
THE AUGUSTINIAN

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“Everything is grace, everything is gift.”

– MICHAEL F. DI GREGORIO, O.S.A.



CARE OF THE SICK AND ELDERLY FRIARS

Many friars listed in our In Paradisum columns were lovingly cared for in the St. Thomas of Villanova Monastery. Thank you for the grace and gift of home.

FOREIGN MISSIONS

This fund supports our ministries and our friars who serve in Peru and Japan. Thank you for the grace and gift to our parishes, schools and vocation formation in our foreign missions.

AUGUSTINIAN VOLUNTEERS

Post-college graduates volunteer for a year of service in Peru and five domestic cities. They come to serve generously, but receive much more than they give. Thank you for the grace and gift that connects young people to service and community.

VOCATION AND FORMATION

Augustinian formation programs include the Pre-Novitiate, Novitiate and a House of Theology. Thank you for the grace and gift to discern the Augustinian way of life.

JUSTICE AND PEACE

Our Province Director of Justice and Peace, John E. Deegan, O.S.A., works for justice, so peace will follow. Thank you for the grace and gift to be a catalyst for peace.

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OR USE THE ENVELOPE PROVIDED IN THIS ISSUE.



Cover photo by Bryan Smith
Installation Mass and Chapter photos by Daniel J. McLaughlin, O.S.A.
Additional Installation and Chapter photos by Bryan Smith

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ON THE COVER:

Michael F. Di Gregorio, Prior Provincial of the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova. This photo was taken on June 11, 2014, at the historic St. Thomas of Villanova Church on the campus of Villanova University. The church was erected by the Order and dedicated by Archbishop Ryan on July 4, 1887. Since its opening, it has served as St. Thomas of Villanova Parish Church and as Villanova University Campus Church. The church was designed by Edwin Forrest Durang (1829-1911), a well-known Philadelphia ecclesiastical architect and the brother-in-law of James T. O'Reilly, O.S.A. The church was closed for two years (1990-1992) while it underwent major renovations by architect George Yu.

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Meet Our New Prior Provincial, Michael F. Di Gregorio, O.S.A.

Fr. Michael Di Gregorio, O.S.A., elected in February, was installed as the new Prior Provincial of the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova at the Ordinary Chapter in June 2014. Having completed his term as Vicar General of the Order of St. Augustine in Rome, Fr. Michael takes up the charge given by the Province members, to lead the Province for the next four years.

This article gives you a look at Fr. Michael's early influences growing up on Staten Island, N.Y., from his parents and grandparents, to a saintly pastor who patiently answered his questions of church and faith. It gives you a sense of where Fr. Michael has served as an Augustinian priest and his connection to and friendship with St. Rita of Cascia, who continues to inform and lead him on his path.

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Works of the 2014 Ordinary Provincial Chapter

At their Ordinary Provincial Chapter, held every four years, the Augustinian friars install the Provincial, elect his team of Counselors and his staff, and, after discussing the needs of the Church, determine as a Province how to answer those needs and develop a "Program for the Province," which the Provincial, with the aid of his Counselors, is charged to carry out during his term.

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The Provincial's New Team

Meet the friars who have been elected to serve on the Provincial's staff as treasurer and secretary, as well as the six friars elected as Counselors, who will serve as advisors and aides to the Provincial in executing the "Program of the Province."

THE AUGUSTINIAN

A publication of the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova.



LETTER FROM THE

PRIOR PROVINCIAL

Dear Friends,

It is a great joy for me to greet you at the beginning of my ministry as Prior Provincial of the Augustinians of the Saint Thomas of Villanova Province.

While I am new to this role of service, my journey with the friars has occupied more than four decades, has introduced me to hundreds of the brothers and sisters who are members of our religious family and has brought me to many places on the Augustinian map. The opportunities that have been granted to me over these years have been blessings, and I have confidence that God will make of my present ministry a blessing to me as well.

As you turn the pages of this issue of *The Augustinian*, I hope you will understand why I speak of blessings. They come in many forms: in people and events, in hopes and dreams, in works and achievements. Sometimes, however, they also come disguised — as challenges or bumps in the road — but, with the benefit of distance, time and reflection, they can be seen in a different light.

A large and important element of our Augustinian life is featured in this issue of our magazine. It is our Provincial Chapter, that event in the life of our Province which brings together friars from many corners, whether they live at home or abroad, for a period of fraternal sharing in a setting of prayer and conversation, review of life and ministry, planning and decision-making. The communion of life that is ours, expressed in a special way in the experience of the Provincial Chapter, is a blessing to us. As brothers we enjoy coming together, celebrating with one another, and exploring the ways in which to do best the mission that we claim.

During the Chapter we had the joy of celebrating the renewal of vows of four of our friars in formation, and, during the month of August, the first profession of vows of a novice. These newer vocations to our Province are very much a blessing to us, and a sign of hope for the future. Together with these five friars, we rejoice in eight other young men whom we are fortunate to have received this summer as pre-novices or novices. We are blessed, because the Lord still gives ...

...But the Lord also takes away. This spring and summer we mourned the loss of six of our brothers who completed their pilgrimage among us and entered into the peace of the sabbath. As we celebrate their memories and rejoice at their victory, we share with you some of the ways in which our community was blessed by their company and their presence over the years.

In these people and events, and others who are recalled here, we continually notice God's hand in our lives, or better, our lives in his hands. And we give thanks! As you leaf through this issue of *The Augustinian*, join us, please, in giving thanks to God for the men and women, laity and friars, whom you will have met here, and the many others who, by their lives, help to write our story day by day.

Wishing you an abundance of God's blessings, and the grateful awareness of them!

In Augustine,

Michael F. Di Gregorio, O.S.A.
PRIOR PROVINCIAL
PROVINCE OF SAINT THOMAS OF VILLANOVA

THE AUGUSTINIAN

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AUGUSTINIAN VOLUNTEERS, 2014-2015.

AUGUSTINIAN VOLUNTEERS

LETTERS

Peru



As an international volunteer, I wasn't officially told what my service site would be until days before leaving the country. Two months in, I am

still finding new responsibilities and titles almost daily. Officially I serve at Central Pastoral, the health center headquarters for Chulucanas and the surrounding parishes/cities. Every day I go in to work 97% unsure of what the day will bring. I love it. Some days I serve as a nurse, checking blood pressures and sugars. Other days I serve as a pharmacist distributing medicine. Still other days I serve as a social worker visiting the hospital to see children in need of surgeries, whom I will represent to apply to get them funding. Finally I serve as a teacher, teaching English to seminarians and college students who want so badly to learn the language.

The staff welcomes me to work with them every single day, even though they

are the professionals. When I am having a hard time understanding, they simply say, "Tomalo con calma" - be cool—don't worry about it. They take the time to explain everything to me and make me feel included and a part of the team. I only hope I can give back to them half of the mark they have already left on me.

TINA TEOFILO
Chulucanas, Peru 2014

Ventura, CA



As I dial in to the school's PA system, I hear my voice echo in the loud speaker:

"Attention Villanova, Campus Ministry will now be praying the rosary at the Grotto. If you would like to join, please meet at the Grotto now."

I hang up the phone, grab my rosary, and walk with purpose toward the heart of campus, where the Grotto stands. As I approach, I see that the space around the Grotto is unoccupied. I wait several minutes, and when nobody comes along, I begin, "In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

My demeanor is a far cry from the first time that I prayed the rosary at Villanova Prep. In the beginning, I approached this weekly Thursday ritual with an equal mixture of hesitancy and reluctance. It bothered me, to be seen praying so publicly, right in the middle of campus.



Volunteers' 15th Group Anniversary Commissioning Mass

On Sunday, August 24th, Fr. Michael F. Di Gregorio, O.S.A., along with friars, gathered to celebrate a commissioning Mass for the 2014-2015 Augustinian Volunteers at St. Thomas of Villanova Chapel in Rosemont, Pa. The commissioning event is part of an 8-day orientation for the Volunteers before they head to their service sites, which include Chicago, Ill.; Chulucanas, Peru; Lawrence, Mass.; Philadelphia, Pa.; San Diego, Cal. and Ventura, Cal.

In order to reach kids, sometimes it requires a certain amount of awkward moments and uncomfortable conversations. Sometimes they go well, and sometimes they don't. As Mother Teresa once said, "God does not call us to be successful; he calls us to be faithful." We are workers in the field, and we may never know the fruits of the seeds we plant, but we still must plant them.

As I move to the last decade of the rosary, a freshman boy approaches me. "Miss. Thompson, can I pray with you?" he asks. "Yes," I reply, handing him a rosary. My window of opportunity may be small, but that's all the more reason to make the most of it.

EMILY THOMPSON
Ventura, CA 2013-2014

ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEER REFLECTIONS CAN BE FOUND AT WWW.OSAVOL.ORG



MEET OUR NEW PRIOR PROVINCIAL

MICHAEL F. DI GREGORIO, O.S.A.

BY TEDDIE GALLAGHER

On June 9, 2014, Fr. Michael F. Di Gregorio, O.S.A., was installed as the new Prior Provincial of the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova. The Mass took place at the historic St. Thomas of Villanova Church on the campus of Villanova University. As the church filled with applause upon the announcement of Fr. Michael as the new Provincial, one couldn't help but think what this moment meant to Fr. Michael, an avid researcher of Catholic Church history, particularly the Augustinian Order and its saints. It's one thing to reach back into history and quite another to begin your own era of Augustinian history.

