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LETTER FROM THE PRIOR PROVINCIAL

DEAR FRIENDS OF THE AUGUSTINIANS,

Greetings for a Happy and Healthy New Year 2017! While we had a great deal to celebrate in 2016, including professions, ordinations, jubilees, and the 90th anniversary of our former parish in Michigan; time marches on! We started the new year off on a positive note with ordinations to the diaconate. It is anticipated that these two men will be ordained to the priesthood this summer! I will also be making my annual visit to our vicariate in Peru to continue to encourage them on their path to independence. They are currently in the midst of building a new Augustinian high school in Trujillo. If you are interested in supporting this project, please contact our province advancement director.

We are gearing up for our 5th annual Augustinian Gala on Friday, April 28th at The Drake. We have wonderful honorees again this year, including Fr. Jim Friedel, O.S.A., Fr. Tom McCarthy O.S.A. and Augustinian Affiliates Anne and Don Bershback. I hope you will be able to attend this wonderful event, help us honor these fine men and women and support the Augustinians. If you cannot attend, perhaps you will consider taking an ad or making a donation in honor of one of these honorees.

As we move into this new year, there are several changes in our advancement office. I would like to thank Patrick Murphy and Elizabeth Mazur who will be leaving us soon, and welcome Sean Reynolds, Joanne Maher and Joe Zurawski. I look forward to working with the new team to continue supporting our men in formation, our retired and infirm men and our missions in Peru.

Please continue to pray for the Augustinians of North America as we plan to gather as a Federation in June of this year at Villanova University. By the way, our Villanova Mens’ Basketball Team continues to do quite well after winning the 2016 NCAA Championship! I am proud to serve on the Board of Trustees of the University!

Finally, I look forward to honoring the Jubilarians this year celebrating significant anniversaries of their professions or ordinations at the Feasts of Sts. Monica and St. Augustine on Sunday, August 27th at 4:00 PM at St. Jude Parish in New Lenox. Please plan on joining us for these celebrations.

Sincerely in Christ and Saint Augustine,

Very Reverend Bernard C. Scianna, O.S.A., Ph.D.
Prior Provincial of Chicago, Canada, and Chulucanas, Peru
Mission Statement of the Midwest Augustinians

We, the Augustinians of the Province of Our Mother of Good Counsel, are members of the worldwide Order of St. Augustine in the Roman Catholic Church. Centered in the Eucharist and prayer, we search for God in community by sharing our lives, goods and spiritual journey with each other and the people of God. In harmony of mind and heart on our journey toward God, our experience of common life flows into and shapes our ministries. We continue to serve the Church in schools, parishes and missions as we seek to discern new paths of service to which God calls us.
"Make No Distinctions"

Diaconate Ordinations 2017

It is our great honor to announce that the Augustinians began the new year by welcoming two of our friars into the diaconate.

On January 7, 2017, the Feast of the Holy Epiphany, the Most Reverend Daniel Turley, O.S.A., ordained Deacon Stephen Isley, O.S.A., and Deacon Aldo Potencia, O.S.A. The ordinations took place at Saint Rita of Cascia Parish in Chicago. From the Midwest Province, Deacon Stephen anticipates his ordination to the Priesthood this summer.

“The Diaconate is for everyone. Jesus came to serve, and he came as God. As God, He made us all sons and daughters, and He makes no distinctions between us . . . Isn’t that the heart of the Diaconate?”
— Most Rev. Daniel Turley, O.S.A.
In Fr. Jim Friedel, O.S.A., we celebrate a dynamic pastor, formation director, and retreat leader, who has dedicated nearly 60 years to living out the Augustinian ideal of community.

It was thanks to the determination of his parents that Fr. Jim, a native of Chicago Heights, first encountered the Augustinian brotherhood. Though a nearby high school attempted to recruit Friedel for basketball and baseball while still a student at Our Lady of Mount Carmel School, his parents adamantly insisted that he find the nearest Catholic school instead. That would turn out to be Mendel Catholic, which meant that each day Fr. Friedel would take “a four-block walk to the bus then the train (the Illinois Central Railroad) and then another six-block walk.”

While at Mendel, Fr. Friedel found stable support and encouragement from his Augustinian teachers and coaches, who were planting the seeds of his future vocation. In 1955, he continued on to Loras College, Dubuque, Iowa, where he studied for two years before being received into the Augustinian novitiate. He made his first profession of vows in the Order of St. Augustine on February 3, 1958.

