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SUMMER 2012
Dear Friends of the Augustinians,

I hope you are enjoying the summer months and finding some time to relax and renew yourself. We have just completed our Intermediate Chapter which means that I have come to the midpoint of my first term in office. In this edition of The Midwest Augustinian, I am pleased to inform you of the progress we have experienced over these past two years. I am grateful to all of you who have assisted us in our advancement efforts. I believe we are on the right track, but we still have a long way to go. At the same time, I remain confident in a hope-filled future for the Augustinians in the Midwest.

You will notice in this issue that our two Augustinian Bishops from our Province have been quite busy! Bishop John McNabb, O.S.A. has published his memoirs entitled Led Where I Did Not Plan to Go. I am grateful to him for taking the time to do this which will not only preserve the history of the Diocese of Chulucanas, Peru, but also share the great work that he and many other Augustinians have done there over the past fifty years. One of these men who has dedicated his entire ministerial life to the missions in Peru is Bishop Dan Turley, O.S.A. who has recently opened a site for a Catholic University in the diocese. Both of these men, along with our Prior General, Fr. Bob Prevost, O.S.A., will be honored at our Inaugural Gala on April 26, 2013. Please save the date and plan to attend this event to thank them and all of our Augustinians for the work that they have done and continue to do for the Province, the Order and the Church!

As you will notice from the article on the Augustinian Values Institute (AVI), our schools continue to do well. Education is one of our corporate commitments and we look forward to working with our dedicated lay partners to share the core values of Truth, Unity and Love with our students for years to come. However, the landscape of our parishes has recently changed a bit. Unfortunately, we have had to withdraw our commitment to St. Clare of Montefalco Parish in Grosse Pointe, Michigan after 86 years. At the same time we now have an Augustinian Community at St. Turibius Parish in Chicago and will have an Augustinian, Fr. Tom Griffin, O.S.A., serve as the Administrator of St. Gabriel Parish in Chicago while being a member of the Community at St. Turibius.

I am sure that all of you who knew Fr. Ray Ryan, O.S.A. join me in giving thanks and praise to God for the gift he was to all of us. We will most certainly miss his great wisdom, his friendly face and his wonderful sense of humor—May he rest in peace! And finally, I hope you will plan to join in the Province Celebration of St. Augustine Day and the Profession of Brother Richie Mercado, O.S.A. on Sunday, August 12th. Invitations will be sent out in the very near future.

Thank you for all you do to support the Augustinians of the Midwest and our ministries. Be assured of my prayers for you and your intentions.

Sincerely in Christ and St. Augustine,

Very Reverend Bernard C. Scianna, O.S.A., Ph.D.
Prior Provincial of the Midwest Augustinians
A Dream Come True

By Most Rev. Daniel T. Turley, O.S.A.
Bishop of the Diocese of Chulucanas, Perú

For many years now, we have seen our youth boarding the local buses to Piura, the capital city of our Region (State). The buses begin to leave at 5:00 a.m. and leave about every 15 or twenty minutes. Hundreds of young people travel everyday to study at the Piura Universities, Technical Institutes, Academies and Occupational Centers. The families have to make great sacrifices to send their children on for higher education with the hope that there will be work for them in the future. Many of the poorest of the poor, of course, cannot afford to educate their children beyond high school education. Our dream was that one day we might be able to establish a center of higher learning here in our Diocese of Chulucanas. Our University, we prayed, would be at the service of the poor. We wanted to serve the youth from the poor farm families in Huancabamba, Ayabaca, and Morropón. The dream was to begin a Catholic University in Chulucanas at the service of the poor.

Our dream was placed in the Lord’s hands. In 2010, Bishop Lino Panizza, who had established a Catholic University in his poor Diocese of Carabayllo in the north of Lima, encouraged us to keep on dreaming. After several meetings with him and his University staff, the Catholic University “Sedes Sapientiae” of Carabayllo, Lima signed a formal Agreement with our Chulucanas Diocese to establish University Programs for our youth here in Chulucanas. We had to find a building for the University, staff, and so many other things. How to pull this all together? Rev. Art Purcaro, O.S.A., gladly accepted the challenge with a fine team of lay men and women.

