up, working cheerfully as a disciple of love through faith, inspiration and humility to get to the next level.

It’s surprising how this servant-leader description of St. Augustine, who was born in 354 A.D. - over 1600 years ago - sounds like the contemporary servant-leadership philosophy and practice, coined and defined by Robert K. Greenleaf in 1970. Greenleaf’s new organizational structure challenged the concept of bureaucratic hierarchy, suggesting instead that leaders manage by listening, building community, encouraging self expression and helping people get what they need so they can be their best. But there’s one thing missing in Greenleaf’s business model that’s prominent in St. Augustine’s model and that is love, or *caritas*.

The interview that follows gives the reader a look into Dr. Christopher Hopey’s leadership values and his work since the Board of Trustees voted unanimously on March 5, 2010 to select him as president of Merrimack College, to start on July 1, 2010.

Merrimack’s press release for Dr. Hopey said he “came to Merrimack College with considerable leadership experience in higher education, having served as vice president and dean of Northeastern University’s College of Professional Studies, as well as vice dean of the Graduate School of Education at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Hopey has a Ph.D. in Higher Education Management from the University of Pennsylvania and an M.P.A. and B.S. in Political Science from Northeastern University.”

What the press release didn’t say is that beneath all of the experience and education is an exceptionally dedicated servant-leader, a person who really cares about people. He is a Catholic with Augustinian leadership values, who wants to nurture the Merrimack community; who listens to and empathizes with the students, the faculty, the staff and the Trustees. He has the ability, drive and education to conceptualize ways to solve problems big and small, to look for consensus in addressing issues and to act.

Speaking with faculty, students and staff the “word” on President Hopey was hope itself. As Patricia Sendall, Faculty Senate President and Professor put it: “I’m very hopeful for Merrimack under Chris. It’s really ironic that his name is “Hopey” because it has hope in it. I feel like he’s brought ‘hope and change’.”

As an outside observer, I see the new hope at Merrimack more as the byproduct of what Dr. Hopey actually brings—and that is his heart. That is his *caritas*, the heart of a Christian servant-leader, who openly promotes Unity, Truth and Love. It’s a heart that is very Augustinian and very Catholic. And now, is very, very Merrimack.



“What if anything has changed? I think that’s a funny question...because everything has changed. One of the things that the faculty has noticed, really for the first time in my professional lifetime, the faculty actually has respect. It’s palpable. We feel it. He’s engaging faculty. He’s engaging staff. He’s engaging the students. He’s building our community. And I think all of that can only get better.”

PATRICIA SENDALL, PH.D.

Faculty Senate President and Professor, Management Department

TG: Merrimack has a rich Augustinian tradition. How will you continue that tradition?

CH: Firstly, we appointed Fr. Ray [Ray Dlugos, O.S.A.] to a new position as Vice President of Campus Ministry and Student Life...we put the two together. I think that’s very, very important to enhance and develop Campus Ministry to a higher level. That was the first step in bringing all the disparate pieces together, to get a clearer focus. It’s a big part of what we do.

Secondly, we want to honor the Augustinians and their involvement, everything from trying to recruit more Augustinians to be here, to getting involved in our community, to actually doing things that we’ve talked about, like naming one of our streets Augustinian Way. Make that our address. Instead of having 315 Turnpike Road, I think the address 1 Augustinian Way would be neat. Thirdly, we want to infuse in our curriculum and in our hires, and in what we do, the values of being Augustinian Catholic. That’s a harder task because it really is about things like diversity and building an emphasis with the faculty on social justice and community action and involvement.

Fr. Ray and I have spent a lot of time talking about “What if we did a mission?” What if the students were required in their junior year to do a mission to South Africa or one of the Augustinian facilities or places down in South America? And actually have each one of my kids spend two weeks there as part of their five-week break period in January. So they could understand what the Augustinians are all about and what they do around the world.

We also have the Pellegrinaggio [a yearly pilgrimage to Italy], which Fr. Jim [Jim Wenzel, O.S.A.] does very well. But how

do you expand that? So we’ll expand our study abroad. It’s not just coursework. It’s how we live our lives and what we do; our involvement in Lawrence and Haverhill. How do we really get our kids to understand that it isn’t just about the classroom work? It’s deeper than that. How do we practice our faith? How do we practice our belief systems? How do we practice the universal values that the Augustinians bring to Merrimack and how do we infuse that into our community in a different way? That’s a process and we think that makes it more attractive, both for Augustinians in other parts of the world to come here and be part of Merrimack Community just for a little while, combined with attracting a student here who actually wants to be part of that kind of social environment. That’s important to us. It’s part of our DNA. It’s one of our greatest assets. The question is how do we apply that and turn it into a more contemporary thing for the kind of kids who we bring here now? It’s putting Campus Ministry front and center. It’s putting Fr. Ray in a position of leadership.



“As soon as we approved Chris as President, he was on campus. He’d come every afternoon. It was fantastic because by the time he started he knew what he had to do. Now we have a new Merrimack Club for the professors and for the board and staff. The Welcome Center is beautiful inside. It’s the best thing they’ve ever done. Chris is a very fine gentleman. He’s going to grow that college.”

KARL GLADSTONE, PH.D. HONORIS CAUSA

A member of Merrimack’s Board of Trustees and Faithful Benefactor

It’s putting Fr. Jim into a role working with students and alumni. So it’s not just having Augustinians do Campus Ministry, but actually getting more involved with the campus across the board.

So that’s the stuff we’ve been presenting and pushing being involved with. And that’s been my role here, and to talk about it openly on campus.

For whatever reason, Merrimack has not always been as engaged in being Catholic and Augustinian as it could have been. And I think for us, it’s about at my level saying “We’re Augustinian Catholic.” This is what we believe in. This is what we’re about. So we’re going to do it. We’re doing it in our strategic plan. It’s front and center.

TG: You’ve been described as an “education visionary,” determined to help students succeed. So what steps are you taking to help students succeed at Merrimack?

CH: There are a lot. On the policy side, there are two policies I’ve made to retain students. The first one is that we changed our financial aid policies. We’ve put more money into financial aid. At the same time we’ve also changed the policies so students who may go from a 3.5 to a 3.4 don’t lose their scholarship and thus have to drop out of school.

Something like 97% of our students are on some sort of financial aid here. So, they are very dependent upon the dollars we give them. We need to ensure that the supply of resources is available for students and that we don’t put arbitrary rules of the past in place that actually take it away. That’s my

commitment to students. That money should not be a barrier to coming here. So that’s changed and I think we’ve had a couple hundred students stay because of that policy this year, which is big for us.

The second is study abroad. I think we have a moral obligation for our students to see the rest of the world, both to explore and understand diversity and all the wonders of the world and at the same time appreciate what they have here. We went from maybe 10-to-12 kids to 41 this term and our goal is to have 250 students study abroad.

We are also trying to build a whole new kind of career center and have brought in some new people to help us do that. That’s much more modern in terms of helping students get into graduate school. The reality is that when you look at a kid now...I mean think about this generation of kids. September 11th. Two wars. The worst recession—ever. Tough! I can’t



THE SAKOWICH STUDENT CENTER IS NOW OPEN 24-HOURS A DAY. CASIA HALL, SITE OF DR. HOPEY’S MACK MEETINGS, CAN BE SEEN IN THE DISTANCE.

imagine being 22. Think about what they’ve gone through in their lives. So, we have to understand that. It isn’t like it used to be for me or for you.

