Pope Francis Appoints Robert Prevost, O.S.A., Bishop in Peru

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DEAR FRIENDS OF THE AUGUSTINIANS,

I hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas Season, and I pray that God will bless us all with good health and happiness in this New Year!

The month of December afforded me the opportunity and privilege to attend the installation of our new Archbishop Blase Cupich in Chicago and our new Augustinian Bishop Bob Prevost, O.S.A., in Chiclayo, Peru. I look forward to working with Archbishop Cupich in the years to come and hope that he will be able to join us at some of our gatherings in the near future.

The time in Peru for Bishop Prevost’s Ordination was very personal and powerful for me. I was able to arrive the day before his ordination and to concelebrate his last Mass before being ordained to the episcopacy along with Augustinian Bishop Alberto Bochatey, O.S.A. This was a great private moment to share in this experience with Bob before the crowds set in the next day. The processions were pressing in on him, the Cathedral was packed, and the liturgy very profound. There was a delightful lunch afterwards. That evening, I once again enjoyed a private moment with Bishop Bob when he was able to join Bishop John McNabb, O.S.A.; Bishop Bochatey, O.S.A.; Vicar General Fr. Joe Farrell, O.S.A.; Procurator General Miguel Angel Juarez, O.S.A., and me for dinner. The following day was his first Mass of Thanksgiving as a Bishop. His second Mass of Thanksgiving was January 17, 2015 in Chicago with Family, Friars, Affiliates, and Friends who were not able to attend the festivities in Peru. We all wish Bishop Prevost God’s choicest blessings as he begins his new ministry, and we will certainly miss his presence here in the Province.

Bishop Bob’s ordination to the episcopacy means that we now have three bishops from our Province that begins its 75th Anniversary celebrations this year. Bishop Bob Prevost, O.S.A., joins Bishop John McNabb, O.S.A., and Bishop Dan Turley, O.S.A., in the ranks of Bishop. We have also had three Prior Generals of the Augustinian Order come from the Midwest: Fr. Joseph Hickey, O.S.A., came from St. Gabriel Parish in Chicago (although he was officially from the Villanova Province since we only became a province in 1941); Fr. Ted Tack, O.S.A., came from Cascia Hall School in Tulsa, Oklahoma; and Fr. Bob Prevost, O.S.A., from Chicago who began his relationship with the Augustinians at St. Augustine Seminary in Holland, Michigan. It is quite an honor that the Order and Church has recognized the gifts and talents of these men and entrusted them with such significant leadership positions over the years.

I invite you to join us in celebrating our 75th Diamond Jubilee celebrations that begin at our Augustinian Gala on Friday, April 24, 2015 at the Drake when we will honor Father Tony Pizzo, O.S.A.; Deacon Jim Foody, M.D.; and also have a special Jubilee Remembrance of Father Ray Ryan, O.S.A. We will continue the celebration the following morning at St. Rita Parish in Chicago with a Mass of Thanksgiving with our current Prior General, Father Alejandro Moral Antón, O.S.A., presiding. Several friends of the Province will be affiliated to the Order at this Mass. All are welcome to attend.

Also, please mark the evening of Thursday, August 27, 2015 in your calendar. We will celebrate the Feasts of St. Monica and St. Augustine during this Year of Consecrated Life at Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago. Please continue to pray for me and for vocations to our Order.

Sincerely in Christ and St. Augustine,

Fr. Bernie

Very Rev. Bernard C. Scianna, O.S.A., Ph.D.
Prior Provincial

COVER PHOTO: The Most Rev. F. Prevost, O.S.A., ordained as the fourth Bishop of Chiclayo, Peru
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The Most Rev. Robert F. Prevost, O.S.A., former Prior Provincial of the Midwest Augustinians and Prior General of the worldwide Augustinian Order, was appointed the fourth Bishop of Chiclayo, Peru. He was ordained a bishop on December 12, 2014, on the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

"In this very short amount of time since I found out about the decision of the Holy Father, Pope Francis, to call me to this service, my prayer has been very much kind of an acceptance in saying to the Lord, 'Lord, you've called me,' " said Bishop Prevost. "And hearing the Lord say, 'Do not be afraid, I am with you.' Those same words are the message that Jesus repeats continually throughout the Gospel, saying to His disciples, 'Do not be afraid.'"

Bishop Prevost previously spent over a dozen years as an Augustinian missionary in Northern Peru, having served as the Chancellor for the Diocese of Chulucanas and the Augustinian Director of Formation in Trujillo, among other ministries. He later served as the Prior Provincial of the Midwest Augustinians in Chicago before being elected the Prior General for the worldwide Augustinian Order. He held that position for two consecutive 6-year terms in Rome, witnessing the pontificates of St. John Paul II, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, and Pope Francis. In addition to holding a Bachelor of Science from Villanova University and a Master of Divinity from Catholic Theological Union, Bishop Prevost earned a Doctorate in Canon Law from St. Thomas University in Rome. In 2013, he was honored at the Augustinian Inaugural Gala in Chicago and later began serving on the Augustinians’ current Continuing Our Journey of Faith Campaign Cabinet.