YES! The Dream has come TRUE. On March 11th, we blessed the Catholic University “Sedes Sapientiae” with its four University programs here in Chulucanas. Hundreds of people accompanied us with our local public officials. It was a historic moment for Chulucanas and for our Diocese. 252 men and women are now studying in our University programs. We have many needs, of course. The computer lab has no computers as of yet. The laboratory has no lab equipment. The library has 4 or 5 books. The first days of class were some of the hottest in history. On the second day of class the thermometer indicated that the room temperature was 99° F. We now have fans in each classroom.

About 20 families are giving room and board to students from poor rural families. What a blessed sign of Christian solidarity! The dream has come true. Thank you, Lord.

PACAPAMPA, PERU (Below):
Our Lady of the Assumption Parish in the Diocese of Chulucanas has been served by the Augustinians for 28 years
August 6 last year I professed my vows with the Order of Saint Augustine “for the love of God and in the presence of my brothers.” This life with God and the brothers is even more to the heart of the religious life than are the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. It has been at the heart, too, of my own life. Looking at universities, I knew that a life with God and brothers was dearer to me than any other consideration. I found this Christian community at the University of Tulsa. Little did I expect to find there another Christian community that would win my heart: the Augustinians.

At University I discovered religious life through a course on medieval culture. I was already marveling at the lives of some early religious figures when we began to read the Confessions of Augustine. I was no longer admiring portraits of great saints but was staring at my own reflection in a mirror. I discovered his joys and hopes, griefs and anxieties, to be my own. By identifying with his story, I recognized my own need for conversion and found myself making my own conversion with him. I began to consider some different communities, not knowing that there was any Order bearing his name or his charism yet today.

Then I met Bro. Paul Koscielnik, O.S.A. who was the Director of Vocations at that time. Many of my experiences from the prior semester really resonated with what he was saying of himself and the Order, and I was excited to hear that there was a community just a few miles from my University. A year later I was a semi-regular guest of the monastery, joining the community for evening prayer and dinner. I was always gladly welcomed there when I expressed interest in coming again, and I was always invited again when some time had passed. I began to see witnessed there the very first principle of our Augustinian life: to live harmoniously in our house, one mind and one heart in God.

Even that charism loses its value if it is not a fruitful one for the people of God, so my first visit to the Order in Chicago was a crucial one. I flew up with Fr. Bernie Scianna, O.S.A. for the Friends of Tolentine’s Man of the Year Dinner, and I was awestruck by both the great love the people had for the Augustinians and the Augustinians’ love for the people gathered. I understood that our living of community is not just for ourselves but is an opportunity to gather others together in communion with us. That ministry of communion, even more than that of teaching, is how I really feel drawn to build up the Kingdom. So even though it would be another year and a half before I would enter the community, I already encountered with the Augustinians an echo of my own restless heart’s desires.

You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you.
Augustinian education breeds excellence; it has done so ever since St. Augustine himself began his quest for truth hundreds of years ago. A fiery thirst for knowledge and a sense of restlessness roam our school halls across North America every day. And while each school lets it be known that Christ is the reason for their school, three simple core values carry each community one extra step closer to God every day: Veritas, Unitas, and Caritas: Truth, Unity, and Love.

This April, St. Rita of Cascia High School (Chicago, IL) hosted over 100 teachers and administrators from seven Augustinian secondary schools in the United States, one in Canada, and two in Ireland for the annual Augustinian Values Institute (AVI). The AVI serves our schools’ lay leadership and educators by clearly defining and promoting Augustinian charisms, values, and identity. Rev. John Keller, O.S.A., Director of Education for the Augustinian West Coast Province, says, “Times have changed - as Augustinian schools grew in size, the number of professed Augustinians in them has diminished. Today well over 90% of the Faculty and Administration in Augustinian schools are lay women and men (as is the case, on average, in all Catholic schools in the U.S.). The governing bodies of the schools, as well, are made up in large majority of lay women and men. The Augustinians have welcomed these collaborators. They are not substitutes to fill the gap but have become valued co-agents of the mission.”

What a call to all of us lay people! It is certainly no secret that our global Church has called for more unity between the religious and the laity. It was a challenge for Jesus’s disciples thousands of years ago to be leaders of our Church, and it is still a challenge today.