EARLY LIFE AND EDUCATION

Fr. Michael's story started February 19, 1948, when he was born to Frank A. and Lena G. (Ciani) Di Gregorio, in Rosebank, Staten Island, N.Y. He was baptized at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, also in Rosebank.



Fr. Michael's mother, Lena, was from Four Corners, Staten Island, N.Y. and his father, Frank, was from Rosebank. Both were native Staten Islanders and first-generation Italian-Americans. His father, a World War II Army veteran, received the Purple Heart for his service in the Battle of the Bulge. He worked for over 50 years as a longshoreman, retired in 1987 and died in 2011 at the age of 96. His mother, who worked for her father as a tailor, attended Fr. Michael's Installation Mass along with his two sisters, Diane and Sandra.

Fr. Michael grew up with four Italian-born grandparents in his life. His mother's parents came to Vineland, N.J., from the region of Latina, Italy, southwest of Rome. They moved to St. Rita of Cascia Parish in South Philadelphia, and finally moved to St. Rita Parish in Four Corners, Staten Island, N.Y., where his mother was born. His grandfather supported the family as a tailor and learned to speak English to facilitate the business. His grandmother only spoke Italian.

His father's parents came to Rosebank, Staten Island, N.Y., from the town of Padula in the Province of Salerno, in the Campania region in the southwest of Italy. Neither of his grandparents spoke much English. His grandmother spoke English, but his grandfather, who supported the family as a boot black on the Staten Island Ferry and operated an elevator in a chewing gum factory, spoke little English. Fr. Michael was always interested in speaking foreign languages, including Italian, and, although he could understand some Italian that was spoken by his

grandparents, he would not learn to speak it until he joined the Order and studied Italian, French, German and Spanish at Villanova University.

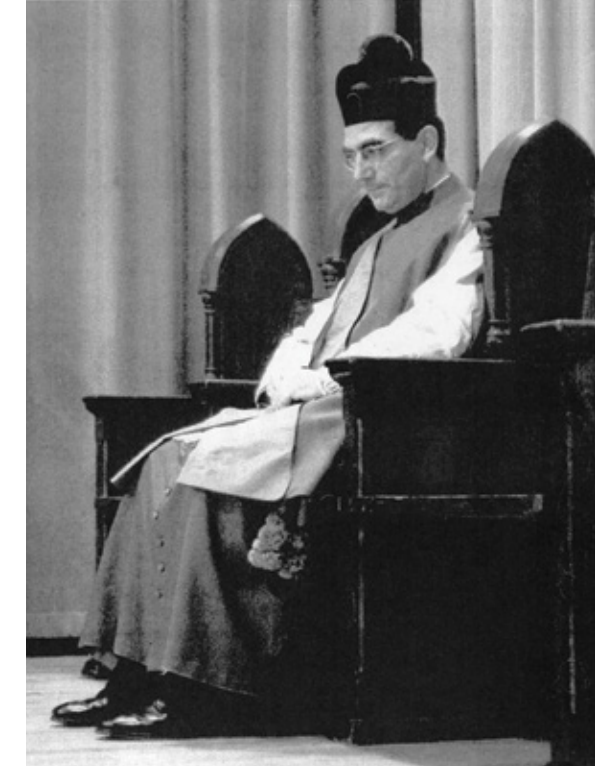
Fr. Michael started grade school in 1953, attending first grade at Saint Mary's Parochial School near his home in Rosebank. After first grade, Fr. Michael's family moved to his mother's hometown in the Four Corners area of Staten Island. Fr. Michael began second grade at Saint Rita Parochial School where he would complete his elementary school education in 1961.

"Care deeply, give quietly, teach gently... and love."

—Monsignor Paul M. Andrews

During his grade school years, Fr. Michael became very close to the Church. His parents gave him life, a strong work ethic and a loving home, but it was the "Simple, humble and holy" pastor of the Church of Saint Rita, Monsignor Paul M. Andrews, who showed him how he wanted to live it — as a parish priest. Fr. Michael attributes his vocation to this exemplary parish priest and wrote a letter for a book published in 2010 by the Church of Saint Rita, to celebrate the Centennial of Monsignor Andrew's birth: "Somehow it became very clear even to this youngster of grammar school age that our pastor was a man whose whole life was devoted to us...as an altar boy I had the occasion to see Monsignor up close, and to ask him a hundred different questions — all at once. He was always patient, never dismissive, always ready to teach...I can't imagine even now, having been a priest myself for 36 years, a more devoted priest or exemplary pastor than Monsignor Andrews."

At the end of eighth grade, Fr. Michael decided to enter Cathedral High School, the Archdiocesan preparatory seminary. Monsignor Andrews gave him a recommendation, but Fr. Michael quickly changed his mind. Instead, he was accepted by the Augustinians to attend the Augustinian Academy on Grymes Hill, Staten Island, as a day student. For most of his high school years, Fr. Michael did not think much about his call to a religious vocation and simply concentrated on being a high school student.



MONSIGNOR PAUL MICHAEL ANDREWS

was born Paul Andriaccio in 1910, son of Italian immigrants, Rocco and Anna Andriaccio. At some point the family changed their name to Andrews. The Monsignor was ordained to the priesthood on June 6, 1936, by Patrick Cardinal Hayes at St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York City. He was the beloved pastor of St. Rita's, Staten Island, N.Y., from 1950 to 1985. In 1975, Cardinal Cooke gave Monsignor Andrews the seal of office when he was elevated to the position of the Episcopal Vicar of Staten Island, a position he held from 1975 to 1982. The late James L. Galligan, O.S.A., was a concelebrant at the installation Mass. Monsignor Andrews died on February 22, 1991, at the age of 80. He is buried in Calvary Cemetery, Long Island City, Queens, N.Y., with his mother Anna (d. 1946) and his father Rocco (d. 1921). Wellbrook Avenue, the street where St. Rita Parish Offices are located, bears an honorific street name: Monsignor Paul M. Andrews Way.



PHOTO OF MONSIGNOR PAUL M. ANDREWS COURTESY OF ST. RITA PARISH, STATEN ISLAND, N.Y.



THE AUGUSTINIAN ACADEMY CLASS OF 1965. NEWLY-ELECTED PRIOR PROVINCIAL MICHAEL F. DI GREGORIO, O.S.A., AND FORMER PRIOR PROVINCIAL, ANTHONY M. GENOVESE, O.S.A., ARE AMONG THE GRADUATES. (PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF DR. ROBERT FREDERICK.)

In addition to being a day school, the Augustinian Academy functioned as a minor seminary for the Augustinian Order. Day students and seminarian students mixed together in classes and school activities. Fr. Michael became good friends with many of the seminarians and it was during these four years that he learned about St. Augustine and ultimately decided to enter the Augustinian Order following his graduation. Another senior in Fr. Michael's class made the same choice to enter the Augustinian Order — Fr. Mickey Genovese, O.S.A., who is pictured with Fr. Michael in the 1965 Augustinian Academy class photo.

THE FORMATION YEARS

Fr. Michael was received into the Augustinian Order as a novice on September 9, 1965, and after a year at Good Counsel Novitiate in New Hamburg, N.Y., he professed first vows on September 10, 1966. He then attended Villanova University, where he received a BA degree in Philosophy (1966-1970).

He attended Augustinian College, Washington, D.C., for his theological studies, where he received his MA degree in 1973. Father professed solemn vows on January 15, 1972. 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'S FIRST TWO DECADES IN THE PRIESTHOOD

During his time at Villanova, Fr. Michael became concerned about his choice to be an Augustinian. The reason: the Province path for a newly ordained priest was to teach in high schools until they were seasoned for work in parishes. This was problematic because his interest was in becoming a parish priest. But the times were changing and so were the views of 1970's Province leadership, which was more

open to young friars going directly to parish work. He expected to be assigned to teach in a high school, but his first assignment was to Saint Rita of Cascia Parish in Philadelphia. However, before he left for the assignment it was changed to Saint Augustine Parish, Andover, Mass. (1973-1977). From Andover, he was next assigned to Saint Nicholas of Tolentine Parish, Jamaica, Long Island, N.Y. (1977-1983).

He then went to the Collegio Santa Monica, in Rome for his sabbatical year where he studied spirituality. Upon his return to the U.S. in 1984, he was assigned first to the formation team and then as



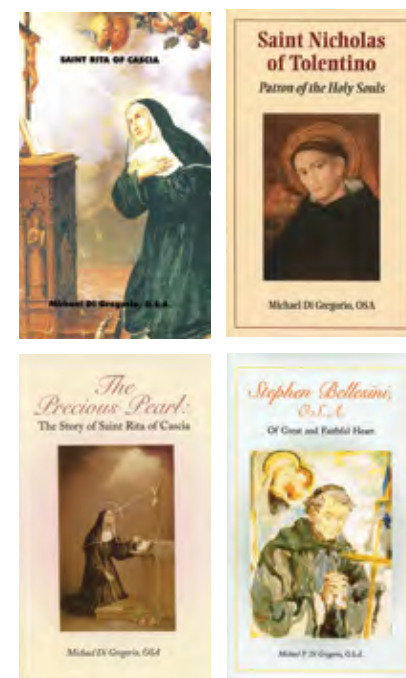
FR. MICKEY GENOVESE, O.S.A. AND FR. MICHAEL DI GREGORIO WERE ORDAINED TO THE DIACONATE TOGETHER ON MAY 21, 1972, BY COADJUTOR ARCHBISHOP, JOHN JOSEPH MAGUIRE.

the Director of Novices at Good Counsel Novitiate, which was then located in Lawrence, Mass. (1984-1986). From 1986 to 1989, he served as pastor of Saint Nicholas of Tolentine, Bronx, N.Y.