We must give them many options. And so career centers are not just about “Here’s your job.” Most career centers are built around “You come, we’ll help you with your resume, you interview and maybe you’ll get a job.” It needs to be much more service oriented. For us, it’s about bringing more employers here. So we’ve made a



“Now that Chris has come onboard, the energy that he possesses is contagious. And so we feel that energy and we feel revived. Putting Fr. Dlugos in the key position as Vice President of Campus Ministry and Student Life, combining those two areas, spoke volumes in that we’re not just Augustinian in name, we’re going to enhance the Augustinian presence and really the core of this institution.”

JOSEPHINE MODICA-NAPOLITANO, PH.D.

Dean, School of Science and Engineering

lot of changes in career services and we’ve gone from 30-35 employers coming to campus; I think we’re up to 70 now.

Career Fairs used to be only open for Business and Engineering majors. Now it’s open to all majors on campus. The changes sound simple, but they were huge barriers. Helping students get into

On the physical side, we’ve opened up the Sakowich Student Center and McQuade Library 24-hours-a-day. They used to close at 8 or 9 o’clock at night, now they’re open 24-hours, so you can go to the Sakowich at 2 o’clock in the morning and kids are playing basketball.

We’re changing our food service. I have a bunch of foodies on campus. I had a whole spin with the students around food. We’re in the process of buying new grills so we can have grilled fish, grilled chicken and grilled hamburgers, instead of fried this and that. We brought back some foods that they wanted but didn’t have. Things like eggs. It’s kind of funny, but it makes kids happy.

We’re renovating the library, putting in a 24-hour café called Zest, which is like a Panera/pizza place, combined with modern spaces, everything from a relaxation room, a mood room kind of thing for the kids with bean bag chairs off of that; to a laboratory where they can do different things, have a speakeasy kind of model; to a 6-8 person study room where they can work as groups; to a fireplace where they can relax in soft seating, to a Wisdom Bar, where you can walk in with an ID and get an iPad, and look at the New York Times right there in the library. So it’s a whole different way to think about a library, making it much more of a destination space, not just a study space. Combining lifestyle with study, where there’s a safe, secure environment for them to learn, to collaborate with other students and really become cutting edge. Creating a new visitor center [at the base of the library], so you no longer come to this building [Austin Hall], which is a beautiful



EIGHT MEMBERS OF THE GREEN TEAM STAND WITH RECYCLE BINS PAINTED DURING THE ANNUAL BLUE GOLD AND GREEN FESTIVAL 2011. (PICTURED L-TO-R) STEPHANIE KEARNS '12, CURTIS RICHARD '12, PAUL AVOLESE '11, MARY SABELLI '11, PRESIDENT HOPEY, KRISTEN MOORE '12, PAUL GIANCIOPPO '11, JEREMIAH SMITH '11, PAUL DEARBORN '94.

building, but it's outdated and not the kind of modern image that we want the institution to have. So we built a world-class visitor center which shows off the beauty of this campus and what we have. We're looking at things like a bowling alley for the kids. We added some sixteen club sports, so 90 percent of our kids now participate in some kind of intramural club. We renovated the Volpe Center. We put in new modern seating and made it a much higher level kind of place. We now have concerts in there for the kids [like Ludacris, who played at the Volpe Center this past April].

We expanded homecoming this year. We have 3,000 people coming to it. So we're doing those kinds of social things with the physical space.

We have a new Merrimack Club, a restaurant for faculty and staff. On Thursday nights we'll have a pub night for our students who are over twenty-one to come together with our faculty and alums. They're all simple things, but they matter in terms of the social life and the culture. And you know, it's very Augustinian in some ways. It's really about community. And really using the assets we have to build a sense of community. So to us, that's very, very important. Nothing's been very expensive or too fancy but it's all those little things that matter.

And the last thing is intellectual. I have pushed our faculty to think differently about how we do what we do. So we added a Sustainability degree and I've supported the Green Team, which now has a couple hundred students being involved environmentally. We're putting gardens in for the spring, so the students can, for their classes, have gardens that they can do stuff with. We're putting solar panels on the Volpe Center so we can show the electricity usage for students involved in those activities.

We have Green Teams and tee shirts. If you come around here on Thursday afternoon kids are running around doing recycling and there's a competition about



SCOTT PIRRELLO

Senior Class President, majoring in Business Administration

"There's been a lot of increased enthusiasm that I haven't experienced over the past four years. It's a great time to be a freshman at Merrimack. My brother's a freshman and I tell him that all of the time, and I'm pretty jealous. Mack Meetings [with Dr. Hopey] are not meetings where what comes out of it is nothing. Things are moved through the chain of power quickly. It's fantastic."

who can get the most recyclable materials. It's a very grass roots, organic activity. It's very holistic in its nature but it's really vibrant in our community. It's run by a couple of faculty members who really push it. It's all due to the grass roots "up" and sense of community, and we want to build that out.

We launched a new IT degree as well as a few graduate degrees. We want to say: here's a 3 Plus 2 graduate program. So the idea is you come to Merrimack for your bachelor and your master degrees. And in between there's a co-op or some other experience. You can get a bachelor's and master's in five years. So those are the kind of models we're pushing.

Then we want to diversify. We have signed some recruiting deals with Kaplan and a few other companies to recruit more international students here. The fact is we're not as diverse a campus as we want to be. I think that hurts our students in the job market. It hurts them in terms of what it means to be Augustinian and the kind of values we're trying to build. At the same time we want to recruit more international students to give a different mix to the school.

We're focused on our foundation-year program for those kids who academically, have been disadvantaged, yet show promise and drive but don't have the academic skills yet. So we want to build a pathway foundation here with kids from Lawrence and other places, so they can be successful. To me, it's a moral imperative that if we accept you, we want you to graduate from the family. We just don't want to have you to come and then leave because we don't track and organize you.

Those kinds of retention strategies are really important.

That's what it means to be at Merrimack. It's kind of a philosophy...that once you join this family you're a member for life. And we want to make sure you graduate and get all of the benefits of a degree from here. But also, you're part of the broader community of Merrimack. Those are the changes we're making for students. And I think we're very student focused.

I have a town hall [Mack Meeting] with the students a couple times a year. It's an open forum where I think the kids trust me and they feel safe. If they tell me something it will get done. Those forums become very useful to say "What can we do to make your lives better?" What can I as the President, but also as an adult, as a mentor, as a coach, what can I do to make it better here for you?

I have a service job. I am in service to the organization. And as I do that, I think I'm teaching others how to be the same way. And that in itself is very Augustinian and

For me, it's all about "They are my students." They are my stakeholders. They are members of my family, the collective Merrimack family. I take that responsibility very seriously.

DR. HOPEY President, Merrimack College

very Catholic. That's how you become a contemporary Catholic college, I think, in the modern world. It isn't just saying you are. It isn't just going to Mass. Those are both important. But it's in practice, doing the things that are important. I think the kids see that I'm practicing what I preach, putting those things in place, and I'm excited about that. I think that's good stuff.

Again, none of these things are 100 million-dollar projects. We don't have that kind of money. Hopefully with some good fundraising, some good enrollment and some good work on the technical side



STEPHANIE KEARNS

A junior majoring in Civil Engineering

"During my first two years it was status quo. Now, there are renovations everywhere. Dr. Hopey is just willing to change things that people need and want. As he says 'If you want anything, if you need anything, tell me and we'll do it.' His willingness to listen brings more excitement because you feel like you have some control."

of the business, in four or five years, it will be a different place, because I actually do generate those enrollments, do generate those dollars in fundraising.

