

a

VOLUME IX . ISSUE I

---

THE AUGUSTINIAN

---

THE WISDOM OF FOLLY p. 3

---

THE MONASTERY TODAY p. 14

---



## CONTENTS

### IN THIS ISSUE

P. 3

#### The Wisdom of Folly

This issue's feature story "The Wisdom of Folly" looks at the period of time between 1898 and 1910 when the Villanova Monastery and the New College Hall were built to grow Villanova College, then a small Catholic college on the "Mainline" of suburban Philadelphia. John Joseph Fedigan, O.S.A., who in 1898, was the newly-elected Prior Provincial of the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova, devised a plan for two massive buildings, a Monastery and a New College Hall.

The building project was dubbed "Folly" by James T. O'Reilly, O.S.A., pastor of St. Mary's in Lawrence, Massachusetts and treasurer of the Provincial Trust.

O'Reilly and others wanted to combine the Monastery and College into one modern building, until the Province and the growth of the school could support two buildings. O'Reilly and the Assistant Provincial, Secretary of the Province and Archivist, Thomas Cooke Middleton, O.S.A., staged an all-out war against Fedigan and his plan for two buildings, which had been dubbed "Fedigan's Folly."

Ironically, following Fr. Fedigan's death in 1908, it was Middleton, who found Fedigan's notes as Provincial in a ledger. These notes describe Fedigan's anguish over the dispute, most especially, his feelings about Middleton's actions. Fedigan's notes, often written in a manner where he speaks of himself in the third person, are used extensively in the article to capture Fedigan's ongoing frustration and fierce determination.

P. 14

#### The Monastery Today

The St. Thomas of Villanova Monastery and its community of 50 Augustinian Friars sits in the midst of the Villanova University campus, the institution founded by the Augustinians in 1842. The friars have had a residence on campus for over 170 years. The Monastery, which was completely renovated in 2005, sits as a beacon of Augustinian ideals, of truth, unity and love, core values it shares with Villanova students and faculty. Gary N. McCloskey, O.S.A., describes life at the Monastery today and pictorials show the vibrant community and the ongoing journey of the Monastery as a home and house of prayer.

#### THE AUGUSTINIAN

A publication of the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova.



3



14

### IN EVERY ISSUE

#### Features

A Glimpse	12
The Augustinian Fund	24

#### Columns

Letter from the Provincial	2
News and Notes	18
Keeping Track	22
In Paradisum	23

#### ON THE COVER

Thomas Eakins, American, 1844-1908. Portrait of John Joseph Fedigan, O.S.A., 1842-1908 Oil on Canvas, 89"x 50"  
Eakins described this portrait as "a major work" and it is on his list of his "top twenty" works. Fr. Fedigan was Provincial of the Order in America at the time of the 1902 portrait and had just completed the Monastery that is pictured on the easel, along with a new college building. Eakins painted the work at Villanova for the Augustinian Order during the period when he was interested in capturing interiority and strength in portraiture of the clergy. The portrait is currently on loan to Villanova University.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks to John J. Sheridan, O.S.A., (Archivist) and June Weiland (Assistant Archivist), Augustinian Provincial Archives at St. Thomas of Villanova Monastery, Villanova, Pa.; Martin L. Smith, O.S.A.; The Philadelphia Archdiocese Historical Research Center (PAHRC); The Frances Benjamin Johnston Collection, Library of Congress, Washington, DC, for the photo of Sebastian Martinelli, O.S.A. on p.6; Villanova University Creative Services Department for campus map images of Tolentine and St. Thomas Monastery on pages 12 and 13.

Main Reference books:  
Provincial Records (1898-1902) by John J. Fedigan, O.S.A.;  
*Men of Heart, Volumes I and II*, Augustinian Press;  
*Men of America: A Biographical Dictionary of Contemporaries*, Edited by John W. Leonard, 1908;  
*Villanova University, 1842-1992: American-Catholic-Augustinian*, by David R. Contosta.

Cover and principal photography by Bryan Smith.

# YOU ARE AT THE HEART

*of what we do*

- CARE OF THE SICK AND ELDERLY FRIARS
- JUSTICE AND PEACE INITIATIVES
- FOREIGN MISSIONS
- AUGUSTINIAN VOLUNTEERS
- VOCATIONS/FORMATION

Help us meet our 2013-2014  
**1.4 million** dollar goal by  
May 31, 2014!



CONTRIBUTE ONLINE AT [AUGUSTINIANFUND.ORG](http://AUGUSTINIANFUND.ORG)  
OR USE THE ENVELOPE IN THIS ISSUE.



MICHAEL H. BIELECKI, O.S.A., FR. MICKEY AND MARTIN L. SMITH, O.S.A.

## LETTER FROM THE PRIOR PROVINCIAL

### Dear Friends,

It is with great joy and anticipation that I write this final letter to you as Provincial of the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova. The joy that is in my heart is for the gift of the last twelve years serving the Province in leadership, eight years with Donald F. Reilly, O.S.A. and the last four years as Provincial. All of you that I have met and written to around the world have been a gift. I have visited you in New England, New York, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Florida, Illinois, Wisconsin, Japan, South Africa, Peru, South Korea, the Philippines and met Pope Francis face to face in Rome this past St. Augustine’s Day. It seems wherever I go people come up to me and say “I know you” and after thinking awhile they say “*The Augustinian* magazine.” Over 20,000 households receive this award winning Augustinian magazine.

This spring 2014 issue tells the story of John J. Fedigan, O.S.A., a Prior Provincial who faced great opposition when he built a large Monastery and New College Hall at the turn of the 19th century. Fedigan’s conflicts with those with opposite views on the scope of the building project were wrenching for him, but at the end of his term Fr. Fedigan expressed fraternal love to the members of the Province.

Fr. Fedigan died in 1908 at the Villanova Monastery he built. In my years as Prior of the Monastery and Provincial I have walked with many Friars as they went home to eternal life. I am most grateful to all those donors who support our Residential Healthcare Center at the Monastery. Thank you Dr. Joe, our Director of Nursing, Alenka; all the nurses, CNA’s, cleaning staff, kitchen staff, receptionists at the desk and laundry ladies—without you we could not do it. To the members of the Development Council under the leadership of Charley Connolly, thank you for your outstanding efforts to raise funds for the Augustinians. I also want to bless Brad and Shirley MacDonald and their family for their unwavering support. Brad died in 2012 at the age of 64 and I miss his deep voice and great smile. Thank you to my Secretary, Michael Bielecki, O.S.A. No task was too much. Marty Smith, O.S.A., thank you for holding us together financially and to my Counselors: Ray Dlugos, O.S.A., James McBurney, O.S.A., Gary N. McCloskey, O.S.A., James Paradis, O.S.A. and Carlos Urbina, O.S.A., for sharing your wisdom with me.

In most families, members have lifelong roles and responsibilities within the family. For Augustinians, it is rare to have the same role within the family. This is especially true for the Prior Provincial assignment, which is voted on every four years and the Priors of the individual communities, who are assigned or reassigned every four years.

And so it is that Michael F. Di Gregorio, O.S.A., the former Vicar General of the Order, has been elected to the position of Prior Provincial, beginning June of 2014. Please keep Fr. Michael in your prayer as he takes on this new role in our community.

In Augustine,

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

## THE AUGUSTINIAN

Teddie Gallagher  
EDITOR

Kitty Sheridan  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

20nine  
LAYOUT AND DESIGN

*The Augustinian* is a publication of the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova. For queries, address changes and other correspondence, contact:

Editor  
Augustinian Provincial Offices  
P.O. Box 340  
Villanova, PA 19085-0340

PHONE 610-527-3330  
FAX 610-520-0618  
EMAIL [communications@augustinian.org](mailto:communications@augustinian.org)  
WEB [www.augustinian.org](http://www.augustinian.org)

### AUGUSTINIANS

Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova

Anthony M. Genovese, O.S.A.  
PRIOR PROVINCIAL

Michael H. Bielecki, O.S.A.  
SECRETARY

Martin L. Smith, O.S.A.  
TREASURER

### COUNSELORS

Raymond F. Dlugos, O.S.A.  
James D. McBurney, O.S.A.  
Gary N. McCloskey, O.S.A.  
James D. Paradis, O.S.A.  
Martin L. Smith, O.S.A.  
Carlos E. Urbina, O.S.A.