"We will miss his presence in our community," said the current Augustinian Prior Provincial, the Very Rev. Bernard C. Scianna, O.S.A., Ph.D. "...and I will miss him personally as he has taken on quite a bit since returning from Rome: Vicar Provincial, First Counselor, Director of Formation, Board Member for Villanova University and Catholic Theological Union to name a few." The Augustinian community has wished him well as he embarks on his new journey as the Bishop of Chiclayo, the fourth largest city in Peru.

When Prevost was named Bishop in November, the Most Rev. Alejandro Moral Antón, O.S.A., current Prior General of the Augustinian Order, asked this of the global Augustinian family: “On behalf of the entire Order, I wish to extend our sincere congratulations to Bishop-elect Robert F. Prevost as he is called to serve the Church in the episcopate, and let us all together offer him our fraternal support and remembrance in our prayers for him as he undertakes this new ministry.”

The Most Rev. Dan Turley, O.S.A., Augustinian Bishop of Chiclayo, Peru, commented, “Congratulations to our new Bishop, Bob Prevost! Chiclayo is known as the City of Friendship. Now the entire Diocese of Chiclayo will truly be the Diocese of Friends and of Friendship. Bob will be a true friend to all. We thank God and we thank Bob for his generosity and willingness to serve in this new way as diocesan bishop of Chiclayo. Chulucanas and Chiclayo border on each other. Hopefully we will be great neighbors.”

**Bishops of Chiclayo**

**Bishop Daniel Figueroa Villón**


**Bishop Ignacio María de Orbegozo y Goicoechea**

Born in Bilboa, Spain, on March 25, 1922. Ordained Priest of Opus Dei on June 1, 1951. Appointed Prelate of Yauyos, Peru, on April 12, 1957. Ordained Bishop on January 25,

**Bishop Jesús Moliné Labarte**


**Bishop Robert Francis Prevost, O.S.A.**


**Bishop Prevost’s Coat of Arms**

It is a long-standing tradition in the Catholic Church that each bishop would have a “coat of arms,” or an “achievement,” composed of a shield, the motto, and the external ornaments, all of which are chosen to represent some aspect of the man who has been called to serve the Church as a bishop.

According to the customs of “ecclesiastical heraldry,” the left side of the shield (as we look at it, because it is the “right side” of the one who would be carrying the shield, the “dexter impalement”) is dedicated to the jurisdiction or territory being served by the bishop. In the case of Bishop Prevost’s coat of arms, we find a white “fleur de lis” on a blue background, representing the Blessed Virgin Mary under the title of the

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**Where is Chiclayo?**

The City of Chiclayo, with more than 700,000 inhabitants, is the fourth largest city in Peru. The desert city is located on the west coast of Peru, along the Pacific Ocean. Chiclayo is an ancient city. Although the current city was founded by Spanish colonizers in the 16th century, there is evidence that the area around Chiclayo was occupied by indigenous people of the Moche civilization from the second through the eighth centuries, A.D., and by the Lambayeque, or Sican, civilization from the eighth through the 14th centuries, A.D.

The Diocese of Chiclayo, Dioecesis Chiclayensis, is located in Northern Peru, between the Diocese of Chulucanas and the Archdiocese of Trujillo. It was erected on December 17, 1956, from the Diocese of Cajamarca and the Archdiocese of Trujillo. It covers a geographic terrain of 6,044 square miles. In 2013, the diocese had 1.13 million Catholics out of a total population of 1.28 million persons. The diocese has 48 parishes, with approximately 91 diocesan priests and 22 religious priests. This year, 138 female religious and 33 male religious are serving in the Diocese of Chiclayo. Among these are five Augustinian friars of the Province of Peru headquartered in Lima. They sponsor and operate Colegio San Agustín, or “St. Augustine School” in Chiclayo (this school is a separate school from the Colegio San Agustín currently being built in Trujillo, Peru).

Continued on Page 6
At the time of ordination, every bishop is given symbols of his ministry that he will use during liturgical functions and other events. Catholics see bishops with these symbols but might not know what they are.

**What's that hat called?**

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**Crosier:** (KRO-zher) Pastoral staff, modeled on a shepherd’s crook, conferred upon bishops and abbots at their installation as a sign of their pastoral care of souls.

**Miter or mitre:** (MAI-ter) The liturgical headress proper to all bishops of the Latin rite including the pope, consisting of two flaps, front and back, equal in size, and joined at the bottom by a headband; the flaps curve to point at the top. A soft material joins these two flaps together, allowing for it to be folded when not in use. The miter was worn only by the pope at solemn liturgical functions. Antecedents of the miter were probably the headdresses of the high priest of the Temple of Jerusalem and the head-covering worn by important officials in the Roman Empire. By the 12th century, it became the custom for bishops to wear the miter. Later, others wore mitres, but today its use is limited for the most part to bishops and abbots.

**Zucchetto:** (zoo-KEH-to) Derived from the popular Italian idiom zucca (“pumpkin”), used as slang for “head,” the zucchetto is a small skullcap worn by ecclesiastics, especially prelates. The Holy Father wears a white zucchetto made of watered silk. Cardinals use scarlet and bishops use purple. Priests of monsignorial rank may wear black and purple piping. All others may wear simple black, including abbots who do not have episcopal dignity.