Shortly after, he resumed his studies at Villanova University and transferred to the extension campus of Tolentine College in Olympia, IL. He received his B.A. in Philosophy in 1961. He earned an M.A. in Religious Education from Loyola University, Chicago, in 1964 and a D. Min. from St. Mary of the Lake University, Mundelein, Illinois, in 1981. He was ordained a Priest February 6, 1965.

Following his ordination, Fr. Friedel returned to his alma mater, Mendel Catholic, as a teacher, in 1965. One year later he was transferred to St. Augustine Seminary, Holland, Michigan, as a teacher and assistant Rector.

He relocated in 1971 to Tolentine College, Olympia Fields, where he was Dean of Men and Master of Professed. In 1972 he became Master of Theologians at St. John Stone Friary, Chicago. In 1974 Father Friedel was named Director of Chicago Marriage Encounter, a program designed to strengthen marriages. He resided at Mendel Monastery, Chicago, while he worked with Marriage Encounter.

Fr. Friedel was appointed Associate Pastor of St. Clare of Montefalco Parish, Chicago, in 1978 and in 1982 he became Pastor. He moved to St. Nicholas of Tolentine Monastery, Olympia Fields, in 1991, and began the Parish Retreats ministry. He visited Catholic parishes and Religious communities across the United States to conduct spiritual retreats.

“Those who had him in formation at Holland and at John Stone, knew him as a great teacher and counselor, and a great athlete as well,” said Father Bernie Scianna, O.S.A., “And those who have attended one of his parish missions or retreats have been inspired to live their faith more deeply.”

He served as Prior of Tolentine Monastery from 1993 until 2006. He was assigned in 2010 to the Augustinian Community at St. Jude Parish, New Lenox. He was appointed Prior there in 2010 and continues to serve in this position.

“I am grateful for his example of faithfulness over these many years in his various ministries and especially for his continued service as Prior of the St. Jude Community and his ministry there and at St. Mary Magdalene in Joliet,” said Fr. Bernie, “He is truly a faithful friar and a very pastoral priest!”

Fr. Friedel has shown us what it means to share the love of God with the world, to live faithfully in daily life, and to surrender one’s will to the greater Augustinian mission. We look forward to celebrating him this year.
Fr. Tom McCarthy, O.S.A.

For his work in the last eight years as Director of Augustinian Vocations alone, Father Tom McCarthy, O.S.A., deserves to be honored at this year’s gala. When you add to this his tenure as President of St. Rita of Cascia High School and his direction of numerous life-changing parish retreats, we become immeasurably indebted, as a family and community, to his selfless service.

Let us consider the numbers: The Order of St. Augustine, in North America, currently has 40 men in formation, with 11 friars newly professed in 2016. For those of you who have been supporters of the Augustinians, you can understand what a dramatic shift this represents from only five years ago. Each year that Fr. Tom has served as Director of Vocations, the number of men in formation has increased.

As a graduate of St. Rita of Cascia High School, class of 1983, Fr. Tom encountered the strength of community in the Augustinian Brotherhood at a formidable moment in his life. While working at the monastery answering phones to help pay his own tuition, Fr. Tom was able to witness the personal side of the friars who ran his school: “I saw the way they lived their life. I saw the way they prayed and the way they had fun, and it attracted me, saying this is what I want.”

After St. Rita, Fr. Tom went on to Villanova University, where he earned his B.A. in Communication Arts in 1987. While there, he entered the pre-novitiate formation program, and he made his first profession of vows in 1988. Five years later he made his solemn profession, and he was ordained to the priesthood in 1994. He earned his M. Div. from Catholic Theological Union in 1993 and his M.A. in Education Administration from Lewis University.

Fr. Tom was chaplain at St. Rita from 1994 to 2000. In 2000, he was appointed President of St. Rita, and he served in this position until July, 2012, when he became Chairman of the Board of the school.

In 2012 he assumed his current position as full-time Director of Vocations for the Eastern, Canadian, and Midwest Provinces. While he resides at Villanova, he makes frequent trips back to St. Rita of Cascia High School, where he still serves as the Director of the Shrine of St. Rita.

Fr. Tom continues in the role to lead renowned parish retreats and is known within the Order as one of the most passionate and effective speakers at missions appeals. Both of these accolades have been made possible only through Fr. Tom’s great dedication to his mission, as he continually seeks counsel to become better at his vocation. It is with great joy that we thank Fr. Tom at this year’s gala. Please join us in celebration of the unofficial “Mayor of the Southside!”