There's no reason we can't be a modern, contemporary, Catholic, Augustinian institution that has a master's comprehensive program. There's Boston College and then there are small Catholic colleges. There's nobody in the middle around here. I think for us there's a sweet spot for Catholic colleges to be just that. I think there's a Fairfield, a Marist, a St. Joe's kind of place needed. There's nothing like that here. It's either the big research schools of Boston or 65 small colleges. And I think there's a space for a medium-sized institution with strong sports programs that's very student focused that can be very successful.

So that's the area of student focus we're working on. We're excited about that. Like anything it takes time. Rome wasn't built in a day. We plan to go fairly fast. We're building a lot of excitement. At the same time, there are a lot of bumps in the road. The library should be done by now. I couldn't get the building permits as fast as I wanted. I'd love to build a dome but they told me it was so much money, and it was actually a lot more than they told me, so we'll put that on hold for a while. I think the students appreciate it. I think they are excited by it. I end up talking to the students a lot, I go to all the hockey games, I go to a lot of sports events and student activities.

My son is 12 years old. My wife and my son are very involved in all the things on campus, which makes it beautiful. And Merrimack is a very family oriented

institution, so it makes it a lot easier for me to be here as president and spend time on campus.

For me, it's all about "They are my students." They are my stakeholders. They are members of my family, the collective Merrimack family. I take that responsibility very seriously. People asked me why did you want a presidency? I said I didn't really want to be a college president; I wanted to make a difference in people's lives. That's why I did it. And Merrimack seemed like the right connection.



DR. HOPEY WITH HIS WIFE CHERYL LUCAS AND THEIR SON, CHRISTOPHER, JR., 12.

I have lots of choices in my life. Being a Ph.D. from Penn, a vice dean at a young age, then a dean and then a vice president...and I'm 46... I have lots of options. But Merrimack just seemed like a place that needed somebody like me; a place where I would be successful and a place I'd like. The fact that I knew the Augustinians and I knew what they were all about, that's one of the reasons I took the job. It adds a different perspective. ✚



Augustinian Campaign Against Human Trafficking

Awareness and Action at St. Augustine Prep School

BY TEDDIE GALLAGHER

The pictures on these pages and our “Glimpse” spread capture events that took place at St. Augustine Prep, in Richland, NJ, when the students and faculty got involved in the Augustinian Campaign Against Human Trafficking. Central to their social justice campaign was an assembly where Somaly Mam, a former child trafficking victim, and five of the girls she rescued from slavery in Cambodian brothels came to tell their stories. Somaly Mam, author of *The Road of Lost Innocence*, had already told her story in a heart-wrenching autobiography that vividly and painfully draws readers into a world where children are routinely sold by their families to brothels, where rape, torture and sheer depravity are the order of every day and every night.

Somaly Mam was invited to the Prep because her book had been chosen for the Prep’s student body to read as part of the Augustinian Campaign for Human Trafficking Awareness. The faculty read it too.

In her book, Somaly Mam also describes her miraculous escape from the brothel where she was held from the age of twelve to twenty-two. Propelled by her anger and

distress, unable to wash off the filth she felt, she went back to the brothels to rescue girls. She and her Somaly Mam Foundation have rescued over 5,000 Cambodian girls, most of whom range from the age of three-to-twelve years old. They are given shelter, medical attention and a program to restore their lives through education and job training. Most of all, Somaly Mam holds these girls, gives them love, restores their dignity and in the process, soothes her own pain through their common bond of human bondage.

Somaly Mam’s visit to the United States was limited to five schools, including Stanford and Harvard, because she worries about her girls when she is away too long. They are fragile.

Prior to Somaly Mam’s visit, Kathy Vermeeren, a French teacher at the Prep, sought permission to set up a Human Trafficking Task Force, and 14 students were selected from the 30 students who applied. At the time of Somaly Mam’s visit, the boys on the Task Force prepared questions for Somaly Mam and the



visiting girls. This took place during a special luncheon.

“It was a lot more moving than I expected, said senior, Bernie Abbott, spokesperson for the Task Force. ‘Cause you read the book, but to actually see Somaly Mam in person is something else. What I thought was the coolest thing was that she brought five girls who were rescued. Most of them were babies, two-to-ten years old when they were sold. Now they live in a shelter in Cambodia funded by Somaly Mam’s foundation. The girls did a Cambodian dance during the assembly, which they said was their way of saying ‘thank you.’”

“At lunch we tried to lift up their spirits a little bit. On stage they were crying. They did their best to tell us about when they were captured but they broke down on stage. They told us how lucky we are to have families and love.”

“The boys were so moved by the visit,” said Vermeeren, “that they produced a newsletter with facts and invited all students at the Prep to write letters to



SOMALY MAM COMFORTS THE GIRLS AFTER THEY SHARE THEIR STORIES WITH THE ASSEMBLY.

the girls in the foundations that Somaly Mam supports. They also contacted the Atlantic County Women’s Center, where they house girls who are rescued, to see if they could help in anyway locally. Our support was welcomed and the boys spent an afternoon at the Center after school, getting ready for the Women’s Center Christmas fund raiser.

“Because of our connection with the Center, we were invited to create



THE ST. AUGUSTINE PREP’S HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE: MRS. KATHY VERMEEREN (MODERATOR), NICK DEGIROLAMO, RYAN HALFPENNY, BERNIE ABBOT, CAIGE MCAULIFFE, AUSTIN NERI, ALEC WILLIAMS, RYAN MANSKE, MATT DIMEGLIO, NICK BROWN AND MR. COLIN MARTIN (CO-MODERATOR).

a display for the New Jersey State Awareness Day of Human Trafficking on January 7, 2011. The boys were addressed by experts in the field, as well as victims of the crime. We came back with ideas of many more directions in which we can take our Force. “

Bernie Abbott expected more students at the event at the State House in Trenton, New Jersey, “It was surprising because there were a lot of people, but we were the only high school people. Most of the people were social workers and law enforcement. Social workers talked about their hotline where girls call up from the casinos. The ones I heard about were trafficked Americans. Some of them were flown in from other states. At the State House they had a survivor who talked. She was from this area [NJ] and went to school in Boston where she met an older man who forced her into prostitution.”

In March, the students voted to continue the Task Force next year. They also were in the process of organizing a walk for the entire school against human trafficking and sexual violence. The walk, which took place on April 15th, featured information boards with facts about Human Trafficking. The boys raised over \$3,000 and will donate the proceeds to local and international organizations, including the Atlantic County Women’s Center (www.acwc.org/) and the Somaly Mam Foundation (www.somaly.org/whoware).

There are no soft spots, no shining lights, no compassion in the people who run the brothels in Cambodia or those who traffick anyone anywhere in the world, including the U.S. The light of hope comes from the people who turn empathy and anger into action.



SOMALY MAM IS WARMLY WELCOMED BY THE STUDENT BODY WITH A STANDING OVATION.

For Bernie Abbott this is now personal. “I might want to major in psychology in college next year, and if I do, I realize there’s a whole opportunity to use psychology in human trafficking with the victims once they are rescued. I also have been thinking that if I go to a college and they don’t have a Human Trafficking Task Force, I might want to set one up and raise awareness about it in college.”