**Bishop’s ring:** The first insignia to be received by the bishop during the Rite of Ordination is the ring. The ring symbolizes two things. First it is a sign of discretion, as the rings were used to seal private documents. Second, the ring is a sign of the conjugal nature of the relationship between the bishop and the church. It represents the symbolic marriage between the bishop and the church. (Source: www.fwdioc.org)

**Pectoral cross:** (PEHK-ter-uhl KRAWS) (From Latin pectus: breast) A cross made of precious metal (sometimes decorated with jewels) suspended by a chain around the neck, worn over the chest by abbots, bishops, archbishops, cardinals and the pope. It is worn by prelates regardless of their attire, whether liturgical or not.

Continued from Page 5

“Immaculate Conception,” who is the patroness of the Diocese of Chiclayo.

The right side of the shield (the “sinister impalement”) is customarily indicative of the person who is named bishop. In Bishop Prevost’s coat of arms, we find the seal of the Order of St. Augustine, clearly indicating the religious community from which the new bishop was called to serve the Diocese of Chiclayo. This is particularly significant since before being called to the episcopacy, Bishop Prevost served as Prior General of the Augustinian Order for twelve years.

Below the shield, we see the “scroll,” which carries the words chosen as Bishop Prevost’s episcopal motto. In this case, the Latin words are “In Ilo uno unum.” These words come from a sermon of St. Augustine (Enarrationes Psalm 127), and are an abbreviation of Augustine’s affirmation: *NOS MULTI IN ILLO UNO UNUM*, “though we Christians are many, in the one Christ we are one.” Bishop Prevost chose this motto as an indication that the bishop is called to promote authentic unity among all people, and that this unity can only be brought about when we have communion in Christ.

The remaining symbols in the coat of arms include the green ecclesiastical hat and the six tassels in three rows on either side of the shield (the heraldic insignia of a bishop), and a gold processional cross that is seen extending above and below the shield, indicating that it is the cross of Christ that all Christians are called to take up and to carry as we go forward in life.

Definitions from Catholic Dictionary, Rev. Peter M.J. Stravinskas, Ph.D., S.T.D., Our Sunday Visitor. Thank you to Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Perry for allowing the Catholic New World to photograph his items for this illustration. Photo illustration by Karen Callaway.
Are the Augustinians Still Relevant?

Listen to a full interview with Bishop Prevost about his new ministry as a bishop, vocations, the role of the Augustinian Order, and the Continuing Our Journey of Faith campaign at www.augustiniancampaign.org/interviews

The Most Rev. Dan Turley, O.S.A., Bishop of Chulucanas (left); and the Most Rev. John McNabb, O.S.A., Bishop Emeritus of Chulucanas (right) joined in Bishop Prevost’s episcopal ordination

Fr. Prevost first welcomed into Chiclayo on November 3, when he was installed as Apostolic Administrator

The Very Rev. Bernard C. Scianna, O.S.A., Ph.D., Prior Provincial (left); joins the Most Rev. Alberto Germán Bochatey Chaneton, O.S.A. (right), Bishop of La Plata, Argentina; on the eve of Fr. Prevost’s ordination as a bishop

The Most Rev. Alejandro Moral Antón, O.S.A., Prior General of the Augustinian Order, joined the celebration

The Most Rev. Jesús Moliné Labarte, Bishop Emeritus of Chiclayo, follows with the laying on of hands

The Most Rev. James Green, Apostolic Nuncio from Vatican City to Peru, lays hands on Fr. Prevost during ordination

The Very Rev. Bernard C. Scianna, O.A., Ph.D., Prior Provincial (left); joins the Most Rev. Alberto Germán Bochatey Chaneton, O.S.A. (right), Bishop of La Plata, Argentina; on the eve of Fr. Prevost’s ordination as a bishop

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Fr. Prevost prostrates on the floor of Santa María Cathedral prior to ordination

Bishop Prevost receives his miter

Bishop Prevost receives his crosier, which was donated in the United States by Augustinian Affiliate Ed Schmit

Bishop Prevost blesses Augustinian missionary Fr. John Lydon, O.S.A.
Augustinian Gala 2015 Honorees

On April 24, 2015, we will host our third annual Augustinian Gala, which will also kick off our Diamond Jubilee 75-year Anniversary

Fr. Tony Pizzo, O.S.A.

Fr. Tony Pizzo, O.S.A., is an exemplary Augustinian priest and pastor in the Archdiocese of Chicago. His commitment to living out the Word of the Gospel shines through his daily ministry. It is with great joy that the Augustinians will honor him at the 2015 Augustinian Gala.


Fr. Pizzo holds a B.A. in Philosophy from Villanova University and a Master’s of Divinity from Catholic Theological Union. Following an internship as a deacon at St. Clare of Montefalco Parish in Chicago, he was ordained to the priesthood on May 11, 1984. He continued his ministry at St. Clare of Montefalco from 1984 to 1987 as the Associate Pastor. He was next named Associate Pastor of Holy Rosary Parish in Kenosha, Wisconsin from 1987 to 1991.

Fr. Pizzo then studied Spanish at the Mexican Institute in 1991 and 1992, and at the University of Guadalajara in Mexico in 1994. He was again assigned to St. Clare of Montefalco Parish, Chicago, where he was named Associate Pastor from 1991 to 1995, and Pastor from 1995 to 2001.