"Truth, Unity, and Love” describes the core values that embody our Augustinian mission. Each value is both beautifully complex and simple at the same time. Our pursuit of Truth comes alive when we search for God. We find Unity when we strive for union with God and others in our community. As St. Augustine compares our sense of Love to a restless flame, he says that “God has built a stairway in your heart for you to climb. The more you love, the higher you climb.”

Let each of us search for how to bring these core Augustinian values into our daily lives: at work, in our family, at Church. How can we as lay people embrace every challenge and view it as an opportunity for growth and change? What is each of us willing to sacrifice in our lives to journey closer to God?

"Forge ahead, my brothers and sisters; always examine yourselves without self deception, without flattery, without buttering yourselves up. Always be dissatisfied with what you are, if you want to arrive at what you are not yet. Because whenever you are satisfied with yourself, there you have stuck. If, though, you say, 'that's enough,' that's the lot,' then you even perished. Always add some more, always keep on walking, always forge ahead.”

– St. Augustine, Sermon 169
Why a bequest or any other planned gift?

- Tells the Augustinians in a meaningful way how much they mean to you
- Perpetuates your annual giving after you have gone home
- Gives the money or asset when you no longer need it
- Lets you designate how your gift is to be used: Elderly Augustinians, Seminarians / promote vocations, or Augustinian missions in Peru
- Allows you to remember and honor loved ones in a significant way
- Allows you to give a much larger gift than what might be possible in life

The Power of Perpetual Giving

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*Estimates 2.5% annual payout so principle is preserved.

Bequests may be made to Province of Our Mother of Good Counsel – The Augustinians.

All planned gifts donors announcing their intentions to the Province are remembered and honored in significant ways. For more information please contact us regarding membership in “The Restless Heart” Legacy Society. This is reserved for planned gift donors only.

For More Information

Please contact Province Advancement Director Michael Gerrity at mikelwger@gmail.com or call 773-595-4035. All inquiries are treated with discretion and in confidence.

Pray on it. Commit to it. Do it. You will be pleased. So will God!
First Augustinian Cardinal in 100 Years

By Very Rev. Bernard C. Scianna, O.S.A.

In February, I was privileged to attend the ceremony at St. Peter’s Basilica where Prospero Grech, O.S.A. was made a Cardinal by the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI. He is the first Augustinian Cardinal in more than 100 years. While Cardinal Grech is over the age of 80 and therefore would not have a vote for the next Pope, his appointment is seen as a great honor for him personally and for the Order. The following day, I attended the Mass at St. Peter’s, concelebrated by the new Cardinals. I was also privileged to distribute communion at this Mass which allowed me to be near the foot of the high altar for the consecration. I was also able to visit with the other newly created Cardinals at a reception afterwards, particularly, Cardinal Dolan of New York and Cardinal Collins of Toronto.

Prospero Cardinal Grech was born in Birgu, Malta on Christmas Eve, 1925. He professed his first vows to the Augustinian Order in 1944 and was later ordained a priest in 1950. This past January, on the Solemnity of the Epiphany, His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI announced his intention to create 22 new cardinals, one being our brother, Prospero Grech. After this announcement, he was ordained to the episcopacy on February 8 in Malta by Archbishop Paul Cremonta and was named titular Archbishop of San Leone. He was created Cardinal on February 18 and assigned the title of Saint Maria Goretti.
A province is one geographical jurisdiction of a greater, global religious order. The Province of Our Mother of Good Counsel is the Midwestern United States province of the Augustinian Order, headquartered in Chicago. Each province, of at least 40 solemnly professed Augustinians, is led by a Prior Provincial, much like your local diocese is led by a bishop.

Originally part of the Eastern Province of St. Thomas of Villanova headquartered in Pennsylvania, our Province was officially founded in 1941 on April 26: the Feast of Our Mother of Good Counsel. Those founding Augustinians of our Province, however, had already been serving in our sites since 1905 with the founding of St. Rita of Cascia High School and Parish in Chicago, IL.