In 1989, Fr. Di Gregorio had just started a new assignment to be the Pre-Novitiate Director, when he went as a delegate to the General Chapter of the Order in Rome. At the Chapter, the Prior General, Fr. Miguel Orcasitas, asked Fr. Michael if he would come to Rome to be the Director of Social Communications for the Order. Due to his commitment to the Pre-Novitiate, Fr. Michael felt he could not leave the position at that time. However, a year later, when urged by the Prior General to take the position, Father went to Rome and served as the Order's Communications Director from 1990 to 1992. In this position, Fr. Michael was the Editor of the Order's Newsletter, *OSA Internationalia*, which is translated into four languages.

Fr. Michael has a lasting commitment to friars in formation and has for many years gone to the novitiate to speak about the lessons of spirituality that can be learned through the lives of saints and blessed.

He has written four books about Augustinian Saints and Blessed: Saint Rita of Cascia (2000); The Precious Pearl: The Story of Saint Rita of Cascia (2003); Saint Nicholas of Tolentino (2007); and Stephen Bellesini, O.S.A. (2012), a Blessed of the Augustinian Order.



COUNTERCLOCKWISE: THE DOOR TO THE SHRINE; THE SAINT RITA OF CASCIA STATUE IN THE LOWER PART OF THE SHRINE, BY LITURGICAL ARTIST ANTHONY VISCO; SAINT RITA PARISH CHURCH. PHOTOS BY BRYAN SMITH.

"THE PATH BY WHICH SOME INDIVIDUALS HAVE FOUND THEIR LIVES BONDED WITH THAT OF SAINT RITA'S IS AT TIMES, BY THEIR OWN ADMITTANCE, MYSTERIOUS AND MYSTIFYING."

— MICHAEL F. DI GREGORIO, O.S.A., *THE PEACEMAKER*, WINTER 2014

FR. MICHAEL'S YEARS AT SAINT RITA PARISH AND SHRINE

Although Fr. Michael attended Saint Rita grade school for seven years, at the time he had no idea who Saint Rita was, why she was a saint or that she was connected to St. Augustine through her vocation as an Augustinian nun. He would discover this through his attendance at Augustinian Academy, where the hill on which the school sat was called "Mount Saint Rita."

Eventually, while he was serving at the Pre-Novitiate, Fr. Michael submitted a proposal to revive the National Shrine of Saint Rita of Cascia on Broad St. in South Philadelphia. The parish was established by Archbishop Patrick Ryan and placed under the care of the Augustinians in 1907, to serve the growing Italian immigrant population. The church was designed by George Ignatius Lovatt, Sr. (1872-1958). The shrine existed on the basement level of St. Rita's, with church and shrine coexisting until the main church was completed in 1916. The shrine flourished in its early days, when thousands came for the novena devotions and for healing from St. Rita. However, as time went by, there was a sharp decline in attendance, largely because in the 1960s and 1970s the neighborhood

was changing. Fr. Michael's proposal was to revive the shrine, to bring it back to what it had been.

When Fr. Michael returned from Rome in 1992, he met with the Personnel Director, Donald F. Reilly, O.S.A., to discuss his next assignment. Fr. Reilly pulled out Fr. Michael's 1989 recommendation and asked him to go to St. Rita's and initiate the plan he had proposed to revive the shrine. This was a twist Fr. Michael had not seen coming, but St. Rita knocked and he answered.

During the next 15 years, first in 1992, as the Director of the National Shrine of St. Rita of Cascia and then as St. Rita's parish pastor (1995-2007), Fr. Michael would transform the National Shrine into an accessible devotional space that taps into the healing and reconciling spirit of St. Rita of Cascia. He also founded *The Peacemaker*, a newsletter made available to shrine visitors and advocates of Saint Rita. Today, the National Shrine of Saint Rita of Cascia remains vital to her devotion, particularly on her May 22nd Feast day, with the blessing of the roses.



FR. MICHAEL TRAVELLED TO MANY PLACES AS VICAR GENERAL. HE IS PICTURED HERE WITH SCHOOL CHILDREN IN JAPAN.

Fr. Michael moved from Philadelphia to Rome when, at the 2007 Ordinary Chapter of the Order in Rome, he was elected Assistant General and member of the General Council of the Order. In 2009, he was elected Vicar General. The role of the Vicar General is to assist the Prior General in all matters, especially attending Chapters and meetings of the international circumscriptions of the Order throughout the world. In this capacity, he has visited Malta, Cebu (Manila, Cebu City), Italy (far too many cities to name), Poland (Warsaw), Castille (Guadarrama), Matritense (Madrid, Salamanca, San Lorenzo del Escorial), Filipinas, U.S. Midwest (Chicago, Ill., Racine, Wis.) U.S. California (Los Angeles, San Diego), Germany (Wurzburg), Ireland (Ballyboden, Cork; Fethard, Dublin), Peru (Lima, Vicariate of Chulucanas, Trujillo), Canada (Toronto, Nova Scotia), Vicariate of Japan (Tokyo, Nagasaki, Fukuoka, Nagoya) and the Delegation of Korea (Inchon, Incheon).

One of Fr. Michael's roles while he was the Vicar General was to co-chair the Secretariat for Justice and Peace, along with Fr. Alejandro Moral, O.S.A. (now the Prior General of the Order), with representatives from Italy, Malta, Columbia, the United States, Australia, England and Nigeria. Among initiatives during Fr. Michael's time on the Secretariat was the organization of the Augustinian Campaign Against Human Trafficking, an awareness campaign which began in 2010 and inspired a feature article on human trafficking in the Spring/Summer 2011 issue of *The Augustinian*. In July of 2011, the Secretariat for Justice and Peace organized an international conference for Justice and Peace for province coordinators and laypersons:

Pursuing the Path of Justice and Peace. The conference, held at Villanova University, drew 46 attendees from 13 countries.



Fr. Michael ended his term as Vicar General during the General Chapter in Rome, which opened on August 28, 2013 (the feast of Saint Augustine), with a Mass celebrated by Pope Francis. During the General Chapter, Fr. Alejandro Moral, O.S.A., was elected as the General of the Order, replacing Robert F. Prevost, O.S.A.; and Fr. Joseph L. Farrell, O.S.A., was elected to fill Fr. Michael's position as Vicar General.



FR. MICHAEL IS NEARBY AS THE POPE RECEIVES AN ICON OF ST. AUGUSTINE, BY RICHARD G. CANNULI, O.S.A. © SERVIZIO FOTOGRAFICOS DE "L'O.R."

FR. MICHAEL AS PROVINCIAL

Fr. Michael returned to the United States in the fall of 2013, but only had a short break before he was nominated and, on February 7, 2014, elected Prior Provincial of the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova, with Fr. Anthony M. Genovese, O.S.A., as the outgoing Prior Provincial.



On the occasion of Fr. Michael's installation Mass, in his homily he laid out his thoughts on what his focus would be when he said, "I would like to place the accent precisely on the work of grace and on the gift that we have received, and the gift we are called to be... not on what we do here at Eucharist, or in the deliberations in our Chapter gathering — but on what God is seeking to do in us and through us. We need to keep ever before us the awareness that the center and the heart of all is Jesus Christ: the center of our life together, the center of our conversations, the center of our service to the people of God... The gift we have received let us give generously as gift."

In a sense, Fr. Michael, who as a boy wanted to be a parish pastor, has been invited and accepted the role of Prior Provincial and can now be the pastoral leader of the entire Province and its apostolates. Rita has knocked once again — and he has answered. Perhaps influenced by St. Rita, Fr. Michael's homily at his installation invited us to recommit to serve the church; to preserve the way of life of St. Augustine; and to be grace and gift for each other.



Prior Provincial Michael F. Di Gregorio, O.S.A., makes his profession of Faith.



The Prior General Alejandro Moral, O.S.A., is the celebrant for the Installation Mass.



Prior General Alejandro Moral, O.S.A. officially installs Fr. Michael as Provincial.



Friars extend a fraternal embrace as a sign of obedience.