From 2001 to 2004, he did doctoral level Cross-Cultural Studies at Catholic Theological Union, Chicago. In 2004, he was named Director of Spiritual Formation of the Instituto de Liderazgo Pastoral at the University of St. Mary of the Lake, Mundelein, Illinois. He was then named Pastor of St. Rita Parish, Chicago, in June, 2006. He continues to serve in this position. He also has served as Chairperson of the Province Commission for Justice and Peace, the Vicar for Augustinian Parishes, and a Dean for the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Under Father Pizzo’s pastoral leadership, St. Rita has been actively involved in community organizing to seek solutions to neighborhood issues such as housing foreclosures, immigration, street gangs, and violence.

Fr. Pizzo has received several awards, including a “Neighborhood Leadership Award” from Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago (2011), the “Pope John XXIII Award” from the Archdiocese of Chicago Office for Hispanic Ministry (2010), the “Humanitarian Award” from Italian-American Executives in Transportation, (2012), and a “Community Heroes Award” from the Keep Our Homes Campaign (2009).

"Tony is a truly committed pastor. He deeply cares for the people entrusted to his care. He is a dedicated Augustinian and priest."

—Very Rev. Bernard C. Scianna, O.S.A., Ph.D.
Prior Provincial
Augustinian Gala

Hosted by the Very Rev. Bernard C. Scianna, O.S.A., Ph.D., Prior Provincial

The Drake Hotel, Chicago ~ April 24, 2015

RSVP by April 10! All reservations and program book ads must be received no later than April 10.

Major underwriting and sponsorship opportunities also available from $500 to $25,000.

St. Augustine Tables
$5,000
Preferred table for 10, full page program ad, prominent program signage

St. Rita of Cascia Tables
$4,000
Preferred table for 10, half page program ad, prominent program signage

St. Monica Tables
$3,500
Table of 10, quarter page ad

Individual Reservation
$300

All tables can be named in honor of, or in memory of, an Augustinian, a parish, a school, or a loved one.

Table Opportunities

Gala Program Book Opportunities
Printed in full color; Program Book size = 8.5” x 11”

Full Page Centerfold (Both Pages) $3,000
Full Page (Back or inside front cover) $1,500
Full Page $1,000
Half Page $600
Quarter Page $300
Business Card $100

To reserve a table or sponsorship, please contact Mary in the Province Advancement Office by emailing mary@midwestaugustinians.org or by calling 773-595-4008.
Dr. Jim Foody, M.D.

James J. Foody was born in Chicago to Bud Foody and Jeanne Haener. He first came to know the Augustinians when he entered St. Augustine Seminary High School in Holland, Michigan, as a freshman. He continued his studies at the Augustinians’ Tolentine College in Olympia Fields, Illinois. He left Tolentine before completing his degree, but he says that he did leave with lifelong mentors and friends. “I still miss my community life,” says Dr. Foody, “and I have infiltrated the spirit of Augustinian common life into my family life.”

Following his studies at Tolentine, Jim worked as a respiratory therapist at Little Company of Mary Hospital in Evergreen Park, Illinois, for five years, while earning an Associate’s Degree from Moraine Valley Community College. He later earned a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry from the University of Illinois at Chicago while working full time. Jim then entered the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine, where he earned his Medical Doctorate in 1980. He completed his internship and residency at University of Chicago Hospital through 1983.

After being recruited at to join the faculty of the Department of Medicine for the University of Chicago, he founded and directed the University of Chicago Physicians Group, the first off-campus practice for faculty physicians. He also served as University of Chicago’s Chief of the Section of General Internal Medicine and Geriatrics. He served three years on the National Health Service staff at Rush University Medical Center. In 2001, he moved to Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, where he still serves as Professor of Medicine and Vice-Chairman for Clinical Affairs. Dr. Foody is also a member of the American College of Physicians (F.A.C.P.). He has previously served as the Governor of the Northern Illinois Chapter of the F.A.C.P. He specializes in Internal Medicine, having been board certified in the specialty in 1983.

Jim has since been a longtime friend of the Augustinian Order and has been a physician to many of the Augustinian friars. Last year, Dr. Foody co-chaired the 2014 Augustinian Gala. He integrates his love of the Augustinian Order into his daily work. Dr. Foody says, “When I chose medicine as my career, I understood very clearly that I was choosing a ministry rather than a job. I had an unearned gift of intellect and love of science that opened this path for me. It is not better than other paths, but it suits me. And I will always have that Augustinian core.”

Jim has been happily married to his wife Nancy since 1986. On August 17, 2013, Dr. Foody was ordained a permanent deacon by the Most Reverend R. Daniel Conlon in the Diocese of Joliet, Illinois. He is currently assigned to Our Lady of Mount Caramel in Darien, Illinois. Dr. Foody remarked that his vocational call did not leave when he left the Augustinian Order. He said, “I ended up choosing a career in which I could minister and use math and science as my tools. Serving as an ordained minister flows from the same impulse and my submission to it witnesses that I think the Church is relevant in today’s world.”

“Jim is a humble deacon and a dedicated doctor that went through Augustinian seminary formation. He is generous with his time; he serves the Church with compassion. He takes personal interest in his patients, in the Augustinians, and he has followed through to give quality care to the friars.”

–Fr. John Merkelis, O.S.A.
Vicar Provincial

“Jim has been caring for Augustinians with great compassion all of his career. He is truly an Augustinian at heart.”