Unlike a diocese which cares for an area within specific geographic boundaries, the Augustinians move without borders to wherever the Church is needed. For example, the Augustinians answered the call to found Cascia Hall Preparatory School in 1926 at the request of the local Bishop’s need for a Catholic school in northeastern Oklahoma. In 1963, the Augustinians answered the Vatican’s call to evangelize Latin America by establishing missions in northern Peru and founding the Diocese of Chulucanas. In 2010, the Augustinians answered the Archdiocese of Chicago’s need for priests to serve in a multicultural parish by staffing St. Turibius Parish.

Thank you for making our province the strong, devoted family that it is.

PARISHES

1. Old St. Augustine Parish
   Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States

2. Our Lady of the Lake Parish
   Edwardsburg, Michigan, United States

3. Our Mother of Good Counsel Parish
   Homer Glen, Illinois, United States

4. Sacred Heart Parish
   Delta, British Columbia, Canada

5. Sacred Heart Parish
   King City, Ontario, Canada

6. St. Gabriel Parish
   Chicago, Illinois, United States

7. St. Jude Parish
   New Lenox, Illinois, United States

8. St. Matthew Parish
   Flint, Michigan, United States

9. St. Peter Parish
   Douglas, Michigan, United States

10. St. Rita Parish and Novitiate
    Racine, Wisconsin, United States

11. St. Rita Parish
    Chicago, Illinois, United States

12. St. Turibius Parish
    Chicago, Illinois, United States

SCHOOLS

13. Austin Catholic Academy
    Ray, Michigan, United States

14. Cascia Hall Preparatory School
    Tulsa, Oklahoma, United States

15. DePaul University
    Chicago, Illinois, United States

16. Providence Catholic High School
    New Lenox, Illinois, United States

17. St. Rita of Cascia High School
    Chicago, Illinois, United States

18. Tepeyac Institute
    El Paso, Texas, United States

19. Villanova College
    King City, Ontario, Canada

20. Villanova University
    Villanova, Pennsylvania, United States

MISSIONS

21. Casa Central de los Agustinos (Center House of the Augustinians)
    Chorrillos, Lima, Perú

22. Catholic Church
    Totsuka-Ku, Yokohama, Japan

23. Catedral Sagrada Familia (Holy Family Cathedral)
    Chulucanas, Piura, Perú

24. Colegio Santa Rosa de Lima (St. Rose of Lima School)
    Tijuana, Baja California, México

25. Colegio Señor de los Milagros (Lord of the Miracles High School)
    Pacasmayo, La Libertad, Perú

26. Convento Tomás de Villanueva (St. Thomas of Villanova Monastery)
    Trujillo, La Libertad, Perú

27. Parroquia Nuestra Señora de la Asunción (Our Lady of the Assumption Parish)
    Pacaipampa, Piura, Perú

28. Parroquia San José Obrero (St. Joseph the Worker Parish)
    Chulucanas, Piura, Perú

29. Parroquia San Isidro (St. Isidore Parish)
    Morropón, Piura, Perú

30. Seminario San Agustín (St. Augustine Seminary)
    Lima, Lima, Perú

FRIARIES

31. Austin Friary
    Matteson, Illinois, United States

32. Blessed Stephen Bellisini Friary
    Lemont, Illinois, United States
Where are the Midwest Augustinians serving the Global Church?

- [33] General Curia/International College of St. Monica
  Rome, Lazio, Italy

- [34] Most Rev. John C. McNabb, O.S.A.
  (Bishop Emeritus, Diocese of Chulucanas, Perú)
  Rockford, Illinois, United States

- [35] Our Lady of Grace Monastery
  King City, Ontario, Canada

- [36] San Agustín Center of Studies
  Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines

- [37] St. Augustine Theologate
  Chicago, Illinois, United States

- [38] St. John Stone Friary
  Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A.
Province Welcomes Six New Advancement Council Members

We extend our warmest welcome to our six newest members to our Province Advancement Council! Mrs. Anne Berschback has worked with and befriended many Augustinians since 1973; she has served on various commissions, was assistant to the school principal at St. Clare School and is currently serving on the Parish Council at St. Clare of Montefalco in Grosse Pointe, MI. Mr. Donald Berschback is an Augustinian Affiliate and Austin Catholic Preparatory School alumnus from Grosse Pointe Park, MI; he has been connected with the Augustinians for decades. Mr. Robert Biolchini, from Tulsa, OK, is also a long-time supporter of our Augustinian family. Mr. Matthew F. Coughlin, III is an Augustinian Affiliate from Tulsa, OK who has served as the Chairman on the Board of Directors at Cascia Hall. Mr. Gregory Jania, from Orland Park, IL, is an alumnus of St. Rita of Cascia High School; he has also served on St. Rita’s Board of Directors for many years. Mr. Robert Sullivan is also an Augustinian Affiliate from Tulsa, OK; he has supported the Province for decades, and also served as the Chairman of the Board at Cascia Hall.