### PROVINCIAL OFFICES

Joanna Bowen  
DIRECTOR OF AUGUSTINIAN VOLUNTEERS

Jorge L. Cleto, O.S.A.  
DIRECTOR OF HISPANIC VOCATIONS

John E. Deegan, O.S.A.  
DIRECTOR OF JUSTICE AND PEACE

Mario R. Dickerson  
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

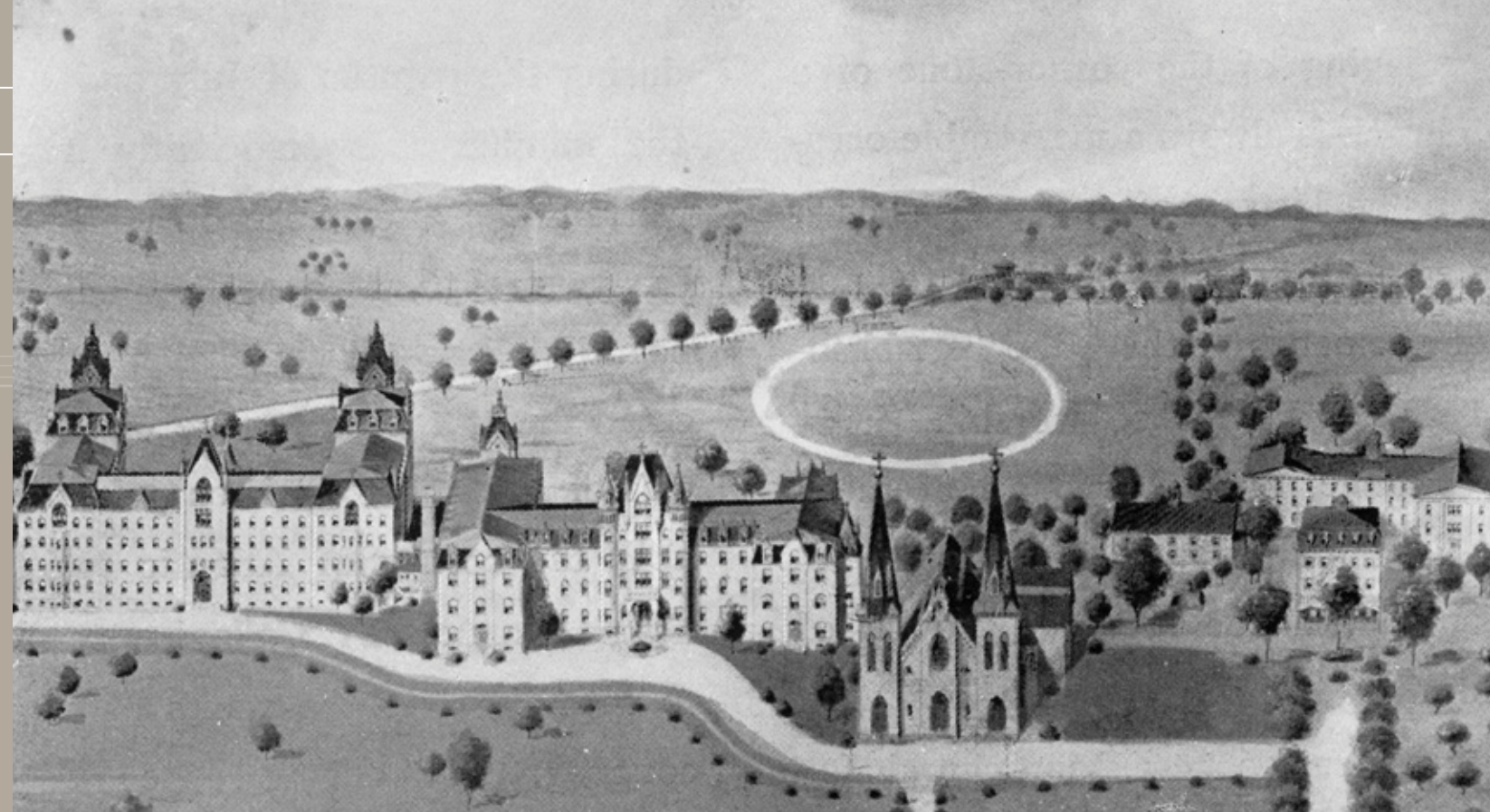
Teddie Gallagher  
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Thomas R. McCarthy, O.S.A.  
DIRECTOR OF VOCATIONS

Gary N. McCloskey, O.S.A.  
DIRECTOR OF AUGUSTINIAN FRIENDS

James C. McMaster  
SENIOR FINANCIAL OFFICER

John J. Sheridan, O.S.A.  
ARCHIVIST



# THE WISDOM OF FOLLY

BY TEDDIE GALLAGHER

The term “**Fedigan’s Folly**” is the ubiquitous term used to describe the Augustinians’ first massive Villanova campus building program initiated between 1898 and 1901 by John Joseph Fedigan, O.S.A., who, in July of 1898, was the newly-elected Prior Provincial of the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova.

“Fedigan’s Folly” gives the illusion of a light, alliterative jab at Fedigan and his dream to create a college at Villanova, separate from its Prep School, and attract Catholic men to earn college degrees in a pious, modern setting. But the opposition was serious and those leveling the term “Fedigan’s Folly” deemed the massive gothic building plan excessive, unprofitable and damaging to the future of the

Augustinians and Villanova College. Both sides were equally committed to their vision, and in the process, John J. Fedigan, O.S.A., would suffer bold acts to stop his plan, most notably from James T. O’Reilly, O.S.A., the newly elected Treasurer of the Provincial Trust and the powerful Assistant Provincial, Secretary of the Province and noted archivist, Dr. Thomas Cooke Middleton, O.S.A.

### THE DEFINITION OF “FOLLY”

1. **Something that lacks good sense, normal prudence and foresight.**
2. **A costly ornamental building with no practical purpose, especially a tower or mock-Gothic ruin built in a large park for decorative purposes**
3. **An excessively costly or unprofitable undertaking; an often extravagant picturesque building erected to suit a fanciful taste.**



## FEDIGAN'S HERITAGE & EARLY LIFE AS AN AUGUSTINIAN

John Joseph Fedigan was born in Rathbran, County Meath, Ireland, on April 27, 1842. He was the son of James Fedigan and Ann (McGovern) Fedigan, with whom he came to the United States through the port of Philadelphia in 1849. His family settled in West Chester, Pa. and later in Wilmington, Delaware. He attended St. Mary's College, in Wilmington, Delaware, considered the most prominent Catholic men's boarding school in the mid-Atlantic region, graduating in 1864. The college, founded in 1841 by Rev. Patrick Reilly (1828-1878) closed in 1866 because of the Civil War and the fact that over one third of the students were from southern states.

Fedigan was accepted into the Augustinian Order at Villanova in 1864 and made his first profession of vows on July 23, 1865. He was ordained to the



JOHN JOSEPH FEDIGAN, O.S.A., AT THE TIME OF HIS ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD ON OCTOBER 28, 1868

priesthood on October 28, 1868, by Bishop Jeremiah F. Shanahan of Harrisburg in the Cathedral in Philadelphia and said his first Mass the next day at Old Saint Augustine's in Philadelphia.

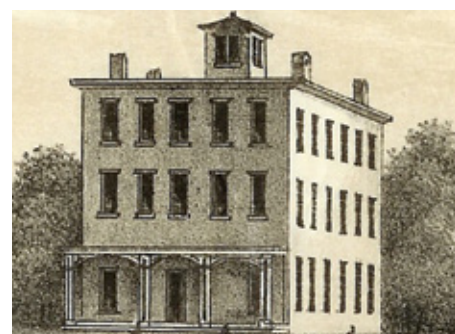
Even in his early days as a young priest, Fr. Fedigan was a charismatic leader who renewed, built, bought and paid off debts wherever he served. The Washington Courier Post summarized his three years and three weeks of service (1869-1873) at Saint James Parish, Carthage, New York, and its two mission churches at Salem and Greenwich as follows:

"Fr. Fedigan has accomplished wonders during his less than four years sojourn here. He has paid a large part of the debt on the church here, put it in good repair, built a new parsonage, laid out a new cemetery, formed the nucleus of a fine library, removed debt from the church at Salem and paid for a church at Greenwich."

In the Provincial Chapter held in 1878, Fr. Fedigan was elected to serve as the 11th president of Villanova College. During his two years in office a fourth floor was added to the monastery (formerly Belle-Air's Rudolph residence), and steam was added throughout the building. He laid out the first Augustinian community cemetery on Villanova's campus, which was blessed by the Prior Provincial, Pacifico Neno, O.S.A. In 1879, Fedigan opened the mission of Saint Monica in Reeseville (now Berwyn).

On July 6, 1880, Fr. Fedigan was elected the first resident prior and pastor in Atlantic City, New Jersey, and served the congregation of Saint Nicholas of Tolentine and St. Monica's (later renamed Our Lady Star of the Sea) for eighteen years. On June 1, 1893, Fr. Fedigan issued

a proposal envisioning a larger Augustinian presence in Atlantic City, adding a house of postulants. Fedigan's vision for the Augustinians in Atlantic City was denied by the Prior Provincial James D. Waldron, O.S.A. He appealed to the Assistant Provincial and Secretary of the Province, Dr. Thomas Cooke Middleton, O.S.A., but Middleton refused, saying that, as Secretary of the Province, making an appeal against the Provincial "would be an unheard of step: one that would rightly be looked upon as unwarranted, injudicious and worthy of Censure." Disheartened, Fedigan announced his resignation as pastor at a Mass at St. Nicholas on January 28, 1894, but ultimately stayed for another four years.



AS PRESIDENT OF VILLANOVA COLLEGE (1878-1880), FR. FEDIGAN ADDED A FOURTH FLOOR AND ENLARGED THE OLD BELLE-AIR MANSION. PICTURES ABOVE SHOW BEFORE AND AFTER RENOVATIONS.

## AUGUSTINIAN COLLEGE OF VILLANOVA



### BUILDING THE VILLANOVA MONASTERY & NEW COLLEGE HALL

In June of 1898 the Augustinians held their Provincial Chapter. Archbishop Sebastian Martinelli, O.S.A., who was both Prior General of the Order and Apostolic Delegate to the U.S., presided as president of the Chapter. Fr. Fedigan was elected Prior Provincial and the Definitors (voting counselors to the Provincial) approved Fedigan's plan and budget to build a new Monastery and New College Hall for \$250,000.

The Provincial Fund, its Board of Trustees (Fedigan, James T. O'Reilly, O.S.A., and Daniel D. Regan, O.S.A.) and its sixteen statutes were approved at the 1898 Chapter. These and other "Acts of the Chapter" were recorded by Dr. Thomas Cooke Middleton, O.S.A., Assistant Prior Provincial and Secretary of the Province and sent to Rome for approval.

Fedigan took up residence in Bryn Mawr, Pa., and set about working on his first major project: a large-scale building and expansion program at Villanova College.

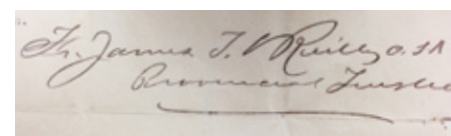
On August 9, 1898, Fedigan wrote: "Engaged the services of E.F. Durang, architect, to draw and execute suitable plans for College and Convent (Monastery)."

On September 10, Fedigan presented pencil drawings of the new buildings to the Provincial Fund's Board of Trustees (Frs. O'Reilly and Regan) and found opposition on their part because they thought the project was too massive.

The term "folly" was introduced by James T. O'Reilly, O.S.A., after he reviewed the architectural drawings for the structures, and, in an unprecedented move, wrote directly to each of the Definitors of the Province without permission from or notice to the Provincial, Fr. John Fedigan:

September 16, 1898  
Rev. Father Definitors:

"...I object to building three or four times beyond our needs and our resources... Are we to meet the necessities of the community and college, or are we rather to launch out to do something grand, and create another debt-burdened institution, under which successive administrators shall sigh for relief from the folly of their predecessors?...I also believe, that the present course, if followed out, will only lead to a shameful disaster... I shall not approve as Trustee, any plan of similar proportions to be erected at one time."