–Very Rev. Bernard C. Scianna, O.S.A., Ph.D.
Prior Provincial
Diamond Jubilee Remembrance

Fr. Ray Ryan, O.S.A.

In our Province’s 75th anniversary year, we can think of no one better to honor with our first Diamond Jubilee Remembrance than Fr. Ray Ryan, O.S.A. Though Fr. Ryan died in 2012, his impact and memory still live on in the hearts and minds of the thousands of people he impacted during his life.

Raymond Richard Ryan was born on September 16, 1930 in Chicago, Illinois to Raymond E. and Alice Ryan. He first came into contact with the Augustinians when he attended St. Rita of Cascia High School in Chicago, as part of the class of 1948. He was accepted in 1948 into the Augustinian Formation Program at Augustinian Academy, Staten Island, New York. One year later, he was received into the Augustinian Novitiate, Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. He professed his first vows on September 9, 1950, and later professed his solemn vows on September 10, 1953.

Father Ryan held a B.A. in Philosophy from Villanova University and an M.A. in English from DePaul University. He also pursued the program of theological studies from 1953 through 1957 at Augustinian College, Washington, D.C. He was ordained to the priesthood on February 9, 1957.

He began his first assignment as a teacher at Mendel Catholic High School in Chicago and Tolentine College in Olympia Fields, Illinois. He continued his ministry in teaching and formation at St. Augustine Seminary in Holland, Michigan, and the Augustinian Novitiate at Oconomowoc, Wisconsin.

In 1971 he was elected to the first of his three four-year terms as Prior Provincial. He was re-elected in 1975. After completing his second term as Provincial in 1979, Father Ryan was named Pastor of Immaculate Conception/St. Henry Parish, St. Louis, Missouri. In 1982-83, he served as Director of Novices at the Augustinian Novitiate, which had moved from Wisconsin to Immaculate Conception/St. Henry. In 1983 he became Director of the Pre-Novitiate Formation Program at Mendel Monastery, Chicago. In 1984 he moved to St. John Stone Friary, Chicago, as Director of Formation for the theologians. During this time, he also served as a member of the Province Council.

Father Ryan was elected to his third term as Prior Provincial in 1987. After completing his four-year term in 1991, he became Prior at St. Rita Monastery, Chicago. Two years later, in 1993, he was named Associate Pastor of St. Jude Parish, New Lenox, Illinois. In 1998 he was again appointed Director of Novices, serving until 2004 at the Augustinian North American Novitiate, Racine, Wisconsin.

Beginning in 2004, Father Ryan was semi-retired at Providence Catholic High School, New Lenox. At the Province Chapter of 2010, he was elected to serve on the Province Council, where his wise advice was greatly respected and valued. In late 2010 Father Ryan was diagnosed with lymphoma. Chemotherapy brought the lymphoma under control, but, at the end of 2011, doctors discovered that the prostate cancer which had afflicted him several years previously had returned in an advanced stage. He died March 26, 2012 following a brief hospitalization.

Father Ryan is remembered as an ideal leader during a challenging time of transition in the Augustinian Order. When he was first elected Provincial, government of the Order was becoming more democratized. His prayerfulness, kindness, compassion and ability to listen helped greatly to create a calm and peaceful fraternal climate in the Province during this time of change. As Director of Formation, he had a strong positive influence on members of the Order all over North America. For friars, students and parishioners, he was a prayerful, kind and compassionate mentor who was frequently sought out for his wise counsel. He was always willing to give of himself for others.

"Ray’s provincialate inaugurated a new era in the life of the Province. Many important decisions had to be made about our apostolates and houses and a new spirit infused into the membership. He was not afraid to make hard decisions and to take reasonable risks. Ray was the right man to do the job and he was elected for a second term."

–Fr. Karl Gersbach, O.S.A.
Former Prior Provincial
My vocation to the Augustinians is best described as learning how to take God’s hints. Reflection over my life has yielded a profound awareness of God’s continuing presence: that God created me to share and appreciate the common life. God’s invitation was not easy to accept, especially when I did not know what a vocation specifically looked like. Each “yes” required the depth of humility which Jesus modeled. Christ asked me to trust that discernment would find a religious community which would “fit.” Grace led me to the congruent fraternity of the Augustinians.

I attended St. Lawrence Seminary High School, staffed by Capuchin Franciscans who were tremendous role models and familiarized me with religious life. I wanted to follow their example, yet I consciously evaded and suppressed the invitation. I fearfully and repeatedly prayed, “Not yet!” I mistakenly thought that common life was a sacrifice. Viewed only in terms of what I might lose, I was afraid God wanted to deprive me of fulfillment. The Augustinian Novitiate and friar friends have taught me that we are earthen vessels proclaiming the Gospel of Christ Jesus, broken yet joyfully redeemed. For the few sacrifices vows do require, Augustinians share the profound joy of friendship in community.

I studied political science at the University of Minnesota, primarily motivated by a professional interest in public service. Service animates my spirituality and is a defining value of any vocation to which God calls me. I worked part-time during the school year for federal, state, and local government. I loved it. And yet, my conscience always led me to defend those without American privileges of wealth, citizenship, or education. Augustine says, “It is by loving that one becomes a member of Christ; incorporated into the body of Christ… Love can never be separate. Choose for yourself what you love and the rest will follow.” (ep. Io. tr. 10.3) Love is the ingredient, perhaps the only ingredient, which will unify the broken world into the universal citizenship of Heaven.