For Somaly Mam, her work to rescue, restore and prevent the sale of people is the focus of her life. In her early years, as an abandoned child, she talked to the trees as she foraged for food and slept outside the huts of those who had families in the village. She is an ethnic mix of Khmer and Phnong, with the dark complexion of a Phnong, which was deemed ugly by the Khmer. Her beauty was seen by a kind man who said he was her uncle, who gave her the name Somaly Mam, which literally means “a necklace of flowers in a virgin forest.” She and the women she has rescued are all flowers in that necklace, in that beautiful virgin forest. †



A GLIMPSE

Five Cambodian girls sold into sex slavery before their teens and rescued by Somaly Mam, performed a traditional Cambodian "Blessing Dance" for the assembly gathered at St. Augustine Prep in Richland, NJ. In the dance, flower petals are sprinkled toward the people, symbolizing the blessings of the gods falling on the audience. The movements are part of the unbroken Khmer dance tradition, dating back to the ninth century Angkor period, originally performed only for Khmer royalty.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE UNITED STATES SLAVERY IN A GLOBAL ECONOMY

BY KITTY SHERIDAN

The Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, ratified December 6, 1865 officially abolished slavery in the United States. “Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.” Has slavery ended in the United States? How do you answer? A trick question? Not if you watch TV, read the newspapers, listen to the radio, surf Internet news sites, read books. The slave trade is very much alive. In fact, it is not just alive – it is thriving! How can this be?

Human trafficking is the illegal trade of human beings; it is the sale, transport and profit from human beings who are forced to work for others; usually this is accomplished by means of fraud, deception, threats or coercion. Human trafficking is slavery – slavery for our modern day, global economy. It is a crime under U.S. and international law. And yet this slave trade is the fastest growing illegal activity.

The Augustinian Order’s International Commission on Justice and Peace has designated human trafficking and immigration as its area of focus for two years, 2010-2012. It was felt that, internationally, the Order could “speak with one voice” by concentrating attention in this area of trafficking and the underlying issues that feed it, immigration and poverty. Fr. Jack Deegan, O.S.A., is the director of Justice and Peace for St. Thomas of Villanova Province, and is also director of ADROP (Augustinian Defenders of the Rights of the Poor), a ministry supported by the Augustinian Fund that operates in the city of Philadelphia. For Fr. Jack, when you consider the issue of human trafficking, you can’t isolate it from poverty and immigration. “Poverty is the reason

people go to another country,” said Fr. Deegan, “for a better life than is offered in their own. They sign up for transport and find they are enslaved – they can never get out of the debt. It leads to prostitution among women and children, and forced commercial or domestic labor.”



“POVERTY IS THE REASON PEOPLE GO TO ANOTHER COUNTRY, FOR A BETTER LIFE THAN IS OFFERED IN THEIR OWN. THEY SIGN UP FOR TRANSPORT AND FIND THEY ARE ENSLAVED.”

FR. JACK DEEGAN, O.S.A.

A GLOBAL AND DOMESTIC PROBLEM

Trafficking is both a global and a domestic problem. In 2010, when South Africa hosted the World Cup, the government closed schools for the duration of the tournament. While this might seem like a gift to the children, the government also warned parents of the dangers to their children due to trafficking and the temptation for the children to put themselves in harm’s way by going

to the sports venues. At the Augustinian Mission in South Africa, the Augustinian Volunteers joined forces with teachers at St. Leo’s School to run a soccer camp during the holiday, as a way to safeguard the students who usually attend the school.

Large sporting venues are magnets for traffickers. In February 2009, during the Super Bowl in Tampa Bay, there were 24 documented rescues of trafficked persons. For the 2011 Super Bowl in Arlington, TX, the Texas Attorney General started addressing the issue of trafficking early by announcing a task force. This was intended not only as a preventative measure, but also as a way to raise awareness among the public. Jay Ratliff, a member of the Dallas Cowboys, participated in a public service announcement to promote awareness about trafficking of children. Some airlines flying into Dallas distributed information packets about trafficking to passengers.

A LOCAL PROBLEM

Human trafficking is not a problem that presents itself only at venues large sports competitions offer. The reality is this problem is often in our own backyards. In Norristown, a suburb of Philadelphia, a drug and prostitution ring was raided in March of 2010. It operated for almost two years across the street from an elementary school. Women were trafficked from New York for the purpose of prostitution. In Boston, a man was sentenced in Federal court in 2010 for trafficking teens across state lines for prostitution. Victims he preyed on were teens in foster homes or runaways. One of his victims testified at his trial that he cut her face to mark her as his property. His conviction came in Federal court as Massachusetts currently has no state laws governing trafficking of persons. In

January 2011, legislation was introduced in Massachusetts and is pending.

Trafficking involves immigrants, both legal and illegal, but also United States citizens, especially children and teens. Homeless children are usually approached within 48 hours of being on the street. Without the safety net of caring people, they are easy prey to those who approach offering companionship, food and shelter. Sadly, many are exploited and drawn into forced prostitution and labor.

It is estimated that up to 300,000 children in the U.S. are at risk. And while it may be easier for us to understand the risk to runaway, homeless children, it is hardly the case that only children on the streets are targets of human trafficking.

CASES TO CONSIDER

In Phoenix, a 15-year old was kidnapped from her driveway while her mother was inside the home. She had responded to a friend’s call to meet her outside the house. Once there, her friend pushed her into the car where two men restrained her and threatened to kill her. Driven miles from her home, she was kept in a dog crate and fed dog biscuits to “break her,” advertised for sex on the Internet by her captors and repeatedly raped. She was captive for over 40 days. A tip to police led them to an apartment where she was found bound, gagged and stuffed in a dresser drawer shoved under a bed.

A well-dressed couple approached a 19-year-old woman working at a Phoenix mall. The man identified himself as a modeling agent and told the young woman he could set up a professional photo shoot in California. Lured there, the victim found she had been advertised on an escort service’s website. She was constantly moved and “sold” to men.

A 16-year-old Florida teen was asked by a school friend to a sleepover. Her

reluctant mother agreed only after meeting her daughter’s friend and her father. Once at her friend’s house, the girl was given a drink. She was drugged and awoke to find she was being raped. She was beaten and told by her captors that she’d been sold to a man in Texas for \$300,000. She was rescued when a search party saw her in the back of a car. Her captors escaped, while the teen was airlifted to a hospital.

These are not the stories of foreign nationals who enter the U.S., whether legally or illegally. In each of these cases, the girls had homes and loving parents. Nor is trafficking restricted to sexual trafficking. In fact, forced labor and debt bondage contribute to the plight of trafficked persons.

Florida is considered ideal for bringing trafficked persons into the country. The state provides a fertile ground, both for its agricultural industry and the farm laborers trafficked into the state. In 2008, a family in Florida plead guilty to enslaving undocumented persons trafficked from Mexico and Guatemala. The immigrants were threatened, beaten, locked in trucks and forced to work as farm laborers. Indeed, when foreign nationals do have legal documents and visas to enter, the traffickers generally seize the documents until the victims repay “debts” incurred for transportation, lodging, clothing and food. A woman in Oakland, CA was sentenced to three years for trafficking in November 2010. She had recruited a woman from China, who arrived in the U.S. in 2008 with her passport and visa. Once here, the passport and visa were taken and the victim was physically abused, threatened with being reported to authorities and forced to work as a live-in domestic with no pay.

A 28-year-old woman, who wanted a girl to help with her own child, trafficked a 12-year-old Mexican girl illegally into Laredo, Texas. The girl was found

chained to a pole in the backyard, which was surrounded by an 8-foot high concrete fence. She had lacerations on her ankles and wrists; was severely dehydrated and malnourished and burned due to being left in the sun. A neighbor, working on his roof, saw the girl chained in the yard and called 911. The woman was given a life sentence for torturing the child.