The organized, active support of our most influential laity is essential to the progress of the Midwest Province’s mission. Hundreds of thousands of men, women, children, and families depend upon that very mission, and have done so for over 100 years. The Augustinians, both active and retired, depend upon these leading laity to step forward and partner with them in this great cause.

BISHOP JOHN McNABB, O.S.A. PUBLISHES NEW BOOK

Most Rev. John C. McNabb, O.S.A. was the first Bishop of the Diocese of Chulucanas in northern Peru, and is also one of the few surviving Bishops to attend Vatican II. Bishop McNabb uses his memoirs to describe the blessings and challenges of being called where he did not plan to go. To order your copy today, please contact Brother Thomas Taylor, O.S.A. at (773) 595-4036 or secretary@midwestaugustinians.org. The book is also available for download to Kindle.
Augustinians Administer New Parish in Chicago

**CHICAGO, IL:** St. Gabriel Catholic Church has been serving the community for over 130 years

This upcoming Fall, the Midwest Augustinians have agreed to begin administering the St. Gabriel Parish in Chicago, IL. The church has had an instrumental role in bringing deep spirituality and education to the Canaryville neighborhood of Chicago for over 130 years. Rev. Thomas E. Griffin, O.S.A. will be assigned there as the new Parish Administrator this Fall.

A Tribute to St. Clare of Montefalco Parish

**GROSSE POINTE PARK, MI:** St. Clare of Montefalco Parish has been served by the Augustinians since 1926

Prior Provincial Bernard Scianna, O.S.A. and Archbishop Allen Vigneron of the Archdiocese of Detroit recently announced that the Augustinians will no longer be serving at St. Clare of Montefalco in Grosse Pointe Park, MI starting in August 2012. They recently came to this difficult decision so that the Province can refocus its efforts to continue to provide strong presence at our other parishes and secondary schools across the country, given the current decline in Augustinian priests. While there are many seminarians currently in formation and there is much visible hope for more vocations, we currently need to use our personnel as effectively as possible. Rev. David Brecht, O.S.A. will continue to serve as headmaster at the new Austin Catholic Academy in Ray, MI.

McCarthy and Scianna Inducted to St. Rita Hall of Fame

**CHICAGO, IL:** Rev. Thomas R. McCarthy, O.S.A. (left) and Very Rev. Bernard C. Scianna, O.S.A. are the newest members of the St. Rita of Cascia High School Hall of Fame

Meet our Newest Advancement Staff Member

Ms. Becky Schmitt, Advancement Associate, joined the Province Advancement office in March. She comes from Seton Academy in South Holland, IL, where she worked in the Office for Institutional Advancement for two years. Her educational background is Middle Eastern/Islamic History, receiving her Master’s Degree in Middle Eastern Studies from the University of Chicago. She is excited to be joining the team for the Province.
ANNUAL FUND PROGRESS REPORT

We Augustinians thank you--each of the dear 1,100 people who made a commitment to our future this past year. Our Province has a new strategic plan, our vocations are increasing, there is a newly reinvigorated national vocation strategy in place, our missions in Peru are thriving, and the retired and infirm Augustinians are being well cared for in community settings. Hope abounds and we expect greater things in the future.

Charitable giving this past year to support all this good work was close to $730,000 - up about $250,000. We were also blessed with almost 300 new donors to the Augustinians. When all is said and done, it is NEVER about the money. It is about what money can do in service to God and to the Augustinians who serve Him, you, and all of us. It is about continuing to grow and passing on to future generations the fundamental Augustinian spirituality and values of Truth, Unity and Love.

To continue to thrive and care for our infirm Augustinians who devoted their entire lives to serving others, we must raise $1.1 million a year in charitable gifts by 2014. It also requires us to build up our very limited reserves. That requires a complimentary but separate strategy we will address in the future months. For now, we focus on the Annual Fund and this year’s goal of $850,000.