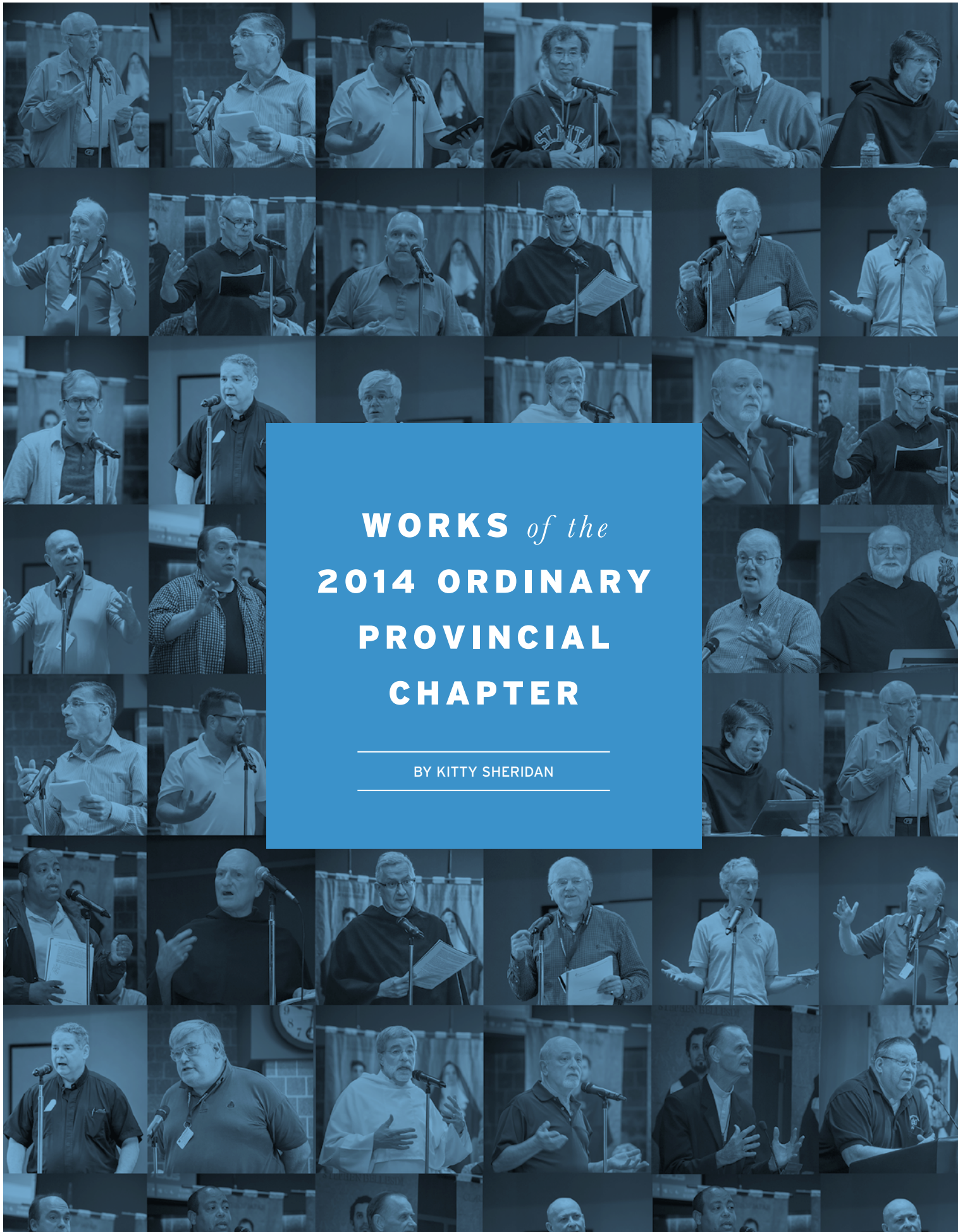
The congregation extends the Kiss of Peace to each other.



Fr. Michael with his mother and sisters Diane and Sandra.



Nicholas F. Martorano, O.S.A. and friars attend the Installation Mass



WORKS *of the*
**2014 ORDINARY
 PROVINCIAL
 CHAPTER**

BY KITTY SHERIDAN



HOW THE CHAPTER WORKS

In an atmosphere of collegiality, engaging in dialogue, listening to the ideas and comments of their brothers, members determine how God calls the Province of St. Thomas to minister to the People of God.

Every four years, Augustinians of the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova gather together in “Chapter,” a meeting during which the Prior Provincial will be installed, his staff and team of Counselors will be elected, and the members will review the program implemented at the last Chapter, consider new proposals and vote to accept or reject suggestions pertaining to the Province. This year, the Chapter was held June 8-13, 2014.

While a Chapter is not a retreat, there are ample opportunities for prayer and spiritual renewal. In addition to morning and afternoon sessions devoted to the business of the Province, there were daily opportunities for Eucharist and morning and evening prayer for the friars. This included a Mass of Remembrance, which recalled those friars who have died since the last Chapter in 2010 and whose spirit was with their brothers at this Chapter.

Leading up to the Chapter, the friars held regional meetings, discussing issues that had bearing on the agenda. This participation led to a Chapter whose topics had been generated, discussed previously and distributed to the membership before the actual Chapter. All friars of the Province are required to attend the Chapter, except those excused for legitimate reasons of age or health, or other extenuating circumstances. A quorum of 75% is required for voting. Proposals that pass become part of the Province Program, which the Prior Provincial and his Council are charged to implement. Proposals may also be tabled or sent to committee to be revised and presented again.

A significant event during the Chapter is the Installation of the Prior Provincial. In early February, members of the Province cast their ballots for candidates and the

newly elected Prior Provincial was Michael F. Di Gregorio, O.S.A., the former Vicar General of the Order, who had recently fulfilled his term at the Augustinian Curia in Rome. A Mass of Installation was celebrated by the Prior General of the Order of St. Augustine, Fr. Alejandro Moral, O.S.A., who was also here in the role of president of the Chapter.

Following his Installation, the Prior Provincial nominated, and the membership voted to elect, friars for positions as treasurer and secretary on the Provincial staff, as well as the six counselors who will be the Provincial’s advisors.

In his opening remarks at the Chapter, the Prior General, Fr. Moral, emphasized, “We [Augustinians] are called to be disciples not in just any way, but as disciples in one mind and in one heart, as sons of Augustine.”

In Chapter, the proposals that pass serve as the foundation on which the new “Program of the Province” emerges and which guides the Prior Provincial, aided by his Counselors, over the next four years. In his opening remarks at the Chapter, the Prior General, Fr. Moral, emphasized, “We [Augustinians] are called to be disciples not in just any way, but as disciples in one mind and in one heart, as sons of Augustine.” The Province’s program manifests the charism of the Augustinians in light of their service to the Church, as the Chapter provides an opportunity to renew and enhance their role in fulfilling their mission as members of the Christian community. In an atmosphere of collegiality, engaging in dialogue, listening to the ideas and comments of their brothers, members

determine how God calls the Province of St. Thomas to minister to the People of God.

Topics generated during regional meetings and considered at the Chapter included Community Living, Apostolic Ministry, Evangelization, Prophetic Witness and Governance. After discussion, the members generated several proposals, which became the basis for the Program of the Province.

In his commentary on Matthew’s Sermon on the Mount (Mt 5:1-12, the Beatitudes), St. Augustine states, “If any one will piously and soberly consider the sermon which our Lord Jesus Christ spoke on the mount, as we read it in the Gospel according to Matthew, I think that he will find in it, so far as regards the highest morals, a perfect standard of the Christian life.” Recommitting themselves to the Church’s long-held teaching of a preferential option for the poor, the members echoed the example of Pope Francis in efforts to lead a life of simplicity, weighing their needs, both as individuals and as members of their communities, by engaging in assessments



THE PROVINCIAL EXPRESSES HIS OPINION AND VOTES ON PROVINCE PROGRAMS IN THE SAME MANNER AS HIS BROTHERS: ONE MAN ONE VOTE.



THE PROVINCIAL'S NEW TEAM

to review consumption and spending, with an aim to reduce each and live as simply as possible. Additionally, as they look ahead to the needs of the Church in their mission as ministers to the People of God and their own charism of community, the friars advocated development of a strategic plan to consider locations for ministry and the use of available resources in the future.

Bishop Dan Turley, O.S.A., Bishop of Chulucanas in Peru, which celebrated its golden jubilee as a diocese this year, expressed his gratitude for the support received from the Province and the Augustinian Volunteers. The friars furthered their commitment to the Vicariate of Peru by passing two proposals. The first stipulates that a portion of a Province fund will be given to support new programs for the poor of the foreign mission. The second supports uniting the Augustinian Vicariate in Peru with other vicariates of Peru into a new province, assuring that the united vicariates will be supported economically during these efforts.

A discussion relating to vocations was also a key matter addressed at the Chapter. The Prior Provincial noted that vocations “remain a most important item in our life as a Province” and “something that really

“How do we invite others to become part of the gift and become part of the giving itself?”

marks these next four years as a point to which we give very preferential treatment.” Currently, there are 11 men in formation at various levels for the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova. The presence of these men and their interest speaks of others who may be searching to experience religious life. Fr. Di Gregorio noted that this is primarily a matter of sharing their charism and lifestyle with men who express an interest. The Augustinian charism is a gift, one that attracted the friars to the Augustinian way of life. Fr. Michael asked, “How do we invite others to become part of the gift and become part of the giving itself?”

He reminded friars of the responsibility that rests with them to share the knowledge of how the Augustinian way of life animates their own lives. Fr. Di Gregorio invited the Province’s vocation directors, Frs. Tom McCarthy, O.S.A., and Jorge Cleto, O.S.A., to address the friars. Each spoke with enthusiasm of their work. The Prior Provincial encouraged schools and parishes of the Province to invite their vocation

directors to speak on the topic of vocations to the Augustinian way of life.

In his closing speech to the friars assembled, Fr. Moral remarked that three matters of importance to his agenda as Prior General of the Order, community life, the sharing of material goods, vocations and formation, were matters that were treated in the Province’s Chapter and reminded the friars, “You are a mature province, with history, with a past, a present and a promising future.”

As sons of Augustine, the Province echoed loudly the themes that are a priority, not only at the highest levels of the Order of St. Augustine, but the highest level of our Church.



CHAPTER PHOTOS BY DANIEL J. MCLAUGHLIN, O.S.A.