Discovery of what I truly love - service and politics – has allowed Grace to transform and incorporate these desires into the Body of Christ.

Initial discernment was difficult because of a common mistake: I avoided talking about it. I did not clarify important questions like, “How am I called to serve? What does a sign from God really look like?” So I turned to articles and blogs researching more than a general desire for priesthood - I sought a faithful fraternity. One of the most valuable resources available was the “Vocation Match” on Vision. It produced several possible communities based on interest, mission, and spirituality. Immediately the charm of the Augustinians stood out. Augustine’s Confessions and personal struggle resonated with God’s hints for service. Augustine’s move from government orator to priest and eventually bishop was a personal challenge of emulation. And perhaps even more important, Augustine’s legacy is communities of friends focused on unity and love.

The vocation office was a welcoming presence as Fr. Tom McCarthy, O.S.A., invited me into discernment with the Order. When we visited communities in Chicago, the Augustinians seemed to share something more than their friary: they shared fraternal love and respect. Their unique charm of unity and friendship propelled me to the Order. I was always greeted with WELCOME while my heart echoed WELCOME HOME.

God offers all of us hints - all of them calling us deeper into the Body of Christ. My discernment focused on how I might best serve the citizenry of Heaven while here on Earth. Christ was hinting me towards a broader constituency. It became clear He was calling me to serve in His Church. I have been graced to advocate for God’s Kingdom through friendship with Augustinians.

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**Augustinian Vocations**

augustinianvocations.org

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12 The Midwest Augustinian | WINTER 2015
“Strengthen me, Lord, that I may have your strength. Give me the grace to do what you command, and command me to do whatever you want!”

– St. Augustine

[Confessions 10,31]
ADVANCEMENT PROGRESS REPORT

By Michael Gerrity, Chief Advancement Officer

You have worked hard. You have worked hard to use God’s gifts well and to earn what you have. We expect that you try to be as wise and discerning in donating as you were in the earning. You are generous and likely give to other charitable causes. So we are very grateful for your gifts. We try to make every effort to demonstrate our gratitude.

The Midwest Augustinians ask for your gifts because:

1. They believe that through their ministry in schools, parishes, and elsewhere they help to make our world a “holier,” that is to say, a gentler, kinder, more giving and forgiving place, and

2. They are a mendicant order and must seek charitable gifts as a significant means of support.

The heart of the matter is long-lasting, faith-based relationships. The Augustinians impress upon us that they want their fundraising always to be mindful that at the heart of all giving is shared beliefs, values, and vision for the world and eternity. This is what we strive to convey in our newsletter, website, letters, invitations, telephone calls, and numerous gatherings. We grow in faith together and support each other “one mind and one heart” on the way to God.

We try to offer a variety of options. When you do decide to donate, we want you to have several options, such as:

• **Augustinian Annual Fund** – This runs year-round and is intended to provide regular annual income to sustain the Province’s ministries for our vocations program and men in formation studies, for our retired and infirm men, and for our missions’ works in Peru.

• **Continuing Our Journey of Faith** – This is a rare capital campaign (last one was 1992) to seek gifts and pledges to build up the Augustinians’ trusts dedicated to care for our new vocations and our retired/infirm men. The goal is $3.5 million and we are near $2.7 million with a year to go.

• **Augustinian Gala** – This is our only major Province-wide special event with the income benefiting the exact same purposes as the annual fund, and

• **Restless Hearts Society** – The society honors people who make deferred gifts for the Augustinians by naming the Province as beneficiaries in their wills, life insurance, annuities, or retirement accounts. These donors can also designate how their deferred gift will be used.

Each and every gift and prayer has a wondrous impact for the Augustinians and those they serve.

Progress – To-Date, Thank you. Steadily we are building our family of supporters and ability to sustain our good works.

Please keep praying. No matter the circumstances prayers work so please keep praying for vocations, for the Augustinians, and for each other. You can send your prayer intentions to Mary at mary@midwestaugustinians.org. She will see that they are taken to the Shrine of St. Rita. Thank you and God bless you.

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<th>ACTIVE DONORS</th>
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NOTE: The Province’s overall budget for the year is over $2.6 million and $1.8 million of that is required for our vocations program, our men in formation, our retired men, and our missions in Peru.
A Long-lasting Gift: 
A Matter of Love and Gratitude

Do good; no regrets. Surveys of priests and other ministers indicate that the greatest regrets expressed by people at life’s end are: 1. not having done good when the opportunity was present, and 2. not doing things worth remembering.

Leave a lasting legacy. We all want to make a lasting impacts in this life; impacts that will linger long after we have journeyed on to our real and eternal home. Living a life of goodness and setting great examples for our children and grandchildren is one great legacy. Another way is by being good stewards with God’s gifts. Every major worthy cause in America, especially causes of faith and religion, continues today because of actions taken by dearly departed supporters before they passed on.

Enjoy the benefits. If the Midwest Augustinians are a cause dear to you, then a bequest or other planned gift is a great way to help them continue their good works after you have passed on. Your gift has other great benefits:

• Give and be recognized now but not pass on any assets until you no longer need them,
• Give a much larger gift than you would ordinarily be able to do while living,
• Designate how your gift is used: for vocations, retired Augustinians, or missions work in Peru,
• Set a sterling example for children and grandchildren and for others as well,
• Estate and other tax benefits may also apply.