## PROVINCIAL FUND STATUTE 13:

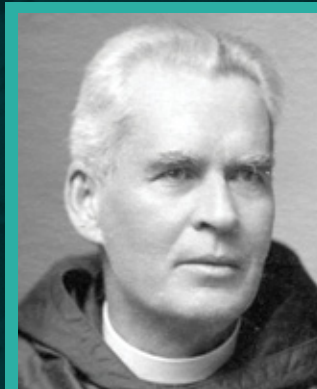
The Trustees shall have the right to examine all plans for new buildings; no plan for buildings shall be accepted without their approval.



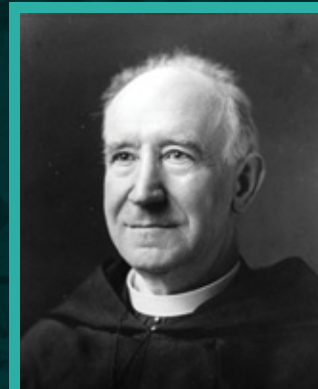
**JAMES T. O'REILLY, O.S.A**  
PROVINCIAL FUND BOARD OF TRUSTEE & TREASURER



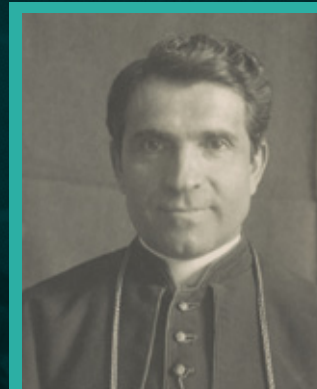
**DANIEL D. REGAN, O.S.A.**  
PROVINCIAL FUND BOARD OF TRUSTEE



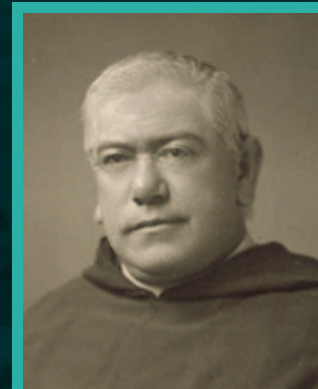
**JOHN J. FEDIGAN, O.S.A.**  
PRIOR PROVINCIAL & PROVINCIAL FUND BOARD OF TRUSTEE



**DR. THOMAS C. MIDDLETON, O.S.A.**  
ASSISTANT PRIOR PROVINCIAL SECRETARY OF THE PROVINCE



**SEBASTIAN MARTINELLI, O.S.A.**  
PRIOR GENERAL 1889-1898



**THOMAS RODRIGUEZ, O.S.A.**  
PRIOR GENERAL 1898-1920

### FEDIGAN SPEAKS

The following accounts were discovered by Fr. Middleton, among Fr. Fedigan's effects after his death in 1908. Fedigan often refers to himself as "The Provincial" or "Father Provincial."

Fedigan was appalled by O'Reilly's actions and wrote this account of what had happened, referring to himself in third person:

"In the Provincial Chapter of July '98 the Most Rev. Father General Sebastian Martinelli presided in person and gave full approbation to all its acts. Among these was one to erect a New College and Convent (now called a Monastery) on our grounds at Villanova, and these to be modern and up to date in all their appointments. Three fathers were chosen to carry out this good work and proceeded to do so. When the mere outlines of these buildings were ready, they were, in accordance with our statutes, presented to The Trustees for approval, change, amendment or improvement by suggestion, etc. The Trustees, however, were not content to use this, their right by Statute 13—but went further and condemned the plans, the work of the Definitory and Building Committee and declared the work to be far beyond our own requirements and our resources. The decision of the Trustees, O'Reilly and Regan, was not concurred in by the Father Provincial [Fedigan, himself a Trustee] who advised harmony, peace and cooperation with the will of a united Definitory whom he thought were competent to decide what could and should be done in such an emergency. But the

Trustees above named held the contrary and claimed that without their consent 'No building could go up.' This was not the ruling in the past, nor was it pleasing to the Provincial and Definitory."

Fedigan's description of the event goes on to say:

"Hence the Provincial wrote immediately to Msgr. Martinelli (by now out of office as Prior General of the Order) and asked if the Trustees by virtue of Statute 13 were, in such matters, above the Provincial and Definitory, and received a written answer that they were not.



THE PLAN TO BUILD THE VILLANOVA MONASTERY CAME UNDER FIRE FROM MIDDLETON AND O'REILLY. THE BUILDING PLANS CALLED FOR THIS BUILDING TO BE BUILT FIRST, SO FEDIGAN BEGAN CONSTRUCTION AND DELAYED THE COLLEGE BUILDING.

"He also wrote to the present General, Rodriguez (elected in the summer of 1898 to succeed Martinelli as Prior General at the Curia in Rome), stating what had been done in the Provincial Chapter and in the Definitory meetings regarding these buildings and the opposition to them on the part of the above Trustees, and from him also under date of October 14th, 1898 received his [Prior General Rodriguez] approbation of said buildings.

"With this confirmation of the present and past general of the Order, we did not much mind the opposition to the work by a few of the fathers—notably O'Reilly, Regan and Middleton, and the work of the preparations went on by the committee in charge. After this, the Provincial paid but little attention to the opposition and went on with the work of getting ready the plans for both buildings."

### BOLD ACTIONS TO STOP THE PROVINCIAL

On January 12, 1899, Fedigan noted:

"The plans and this decision of the Definitory were again submitted to the Trustees (O'Reilly and Regan)...and two days spent trying to get their approval, but in vain! They had taken their stand under Statute 13 and would not yield one iota. They approved of one building only, and that one the College—which according to the plans could not be erected first."

Given the approval from Rome, and an agreement from the Definitors to accept the lowest bid of \$300,000, \$50,000 over the approved amount from the Chapter, the building committee notified

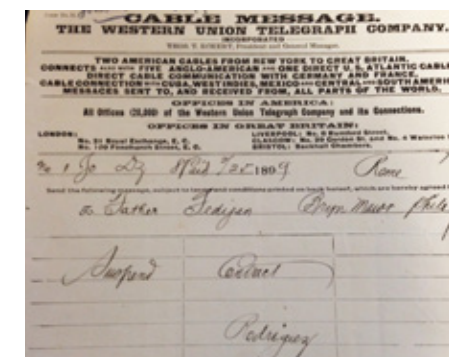
the contractor that they were ready to sign the contract for both buildings on Monday, February 24, 1899.

On February 25, 1899, a telegram was received from General Rodriguez in Rome stating in English "Suspend Contract." Fedigan wrote:

"This was a thunderbolt out of a clear sky, and we could not tell why. The word of the committee was given to the contractor... to begin the work which had already been published far and wide in the public press... the committee had the previous permissions of both General Martinelli...and his successor...yet to show some regard for that



NEW COLLEGE BUILDING WAS DEEMED THREE OR FOUR TIMES WHAT WAS NEEDED IN 1899. O'REILLY AND OTHERS WANTED NOVICES AND PROFESSED TO LIVE HERE UNTIL THERE WAS A NEED TO BUILD A SEPARATE MONASTERY.



FEBRUARY 25, 1899, PRIOR GENERAL THOMAS RODRIGUEZ SENDS TELEGRAM FROM ROME: "SUSPEND CONTRACT."

cablegram, they signed the contract for one building only, as that could not possibly put them in debt beyond their means, the thing the General [Rodriguez] evidently feared."

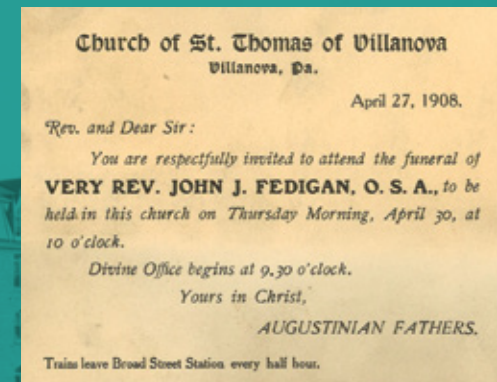
Fedigan wrote back to General Rodriguez, giving him details of how the money for the new buildings would be paid and asking the General to cable back and say "Proceed." Fedigan wrote:

"Meantime and while waiting to hear from that letter to the General, several cablegrams came through the agency of Dr. Middleton who had decided to take a hand in the contest and although by virtue of his office as Socius [Secretary] to the Provincial, he was obliged to consult the peace and harmony of the Province, he nevertheless took sides with the opposition and pitched into the Provincial with might and main. He (Middleton) first declared that he did not approve of the expansion ideas of the Provincial, who simply replied that it was a pity he did not." (Unlike Definitors, the Secretary does not vote on matters.)



“The General suspended me unless I would suspend all work, after I had contracted for that work. Well I did not suspend all work...writhing in agony and heart-broken at such perfidy, I asked God to tell me what I should do? and the result is that I did what I have done.”

**J.J. FEDIGAN, O.S.A.**



“I have had my fair share of building and begging for the past 35 years and am quite willing and determined to rest from all such labors, and devote the balance of my time here below to building a little house for myself in eternity.”

**J.J. FEDIGAN, O.S.A.**

During the month of March, Fedigan continues documenting unprecedented acts against him:

“Then began the cablegrams which he (Middleton) translated and sent a copy instead of the original to the Provincial, telling him that he (Middleton) was acting as an agent of the General in the matter. As Provincial, already suffering more than I could bear, I asked to see such authority from the General...but have not yet seen such authority.

“The first message read ‘Tell the Provincial to suspend until I approve.’ He did approve as above written in his own words. The work was begun and we could not stop it without a scandal.

“A few days later another came stating ‘Tell the Provincial to suspend all work or he is suspended a Devinis.’ By this time I thought how nice it was to be a Provincial and as such to be suspended by cablegram sent to another after 30 years of work in the Province. Well I concluded it was better to be thus punished, than to deserve punishment by stopping work and thus spreading public scandal.

“What I did not do however and before I had time to do anything in the matter, Dr. Middleton set about doing to Duffy, Durang and the contractor, telling them to stop work as it was all wrong and unlawful.