MICHAEL H. BIELECKI, O.S.A.
Secretary

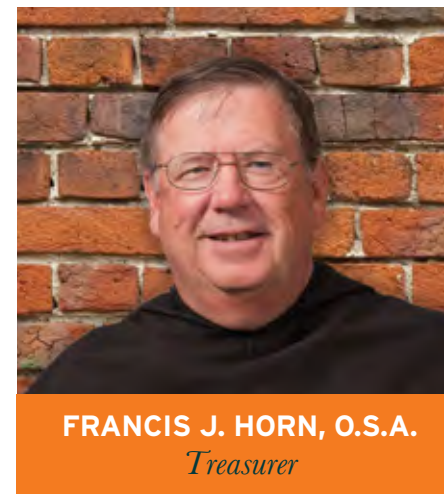
Professed September 3, 1968
Ordained July 30, 1983

Favorite quote from St. Augustine
“Your best Servant, O Lord, is not the one who gets what he wants, but rather wants what he gets.” -*The Confessions of Saint Augustine* (Book X, Chapter XXVI)

Current
Secretary, Province of St. Thomas of Villanova

Education
Cabrini College, BA (Religious Studies)
The Angelicum, Rome, Diploma in Spiritual Studies
Pontifical College of Saint Bede, the Venerable, Rome, Philosophical and Theological Studies
Pierce Junior College, AA (Business Management)

Fr. Michael professed vows in 1968 as a Brother in the Order, and worked for a Special General Chapter under the direction of Theodore V. Tack, O.S.A., during which the Constitutions were revised. After that he served in various positions in the business offices at St. Mary’s Hall and Msgr. Bonner High School. A change in the direction of his vocation followed a heart attack suffered in 1979, and he began studies for the priesthood in Rome, while assigned as private secretary to the then Prior General Theodore V. Tack, O.S.A. Returning to the U.S., he was ordained and served at parishes in New York, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania. He also served as a chaplain at Cabrini College, where he was responsible for conducting spiritual programs for students, faculty and staff. During his tenure he also renovated the college chapel. In 2010, he was elected as the Province’s secretary, a position to which he was re-elected at the 2014 Chapter.



FRANCIS J. HORN, O.S.A.
Treasurer

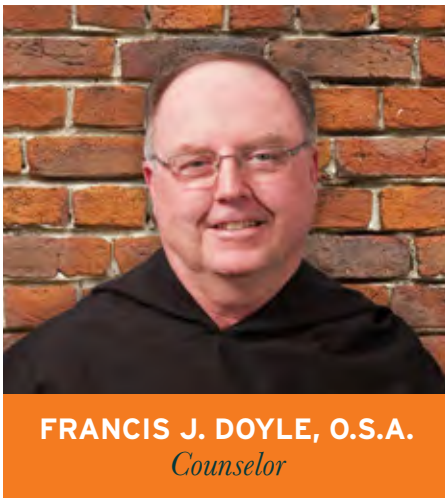
Professed September 3, 1968
Ordained May 24, 1975

Favorite quote from St. Augustine
“God will give more to those who use what they have received for others.” -*Christian Doctrine 1.1*

Current
Treasurer, Province of St. Thomas of Villanova

Education
Villanova University, BS (Mathematics)
Washington Theological Union, MA (Theology)
The Catholic University of America, JCL (Licentiate of Canon Law)
The Catholic University of America, JCD (Doctor of Canon Law)

After a year at the novitiate in New Hamburg, New York, Fr. Horn professed his first vows on September 3, 1968, and then attended Villanova University. He went to Augustinian College in Washington, D.C., to complete his theological studies. He served at Msgr. Bonner High School as a teacher, Director of Studies and as Principal. Fr. Frank has previously served as Assistant Provincial, Province Treasurer and on the formation team at Augustinian College in Washington, D.C. It was during this time he pursued studies in Canon Law at the Catholic University of America. From 1998-2004, he taught Canon Law at the Washington Theological Union. In 2004, he was assigned to St. Augustine Preparatory School in Richland, New Jersey, where he was appointed the headmaster. Wherever Fr. Frank worked he served in nearby parishes. He has previously served on Provincial Councils (1979-1990; 1998-2002) and he has served as a Trustee on Boards at the Province’s institutions of secondary and higher learning.



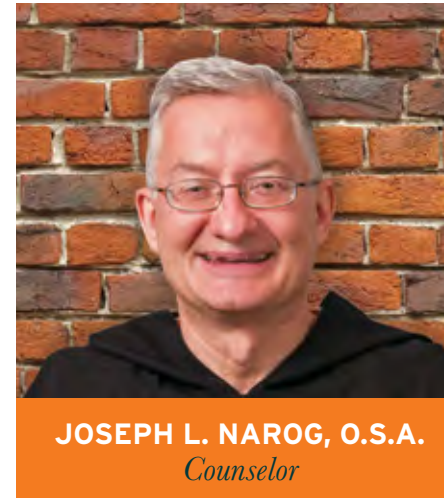
Professed September 10, 1963
Ordained August 29, 1970

Favorite quote from St. Augustine
“You called and cried out loud and shattered my deafness. You were radiant and resplendent, you put to flight my blindness. You were fragrant, and I drew in my breath and now pant after you. I tasted you, and I feel but hunger and thirst for you. You touched me, and I have burned for your peace.” -*The Confessions of St Augustine* (Book X, Chapter XXVII)

Current
Prior, Blessed Stephen Bellesini Friary

Education
Villanova University, BA (Philosophy)
Augustinian College, MA (Theology)
Saint Louis University, Certificate, Religious Formation

Fr. Frank professed first vows on September 10, 1963, after a year at Good Counsel Novitiate. He attended Villanova University and went to Augustinian College in Washington, D.C. In addition to parish assignments in New York, North Carolina and Pennsylvania, Fr. Frank served as Novice Director for the Province. He was also Director of Temporary Professed at Villanova and Director of the Pre-Novitiate students and Professed at Augustinian College, Washington, D.C. He also served on the staff of the Living Waters Reflection Center, Maggie Valley, N.C. During this time he served on the Haywood County Domestic Violence task force. In 2007, he went as prior to the Province’s mission in South Africa in the Archdiocese of Durban, serving as pastor at Our Lady Of Mercy, Kloof. He has served on three previous Provincial Councils. Fr. Frank returned to the U.S. from South Africa in August 2014 to take his position on this Council.



Professed August 12, 2000
Ordained June 18, 2005

Favorite quote from St. Augustine
“I asked the earth, and it said, ‘I am not he!’ I asked the sea and the deeps, and among living animals the things that creep, and they answered, ‘We are not your God! Seek higher than us!’ ...I asked the heavens, the sun, the moon, and the stars: ‘We are not the God whom you seek,’ they said. To all the things that stand around the doors of my flesh I said, ‘Tell me of my God!’ ...With a mighty voice they cried out, ‘He made us!’ My question was the gaze that I turned on them; their answer was their beauty.” -*The Confessions of St Augustine* (Book X, Chapter VI)

Current
Pastor, St. Thomas of Villanova Church, Villanova, Pa.

Education
Saint Joseph’s University, BA (International Relations)
University of Virginia, MA (Foreign Affairs)
Washington Theological Union, MDiv

Fr. Joe attended Saint Joseph’s University, Philadelphia, Pa. and the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va. He worked for the U.S. Government, including the Defense Intelligence Agency’s counterterrorism unit. In 1995, he received the National Intelligence Community Award for his managing of the Community’s Counterterrorism Training Program. In 1998, he entered the Province’s Pre-Novitiate program at Augustinian College, Washington, D.C., and attended the Washington Theological Union. After a year at the National Novitiate in Racine, Wis., he professed first vows on August 12, 2000, and returned to Augustinian College and the Washington Theological Union to continue his studies. He has taught, served as a high school chaplain and served at St. Augustine’s Parish in Andover, Mass. before his present assignment as Pastor of St. Thomas of Villanova Parish in Villanova, Pa.



Professed August 14, 1999
Ordained September 13, 2003

Favorite quote from St. Augustine
“Do not be content with what you are if you want to become what you are not yet. Where you have grown pleased with yourself there you shall remain.” -Sermon 169

Current
Associate Athletics Director, Villanova University
Chaplain, Villanova University men’s football and basketball teams

Education
Villanova University, BA (English)
Widener University School of Law, JD
Washington Theological Union, MDiv

Fr. Rob attended Villanova University and Widener University School of Law. After working as an attorney he joined the Province’s Pre-Novitiate Program, and after a year at the National Novitiate in Racine, Wisconsin, he professed first vows on August 14, 1999. He then went to Augustinian College and studied theology at the Washington Theological Union. Fr. Rob was assigned to Burns Hall/Fray Luis de Leon Friary on Villanova University’s campus and was appointed Associate Athletics Director for Compliance. He currently resides in a campus dorm. In 2004 he began volunteering as a prison chaplain at the State Correctional Institution, Chester, Pa. He also helps on weekends at Saint Paul Parish in South Philadelphia. With the establishment of Bellesini Friary as the Province’s Pre-Novitiate program, he became part of the Province’s formation team (2007-2008). Since 2010 he has served as Prior of Saxony Hall in Rosemont, Pa.