It is simple to do. In most cases this gift is a very simple to implement. You can include the Midwest Augustinians (legal name: Province of Our Mother of Good Counsel-The Augustinians):

• As a beneficiary in your will for a fixed sum, a percentage of the estate, or a particular asset,
• As a beneficiary in an IRA, other retirement plan, or insurance policy.

Think it over and pray on it. All donors of estate or planned gifts are entitled to special recognition and enrollment in the Midwest Augustinians’ Restless Hearts Society. For more information about the Society or planned gifts please contact Michael Gerrity at 773-595-4035 or at michael@midwestaugustinians.org.
Tulsa City Councilor, G.T. Bynum, Joins Advancement Council

G. T. Bynum, Tulsa City Councilor, was recently appointed to serve a two-year term on the Augustinian Advancement Advisory Council. The Very Rev. Bernard C. Scianna, O.S.A., Ph.D., who is the Augustinians’ Prior Provincial and former Headmaster of Cascia Hall, appointed Bynum to serve on the council.

“I was very fortunate in growing up, because the Augustinians were really very much part of our family here in Tulsa, going back to my great-grandparents, Joe and Gertrude LaFortune,” says Councilor Bynum. “We’ve been very close with the Augustinian Community in Tulsa and particularly at Cascia Hall. Regularly at family events throughout my life, annually at Thanksgiving, it was not unusual to have a number of Augustinian priests there celebrating with us.”

Councilor Bynum is a proud graduate of two institutions operated by the Augustinian Order of the Catholic Church: Cascia Hall Preparatory School and Villanova University, where he served as Student Body President. He is a graduate of Leadership Oklahoma and Leadership Tulsa. Councilor Bynum is a member of the local Christ the King Parish in Tulsa. G.T. was elected to the Tulsa City Council in 2008. In 2011, he was selected by his colleagues to serve as the youngest City Council Chairman in Tulsa history.

“I consider the Augustinian Order more relevant today than potentially any time in our history,” says Councilor Bynum. “The reason is that message from St. Augustine that has been passed down for 1,500 years now through the Order: an emphasis on service to God through community. Today what I encounter in my role working in government, in elected public service, is a great cynicism toward politics, toward government, and toward a lot of institutions. But there is a craving for community – for authentic connectivity – and the Augustinian message can help people toward a greater realization of that ideal.”

For more information about joining the Augustinian Advancement Advisory Council, please contact Chief Advancement Officer Michael Gerrity at michael@midwestaugustinians.org or 773-595-4035. Learn more about, or directly contact, G.T. Bynum on his website at www.gtbynum.com.

Thank you, G.T., for joining the Augustinian Advancement Advisory Council!

New Augustinian Promoter of Peace and Justice

In November 2014, Brian Dwyer was named the Promoter of Peace and Justice for the Midwest Augustinians. Mr. Dwyer began his service with the Province of St. Augustine, the Canadian Province now under the jurisdiction of the Midwest Augustinians. We are also grateful for the service of Brother Tom Taylor, O.S.A., who most recently filled the position of Promoter of Peace and Justice.

Brian was born and raised in Toronto, Ontario. He is the son of a second generation Irish father and French-Canadian mother. He attended the local Catholic school and was taught by the Basilians in high school. He received his B.A. from Ottawa University, his Bachelor’s Degree of Sacred Theology from St. Paul’s in Ottawa, and his M.Ed. from Brock University in Ontario.

While at St. Brigid’s Parish in Toronto, there was a call to establish a “Social Justice Committee” in the parish and Brian became the coordinator. Some time later, the Augustinians

Continued on next page
served as the parish priests and Fr. Emeka Obiezu, O.S.A., was soon stationed at the parish while studying at the Toronto School of Theology. They teamed up in the social justice area on various projects and activities. It was then decided that the Augustinians in Canada needed a social justice presence, and under the guidance of Fr. Emeka, the Canadian Augustinian Centre for Social Justice was established. The Augustinians have moved from the parish now but there is still the social justice committee; Brian is the volunteer director of the Canadian Augustinian Centre, working in collaboration with the Shrine at Marylake, Ontario.

The Centre was formally launched on January 12, 2011. One of the first projects was a symposium on homelessness which produced a proposal for the Canadian government to form a National Homelessness Strategy. Brian and his wife Lisa attended DPI/NGO sessions of the United Nations in Paris and Mexico City. They also attended the Rio+20 conferences in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012. The Centre has offered workshops on climate change and held a “Cosmic Walk” to highlight the story of creation. In February 2012, the Centre helped Marylake to sponsor a speaker, Immaculee Ilibagiza, a Rwanda genocide survivor. The Centre has become a presence at various joint religious congregation workshops, seminars, and has helped in various projects both locally nationally and internationally. The Centre is now focused on human trafficking and refugee issues in Canada.

**Fr. John Merkelis, O.S.A., Named Vicar Provincial**

The Provincial Council is pleased to announce the appointment of Fr. Merkelis as the new Vicar Provincial and Fourth Counselor for the Midwest Augustinians. The Vicar Provincial acts on behalf of the Provincial in his absence.