When you think of giving, remember the Augustinians and their impacts on your own life or that of loved ones and others you know. You can make a gift in memory or in honor of any Augustinian you choose. Whatever you do to help, you will be continuing a centuries-old legacy of great service. We ask Mary, Our Mother of Good Counsel to pray for you, the Augustinians, and for these vitally necessary fundraising efforts. Thank you.

"You have given me life, you have given me a body, this human body, you have given me reason. You formed every part of me. You have made everything beautiful and attractive." – St. Augustine
Augustinian Province of Our Mother of Good Counsel

Provincial's Inaugural Gala

Sponsored by Hon. Francis and Mrs. Kathleen Rooney
U.S. Ambassador to the Vatican (ret.)

The Solemnity of Our Mother of Good Counsel
The Hyatt Regency, Chicago, IL | April 26, 2013

Honoring

MOST REV. JOHN C. MCNABB, O.S.A.
BISHOP EMERITUS, DIOCESE OF CHULUCANAS, PERU

MOST REV. DANIEL T. TURLEY, O.S.A.
BISHOP, DIOCESE OF CHULUCANAS, PERU

MOST REV. ROBERT F. PREVOST, O.S.A.
PRIOR GENERAL, ORDER OF SAINT AUGUSTINE

Tables & Sponsorship Opportunities

ST. AUGUSTINE TABLES $5,000
V.I.P. reception, Preferred Table for 8, Full Page Journal Ad, Prominent Program Signage

ST. RITA OF CASCIAM TABLES $3,500
V.I.P. reception, Preferred Table for 8, Prominent Program Signage

"IN HONOR OR IN MEMORY OF" TABLES $2,500
You name an Augustinian, Parish, School, or Loved One V.I.P. Reception, Table for 8, Program Listing

ST. MONICA TABLES $2,500
V.I.P. reception, Table for 8, Program Listing

HONORED COUPLES $600
Two Seats, Program Listing

INDIVIDUAL RESERVATION $250

Major Underwriting and Sponsorship Opportunities

GALA SPONSOR $25,000
GALA CO-SPONSOR $15,000
VIP RECEPTION $7,500
GENERAL RECEPTION $5,000
EVENING PROGRAM BOOK $3,000
MUSIC $2,500
FLOWERS $2,000

SPONSOR AN AUGUSTINIAN OR SEMINARIAN TO ATTEND GALA $500

Gala Journal Program Book Opportunities
(8.5" X 11" FULL PAGE)

FULL PAGE (BACK OR INSIDE FRONT COVER) $1,250
FULL PAGE $1,000
HALF PAGE $600
QUARTER PAGE $300
BUSINESS CARD $100

Individual / Family / Business Listings
(2 LINES MAXIMUM)

PLATINUM PAGE $125
GOLD PAGE $100
SILVER PAGE $75

To reserve a table or sponsorship, please call Becky in the Province Advancement Office at 773-595-4008 or email augadvmw@gmail.com
Bro. Mark Emken, O.S.A.

Bro. Mark was born in St. Louis, MO and attended high school at Cascia Hall Preparatory School in Tulsa, OK. After graduating from St. Augustine Seminary in Holland, MI, he entered the formation program for Augustinian Brothers in Oconomowoc, WI. After professing his first vows to the Order in 1968, he began working in the Data Processing Department at Mendel Catholic High School in Chicago, IL. Following a few other reassignments, further studies, and contemplative experiences, he returned to Mendel in 1975 to serve as the Business Manager of the school and of the monastery. He earned his M.S. in Religious Education from Loyola University Chicago in 1978.

Bro. Mark continued to work in several other ministries including the St. Joseph Parish in Pekin, IL, St. Clare of Montefalco Parish in Chicago, IL, Immaculate Conception/St. Henry Parish in St. Louis, MO, and others. In 2000, he began working for Christian Brothers Services until retiring in 2010, when he moved to Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Edwardsburg, MI. He is now serving as the Director of Finance for our Province of Our Mother of Good Counsel.

Rev. Christopher C. Steinle, O.S.A.