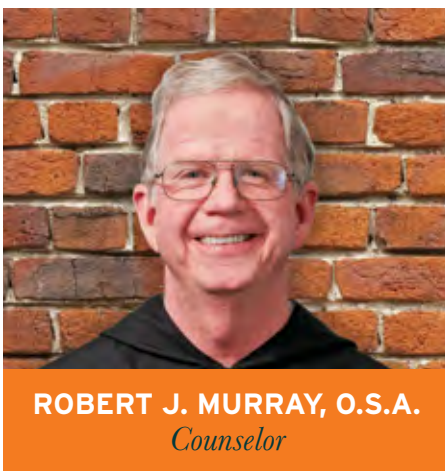
Professed September 3, 1968
Ordained October 6, 1973

Favorite quote from St. Augustine
“Lord, whether prosperity smile or adversity frown, let Your praise be ever in my mouth.” -Commentary on Psalm 138, 16

Current
Parochial Vicar, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Staten Island, N.Y.

Education
Villanova University, BA (Sociology)
Washington Theological Union, MA (Pastoral Theology)

Fr. Bob attended Villanova University for his undergraduate degree and, after graduation, was received into the Order. He had his novitiate year at New Hamburg, N.Y. and professed first vows on September 3, 1968. He returned to Villanova University, completing his philosophical studies, and then went to Augustinian College and the Washington Theological Union for his theological studies. Fr. Bob has taught at Archbishop Carroll High School in Washington, D.C., and served in parishes in Massachusetts and New York. He served as the Vicar for the Vicariate of Chulucanas, Peru, while serving in the mission there. He also served in the mission in South Africa, before returning to serve at the Our Lady of Good Counsel, Staten Island, N.Y.



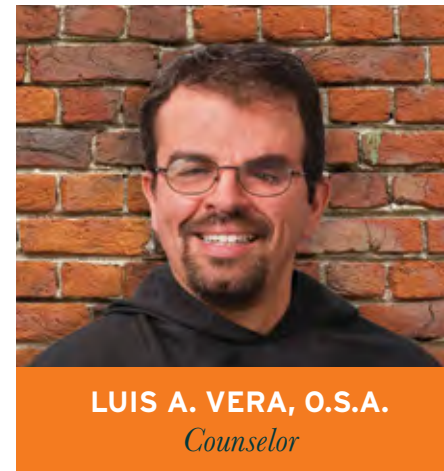
Professed August 28, 1976
Ordained July 30, 1983

Favorite quote from St. Augustine
“Our hearts are restless until they rest in you.” -*The Confessions of St Augustine* (Book I, Chapter I)

Current
Director, graduate counseling program, Villanova University

Education
Villanova University, BS Education (English)
Washington Theological Union, MA (Theology)
Villanova University MS (Counseling)
Temple University PhD (Educational Psychology)
Post-Doctorate, Clinical Psychology, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine
Certificate, Marriage and Family Therapy, Penn Council for Relationships

Fr. Bob entered the Augustinian Novitiate in August 1975, making his first profession of vows on August 28, 1976 and then attended Villanova University. He went to the Washington Theological Union to complete his theological studies. His first assignment was as a teacher in the Theology Department at Msgr. Bonner High School in Drexel Hill, Pa. He did additional studies at Villanova University gaining an MS in Counseling. He did his doctoral studies at Temple University and earned his PhD in Educational Psychology and did his Post-Doctorate in Clinical Psychology at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. Fr. Bob is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. He has taught in the Education and Human Science Department of Villanova University and now teaches in the Department of Education and Counseling. For the past 30 years, he has assisted on weekends at St. Augustine Parish in Bridgeport, Pa.



Professed August 10, 1991
Ordained October 12, 1996

Favorite quote from St. Augustine
“You pierced my heart with your Word, Lord, and I fell in love with you” -*The Confessions of Saint Augustine* (Book X, Chapter VIII)

Current
Prior, St. Thomas of Villanova Monastery, Villanova, Pa.

Education
University of Puerto Rico-Cayey University College, BA Business Administration (Management)
Washington Theological Union, MDiv
Catholic Theological Union, Chicago, DMin (Spirituality and Liturgical Studies)

Fr. Luis was born in Salinas, Puerto Rico, and attended the University of Puerto Rico. In 1987, he moved to New York, where he encountered the friars. He entered the Hispanic vocation program, Casa Tolentino, at Saint Nicholas of Tolentine Parish, Bronx, N.Y., in 1988. After a year at Blessed Stephen Bellesini Novitiate, Racine, Wis., he professed first vows on August 10, 1991. He then went to Augustinian College, Washington, D.C., and pursued his theological studies at the Washington Theological Union. The majority of Fr. Luis’ assignments have been in the area of formation, first as a member of the formation team at Augustinian College, a position he retained when the Province transferred the formation program to Chicago and the Catholic Theological Union there. Fr. Luis served as Director of Students there until 2013. After a sabbatical attending a renewal program, Ministry for Ministers, in San Antonio, Tex., he was appointed Prior of St. Thomas Monastery in 2014.

THE 2014 CHAPTER AT-A-GLANCE



Luis A. Vera, O.S.A., celebrates the Mass in memory of friars who have died since the last Chapter.



Friars come together for evening prayer in Corr Chapel.



Friars meet in small groups to discuss their ideas and thoughts on topics and proposals.



Hiroyuki Thomas Shibata, O.S.A., celebrates Mass on the fifth day of the Chapter.



Eugene A. DelConte, O.S.A., and Peru missionary, John J. Lydon, O.S.A., join the singing.



Friars gather for daily Mass at the St. Thomas of Villanova Church.



James J. McCartney, O.S.A., takes a turn as cantor.



James R. Flynn, O.S.A., receives Holy Communion.



Friars at evening prayer.



Denis G. Wilde, O.S.A., provides accompaniment at all liturgies.



Brothers Aldo Potencio, O.S.A., Bryan Kerns, O.S.A., and Ben Rodriguez, O.S.A. (kneeling) and Joseph Murray, O.S.A., (not pictured), renew their vows.



Joseph Genito, O.S.A., and John T. Denny, O.S.A., enjoy a laugh with the friars.

NEWS AND NOTES

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



MAJOR SUPERIORS GATHERED IN ROME FOR A MEETING WITH THE PRIOR GENERAL ALEJANDRO MORAL, O.S.A., PICTURED IN THE FIRST ROW, FOURTH FROM THE LEFT. FR. MICHAEL DI GREGORIO, O.S.A., THE NEW PRIOR PROVINCIAL OF THE PROVINCE OF ST. THOMAS OF VILLANOVA, IS IN THE SECOND ROW, SECOND FROM THE RIGHT.

Major Superiors Meeting in Rome

Directly after his installation as the new Prior Provincial, Fr. Michael F. Di Gregorio, O.S.A., went to a meeting in Rome for the Major Superiors of the Order. The meeting was comprised of 41 Major Superiors, which included Priors Provincial and Regional Superiors, Superiors of Vicariates and members from Delegations. The meeting began June 16, lasting five days, during which the Major Superiors met with the Prior General and his Council, discussing themes pertaining to the Program of the Order during the Prior General's six-year term.



BISHOP-ELECT MANUEL OCHOGAVÍA BARAHONA, O.S.A., OF COLÓN - KUNA YALA, PANAMA.

Augustinian Named Bishop in Panama

In July 2014, the Vatican announced that Manuel Ochogavía Barahona, O.S.A., of the Matritense Province of Spain and of the Vicariate of Panama, was named by Pope Francis as Bishop of Colón - Kuna Yala, Panama. Bishop-elect Ochogavía Barahona, who was born in 1967, entered the Order's novitiate in the Matritense Province of Spain, at the Royal Monastery of El Escorial, Spain, in 1989; professed first vows in 1990, professed solemn vows in 1995, and was ordained to the priesthood in 2002. Since 1994, he has served at various locations in Panama. He was installed on September 27, 2014.



EMEKA XRIS OBIEZU, O.S.A., THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE AUGUSTINIANS AT THE UN.

Augustinian NGO Granted ECOSOC Status

The Augustinians have had a Non-Government Organization (NGO) at the United Nations since 1997, which has input into worldwide issues and receives briefings. In May 2014, their NGO was granted ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council) consultative status, giving Augustinians a greater voice and interactive role. They can designate representatives to the UN offices in New York, Geneva and Vienna, and submit written and oral reports to the ECOSOC Council, giving them an active voice on matters before the Council. The Council can also call upon the NGO for expert advice and the NGO can make use of certain services of the Council. Congratulations to Fr. Emeka Obiezu, O.S.A., and the team whose work attained this recognition for the Order.



MICHAEL F. DI GREGORIO, O.S.A., RECEIVES THE FIRST PROFESSION OF COLIN NARDONE.

First Profession of Vows

Colin Nardone, who has been in the novitiate in Racine, Wis., for the past year as a candidate from the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova, made his first profession of vows in the Order of St. Augustine, before the Prior Provincial Michael Di Gregorio, O.S.A., on Saturday, August 9 at the 5 PM Mass at St. Thomas of Villanova Chapel in Rosemont, Pa. Colin will continue his studies at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago this fall.

Pre-novices to live at Bellesini Friary, Ardmore, Pa.



BOTTOM: CHRIS VAN NEWHOUSE, JEFF RATHS, SAM JOUTRAS MIDDLE: DANIEL MADDEN, BOBBY CARROLL, ELIZANDRO CONTRERAS, STEPHEN SONON; TOP: JOE ROCCASALVA. ATSUSHI KUWAHARA, NOT PICTURED.

Novices at Racine, Wis.