Prior to his appointment, the position had been previously filled by Robert Prevost, O.S.A., who resigned after being appointed the Bishop of Chiclayo, Peru. “Father Merk” had already attended nearly all meetings of the Provincial Council as the Province Personnel Director, a position which he will continue to hold. He will continue to live in the community at Providence Catholic High School in New Lenox, Illinois, where he also serves as the Pastoral Director.

**Congratulations, Father Merk!**

Listen to an interview with Fr. Merkelis at www.augustiniancampaign.org/merkelis

**Annual Report 2013-2014**

The Augustinians are happy to have released the annual report for 2014. Distributing it and publishing it online are priorities for us because the publication demonstrates:

- Our stewardship of the gifts you have so generously shared with us,
- Our direction: where we are serving, how we serve, our future plans, and
- The commitment of our donors: the good people who are supporting us with gifts of time, talent, and treasure.

The report can be accessed online at midwestaugustinians.org/stewardship. You can also request a complimentary printed copy by contacting Mary Gal Carroll at mary@midwestaugustinians.org or 773-595-4007.

**Annual Report Addendum**

We would like to acknowledge the Henry C. & Regina Maibusch Memorial Fund which was omitted from the St. Rita of Cascia Circle in the Donor Scroll.

We would like to acknowledge that Ms. Mary Anne Laverty of the St. Augustine Circle made her gift in Memory of Dr. Hubert Laverty, Mendel Catholic High School Class of 1959.

**Thank you for your contributions!**
**2015 Anniversaries**

**Celebrating their Profession to the Augustinian Order**

**70 Years**
Bishop John McNabb, O.S.A.

**60 Years**
Fr. Jerry Knies, O.S.A.

**50 Years**
Fr. Richard McGrath, O.S.A.
Fr. John Ohner, O.S.A.
Bro. Jerome Sysko, O.S.A.

**30 Years**
Fr. John Sotak, O.S.A.

**10 Years**
Fr. Homero Sánchez, O.S.A.

**Celebrating their Ordination to the Priesthood**

**70 Years**
Fr. John Gaffney, O.S.A.
Fr. Dan Hartigan, O.S.A.

**50 Years**
Fr. Jim Friedel, O.S.A.
Fr. Jerry Van Overbeek, O.S.A.
Fr. Fred Taggart, O.S.A.

**40 Years**
Fr. Terry Deffenbaugh, O.S.A.

**30 Years**
Fr. John Merkelis, O.S.A.

**20 Years**
Fr. Rich Young, O.S.A.

**Celebrating their Affiliations to the Augustinian Order**

**25 Years**
Eric Junger
Charles Kuppe
Patricia Kuppe
Rose Lamb
Anthony Sansone, Sr.
Mary Ann Sansone
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Vitale

**20 Years**
Don Berschback
Janet Guensche

**10 Years**
John A. Sosnowski

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**Canadian Shrine Celebrates 50th Anniversary**

On November 14, Our Lady of Grace Shrine at Marylake held a Gala to celebrate their 50th Anniversary and to reignite enthusiasm for a vision for the next 50 years. The shrine is located north of Toronto, Ontario, in King City. The Marylake 50th Anniversary Gala attracted 600 guests. At the event, the Augustinians announced a unique rosary path in which supporters can purchase a rosary bead in honor of a loved one for a $3,000 contribution. The proceeds from the gala near $100,000 to help the renovation of the shrine.

Marylake was originally the summer home of Sir Henry Pellatt. After losing this property during the Great Depression, the land was acquired by the Archdiocese of Toronto. In 1942, James Cardinal McGuigan, the Archbishop of Toronto, invited the Augustinians to establish a Marian shrine and offer a program of weekend retreats for lay people. The retreat program, initiated in 1943, so prospered that it was necessary to double the facilities for retreat attendees by adding to the red brick “farmer’s house” in the early 1950s. In order to house the steadily growing religious community of Augustinians and to provide pilgrims with a place of worship, a new monastery and shrine church were built in the 1960s. In 1964, Cardinal McGuigan laid the cornerstone for the new shrine building and it was re-dedicated in 1978 by Gerald Cardinal Carter.

The Canadian Province of Augustinians, the Province of St. Joseph, is governed by the United States Midwest Province of Our Mother of Good Counsel. The Canadian Augustinians operate one school and two parishes in Ontario and British Columbia.

*Congratulations to the Marylake Community in Canada!*
Thank you to our newest donors!

The Augustinians are continually grateful for those new donors that join us in mission to serve the Church in our schools, parishes, missions, and other ministries. United in one mind and one heart, these gifts lead us closer toward God. With these gifts and the continued prayers of thousands, we are ensuring the Augustinian spirit will live on for generations to come. We would now like to thank those newest donors that have given their first gift to the Augustinians between October 1 and December 12 of this year. We ask that all our readers keep these newest supporters in prayer. Thank you!

If you feel your contributions are not properly reflected in this report or if you see errors, we apologize and ask you to please contact the Advancement Office at advancement@midwestaugustinians.org or at 773-595-4008.
What are your thoughts?

We'd like to know your thoughts about our quarterly newsletter, The Midwest Augustinian. What are your favorite articles? What other types of articles would you like? We want to communicate with you as best as possible. Your participation in this 10-minute survey is invaluable to us!

We will be mailing you a hard copy survey next month, or you can complete the survey online at midwestaugustinians.org/survey

All responses must be submitted by March 31. Thank you!