“They did stop, till I told them to go ahead and stop only when the building was complete, and he (Middleton) threatened me with a ‘legal injunction’ to stop the work. He got another cablegram from

Rome prohibiting that action, but after all this, he (Middleton) went personally to the contractor and as the Secretary of the Corporation of Villa Nova, again ordered him to stop work. The contractor told him he did not receive verbal commands from anybody, and so the next day he sent the same in writing, and the contractor brought the letter to me.”

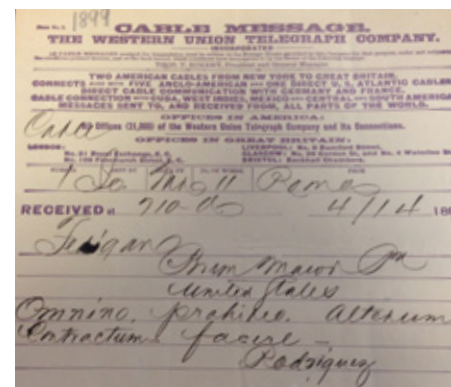
The letter from Middleton, addressed to E.F. Durang stated that “by advice of Counsel” and in the name of the Board of Trustees, secretary of the same and acting for their Chief—the General Superior of the Order—to “desist forthwith from the erection of the said buildings or college.” Fedigan notes that:

“This Order of the General, T.C.M. [Thomas Cooke Middleton] positively refused to show the Provincial.”

Fedigan wrote:

“About this time, my letter of explanation reached the General in Rome, and on Mar. 18th, he cabled as I had requested using word I had used ‘Proceed.’ Having this in hand we met in Mr. Durang’s office and signed for the other building, the College.

“But this was not to be the end of the difficulty, for the General wrote the same day he sent the cablegram and his letter stated that he had approved of one building only, and when he heard that we had signed for the second, sent another cablegram condemning that action and forbidding the construction to go on. This only added



UPON LEARNING BOTH BUILDINGS WERE PROCEEDING, RODRIGUEZ SENT A CABLEGRAM “ABSOLUTELY FORBIDDEN TO MAKE ANOTHER CONTRACT.”

confusion to confusion and emboldened the opposition still more, so that the same Dr. Middleton then sent out a circular type-written letter to all houses of the Order saying that the General had also forbidden “All Trustees” of all corporations, to mortgage, sell or in any way burden property belonging to the Order. The General also wrote to Fathers of the Province to get their thoughts on the buildings. I asked to see this order from Rome, also, but received the pertinent and characteristic reply—‘I can’t show it to you Father.’”

On May 26th, 1899, Fedigan wrote:

“Received the resignation of Rev. Fr. O’Reilly as Trustee of the Provincial Fund, who in his letter of resignation boasts that he was sustained by the Father General in his contention about Statute No. 13 and now that he was so sustained, he thought best for the interests of peace to resign. Cool logic.”

June 30, 1899, Fedigan wrote,

“Also filled the vacancy in the office of Trustee of Provincial Fund by the appointment of the Rev. L.A. Delurey in place of the Rev. J.T. O’Reilly, resigned.”

On August 2, 1899, Fedigan wrote:

“The long looked for letters from Rome came to hand only on the 31st. In these The Most Rev. Father General Thomas Rodriguez, having carefully examined and considered the project of new and commodious buildings, namely a new convent (Monastery) and a New College at Villanova, and having found that the majority of the Fathers of this Province heartily approved of and to the erection of said buildings pledged their generous support, does by these letters, approve of the same.”

October 24, 1900 Fr. Fedigan read a letter to the Prior and Community of Villanova before the move to the new Monastery:

“O Lord we thank Thee for all thy past favors and beseech thee to increase and multiply them in our new home...unless we live according to Rule, we cannot have peace with ourselves, God or our brethren in religion, but if we keep the Rule, this rule will keep us, and make us truly happy in time and in Eternity.”

### FEDIGAN DECLINES NOMINATION FOR

The first session of the Provincial Chapter of 1902 was held on July 14th in the new Villanova Monastery. Fedigan declined to be nominated for a second term and Martin J. Geraghty, O.S.A., was elected as Prior Provincial. Fedigan delivered a candid Provincial Report covering his four years as Provincial. He spoke of the misery and sleepless nights he encountered because of those who tried to thwart his building project. He suggested the work of the College and Monastery be divided to have a separate Prior, President and Procurator.

The document also lists the following as contributors to pay for the Monastery and New College during his term as Provincial: The Province Trust Fund \$86,215; Eighteen Augustinian parishes \$101,750; Our Mother of Good Counsel Magazine, subscriptions: \$1,800; Priest Missionary returns for four years: \$40,000; Collections and donations: \$34,457; Sale of Land: \$47,000; By loan: \$20,000.

Fedigan was proud that only \$20,000 was left due on both buildings, calling it a “good showing for the Crank Provincial...indeed it was a bitter fight.”

“May the next provincial have less trouble and more glory than fell to the lot of

Yours Truly,  
J.J. Fedigan, O.S.A.



PHOTO USED AT THE TIME OF FR. FEDIGAN'S DEATH

Fr. Fedigan left office and with it any connection to the operations of the Province, Villanova College or the Villanova Monastery.

He became prior and pastor of Our Mother of Good Counsel in Bryn Mawr, Pa. from 1902 to 1906.

He died at the Villanova Monastery on April 27, 1908, the same month and day on which he was born. He was 66 years old. The Provincial, Fr. Martin J. Geraghty, O.S.A., said the Mass. Fr. Delurey preached. About 80 priests attended, along with Archbishop Ryan and Bishop Prendergast. →



## COLLEGE PRESIDENT LAURENCE A. DELUREY, O.S.A., TAKES ON ACADEMIC & FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

“You have the buildings, now build up a college faculty of the first order.”

J.J. FEDIGAN, O.S.A.



The task of managing the Monastery as well as modernizing the curriculum and faculty of Villanova College fell to Laurence Augustine Delurey, O.S.A., the sixteenth president of Villanova College. Delurey had been president since January 15, 1895, when Francis McShane, O.S.A., resigned the presidency.

In 1898, a Villanova College Board of Administration was formed and Delurey took on the role of treasurer. In 1898, he was elected prior and procurator of the monastery. In 1899 he was appointed Trustee and Treasurer of the Provincial Trust when O'Reilly resigned. Above and beyond the cost of the construction of both buildings, the Provincial Trust was authorized to cover the purchase of furnishings for the Monastery and College.

In January 1901, Delurey led the Augustinian community, then 49 priests, brothers, clerics, novices and oblates into the new monastery.

In September 1901 he oversaw the transfer of approximately 150 college students from Alumni Hall to New College Hall (later known as Mendel Hall and now Tolentine Hall).

In 1901, Delurey reorganized the Academy preparatory school, renaming it Saint Nicholas of Tolentine Academy. Delurey became the Academy's headmaster and prefect of studies. The Academy (which moved to Malvern in 1922 and became Malvern Prep) now had its own faculty and classes in Alumni Hall.

After the buildings were in operation Delurey made strides in academic accreditation, and revised the curriculum to include a Fine Arts Department and a School of Technology (later the Engineering

Department), with civil, electrical and mechanical engineering courses.

In 1901, Delurey began receiving honors for his work with special recognition from Pope Leo XIII who bestowed a Master of Sacred Theology with the title of Doctor of Divinity on Delurey.

The beloved president and scholar had attained much for Villanova College, but also suffered immense financial crises as the cost of operations and faculty grew in the first decade of the 20th century.

Delurey had financial responsibility over the College, the Academy, the Monastery, the Novitiate and the farm. He frequently made note of the fact that he had trouble making ends meet.

The college had no endowment fund. Tuition and board was not increased until 1908, while costs associated with students, building maintenance, new courses and salaried faculty skyrocketed.

In Villanova's 1903 Program of Reception, Delurey stated: "Catholic academies and colleges are being maintained at a great sacrifice, and those who are in the position of authority sometimes groan under the heavy burden resting upon them."

Delurey's presidency came to an abrupt end on June 20, 1910, when he was summoned to a special meeting called by the Provincial to address a \$30,000 note Delurey had signed as treasurer of Villanova College in a failed attempt to raise funds through a stock purchase. The underlying issue: although Delurey was responsible



WITH THE NEW COLLEGE HALL IN OPERATION, ALUMNI HALL BECAME FULLY DEDICATED TO THE ACADEMY.

for the operations at Villanova, he was not approved to borrow money on behalf of the College.

The June 1910 Chapter voted to strip Delurey of all positions held at Villanova, stripped him of the right to vote and be voted upon for any position. Prior General Rodriguez, head of the Order in Rome approved the decree.

In a Definitory meeting on June 24, 1910, Provincial Geraghty was empowered to raise funds to pay off the debts at Villanova. Financial records would ultimately show Delurey had acted on his own, signing as treasurer of Villanova

College on notes to secure funds to pay expenses incurred over a ten-year period in the operations of the College. The total indebtedness from notes signed by Fr. Delurey for the College was \$233,000.

To make matters worse, on March 9, 1914, a lawsuit was filed against Villanova College in a Philadelphia courtroom to recoup funds loaned to Delurey through a former faculty member. The suit went to trial and Delurey and Middleton, who testified on behalf of the College, were deposed. Local papers covered the trial in detail. In the end, the jury decided against the claimant, although the loan was paid back by the Province.

In May of 1916, a committee was created to formulate plans to settle all of the debt. The committee included Fr. James T. O'Reilly, O.S.A., who had warned against the "folly" of what he considered to be an over-expansion of the College, leading to a "shameful disaster." In the end, it took nine years to pay off the debts.

Delurey remained committed to the Augustians. He was moved to several assignments, including Chicago, the Bronx, N.Y. and Havana, Cuba, always hoping to clear his debts and his name. On January 29, 1919, the indebtedness created by Delurey was fully paid and a new assignment was sent to Delurey bringing him back to the U.S. from Cuba to St. Augustine, Troy, N.Y. His final assignment was at St. John's in Schaghticoke, N.Y., his home parish.

Laurence Augustine Delurey, O.S.A., died on December 21, 1922 in the Troy Hospital, Troy, N.Y. He was 55 years of age. Nicholas J. Vasey, O.S.A., Prior Provincial of the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova said the funeral Mass.