FIRST ROW (L-R) JERRY KNIES, O.S.A. (PRIOR), LUIS ASCENSIO, GERMAN CASTRO, JIMMY WHITE AND JAVIER AGUILAR. SECOND ROW (L-R) KEVIN MULLINS, O.S.A. (PASTOR), MARK DIAMOND, CARLOS RODRIGUEZ, JACK TIERNEY AND JIM PARADIS, O.S.A. (NOVICE DIRECTOR).

Pre-novice to live at Casa San Agustín



THE COMMUNITY AT CASA SAN AGUSTIN: PRE-NOVICE NELSON GARCIA, JAMES MACDOUGALL, O.S.A. (PRIOR) AND JORGE CLETO, O.S.A. (DIRECTOR OF HISPANIC VOCATIONS)



MICKEY GENOVESE, O.S.A. (CENTER) WITH PRESIDENT CHRISTOPHER E. HOPEY (LEFT)



PETER M. DONOHUE, O.S.A., AND ROBERT F. PREVOST, O.S.A.

Former Prior Provincial and Former Prior General Receive Honorary Doctorates

Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D., president of Merrimack College in North Andover, Mass., awarded Fr. Mickey Genovese, O.S.A., the former Prior Provincial of the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova, the honorary degree of Doctor of Humanities at Merrimack's 64th Commencement exercises held in the Lawler Arena on May 18, 2014.

Villanova University held its 171st Commencement for the Class of 2014 on Friday, May 16, at the Pavilion, on campus. Fr. Robert F. Prevost, O.S.A., former Prior General of the Order of St. Augustine, was awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Humanities by Villanova's President, Fr. Peter M. Donohue, O.S.A.



Augustinian Press Artist Christmas Cards are available at WWW.AUGUSTINIANPRESS.ORG



CONCELEBRATING THE JUBILEE MASS IN NAGOYA ARE (L-R): HIDEAKI ICHISE, S.V.D., BIJU KIZHAKKEL S.V.D, DAISUKE SHINTATE, S.V.D., TADAO HIRAZAWA (NAGOYA DIOCESE), ANTHONY KIYOTSUGU YAMANO O.S.A., PETER TETSUYA HIRANO, O.S.A., AUGUSTINE JUN'ICHI NOMURA, BISHOP OF NAGOYA, CELEBRANT; HIROYUKI THOMAS SHIBATA, O.S.A., TOSHIMASA FURUKAWA O.C., TARO ASAI (NAGOYA DIOCESE), NOBUYUKI YAMAUCHI O.F.M. AND JOSEPH MASAMI YAMAGUCHI, O.S.A.

Augustinians Celebrate 50 Years in Nagoya, Japan

The Vicariate of the Augustinian Martyrs of Japan celebrated its Golden Jubilee of ministry in Nagoya, Japan, in June 2014. After an absence of over 300 years the Order returned to Japan in 1952, when the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova, responding to an invitation from the Diocese of Nagasaki, sent missionaries to Nagasaki. In 1964, the Augustinian presence expanded to Nagoya, a port city, with the founding of St. Monica Minato Church. The friars in Nagoya minister to sailors on cargo ships, many from the Philippines, who are Catholic. Congratulations to all of the friars who have served at the Vicariate of the Augustinian Martyrs of Japan on this achievement! To read more, visit www.osa.org.au/en/news-events/osa-news-international/recent-osa-news-international/fifty-years-of-augustinians-in-nagoya-japan/.

Diocese of Chulucanas in Peru Celebrates 50th Anniversary

In 1964, the Prelature of Chulucanas was created and later raised to a diocese with Fr. John McNabb, O.S.A., as its first bishop. In 2000, he was succeeded

by Bishop Dan Turley, O.S.A. Beginning on Thursday, May 22, the Feast of St. Rita of Cascia and lasting four days, the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the diocese began with the ordination of an Augustinian Brother, Reydin Alvarado, O.S.A. In the afternoon, different parishes in the diocese participated in a parade. On Friday, a history of the diocese was presented with attendees offering their memories of events. On Saturday, the Papal Nuncio in Peru blessed a new diocesan seminary in Chulucanas. The principal celebration concluded on Sunday, with Mass in front of the Cathedral.



AUGUSTINIAN BROTHER, REYDIN ALVARADO, O.S.A., IS ORDAINED BY BISHOP DAN TURLEY, O.S.A.



JOSEPH L. FARRELL, O.S.A., VICAR GENERAL OF THE ORDER, VISITS ST. AUGUSTINE CHURCH IN HAVANA WITH TWO FRIARS SERVING IN CUBA, WHILE VISITING IN MAY 2014.

Vicar General Visits Cuba

At the beginning of May, Fr. Joe Farrell, O.S.A., the Vicar General of the Order of St. Augustine, visited Cuba for two weeks. He met with the six friars there who serve in the communities of Havana, Chambas, and Puerto Padre. The friars visited Havana's Diocesan Seminary as well as the site of a former seminary, which will be used to house a cultural center to be named for Félix Varela, (1788-1853), a Cuban-born, Roman Catholic priest and independence leader. A concelebrated closing Mass of the assembly took place at the church of Santo Cristo Buen Viaje in Havana.



(L TO R) PRIOR GENERAL, ALEJANDRO MORAL, OS.A., PAOLO BENEDEK, O.S.A., THE PAPAL SACRISTAN AND CARDINAL PIETRO PAROLIN, THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR VATICAN CITY, WHO UNVEILED THE PLAQUE.



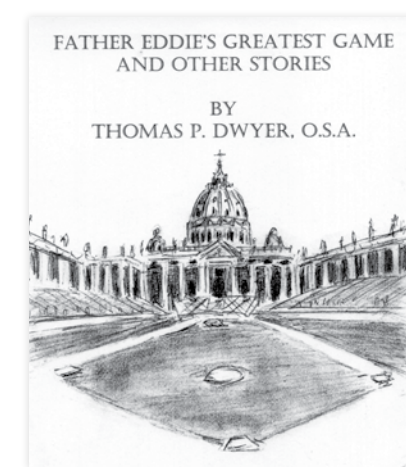
FR. ROB AND HIS FOURSOME (L-TO-R): TIM MULLEN, MIKE RUGGIERO, FR. ROB, ED DEVINE.

Cascia Classic Benefits Augustinian Ministries

On Friday, August 15, 2014, the Cascia Classic Benefit Golf tournament teed up with 125 golfers in attendance for the shotgun start at 12 Noon. The event, held at Westover Country Club in Jeffersonville, Pa., was hosted by Fr. Rob Hagan, O.S.A., and included golf, followed by a banquet and award ceremony. The event raised over forty thousand dollars to benefit Augustinian ministries.

Affiliation Granted to Our Lady of Good Counsel Parishioners on Staten Island

On June 14, 2014, Bill (deceased) and Fran Busch were affiliated to the Order. For many years Bill and Fran supported the friars with their prayers and kindness, especially the friars in initial formation. Fr. Luis Vera presided at the Mass. A festive lunch followed in the friary dining room.



Thomas P. Dwyer, O.S.A., Writes Book of Short Stories

Fr. Tom Dwyer, O.S.A., who lived for over 52 years as a missionary in Japan, has written his second book. The book, *Father Eddie's Greatest Game and Other Stories*, contains eleven short stories and is available at Amazon.



(L-TO-R): LIAM O'DOHERTY, O.S.A., (PASTOR), ROBERT TERRANOVA, O.S.A., JAMES CASSIDY, O.S.A., LUIS VERA, O.S.A., (CELEBRANT) JORGE CLETO, O.S.A., ALDO POTENCIO, O.S.A., AND JOSEPH MURRAY, O.S.A.

Plaque Commemorates Mass Celebrated by Pope Francis at 2013 General Chapter

On August 28, 2014, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Secretary of State of Vatican City, presided at the Mass of the Celebration of the Feast of St. Augustine at the Basilica di Sant'Agostino in Rome. Prior General Alejandro Moral, O.S.A., and many Augustinians concelebrated along with friars from the Recollect Augustinians and Discalced Augustinians in Rome. Other religious of the Augustinian family and many faithful filled the church for the celebration.

At the end of the liturgy, before the final blessing, Cardinal Parolin went with the concelebrants and the faithful to a wall near the chapel of St. Monica. There he uncovered a marble plaque commemorating the meeting and Mass celebrated the year before, August 28, 2013, with Pope Francis for the opening of the General Chapter.

The following is the text of the plaque at the Basilica di Sant'Agostino in Rome commemorating the Mass celebrated by Pope Francis at the opening of the General Chapter.

28 AUGUST 2013, ON THE FEAST OF OUR HOLY FATHER ST. AUGUSTINE, FRANCIS BISHOP OF ROME HONORED WITH HIS VISIT THE AUGUSTINIAN RELIGIOUS, GATHERED TO CELEBRATE THE 184TH ORDINARY GENERAL CHAPTER. THE HOLY FATHER URGED THEM, SO THAT IMITATING THE BISHOP OF HIPPO, THEY ALWAYS KEEP ALIVE IN THEIR HEARTS THE RESTLESSNESS OF THE SPIRITUAL SEARCH, THE RESTLESSNESS OF THE ENCOUNTER WITH GOD, THE RESTLESSNESS OF LOVE.

THE AUGUSTINIAN FRIARS, WITH A SPIRIT OF GRATITUDE PLACE THIS MARBLE PLAQUE FOR FUTURE MEMORY.

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



Donald X. Burt, O.S.A.