Nail salons have become venues for forced labor and prostitution. In York, PA, a woman owner of a nail salon enslaved two women from Vietnam who were forced to work for three years without pay. While the salon owner was convicted in February 2010 of trafficking for forced labor and has to pay her victims restitution,

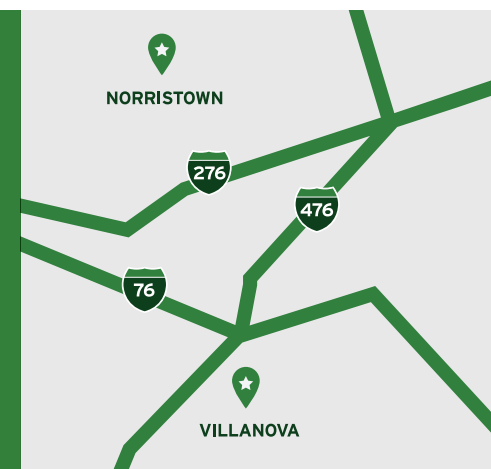
FACTS ABOUT HUMAN TRAFFICKING & SLAVERY

- The ILO (International Labor Organization) estimates the total yearly profits generated by human trafficking to be \$32 billion.
- After drug dealing, human trafficking (both sex trafficking and trafficking for forced labor) is tied with the illegal arms industry as the second largest criminal industry in the world today, and it is the fastest growing. (U.S. DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES)
- Worldwide, numbers for trafficked persons vary from 4 to 27 million (U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, TIP REPORT, 2007)
- 800,00 people are trafficked across international borders annually (U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, TIP, 2007)
- 80% of victims are women and girls (U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, TIP, 2007)
- 50% of victims are minors (U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE, 2003-2004)
- It is estimated that 14,000 to 17,500 people are trafficked annually into the U.S. from foreign countries. (U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, TIP, 2006)
- One child is sold every 30 minutes, on average.

THE REALITY OF THIS PROBLEM IS OFTEN IN OUR OWN BACKYARDS.

In Norristown, a drug and prostitution ring operating opposite an elementary school, was raided in March 2010.

Norristown is 7.6 miles from Villanova.



her sentence was a mere three months of jail time, followed by house arrest.

In Ohio in 2010, the State Board of Cosmetology along with Federal Agents launched an investigation into a possible human trafficking scheme, involving fraudulent cosmetology licenses provided to thousands of immigrants. The immigrants are forced to work in salons for little or no pay, until the arbitrary fees assessed for transport, food and housing are repaid to their captors. It is, plain and simple, debt bondage, from which they will never free themselves.

HUMAN DIGNITY

We sell cars. We sell clothing. We sell people. Why do people buy and enslave others? It's cheap to buy a person. Estimates are that for an investment of \$90 on average, a person can be bought. The return on that investment is estimated anywhere from \$6,000 to well over \$200,000 per year. People are looked upon as commodities. Employees may be literally hidden, or they are hidden in plain sight. We see what we expect—a worker; someone performing a service. We fail to see the trafficked victim. It's not unusual—it's the norm.

The Catholic Church believes and teaches that human life is sacred; that there is a dignity intrinsic to each person. "At the center of all Catholic social teaching are the transcendence of God and the dignity of the human person." (The Challenge of Peace, U.S. Bishops, 1983) We are familiar with the "common good" we promote as Americans, but the common good is a social factor we must consider as Christians. When we talk of addressing poverty, we are speaking of a condition that affects people, those who, due to this condition, are vulnerable. We can see that condition—poverty—as a driving force in immigration and ultimately, trafficking of persons who are vulnerable to those who would exploit them.

AUGUSTINIAN NGO AT THE UN

In addition to serving as the Director of Justice and Peace and ADROP, Fr. Jack Deegan, O.S.A., has been the NGO's representative for almost four years. The assignment at the UN was not a full time post for Fr. Deegan. He works with an Augustinian Volunteer, who attends the weekly briefings and summarizes the information in an electronic newsletter. The Augustinian NGO also belongs to a group called Religious at the UN (RUN), comprised of religious orders that have representatives at the UN who meet to share ideas.

The Augustinians want to apply for ECOSOC status for their NGO at the UN.

ECOSOC is the Economic and Social Council at the UN, and is responsible for coordinating economic and social work of specialized UN agencies and commissions. ECOSOC status for NGOs is one the UN values, as it positions the NGO in a "consultative" relationship with the UN. With ECOSOC status, NGOs may be solicited by the Economic and Social Council to submit papers or presentations related to topics on the Council's agenda. These NGOs may be invited to attend conferences or to sit on UN committees, where their representatives have direct input into the formulation of statements from the UN or resolutions that go to the Security Council.

"Seeking and attaining this status," said Fr. Jack, "really requires a full-time presence at the UN." Last December the Prior General, Robert F. Prevost, O.S.A., appointed Fr. Emeka Obiezu, O.S.A., from Nigeria, to the NGO post at the UN. Fr. Obiezu had been studying in Toronto and finishing a doctoral thesis, the topic of which is the Catholic presence at the UN. In order to receive ECOSOC status, the Augustinian NGO must demonstrate that the organization is enhancing the UN's goals through the work done in its various ministries. The international Augustinian Order has missions in many places: the Irish in Kenya; the Dutch in the Congo; the Italians in Peru and the Americans in Peru and South Africa. Some have local NGOs, unaffiliated with the UN. Many of these are doing good work: agricultural projects that enhance the local living condition and provide work; creating small business opportunities for women and enabling them to support themselves and their children. As Fr. Jack states, "We've got good documentation for ECOSOC – we just need to pull it together. Because we are an international group with missions in crucial areas of the world, we have a good case to make."

Having a presence at the UN, and especially ECOSOC status, opens up avenues of support – both with resources and finances. Where the local NGO may find a grant of \$10,000 to support a project, the NGO at the UN may be able to match them with additional resources or funding for projects the Economic and Social Council at the UN supports, while raising the profile of the international Order and the work being done.

Generally, the focus of the Augustinian NGO is concerned with matters related to human rights and dignity, especially as related to the alleviation of poverty, expressed in the UN's Millennium goals.

In 2009, the U.S. State Department's Trafficking in Persons report noted that the impact of the financial crisis had led to growing poverty worldwide, which has led to an increase both in the supply and demand for human trafficking. In January 2011, the Institute for Trafficked, Exploited & Missing Persons released a report that demonstrates a correlation between Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita and the odds of being a source or destination country for international trafficking. The lower the GDP per capita, the more likely persons are trafficked from the country; the higher the GDP per capita, the more attractive the country as a destination for trafficked persons. The Augustinian NGO is trying to highlight ways to attack the problem of poverty in the local setting.

"The goal is to change the cycle of poverty; change the infrastructure and the way people get jobs. Try to make the country from which people come more appealing, so people will stay there; trying to help these countries to be more self-sufficient, so they have jobs. What is affecting these people needs to be addressed by a group like the United Nations in order to make a change in conditions," said Fr. Deegan.

Augustinian charism is concerned with the condition of persons—with human rights and dignity. Augustinians are working at all levels to solve the underlying problems that contribute to trafficking. As Fr. Deegan says: "It is the kind of work we do. In schools, we educate students to be sensitive to human rights and dignity. In parishes, it is the work we do with Justice and Peace Committees. Internationally, the NGO's focus is on human dignity and human rights."