THE NEW COLLEGE DINING ROOM. FROM ITS EARLIEST DAYS VILLANOVA'S FARM AND DAIRY PROVIDED FOOD FOR THE INSTITUTION AND WERE MAINTAINED BY LAY BROTHERS OF THE ORDER. BUILDING AND GROUND MAINTENANCE WERE ALSO HANDLED BY LAY BROTHERS. WITH THE NUMBER OF LAY BROTHERS IN DECLINE IN THE EARLY 1900S, THE INCREASED FOOD AND MAINTENANCE DEMANDS COULD NOT BE MET WITHOUT PAID HELP.

David R. Contosta, author of *Villanova University, 1842-1992: American-Catholic-Augustinian*, notes: "In a larger sense, the Delurey tragedy was part of the price Villanova paid for its dramatic expansion. If Father Middleton, who had opposed the building project from the beginning was tempted to say 'I told you so,' he apparently held his tongue—or at least his pen. Father Fedigan had died and was not there to protect his old friend."

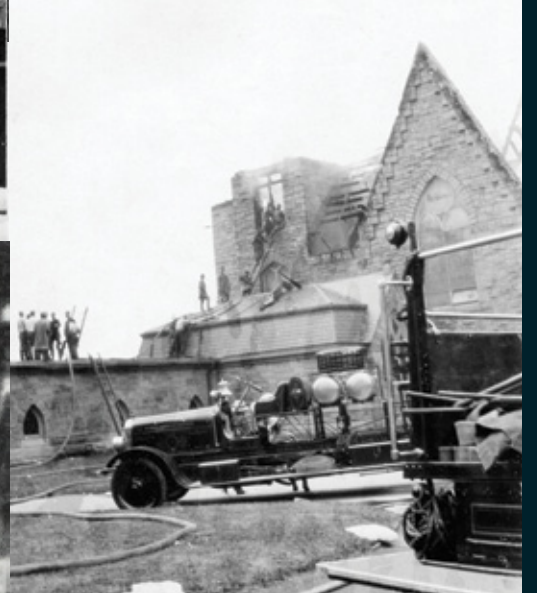
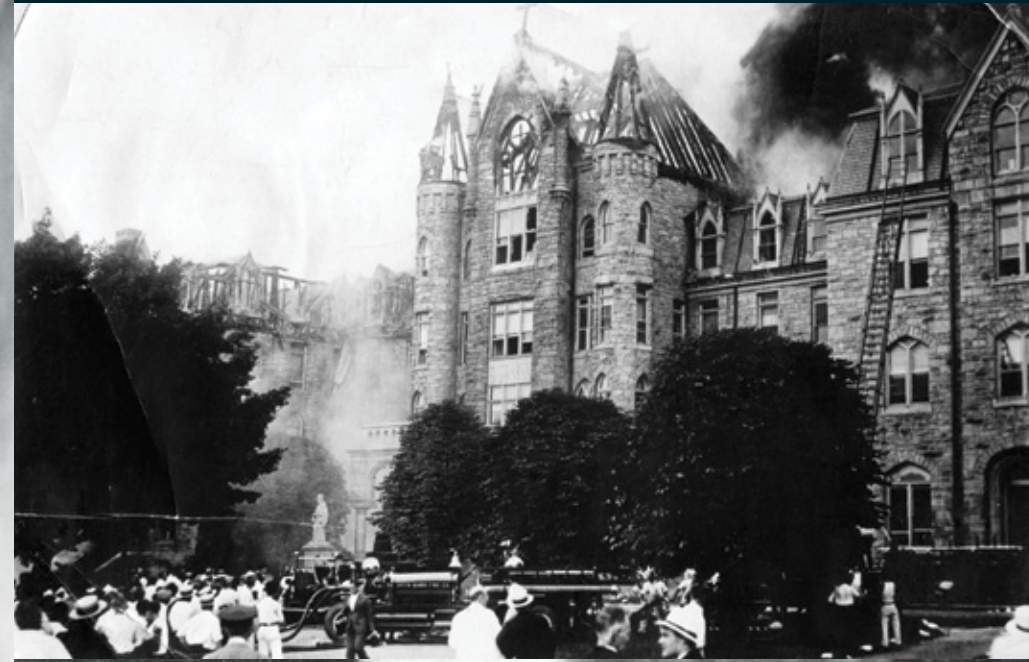
The late Edwin T. Grimes, O.S.A., who provided the biographical sketch on Delurey in the book *Men of Heart Volume II*, published in 1986, summarizes it this way: "With almost total lack of capital, and left on his own devices to

make good, as Delurey was, he did keep the doors of the College open and the institution functioned normally, unaware of the president's troubles...One wonders if Delurey had been able to meet his financial obligations...would he have been considered a folk-hero?"

In fact, Fr. Delurey kept the doors of the Monastery, the Novitiate and the Academy open too.

In 1943, Edward V. Stanford, O.S.A., president of Villanova College (1932-1944) named Delurey Hall on the campus of Villanova for him. ✚

# A GLIMPSE



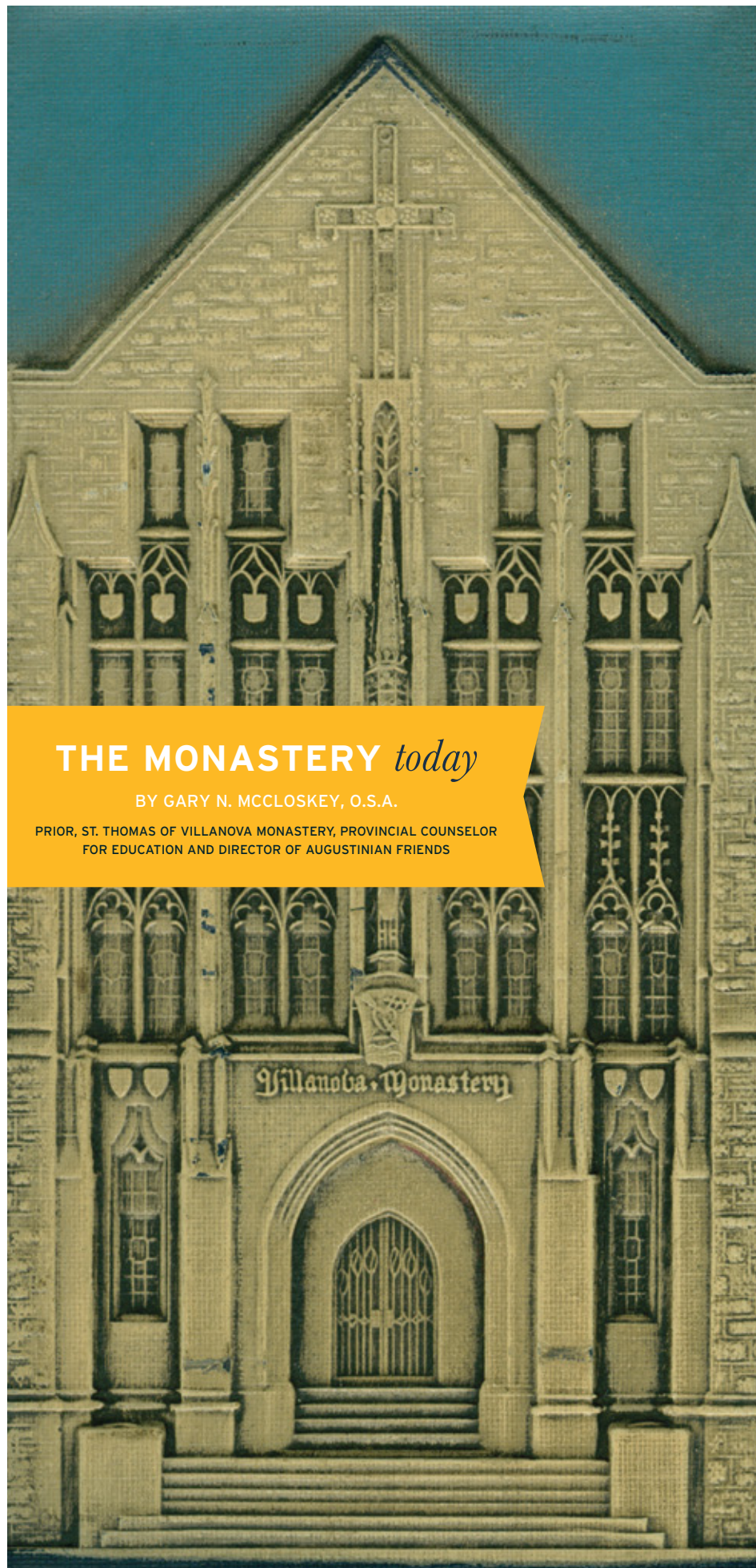
**JANUARY 29, 1928**

FIRE STARTED IN THE DORM AREA OF NEW COLLEGE HALL, WHERE SOME 250 STUDENTS RESIDED IN THE TWO FLOORS ABOVE MOST CLASSROOMS AND LABS. A FOOT OF SNOW ON THE GROUND DELAYED FIREFIGHTERS, BURIED FIRE CONNECTIONS AND FROZE PIPELINES. WITHIN TWO HOURS OF THE BLAZE, WATER WAS EXHAUSTED AND FIREMEN RESORTED TO CHEMICALS. NEW COLLEGE HALL WAS DESTROYED AND PART OF THE MONASTERY WAS DAMAGED. IN 1929 NEW COLLEGE HALL WAS REBUILT WITHIN ITS ORIGINAL WALLS AND RENAMED MENDEL HALL (SEE ABOVE COLOR PHOTO IN COLLAGE).

FIRE BROKE OUT AT THE VILLANOVA MONASTERY DESTROYING THE BUILDING, HISTORIC RECORDS OF THE ORDER, PAINTINGS AND STATUARIES. PRIESTS AND SEMINARIANS JOINED FIREFIGHTERS, WHILE NUNS, WHO WERE ATTENDING SUMMER SCHOOL AT THE COLLEGE, HELPED CARRY FURNISHINGS FROM THE BURNING BUILDING. THE FEDIGAN PORTRAIT ON THE COVER OF THIS ISSUE WAS AMONG THE ITEMS CARRIED TO SAFETY. IN 1933, THE MONASTERY WAS TOTALLY REBUILT IN A DIFFERENT STYLE BY HENRY D. DAGIT & SONS, LOSING ITS FOURTH FLOOR AND ITS GOTHIC TOWERS (SEE ABOVE COLOR PHOTO IN COLLAGE).