BORN: 4/29/1929
FIRST PROFESSION: 9/10/1948
ORDAINED: 6/4/1955
DIED: 4/11/2014

Fr. Burt was a native of Philadelphia, Pa., where he attended Our Lady of the Rosary Parish School and Saint Thomas Moore High School for three years. He entered as a postulant to complete his high school education at Augustinian Academy.

Fr. Burt had a long career in education. He taught at Biscayne College, Merrimack College and Villanova University. He served as assistant to the president while at Merrimack and the Dean of Arts & Sciences while at Villanova. He also served as Regent of Studies at the Collegiate Seminary at Villanova (1978-80). During his career teaching, he wrote a series of books on St. Augustine and Spirituality and maintained a website on Augustine's Spirituality. Fr. Burt generously shared the fruit of his study and meditation with others through his writings. His wisdom, sense of humor, calm spirit and kindness were gifts and blessings to the Province.



James P. Conway, O.S.A.

BORN: 7/27/1930
FIRST PROFESSION: 9/10/1953
ORDAINED: 6/4/1960
DIED: 4/28/2014

Fr. Conway, a native of New York, attended grade school and high school at St. Nicholas of Tolentine in the Bronx, where he later served in one of his parochial assignments. Aside from St. Nick's, he served at Our Lady of Good Counsel, Staten Island, N.Y., and St. Augustine Parish in Andover, Mass. Fr. Conway also served in the teaching apostolate at Msgr. Bonner High School,

in Drexel Hill, Pa., and for a time he served at Mount Augustine Retreat House on Staten Island, N.Y. Fr. Conway served the Province's education and parochial apostolates with equal dedication.



Cherubin F. Kerr, O.S.A.

BORN: 9/1/1920
FIRST PROFESSION: 10/3/1937
ORDAINED: 3/25/1944
DIED: 7/26/2014

Fr. Cherubin was born in Valetta, Malta, where he attended Valetta Public Elementary School and Central High School. He entered the Order on September 22, 1936. He completed his studies at Saint Mark Seminary in Rabat. Following ordination, 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 as a member of the former Italian Vice Province. He served at Our Lady of Pompeii and St. Mary parishes in East Vineland, N.J., and St. Nicholas of Tolentine in Philadelphia, Pa. In 1990, he was assigned to St. Augustine Preparatory School in Richland, N.J. Fr. Kerr was an avid cook, stamp collector and woodworker who delighted in fashioning clocks, ships and furniture, which he graciously gave away to others. While still a member of the Province of Malta, in 2002 he was ascribed to the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova. He retired to St. Thomas Monastery in 2009. Until the very last day of his life he remained mentally alert, joy-filled, and positive in his outlook.



Ralph J. Monteiro, O.S.A.

BORN: 6/24/1940
FIRST PROFESSION: 9/10/1959
ORDAINED: 11/19/1966
DIED: 5/20/2014

Fr. Monteiro was a native of the Bronx, N.Y., where he attended Our Savior's Parish School and Cardinal Hayes High School. Fr. Monteiro served as a teacher and/or librarian at various high schools in the Province and served as a librarian in the public system of Prince George County, Md. He also served in retreat and preaching ministries and as a chaplain at Rosemont College (Pa.). He was in parish ministry at St. Nicholas of Tolentine, Atlantic City, N.J., and at Our Mother of Consolation, Chestnut Hill, Pa. In 1985, he served in the Diocese of Santa Rosa (Calif.), at the Mission of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha in Hoopa as parish administrator and diocesan liaison for Native American ministry (1985-2000). He volunteered in the AIDS Resource Center, San Francisco (2000-2003). After returning to Villanova, he served as a preacher and fundraiser for Food for the Poor. Following the example of St. Augustine, Fr. Ralph's restless heart led him to always search for God in the events of his life.



Thomas Shawn Tracy, O.S.A.

BORN: 3/6/1940
FIRST PROFESSION: 9/10/1959
ORDAINED: 11/19/1966
DIED: 7/20/2014

Fr. Shawn was a native of Washington D.C., where he attended the Campus School of the Catholic University of America and Archbishop Carroll High School. Fr. Shawn's first assignment was at St. Nicholas of Tolentine, Bronx, N.Y. It was here that he began recording his folk-inspired songs, producing three albums with the parish guitar group. In 1975, Fr. Shawn came to Villanova University, where he served as Director of Campus Ministry, until he stepped down in 1995. Upon his arrival at Villanova, Fr. Shawn connected with singer-songwriter and producer Dan Mason. The creative team of Tracy and Mason, along with Bronx composer Paul Wrynn, continued to record music for prayer and celebration, releasing three recordings under the name *He Shall Be Peace* and four under the name *Sanctuary*, from 1978 to 2007. Fr. Shawn was committed to HEC (Handicapped Encounter Christ), a program that provides retreats for able and disabled persons. Fr. Shawn's friends in the HEC Community inspired him to become an activist for equal access to both the physical and spiritual realms. At the time of his death, Fr. Shawn was a member of the Villanova University Board of Trustees as well as a board member and chaplain of the Villanova Alumni Association. Fr. Shawn

had a deep love for scripture and the writings of Augustine. He saw everything on earth connected to a hopeful (albeit wobbly, worn, torn or slightly crooked) beam of God's Spirit.



Edson J. Wood, O.S.A.

BORN: 9/17/1946
FIRST PROFESSION: 9/10/1965
ORDAINED: 6/24/1972
DIED: 4/9/2014

Fr. Wood was a native of Iliion, N.Y. Fr. Wood's priestly service was devoted, to a great extent, to working with young people in secondary education or higher learning. He taught at Archbishop Carroll in Washington, D.C., the School of the Holy Child in Wheaton, and Good Counsel High School in Wheaton, both in Maryland, and Malvern Prep, Malvern, Pa., where he also served as chaplain. He served as assistant to the president at Catholic University. In 1985, he was commissioned as a chaplain in the U.S. Army and discharged in 1991. In 1993, he became assistant chaplain and, eventually, brigade chaplain, at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, the first Catholic to have been appointed to the position, which he held at the time of his death. In addition to a wake and funeral Mass at St. Thomas of Villanova Church, Fr. Wood's body was taken to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., for a wake at Holy Trinity Catholic Chapel and a funeral Mass in the Cadet Chapel. Fr. Edson followed in the spirit of St. Augustine by his sincere love of God and dedicated service to the needs of others.

DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

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

Michael F. Di Gregorio, O.S.A.,
Prior Provincial

Basil DiSipio
Chairman

Eric Quisenberry
Co-Chair, Annual Appeal

Robert McKiernan,
Co-Chair, Annual Appeal

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James J. McCartney, O.S.A.
Robert McKiernan

Michael Picotte
Jonathan Poling
Robert Saldutti

Margaret (Meg) Sheetz
James H. Stewart
Michael P. Sullivan, O.S.A.
Robert Woods

HONORARY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL MEMBERS

William Hallissey
Gary Holloway, Sr.

The circle of grace and gift...

In his homily during his Installation Mass, Fr. Michael asked Augustinians, friends and family in attendance, to be the grace and gift for each other. It sounds like a tall order, but actually, it describes what the relationships between Augustinians, friends and family already are: the circle of grace and gift. It's a personal journey within a community of friends with Jesus Christ at its center.

Some of the most committed friends of the Augustinians serve on our Development Council and several members, past and present, were on hand to meet Fr. Michael

just prior to his Installation Mass. These men and women play an important role in bringing awareness to what Augustinians do and how financial gifts can continue their work.

Our goal for the 2014-2015 Annual Appeal of the Augustinian Fund is 1.4 million dollars. It's a lofty goal that is set with the confidence that the friends of the Augustinians and the readers of this magazine are ready to continue the circle of grace and gift.

You are at the heart of what we do.



PICTURED: L-TO-R: MARIO DICKERSON, PETER AND PEGGY FEDERICO, CHARLEY AND MARIANNE CONNOLLY, MICHAEL F. DI GREGORIO, O.S.A., BASIL AND MARY DISIPIO, WILLIAM MAHONEY AND MS. JEANNIE BENDER AND ROBERT AND CAROL MCKIERNAN.

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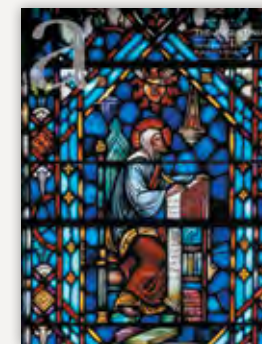
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A LIFE FOR GOD AND COUNTRY**"
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EDITOR

TEDDIE GALLAGHER
The Augustinian, Villanova, Pa.

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publication that carefully presents
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consume news."

CATHOLIC PRESS AWARD JUDGES



"ON BEHALF OF THE PROVINCE AND OUR READERSHIP, I WANT TO EXTEND CONGRATULATIONS, AND EXPRESS OUR PRIDE AND GRATITUDE, TO THE EDITOR OF THE AUGUSTINIAN, TEDDIE GALLAGHER, WHO, FOR THE SECOND YEAR IN A ROW, WAS NAMED ONE OF THE TOP THREE CATHOLIC EDITORS IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA, IN A FIELD THAT INCLUDES NATIONAL, DIOCESAN, RELIGIOUS ORDER AND MISSION MAGAZINES AND NEWSPAPERS."

John Michael



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the prayer garden of

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Please join the Augustinians on their journey to the future by memorializing a stone in the walkway of the Prayer Garden of St. Thomas of Villanova, at the Monastery on the campus of Villanova University.

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