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

Clearly, the issue of human trafficking is enormous and reading the facts associated with this global crime can be paralyzing. A multi-billion dollar industry, spanning the globe, laying waste to so many lives—it is inevitable to wonder, "What can I do?" When asked what the Augustinian Justice and Peace Commission hopes to achieve in focusing on human trafficking and its contributing factors, Fr. Deegan responds, "Education is the first step; a lot of people have no idea this is in their own backyards."

Can we contribute, in any significant way, to put an end to this injustice and to restore the value that human life must be afforded? "ADROP's mission," said Fr. Deegan, is to "identify needs and match them to known resources." Working with a Philadelphia shelter for women who have been trafficked in prostitution and are seeking help, ADROP provides translators

and also directs the shelter's staff to legal aid resources for the women. This is just one step, but it is a critical benefit for those women at the shelter.


The issue of trafficking need not paralyze us; rather, we need to understand where we can have an effect.

WHAT WE CAN DO

- Become informed and inform others: talk to your family – especially your children – your neighbors and friends.
- Urge your state and federal representatives to support legislation that criminalizes human trafficking.
- Write to representatives in Washington to support the UN Millennium goals, especially eradicating extreme poverty and hunger.
- Advocate for the training of law enforcement personnel and other first responders, to recognize victims of trafficking.
- Encourage the travel agencies and hotels you patronize to endorse the *Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism*; encourage airlines to participate in "Operation Blue Lightening," a program that provides flight attendants with training to recognize and report trafficking of children.
- Support local agencies that provide shelter and other services to survivors of trafficking.
- Purchase fair trade goods, certified as produced without child or slave labor, especially coffee and chocolate.
- Know the National Human Trafficking Resource Center's hotline (1-888-3737-888); program it into your cell phone.
- Most importantly, be aware of how prevalent this problem is and the positive steps we can all take to fight it.

SEE the boxes for websites with information about trafficking and what everyone can do to help raise awareness.

WATCH the video clips that speak directly to the problems.

VISIT the websites with information on fair trade products, "The Code" for travel and tourism and "Operation Blue Lightening." 

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ADROP, VISIT THEIR WEBSITE AT [HTTP://WWW.RIGHTSOFTHEPOOR.ORG/](http://www.rightsofthepoor.org/) OR VISIT [WWW.AUGUSTINIANFUND.ORG](http://www.augustinianfund.org) TO DONATE TO ADROP.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING & SLAVERY RESOURCES

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE OFFICE TO MONITOR AND COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

Trafficking in Persons Report, 2010; descriptions of various forms of trafficking and slave labor; the Government's response to trafficking; archival reports. www.state.gov/g/tip/

UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL INITIATIVE TO FIGHT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Resources for education, business, video presentations. ungift.org/knowledgehub/

POLARIS PROJECT

A leader in the effort to combat slavery, this site contains helpful resources to educate and raise awareness; reports on human trafficking in the news and also the status of pending legislation and contact information for legislators. www.polarisproject.org/

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Information on combating trafficking, raising awareness, links to reports, etc. www.humantrafficking.org/

INSTITUTE FOR TRAFFICKED, EXPLOITED & MISSING PERSONS

Download a fact sheet. www.itemp.org/humantraffickingfacts.html
What you can do: 4 steps to take right now www.itemp.org/whatyoucandonow/4stepsyoucantake.html

WHAT IS AN NGO?

An NGO (non-governmental organization) is a non-profit, independent, group organized on a local, national or international level, whose members have a common interest. NGOs are not affiliated to political parties and generally work to aid the welfare and development of communities.

VIDEO CLIPS

CONVERSATIONS FROM PENN STATE - WPSU TV

An interview with Dr. Mary Burke, founder of The Project to End Human Trafficking http://conversations.psu.edu/episodes/mary_burke

LOVE146 END CHILD SEX SLAVERY AND EXPLOITATION

The Face of Slavery is a video of a Cambodian girl taken in by the Somaly Mam Foundation, narrated by Nicholas D. Kristoff of the New York Times. love146.org/videos/face-slavery

CALL AND RESPONSE

Actress Ashley Judd speaks about child prostitution. www.callandresponse.com/blog/?p=1776

PLAYGROUND PROJECT

Video clip of *Playground*, a documentary movie and Public Service Announcements on main page; under "International" see the photo slideshow. www.playgroundproject.com/

PRACTICAL STEPS

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES FAIR TRADE

About Fair Trade; purchase fair trade coffee, chocolate and handcrafts. www.crsfairtrade.org/

THE CODE

Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism. Encourage hotels and Travel Agents to endorse the Code. www.thecode.org/

INNOCENTS AT RISK

Operation Blue Lightening for Airline Flight Attendants www.innocentsatrisk.org/blue-lightning-flight-attendant-initiative

NEWS AND NOTES

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



O.S.A. INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION AND LAY REPRESENTATIVES AT THE MEETING IN BUENOS AIRES, JANUARY 2011. FR. GARY N. MCCLOSKEY, O.S.A., IS PICTURED IN THE THIRD ROW, CENTER.

O.S.A. International Commission for the Laity Meeting

Fr. Gary N. McCloskey, O.S.A. facilitated a multi-lingual meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina, January 25-27, 2011. Fr. McCloskey and other members of the O.S.A. International Commission for the Laity, were joined by Lay Representatives of the Augustinian Family. Discussions centered around the upcoming Lay Augustinian Congress scheduled for 2012 in Rome. Among the topics discussed: the involvement of Lay Augustinians in creating descriptions for representations for the Congress; the role of the Lay representatives at the Congress; and Lay Augustinian Family members serving as speakers at the Congress.



FR. FRANK DOYLE, O.S.A. (LEFT) AND FR. JACK MCATEE, O.S.A. (RIGHT) WITH TWO AUGUSTINIAN SISTERS WHO JOINED THE FRIARS AT THE AFA MEETING IN JANUARY, 2011.

Augustinian Federation of Africa

Fr. Frank Doyle, O.S.A. and Fr. Jack McAtee, O.S.A., of the South African Mission, attended the Triennial Meeting of the Augustinian Federation of Africa (AFA), held in Kinshasa, Democratic

Republic of Congo. Two South African Augustinian Sisters, Sr. Dolores and Sr. Bongiwe, joined the friars at the meetings. The conference theme was “Peace and Reconciliation in Africa in the Context of the Post African Synod 2009.”

Sessions were held at Centre Catholique Nganda, where they were joined by 40 friars and sisters from Algeria, Congo, Kenya, Nigeria, Benin Republic, Tanzania, Sudan and Togo. The Prior General was in attendance along with Franz Klein, O.S.A., Assistant General for Africa and other friars from Belgium, Italy, Germany, and Malta. The next AFA meeting will be held in Togo in 2014.



Books

The Road of Lost Innocence, the candid and moving book by Somaly Mam featured in our story on human trafficking can be purchased online or in local book stores.



OALA REPRESENTATIVES GATHERED AT THE MEETING IN BOGOTA, COLUMBIA IN FEBRUARY, 2011. THE PRIOR GENERAL, ROBERT F. PREVOST, O.S.A., IS AT THE CENTER, STANDING. FR. JOHN LYDON, O.S.A., IS IN THE LAST ROW ON THE LEFT (WHITE HABIT).

Organization of Augustinians of Latin America/Youth Gathering

The Organization of Augustinians of Latin America (OALA) held its assembly the first week in February, 2011, in Bogota, Columbia. Four members of the Peruvian Vicariate attended the assembly, which is held every four years. Fr. John Lydon, O.S.A., finished his term as Secretary-General of the Organization.