**AUGUST 2, 1932**





## THE MONASTERY *today*

BY GARY N. MCCLOSKEY, O.S.A.

PRIOR, ST. THOMAS OF VILLANOVA MONASTERY, PROVINCIAL COUNSELOR FOR EDUCATION AND DIRECTOR OF AUGUSTINIAN FRIENDS



The Monastery, first and foremost is our home. Renovated in 2005, it houses a Residential Care Center, where friars can age in place amidst our fraternal community. There are 59 residential en-suites, housing 9 retired and 17 active Friars, as well as 24 friars in skilled or assisted care, some of whom live in Care Center rooms adjacent to areas where nurses and aides are centered. Nurses and aides also help friars from other local Augustinian communities who need regular or one-time assistance.

In our culture, as people get older their health assessments involve their abilities on Activities of Daily Living (ADLs). For friars, an important part of our daily living is prayer and liturgy. Friars of the Monastery gather communally for Morning and Evening Prayer. Of particular importance is the 11am daily Mass, with the Health Care schedule arranged, to enable even the frailest friar who can, to attend. For those who are physically unable to attend Mass, Holy Communion is brought to their rooms after Mass.

There are full-time and per diem staff members, including 37 who work in the Health Care Center (24/7) along with other staff who work in the Kitchen, Housekeeping and Laundry and in Facilities. Thus in a community of over 50 Augustinians, friars are able to have 3 meals a day with one another.

Our daily prayers remember friars who have served before us as well as family, friends and benefactors who support our life of service. We are grateful to live in community according to the Rule of St. Augustine.



TOP; (L-TO-R) EDWARD E. DORAN, O.S.A., JOSEPH H. GETZ, O.S.A., THOMAS P. DWYER, O.S.A., GORDON E. MARCELLUS, O.S.A., GARY N. MCCLOSKEY, O.S.A. (PRIOR), JAMES V. VITALI, O.S.A., ALFRED J. ELLIS, O.S.A., NEIL J. MC GETTIGAN, O.S.A. 2ND ROW; MICKEY GENOVESE, O.S.A., JAMES L. NOLAN, O.S.A., RECEPTIONIST, ROBERTA ZAMBRANO; FR. GETZ AND FR. DORAN IN THE SITTING ROOM. 3RD ROW: PROVINCIAL, FR. MICKEY GENOVESE WITH FR. GARY N. MCCLOSKEY (PRIOR); FR. TOM DWYER WITH HIS MEMOIR OF JAPAN. 4TH ROW: EDMUND J. DOBBIN, O.S.A. DONALD F. REILLY, O.S.A.; LYNN WALSH, OFFICE MANAGER



FOLLOWING THE 1932 FIRE, THE CHAPEL WAS NEVER REBUILT. DURING RENOVATION OF THE MONASTERY, AN EXTERIOR CHAPEL AND ATRIUM WERE ADDED TO FACE THE VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY CAMPUS. THE 72-SEAT AUGUSTINIAN CHAPEL, DEDICATED ON JUNE 12, 2005 IS IN CONSTANT USE BY THE FRIARS FOR MORNING AND EVENING PRAYERS AND THE 11 A.M. MASS.

DAY SHIFT HEALTH CENTER STAFF: PAMELA FINNERTY, ANGELA GAGLIOTI, MICHAEL GROGAN, JENNIFER HACKETT, GARY N. MCCLOSKEY, O.S.A. (PRIOR), ALENKA HOCEVAR (DIRECTOR OF NURSING), JOANIE GAILEY; JOHN J. FERRENCE, O.S.A. SHARES HIS WIT AND HUMOR AS HE CHATS WITH PAM AND HAS HIS VITALS CHECKED BY ALENKA.



THE KITCHEN STAFF OF THE ST. THOMAS OF VILLANOVA MONASTERY PROVIDES NUTRITIOUS, DELICIOUS BUFFET-STYLE MEALS FOR THE FRIARS 365 DAYS A YEAR. TOP ROW: KYLE SUMPTER, CARLOS BRIONES, ASST. ADMINISTRATIVE CHEF; BOTTOM ROW: SYLVIA JACOME, TREENA MURPHY, JOSEPH LAW, ADMINISTRATIVE CHEF

SOME OF THE PROVINCIAL OFFICES, I.E., THE HERITAGE ROOM, ST. THOMAS OF VILLANOVA PROVINCE ARCHIVES, THE AUGUSTINIAN WAY OF LIFE CENTER, THE VOCATIONS OFFICE AND AUGUSTINIAN FRIENDS ARE WITHIN THE FOOTPRINT OF THE MONASTERY STRUCTURE. PICTURED HERE AT LEFT ARE VOCATIONS DIRECTOR, THOMAS R. MCCARTHY, O.S.A. SPEAKING WITH PRE-NOVICE, JACK TIERNEY; BELOW IS GARY N. MCCLOSKEY, O.S.A., SPEAKING AT THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL AUGUSTINIAN LAITY CONFERENCE IN ROME; CENTER: CHARLES BABCOCK, CHAIRMAN OF THE HERITAGE ROOM COMMITTEE AND MARTIN L. SMITH, O.S.A., CURATOR; RIGHT: JUNE WEILAND, ASSISTANT ARCHIVIST.

## NEWS AND NOTES

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



POPE FRANCIS GREETES MICHAEL F. DI GREGORIO, O.S.A., AFTER THE MOST HOLY FATHER CELEBRATED THE OPENING MASS OF THE GENERAL CHAPTER FOR THE ORDER, HELD IN ROME.

### Former Vicar General Michael F. Di Gregorio, O.S.A., Elected Prior Provincial

Fr. Michael F. Di Gregorio, O.S.A., former vicar general of the Order of Saint Augustine, has been elected prior provincial of the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova, succeeding Anthony M. Genovese, O.S.A. Fr. Di Gregorio's four-year term will begin on June 9, 2014.

A native of Staten Island, N.Y., Fr. Michael professed his first vows in 1966, graduated from Villanova University in 1970, and earned a master's degree from the Washington Theological Union in 1973. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 16, 1973, at Our Mother of Consolation Church, Chestnut Hill, Pa.,

by Bishop Walter Sullivan. Fr. Michael was assigned to parishes in New York and Massachusetts and directed novice and pre-novice formation programs in Massachusetts and Pennsylvania. In 1990, he was assigned to the General Curia of the Order in Rome as the director of communications for the Order. In 1992, he returned to the U.S. and was assigned to serve as the director of the National Shrine of Saint Rita of Cascia in Philadelphia, Pa. In 1995 he was named pastor of St. Rita's as well. As Vicar General, Assistant General to North America and a member of the General Council of the Order, Fr. Michael worked at the General Curia of the Order in Rome from 2007 to 2013.

Fr. Di Gregorio will be installed during the Province Chapter, which will be held June 8-13, 2014, at Villanova.



### Stephen M. Curry, O.S.A., Receives Doctorate in Education

In March 2014, Fr. Stephen M. Curry, O.S.A., successfully defended his doctoral dissertation, which evaluated the Student Augustine Values Institute (SAVI). He received the title of Doctor of Education from Seton Hall University. Fr. Curry is currently assigned to Saint Augustine Prep in Richland, N.J.



### Francis E. Chambers, O.S.A., Defends Dissertation, Earns Doctorate

In November 2013, Fr. Francis E. Chambers, O.S.A., successfully defended his dissertation at Washington Theological Union, earning a doctoral degree in Ministry. Fr. Frank holds master's degrees in Formative Spirituality (Duquesne University), Counseling (Villanova University) and Theological Studies (Washington Theological Union). Fr. Frank recruits for Villanova University in international locations and he is the Coordinator of Transfer Recruitment.



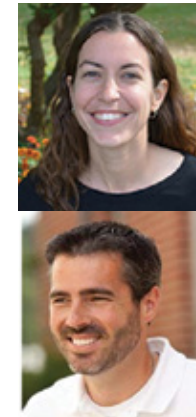
CASCIA CENTER ARCHITECT'S RENDERING



DAN MCLAUGHLIN, O.S.A., CAPTURES THE DEMOLITION OF THE OLD ST. RITA PARISH SCHOOL.

### Demolition of St. Rita Parish School for New Cascia Center at the National Shrine of St. Rita

In mid-January, the old (1951) grade school building at St. Rita of Cascia Parish located in South Philadelphia was demolished to make way for the new Cascia Center. St. Rita's Parish Church and the National Shrine below it will remain untouched. Guided by the peacemaking efforts of St. Rita, the Cascia Center will be a non-denominational resource, facilitating conflict resolution, offering paths to peace, spirituality, fellowship and community. Visit [www.casciacenter.org](http://www.casciacenter.org) for more information.



### New Director of Augustinian Volunteers

In January 2014, Joanna Bowen joined the staff as director of the Augustinian Volunteers, taking over the leadership from Patrick DiDomenico, who had resigned. A former Volunteer himself who had served in San Diego and South Africa, Pat had been director since 2011. He and his wife Amy, also a former Volunteer, welcomed their first child in August 2013. Joanna served as a Volunteer in San Diego in 2007. She has her BA from Villanova and earned a graduate degree in Counseling and Human Relations there while serving as an intern at Villanova's Campus Ministry. She had also served on the Advisory Council for the Augustinian Volunteers.

### Michael F. Di Gregorio, O.S.A., Led Vicariate's Annual Retreat in Japan

The Vicariate of Japan held its annual retreat February 17 to 21 at the Passionist Retreat House near Fukuoka, Japan. Fr. Michael F. Di Gregorio, O.S.A., led the retreat, which was attended by all the members of the Vicariate. Participating were the Vicariate's two students in formation, Futoshi Matsuo, 31 years of age, who was simply professed in February, 2013, and is now beginning his second year of theology in Australia, and 28 year old pre-novice, Atsushi Kuwahara, who entered the community in December, 2013.