Born in Racine County, Wisconsin, Fr. Chris was initially part of the St. Francis Seminary College Formation Program. After graduating from the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee with a B.A. in Geography, he worked at the motherhouse for the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother in Brown Deer, Wisconsin. Fr. Chris was accepted into the Augustinian Formation program in 1990, followed by his Novitiate year in Racine, Wisconsin. He professed his first vows to the Order in 1992, earned his M.Div. from Catholic Theological Union in 1997, and was ordained a priest one year later.

In 1998, Fr. Chris returned to serve as a missionary in Peru, as he had previously spent his pastoral year in South America. He served both in the northern and southern regions of Peru, until returning in 2004 where he took Education courses toward a teaching certificate. After teaching at Providence Catholic in New Lenox, IL, for one year, he was assigned to pastoral missionary work in La Paz, Bolivia.

Fr. Chris returned to the United States in 2008 to serve as the Province Mission Director until 2011. Fr. Chris just recently returned from sabbatical, and is preparing to serve as a priest-speaker for Food for the Poor, Inc.

Rev. Michael J. Slattery, O.S.A.

Fr. Mike was born and raised in Rockford, IL, until he entered the Augustinian formation program at St. Augustine Seminary in Holland, MI. After completing his novitiate year, he professed his first vows to the Order in 1968. After earning his B.A. in Philosophy from Tolentine College in Olympia Fields, IL, Fr. Mike taught at Mendel Catholic High School in Chicago, IL and professed solemn vows in 1976. He was ordained a priest one year later.

Since ordination, Fr. Mike has served in many ministries including parish life at Holy Rosary Parish in Kenosha, WI, St. Clare of Montefalco Parish in Chicago, IL, and...
Following their Vow of Obedience, the Augustinians find themselves called to where they are needed. Each issue hopes to connect you with some familiar faces as we provide brief updates on the Augustinians serving throughout our vast Province.

On March 26, 2012, Fr. Ray Ryan, O.S.A. entered eternal life at the age of 81. Fr. Ray was born in Chicago, IL in 1930. He graduated from St. Rita High School in 1948 and was accepted into the Augustinian Formation Program of Staten Island, NY that same year. He professed his first Augustinian vows in 1950 and was ordained into the priesthood in 1957.

Fr. Ray served various ministries including teaching at Mendel Catholic High School (Chicago, IL), Tolentine College (Olympia Fields, IL), and St. Augustine Seminary (Holland, MI). He notably served three terms as our Prior Provincial for three 4-year terms. He is remembered as an ideal leader during a challenging time of transition in the Augustinian Order, when its government was becoming more democratized. He had a positive influence on members of the Order all over North America, as well as his students and parishioners. He is buried in the Augustinian Plot at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Alsip, IL.

“Ray was not only a valued member of the Province, but also of the Order. He was known around the country and throughout the world as a kind and wise friar. I was grateful for his presence on my Council till the day he died. Not only did he contribute greatly to the issues at hand at the meetings, he would also call me quite often the day after the meetings to see how I was doing. He knew what it meant to shoulder the burden of leadership. I will miss him, his wit and wisdom, and those phone calls showing his care, concern and love.”

– Very Rev. Bernard C. Scianna, O.S.A., Ph.D.
Prior Provincial
Richie Mercado was born in 1979 in the Philippines and began discerning his vocation with the Augustinians in the Cebu Province. While there, he studied philosophy for three years until he decided to join his family who had immigrated to California in 2000. He says that he continued to feel the calling to religious life and contacted the Midwest Augustinians. Now having completed his novitiate studies this past year with the Augustinian community in Racine, WI, he is ready to profess his first vows as an Augustinian.

Mark your calendars! On the 12th of August this year, we will be gathering together to welcome Richie Mercado into our Province as the newest member of the Augustinian Order. On this day, we will also anticipate celebrating the Feast of St. Augustine.

To celebrate his first profession of vows and the Feast of St. Augustine, we are welcoming our entire Augustinian family: alumni from our high schools, parishioners from our parishes, Augustinian Affiliates and Seculars, and our generous benefactors. Everyone is welcome to bring their friends and families.

For more information or to RSVP, please contact Ms. Becky Schmitt at (773) 595-4008 or augadvmw@gmail.com.