News from Peru: the week prior to the Assembly, the OALA held its first-ever Youth Gathering of Latin America, which drew over 700 youth from almost all the countries of Latin America. Hosted in the San Agustín School in Lima, Fr. John Lydon gave the welcoming remarks and presided at one of the Masses. Fr. Luis Madera, O.S.A., of Casa Agustín in Miami, along with two young men from the Casa Agustín program, were also in attendance.

A new pastor for San José Obrero parish in Chulucanas, Fr. Juan Carlos Olaya, O.S.A., was installed the second week of February. Fr. Art Purcaro, O.S.A., who had been pastor, has helped to guide the young Peruvian friars in the pastoral plan of the dioceses and helped mentor them towards taking over administration of the parish. The installation Mass was once again celebrated in the parish church, which had been renovated to expand the space.

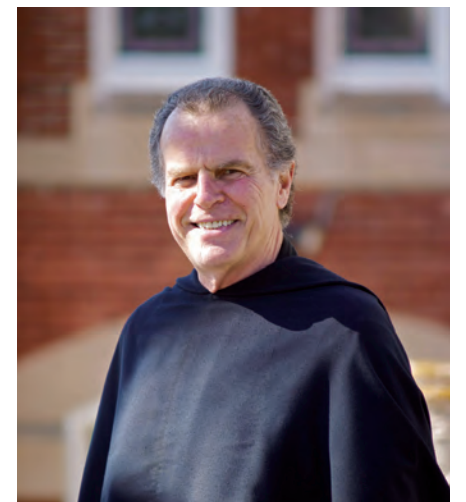


THE OFFICIAL PICTURE OF THE YOUTH GATHERING IN LIMA, PERU.

Brother John J. DelCasale, O.S.A

The Eagle Tribune, a newspaper in Lawrence, Massachusetts, ran a tribute to Br. John J. DelCasale in the Saturday issue of February 12, 2011. The article noted that Br. John was celebrating 40 years as an Augustinian Brother.

Originally from Philadelphia, Br. John presently serves as prior of the community at St. Augustine Friary, in Andover, MA. Br. John has served at St. Augustine Parish for the last ten years. In the article Br. John spoke of his time at St. Augustine’s as one of spiritual growth and of his own recommitment to religious life, daily prayer and Mass.



BR. JOHN DELCASALE, O.S.A.



FR. MICHAEL J. SCANLON, O.S.A.

Fr. Michael J. Scanlon, O.S.A. Receives the Sofia Award

The Washington Theological Union presented its 2011 Sofia Award for excellence in theological scholarship contributing to the ministry of the Church to Fr. Michael J. Scanlon, O.S.A. The 2011 Sofia Award and Lecture were presented on February 13, 2011 at the O'Toole Library at WTU.

Fr. Scanlon delivered the 2011 lecture entitled "A New Turn in Theology - The Material Turn." Fr. Scanlon is a Professor in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies and holds the Josephine C. Connelly Chair in Christian Theology at Villanova University.

Augustinian Spirituality iPhone App Available

"Minute Meditations for Every Day Taken from the Writings of Saint Augustine" is available as an iPhone app. These meditations are taken from *Augustine Day by Day: Minute Meditations for Every Day Taken from the Writings of Saint Augustine*, by John E. Rotelle, O.S.A. (Catholic Book Publishing Co. New York, 1986.) For more information, please visit <http://appshopper.com/reference/augustinian-spirituality>



FR. JAMES E. MARTINEZ, O.S.A.

Fr. James E. Martinez, O.S.A. Retires

Fr. James E. Martinez, O.S.A., officiated at his farewell Mass at Our Mother of Good Counsel, in Bryn Mawr, PA, on January 30, 2011. Fr. Jim retired after serving as pastor at the parish for 31 years. Cardinal Justin Rigali, Archbishop of Philadelphia, conferred on Fr. Jim the title "Pastor Emeritus." This honor is usually reserved for diocesan priests. Parishioners, family and friends packed the church and the reception that followed the Mass. Fr. Jim resides at St. Augustine Friary in Villanova, PA.

Stay on top of news and events from the Augustinian world – sign up for Augustinian eNews at www.augustinian.org.



ARCHBISHOP DOLAN SPEAKS AT MASS AT OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL, STATEN ISLAND, NY.

PHOTO BY ANTHONY DEPRIMO. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED BY STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE. USED WITH PERMISSION.

Archbishop Timothy Dolan's Visit to OLGCS Staten Island

Archbishop Timothy Dolan of New York paid a visit to Our Lady of Good Counsel School on Staten Island on Thursday, February 10, 2011. He began his visit with the celebration of Mass in the Church. School principal, Mrs. Frances Santangelo, Music Director, Scott Ness, the teachers and the students did a wonderful job of preparation. The Mass was a joyful celebration and the Archbishop preached a good homily.

Following Mass, Archbishop Dolan met some of the parents and people associated with the school in the teachers' room over tea and coffee and then he toured each of the classrooms. The Archbishop was very pleased with all that he learned about the school and everyone had a great day.

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FR. JOHN E. BRESNAHAN, O.S.A. Celebrates His 100th Birthday



JANUARY 31, 2011-FR. JOHN E. BRESNAHAN, O.S.A., READS THE NEW YORK TIMES ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY.

On January 30, 2011, Fr. John E. Bresnahan, O.S.A., celebrated his 100th birthday at St. Thomas Monastery in Villanova, PA. Fr. Bresnahan is the oldest professed in the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova.

Fr. Bresnahan (affectionately known as Fr. "B."), started reading the New York Times "with regularity" in 1932 and has read it every day since he was ordained, in 1936.

In an interview with Fr. B. on the morning of his 100th birthday, Teddie Gallagher asked him what he liked about the NY Times. "I want to know what's on people's minds. I read the Times because it contains the views of critical-minded people. It reflects the sophisticated mind. I'm a conservative, but I'm quite open-minded to hear what people have to say." Father also reads the Philadelphia Inquirer every day. "Whatever is in the newspaper I'm thinking about it and praying about it."

WHAT'S HIS BIGGEST CONCERN?
"Secularism of the world."

WHAT'S HIS ADVICE FOR THE WORLD?

"I think most people consider religion as their last concern and I think it should be their first concern."



FR. BRESNAHAN'S MILESTONE ADORNS THE CAKE



PRIOR PROVINCIAL, FR. MICKEY GENOVESE, O.S.A., CONGRATULATES FR. "B" ON REACHING HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY.

Family members, his fellow friars and friends gathered with Fr. "B" on the occasion of his birthday at the Monastery for celebratory drinks, speeches, dinner and cake. Fr. "B" was congratulated on this milestone by Fr. Mickey Genovese, O.S.A., Prior Provincial and Fr. Gary N. McCloskey, Prior of the Monastery. Greetings from the Prior General, Robert F. Prevost, O.S.A., in Rome were delivered by the Vicar General, Fr. Michael F. DiGregorio, O.S.A., who attended the celebration. After the gathered guests offered a chorus of "Happy Birthday" to Fr. Bresnahan, dinner and cake were served.

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, co-worker or friend.

Fr. John T. Denny, O.S.A.



Fr. Denny was ordained in 1990 at Our Mother of Good Counsel in Bryn Mawr, PA. His first assignment was to Monsignor Bonner High

School in Drexel Hill, PA, where he taught from 1990-1999. He also served as chaplain (1990-93), as principal (1993-99) and finally, as the school's president (1999-2001). In 2001, he was appointed director of vocations for the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova. From 2002 through 2007, he taught theology at Villanova University and also served as the first chaplain of the Law School. In 2007, Fr. Jack was assigned as pastor of St. Margaret of Scotland Parish in Maggie Valley, NC. In February 2011, he was assigned as pastor of Our Mother of Good Counsel in Bryn Mawr, PA, where he currently resides.