ROW 1: FR. MASAMI YAMAGUCHI, O.S.A., FR. MAURICE MAHONEY, O.S.A., FR. MICHAEL DI GREGORIO, O.S.A., FR. MICHAEL HILDEN, O.S.A., BR. ANDREW AKAKURA, O.S.A. AND FR. MITARU TOYAMA, O.S.A.

ROW 2: FR. HIROYUKI SHIBATA, O.S.A. (VICAR), FR. JESSE DANO, O.S.A. (CEBU), FR. ANTHONY YAMANO, O.S.A., BR. MASAYA IDE, O.S.A., FR. TETSUYA HIRANO, O.S.A., FR. CHARLIE POMUCENO, O.S.A. (CEBU), FR. MASAKI IMADA, O.S.A., BR. FUTOSHI MATSUO, O.S.A. AND ATSUSHI KUWAHARA (PRE-NOVICE)

### Peruvian Friars' First Profession

In Peru, ten young men made their first profession of vows at the end of January 2014. We congratulate them as they continue with their studies and their formation as Augustinian Friars.



## ANNIVERSARIES 2014

### ANNIVERSARY OF RELIGIOUS PROFESSION

#### 70 YEARS

Russell J. DeSimone, O.S.A.  
Joseph J. Getz, O.S.A.  
Robert E. Steinman, O.S.A.

#### 65 YEARS

John J. Byrnes, O.S.A.  
Eugene A. DelConte, O.S.A.

#### 60 YEARS

John P. Betoni, O.S.A.  
William M. Cleary, O.S.A.  
Edmund J. Dobbin, O.S.A.  
William T. Garland, O.S.A.  
Howard W. McGraw, O.S.A.

#### 55 YEARS

T. Shawn Tracy, O.S.A.  
Ralph J. Monteiro, O.S.A.

#### 50 YEARS

Thomas J. Casey, O.S.A.  
Fritz J. Cerullo, O.S.A.  
Adrian Gilligan, O.S.A.

### ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

#### 70 YEARS

Cherubin F. Kerr, O.S.A.

#### 55 YEARS

James L. MacDougall, O.S.A.

#### 50 YEARS

Francis A. Farsaci, O.S.A.  
Michael J. Scanlon, O.S.A.  
Joseph F. Wimmer, O.S.A.

#### 25 YEARS

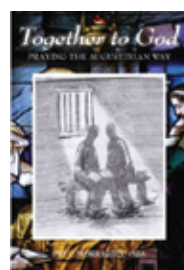
Patrick B. McStravog, O.S.A.  
John F. Payne, O.S.A.  
Francis J. Caponi, O.S.A.



BISHOP DANIEL TURLEY, O.S.A., JOINS IN THE GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONIES FOR COLEGIO SAN AGUSTÍN.

### Bishop Daniel Turley, O.S.A., of Chulucanas, Peru, Blesses Land for a New School

On January 7, 2014, Bishop Daniel Turley, O.S.A., head of the Chulucanas Diocese, blessed the land in Trujillo, Peru, that will become the permanent home of the new Catholic school, sponsored by the Augustinian Vicariate of Chulucanas. Copies of documents authorizing the opening of Colegio San Agustín (St. Augustine Private School) were placed in the ground by the friars. The Province of St. Thomas in the East, along with the the Midwest and Western Provinces, contributed for the purchase of the land.



### “Together to God” Prayer Pamphlet

“Together to God: Praying the Augustinian Way,” a pamphlet written by Fr.

Paul F. Morrissey, O.S.A., and published by Liguori Press, is available in English and Spanish. It can be ordered from the Liguori website: <http://www.liguori.org/>



### Craig M. McMahon, O.S.A., Advances in His Program of Study

Fr. Craig M. McMahon, O.S.A., who was ordained at St. Thomas of Villanova Church in June 2013, resides at a parish community in Hammersmith, London, while studying at the London School of Economics. Fr. Craig has been advanced from the MSc. program to the MSc. Res. (Research) program. This resulted from the quality of his work thus far and his preparation. This moves him further along the road to the MPhil/Ph.D.



FRONT ROW: FR. JERRY KNIES, O.S.A. (PRIOR), NOVICES COLIN NARDONE, GLADSON DE ABREO, ARTHUR BOLIVAR, AND JACEK DABROWSKI; MIDDLE ROW: FR. KEVIN MULLINS, O.S.A. (PASTOR); FR. JIM PARADIS, O.S.A. (NOVICE DIRECTOR); FR. BERNIE SCIANNA, O.S.A., (PRIOR PROVINCIAL, MIDWEST AUGUSTINIANS) AND NOVICE MAXIME VILLENEUVE; BACK ROW: NOVICES NICK MULLARKEY, BOBBY BAIOTTO, PHILLIP YANG, AND JOE SIEGEL.

### James D. Paradis, O.S.A., Installed as Novice Director

Fr. Jim Paradis, O.S.A., was installed as the newly appointed director of novices at the inter-provincial novitiate in Racine, Wisconsin, on December 7, 2013. The installation took place during Saturday evening’s vigil Mass at St. Rita of Cascia Parish in Racine, Wisconsin. Fr. Jim, originally from Michigan, did his novitiate year at Racine.



### Extraordinary in the Ordinary

January 30, 1911- December 9, 2014

Fr. Bresnahan, affectionately known as “Fr B.,” retired to the Villanova Monastery in 1995. Eighteen years later, at the age of 102, Fr B. died peacefully there. He was the oldest Augustinian in North America.

During his homily at the funeral Mass for Fr. B., Lee Makowski, O.S.A., (pictured right) remembered the eight years he lived with Fr. B. while studying for his doctorate:

“A person who has eyes to see realizes the ordinary is really quite extraordinary.

“Here was a man, Fr B., who came into the world and understood as Jesus told us, that we are to serve and not be interested in being served.

“The man that we celebrate tonight had abundant room for everyone. The person we are celebrating tonight always had time for us. He always said yes. He always understood that the key was service.

“Every Saturday Fr. B. would come to my room and say ‘Well are we going or not.’ He wanted to go for a ride and have dinner. So we would go for a ride and have dinner and we would talk. If I had something on my mind, some problem, I could tell him and he would listen and he would always respond in the perfect way:

‘You can’t spend your life stuck in time. We’re not created for time. We are created to touch the eternal.



### Augustinian Named New Bishop in Argentina

On February 10, 2014, Pope Francis

announced that José Demetrio Jiménez Sanchez-Mariscal, O.S.A., of the Province of Spain and of the Vicariate of Argentina, has been named as Bishop of the Prelature of Cafayate, Argentina. Bishop-elect Jiménez Sanchez-Mariscal was born in Los Cerralbos, Spain, and entered the Order as a novice in the Province of Spain. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1988. He has worked in Spain but has been in Argentina since 1999. In addition to serving at parishes, he has served in the Formation house and as secretary and as regional superior of the Vicariate in Buenos Aires.



The point is this—no matter what happens to you, it could be the preamble to something that is absolutely extraordinary in the ordinary.’

“Fr. B. was a profound example of what St. John, Jesus’ cousin said, ‘I must decrease and you must increase.’

“We need to recognize, as Fr. B. did, that we need to be living not for the moments in time, but for the whole, for the eternal, because that is our destiny.

“My hope is that as we pray this beautiful Mass for Fr. B., we will all feel that divine energy that he so beautifully communicated to all of us.

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.*



**Francis J. Caponi, O.S.A.**

Francis J. Caponi, O.S.A., earned a BA and a BAH at Villanova University. He

entered the pre-novitiate program in 1983, did his novitiate year in Lawrence, Mass. and professed first vows on August 10, 1985. He went on to Augustinian College in Washington, DC, earned an MA in Theology at the Washington Theological Union and was ordained on September 30, 1989 at St. Thomas of Villanova Church. Fr. Frank's first assignment was at Immaculate Conception Parish, Hoosick Falls, N.Y., (1989-1991). From 1991-1994, he did his graduate studies at Harvard Divinity School and in 1994, he taught part-time at Villanova University while completing his dissertation. In 1998, he returned to Washington, DC, and taught at the Washington Theological Union until 2005. He received his PhD from Harvard University in 2000. In 2005, he returned to Villanova University to teach. Since 2008, he has resided at St. Augustine Friary at Malvern Preparatory School in Malvern, Pa.



**Cherubin F. Kerr, O.S.A.**

Cherubin F. Kerr, O.S.A., was born in Malta and entered the Order on September 22, 1936. After a year in the novitiate, he

professed first vows on October 3, 1937. He completed his studies at Saint Mark Seminary in Rabat. Fr. Kerr was at the seminary when it was bombed during WWII. He was ordained to the priesthood on March 25, 1944, at Saint John Co-Cathedral, Valetta. He taught at St. Augustine College, Malta, for thirteen years and served as a prison chaplain for nine years before coming to the United States to serve with the Italian Vice Province. He served at Our Lady of Pompeii and St. Mary in East Vineland, N.J. and St. Nicholas of Tolentine in Philadelphia. In 1990, he was assigned to St. Augustine Preparatory School in Richland N.J. Fr. Kerr was a member of the Province of Malta until 2002, when he became affiliated with the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova. He retired to St. Thomas Monastery in 2009.



**Patrick B. McStravog, O.S.A.**

Patrick B. McStravog, O.S.A., earned a BBA in Finance from the University of

Miami, Coral Gables, Fla. (1981). He did his novitiate year in Lawrence, Mass., and professed first vows on August 4, 1984. He went to Augustinian College, Washington, DC, received his MDiv from the Washington Theological Union and was ordained to the priesthood on September 30, 1989, at Saint Thomas of Villanova Church. He first served at Merrimack College, North Andover, Mass., as Director of Campus Ministry and Director of Student Activities (1990-1994). In 1994, he volunteered for the mission in Japan and served for five years. He then served as vocation director (1999-2001). From 2001-2009, he taught at Malvern Prep, was Chair of the Theology Department and a Trustee of the school. In 2010, he served as

associate pastor at Saint Augustine Church, Philadelphia, Pa. In August 2011, he was assigned to St. Augustine Prep in New Jersey as Assistant to the President for Mission & Ministry.



**John F. Payne, O.S.A.**

John F Payne, O.S.A., attended Villanova University, entered the pre-novitiate program

there in 1981 and earned a BA in English in 1983. He did his novitiate year in Lawrence, Mass. and on August 4, 1984, he professed first vows. He completed theological studies at Washington Theological Union, where he earned an MA in systematic theology. He was ordained November 18, 1989, at St. Augustine Church in Washington, DC, founded by former slaves and free people of color and known as the Mother Church of African Americans in Washington, DC. He was assigned there, serving as associate pastor (1989-1996), the first African American ordained and assigned there. In 1995, he was appointed Director of the "He Rose Project" at the Duke Ellington School of the Arts in Washington, DC. In 2000 he was named as Dean of Students. He currently serves as Director of Student Affairs, a position to which he was named in 2011.

**TO CONTACT FR. CAPONI:**  
Saint Augustine Friary at Albers Hall  
Malvern Preparatory School  
418 South Warren Avenue  
Malvern, PA 19355-2707

**TO CONTACT FR. KERR:**  
Saint Thomas Monastery  
800 E. Lancaster Avenue  
Villanova University  
Villanova, PA 19085-1687

**TO CONTACT FR. McSTRAVOG:**  
St. Augustine Preparatory School  
611 Cedar Avenue  
Richland, NJ 08350-0279

**TO CONTACT FR. PAYNE:**  
617 Delafield Place, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20011



IN PARADISUM

*The following friars were 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)*



**Augustus C. Sandmann, O.S.A.**

BORN: 8/20/1921  
FIRST PROFESSION: 9/10/1940  
ORDAINED: 9/8/1947  
DIED: 11/17/2013

Fr. Gus served at many of the same parishes at different times; the longevity and continuity of his service in each of these parishes provided him with the opportunity to serve many generations of the same families.



**John E. Bresnahan, O.S.A.**

BORN: 1/30/1911  
FIRST PROFESSION: 9/10/1929  
ORDAINED: 6/9/1936  
DIED: 12/9/2013

Known to all as Fr. B, as librarian at Augustinian College (1968-1995), he advised many theological students as they researched topics for their class projects and papers. He had a wealth of knowledge and insight that he most willingly shared with all. He epitomized the example of a true follower of St. Augustine in the sharing of what he learned with others and his life in community. His generosity and gentle kindness was a blessing to all.



**Edward V. Griffin, O.S.A.**

BORN: 1/20/1922  
FIRST PROFESSION: 9/10/1943  
ORDAINED: 6/7/1949  
DIED: 1/4/2014

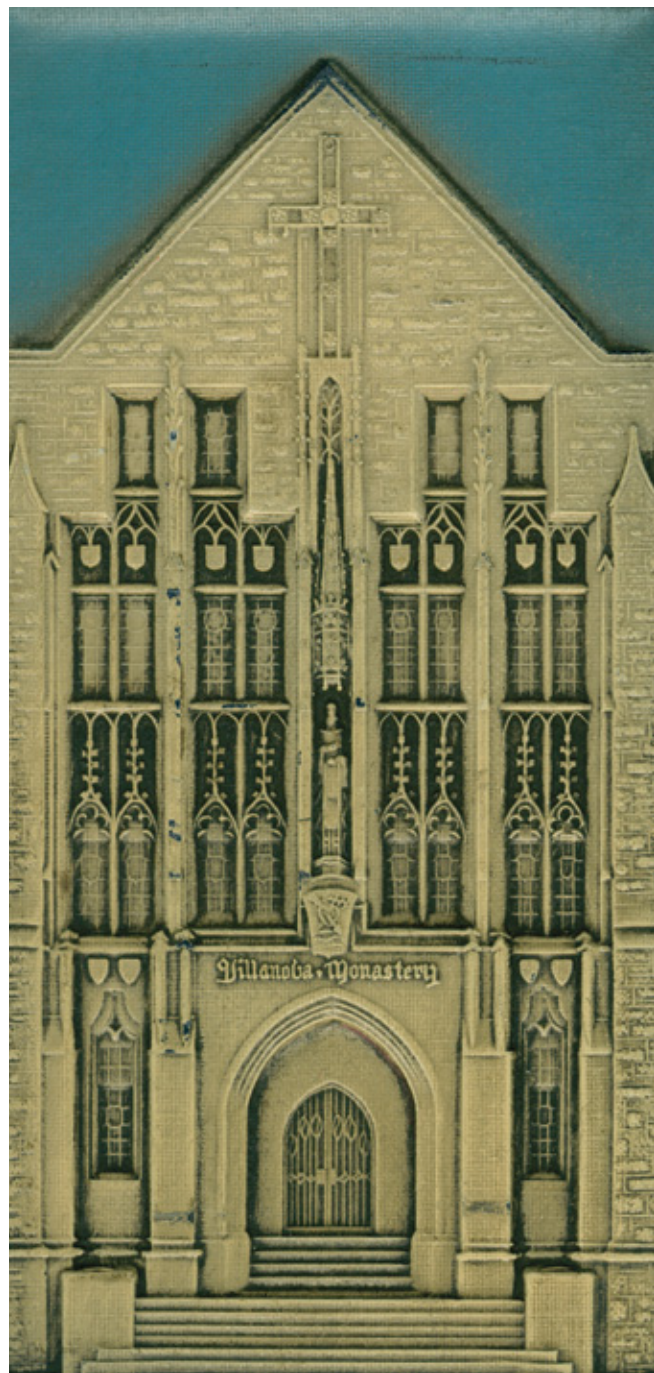
After his first assignments Fr. Ed volunteered for the then newly established mission in Japan, where he served as pastor at several parishes and as regional superior (1972-1978), over a 26-year period. Fr. Ed was a kind and gentle man, who followed the Rule of St. Augustine, especially imitating its first principle of "loving God and one's neighbor."



**Roger M. Hanouille, O.S.A.**

BORN: 6/9/1933  
FIRST PROFESSION: 9/10/1952  
ORDAINED: 7/12/1959  
DIED: 1/26/2014

Fr. Roger, in the spirit of St. Augustine the scholar, teacher and preacher, spent his life studying, teaching and ministering to God's people. He studied the Fathers of the Church and their profound impact on our understanding of the central mysteries of our faith, sharing that understanding with those to whom he ministered.



“A Monastery, where they may find a real and happy home as a “Mother House” who worn out by their labors in the vineyard of the Lord, or coming back in the evening of their missionary lives may seek rest...and die in the midst of their brethren with whom they cast their lot, while the prayer of the living goes up as sweet incense to the throne of the Almighty for the soul that is passing away to the reward of all its labors.”

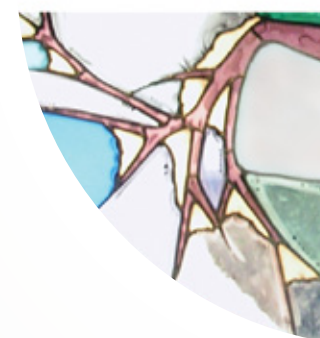
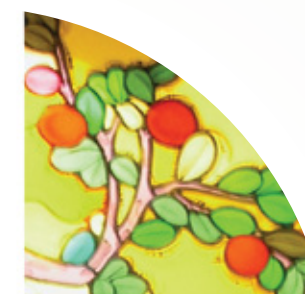
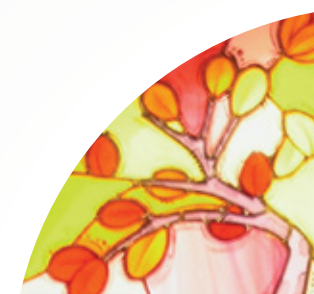
JOHN J. FEDIGAN, O.S.A., JULY 31, 1899

John Joseph Fedigan, O.S.A., died on April 27, 1908 in the midst of his brethren at the Villanova Monastery he built and opened to residents in January 1901. Friars still hold Fr. Fedigan and all deceased members of the Province in prayer.

Today, the Villanova Monastery is a place where elderly friars, worn by age and labors in the s for compensation. Despite their physical limitations, the aged and infirm Monastery community continues their ministry of prayer with prayers for you.

An Augustinian like Fr. Tom Dwyer, O.S.A., who retired to the Villanova Monastery after 52 years of service in our mission in Japan, is able to write the memoirs of his missionary life in Japan and receive the physical support and spiritual sustenance he needs on a daily basis.

*Thank you for your support!*



*There is a time for everything,  
And a season for every activity  
under the heavens.*

**ECCL. 3.1**

## DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Anthony M. Genovese, O.S.A., *Prior Provincial*  
Charles P. Connolly, Jr., *Chairman*  
Basil DiSipio, *Co-Chair, Annual Appeal*  
Eric Quisenberry, *Co-Chair, Annual Appeal*  
Mario R. Dickerson, *Director of Development*  
Anthony Dellomo

Richard E. Devine, Jr.  
Raymond Falzone  
Peter Federico  
Anthony Madrigale  
William Mahoney  
Robert McKiernan  
Claudia Piccirilli  
Michael Picotte  
Jonathan Poling

Robert Saldutti  
Margaret (Meg) Sheetz  
James H. Stewart  
Robert Woods

## HONORARY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL MEMBERS

William Hallissey  
Gary Holloway, Sr.

Every season of life poses challenges and questions on the best way to take care of ourselves, our loved ones and the organizations we care about.

As you plan for these seasons, please consider the Augustinians in those plans for a legacy that will weather all seasons.

## CONTACT

Mario Dickerson  
610.527.3330 Ext. 265



**THE AUGUSTINIAN**  
P.O. Box 340  
Villanova, PA 19085-0340

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 16  
Wayne, PA

*the prayer garden of*  
**ST. THOMAS OF VILLANOVA**

The Prayer Garden is a gathering space situated beside the St. Thomas of Villanova Monastery on the campus of Villanova University. Each day friars, friends and students come to pray amid the walkways paved with memorial bricks.

Support the work of the Augustinians and share this sacred space with a memorial brick dedicated to a friar, friend or family member.

You can now make your donation, reserve and inscribe your brick online!

**SHARE THIS SACRED SPACE WITH THE AUGUSTINIANS TODAY...and always.**



**FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO:**  
[www.augustinian.org/what-we-do/st-thomas-monastery/buy-a-brick](http://www.augustinian.org/what-we-do/st-thomas-monastery/buy-a-brick)

**OR CALL THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE:**  
610-527-3330 Ext. 221