Br. William C. Harkin, O.S.A.



After professing solemn vows in 1966, Br. Bill's ministry was in parishes for nearly 30 years, where he served as business manager. During these years he served in three

parishes: St. Rita in Philadelphia, St. Thomas of Villanova in Rosemont and St. Denis in Havertown. In 1996, after two years studying at Washington Theological Union, Br. Bill was ordained a deacon. After his ordination, he was assigned to Our Mother of Consolation in Chestnut Hill, PA. During this time Br. Bill was involved in forming three groups, with roots in justice and peace, to aid the community of Chestnut Hill. In February, 1998 the Augustinians were invited to work in the diocese of Charlotte, NC. In September of that year, Br. Bill was assigned as pastoral associate of St. Margaret of Scotland Parish in Maggie Valley, NC. He also served as director of a retreat center located near the church, Living Waters Reflection Center. Presently, Br. Bill is assigned to Our Mother of Good Counsel in Bryn Mawr, PA, where he resides and serves as prior and treasurer of the community.

Fr. Richard T. O'Leary, O.S.A.



Fr. Richard was ordained in 1973. He has worked in the education apostolate, having taught at Archbishop Carroll High School in Washington, DC. Fr. Rich was assigned to

parish ministry at St. Augustine in Andover MA. From 1997-2002, he served in campus ministry at Villanova University. Following this, Fr. Rich was assigned as pastor of St. Thomas of Villanova in Rosemont, PA. Fr. Rich's current assignment is St. Augustine Parish in Andover, MA where he serves as prior for the friary.

Fr. J. Thomas Pohto, O.S.A.



Fr. Tom has served the educational apostolate, having taught at all three Augustinian higher education venues: Villanova University,

Merrimack College and Biscayne College (now St. Thomas University in Miami). He has also taught at Malvern Prep and at Neumann High School in Golden Gate, FL. From 1990-1994, he served as province secretary under John J. Hagen, O.S.A. His parochial assignments have included St. Mary Immaculate Conception, Lawrence, MA; St. John, Schaghticoke in upstate New York; St. Thomas of Villanova, Rosemont, PA; Our Mother of Good Counsel, Bryn Mawr, PA; St. Elizabeth Seton, Golden Gate, FL; St. Katharine Drexel, Cape Coral, FL and Resurrection Church, Dania Beach FL, where he was pastor. Fr. Tom's previous assignment was to Maggie Valley, NC. He currently resides at St. Thomas Monastery in Villanova, PA where he serves as the community's treasurer.

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Villanova, PA 19085-1687



Fr. John Michael Driscoll, O.S.A.

September 14, 1923 - March 2, 2011

Thirtieth President of Villanova University

1975 - 1988

IN MEMORIAM

Fr. John Michael Driscoll, O.S.A., died on March 2, 2011 at St. Thomas Monastery on the campus of Villanova University. He was 87 years of age.

Fr. Driscoll was born in Philadelphia and attended Our Mother of Sorrows Grade School (1929-1936). He was a member of the first four-year class to graduate from St. Thomas More High School (1936-1940). In September 1942, he entered Augustinian Academy, Staten Island, NY. The following year, he entered Good Counsel Novitiate at New Hamburg, NY. He professed first vows in September 10, 1944 and solemn vows three years later, September 10, 1947.

Fr. Driscoll graduated from Villanova in

1948 with a B.A. in Philosophy. Ordained in 1951, he went on to earn his M.A. (1952) and Ph.D. (1964) in Philosophy from the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. Fr. Driscoll spent his entire career in the educational apostolate. Following his ordination, he taught at Archbishop John Carroll High School in Washington, D.C. for four years (1952-1956). He then moved to higher education, serving at Merrimack College in North Andover, MA and at Villanova University, Villanova, PA. While at Merrimack, Fr. Driscoll served as a professor in the Department of Philosophy, college chaplain, vice president and dean, as well as a member of the Board of Trustees. In 1965, he joined Villanova University as vice president of Academic Affairs, where he served for ten years. In 1975, Fr. Driscoll was named president of Villanova, where he served until 1988. Fr. Driscoll returned to Merrimack, where he was prior of the community. For health reasons, he returned

to St. Thomas Monastery in 1995. He remained in residence there for the next 16 years of his life, where he received the care of the nursing staff.

During his presidency, Villanova expanded—physically and academically. Land was acquired, the campus borders grew and residence halls were built. During his tenure, the Connelly Center and the Pavilion were added to the campus. Fr. Driscoll was instrumental in the expansion of the College of Nursing, and the introduction of the Masters Program in Nursing. In 2008, when the new building for the College of Nursing was opened, it was named Driscoll Hall in honor of his many contributions.

Among the awards given to Fr. Driscoll were the Chapel of the Four Chaplains: Legion of Honor Bronze Medallion; the Villanova College of Nursing: Medallion for Distinguished Service to the College (1988); and the Villanova College of Commerce and Finance: Medallion for Excellence in Management (1988).

Fr. Driscoll's funeral Mass was held March 7 at St. Thomas of Villanova Church on the university campus. Fr. Anthony M. (Mickey) Genovese, O.S.A., Prior Provincial, presided at the liturgy and gave the eulogy. Fr. Peter Donohue, O.S.A., President of Villanova University, gave the homily. Fr. Driscoll is buried in the Augustinian plot on the campus of Villanova University.

Video of the homily preached by Fr. Peter Donahue, O.S.A., is posted on our website at <http://www.augustinian.org/who-we-are/our-heritage/necrology>. Please visit Fr. Driscoll's page and see the link to the homily.

IF YOU WISH TO MAKE A DONATION FOR THE CARE OF THE SICK AND ELDERLY FRIARS IN MEMORY OF FR. DRISCOLL, PLEASE USE THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE OR VISIT THE AUGUSTINIAN FUND'S WEBSITE AT WWW.AUGUSTINIANFUND.ORG.

ABOUT THE PHOTO: THIS IMAGE OF FR. DRISCOLL APPEARED ON THE BACK COVER OF THE VILLANOVA MAGAZINE, IN THE SUMMER OF 1988. THE CAPTION READS: "REV. JOHN M. DRISCOLL, O.S.A., BID FAREWELL TO THE 1988 GRADUATING CLASS. HE RETIRED AFTER 13 YEARS AS PRESIDENT." THE PHOTO BY KELLY & MASSA, IS USED COURTESY OF VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY.



Thank you for your support!

Our most sincere thanks to all who made a contribution to The Augustinian Fund in our 2010-2011 fiscal-year campaign. You enabled us not only to meet our goal of \$1,125,000 but exceed it for the fifth year in a row. Chairing the Fund this year are Claudia Piccirilli of Newtown Square, PA and Anthony Dellomo of Staten Island, NY, both members of our Development Council and strong supporters of the Augustinians.

Each gift to the Fund supports Augustinian ministries, and helps our friars who have devoted their lives to serving God's people and the Church. Each gift confirms our belief that the work of the Augustinians continues to be meaningful and relevant in today's world.

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We are humbled by the support we have received.

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The Province's Development Council works tirelessly to advise and assist the Augustinians in raising awareness and funds to support the many good works of the friars. The Province is indebted to all who serve on the Development Council:

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