I have known Fr. Tom McCarthy since 1979 when we met at Band Camp before our Freshmen year at St. Rita High School. We have gone through Villanova, and Theology and consider ourselves members of each other’s family. He has been, and still is a dear friend and brother. And just like any brothers, we sometimes agree on things and we sometimes disagree, we travel together, we enjoy similar things . . . He is willing to talk to young people when they want to talk even if that means 9, 10, or 11 o’clock at night! He is well-deserving to be one of our honorees this year and I am proud of all he has accomplished and all he is currently doing!

- Fr. Bernie Scianna, O.S.A., Prior Provincial
The Augustinians’ celebration of Anne and Don Berschback will be an evening 60 years in the making, starting from when a fifth-grade Don was mowing the summer grasses at St. Clare of Montefalco school in Grosse Pointe, MI. In the decades to follow Don, together with his wife Anne, would develop a relationship of faith and service with the Augustinian Order at every level possible—parish, school, and province.

After working as an “office boy” and landscaper while studying at St. Clare’s, Don’s involvement with the Augustinians began “in earnest” while attending Austin Catholic High School. After losing his father suddenly before his sophomore year, Don found guidance and support in the Augustinian friars that ran his school, particularly the late Fr. Edward Chapman, O.S.A. Since then Don has been a tireless supporter of the priests and brothers who “were the absolute reason why, I believe, I am who I am today,” he said in a 2014 interview.

The Berschbacks have the rare distinction amongst lay Affiliates of having accompanied the Midwest Augustinians through two capital campaigns, the first being the “Journey of a Lifetime Campaign” in the early 1990s. When the Midwest Province announced its “Continuing Our Journey of Faith Campaign” in 2014, the Berschbacks returned as energetic and galvanizing leaders, offering their services to the Campaign Cabinet and multiple Augustinian Gala Committees. In 2013, Anne even served as a chairperson of the first Augustinian Gala Committee.

Their dedication to the Campaign’s mission—providing financial support for elderly friars and men in formation—reached its culmination at last year’s Gala, where Don’s impassioned plea for support helped bring in record contributions for the Province.

“We would be hard-pressed to find any more consistently loyal, generous, and forthright supporters than Anne and Don Berschback,” said Director of Advancement Michael Gerrity, “They have provided outstanding leadership for the Augustinians at every level for many decades.”

Even though the Augustinians ceased to run the Berschbacks’ home parish of St. Clare of Montefalco in 2013, Don and Anne continue their regular involvement with Augustinian events, festal celebrations and ordinations. As Prior Provincial Fr. Bernie Scianna said, “Don and Anne certainly embody the Augustinian Charism of Community! And they never miss a chance to get together with the Augustinians. I am proud to know them and to have them as Members of the Order!”

We greatly look forward to thanking the Berschbacks for their years of service and generous support. You are cherished members of the Augustinian family, and it is now time we gather together in honoring you!
Honorees of 2017:

Fr. Jim Friedel, O.S.A., Prior of St. Jude Parish, New Lenox
Fr. Tom McCarthy, O.S.A., Director of Augustinian Vocations
Anne and Don Berschback, Augustinian Affiliates

The Drake Hotel, Chicago ~ April 28, 2017
6:00 pm - 10:00 pm  Dinner at 7:45pm

Table Opportunities

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

Underwriting and Sponsorship Opportunities

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Gala Program Book Opportunities

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Pages are 8.5" x 11", full color. The Advancement Office can design your ad at no extra cost, if desired.

For information, please contact Michael Gerrity at michael@midwestaugustinians.org or 773-595-4035.
There is the liturgical year, the fiscal year, the academic year. Then there is that year measured from Oktoberfest to Oktoberfest! This is the year that the St. Clare of Montefalco Parish and School has used to mark the celebration of its 90th Anniversary of serving the community of Grosse Pointe and Detroit, Michigan. The commemoration officially began with a weekend of festivities this past October, and will feature a series of concerts, outings, and dinners before closing in the Oktoberfest of 2017.

Although St. Clare’s first Sunday Mass was held in 1926, “the school didn’t have its first class until the following year, so we’re running the anniversary over an odd year instead of a calendar year,” Pastoral Associate Janet Guensche explains.

A community of Friars of the Augustinian order first founded and constructed the Grosse Pointe parish and school in 1926, choosing as its patroness the 13th-century abbess from Montefalco, Italy. The Augustinian Order continued to serve St. Clare’s as both priests and teachers for 86 years before finding it necessary to withdraw from the parish because of a shortage of personnel. At that point, the Michaelite Order from London, Ontario, was able to take over leadership of the parish, and Pastor Andrew Kowalczyk and Rev. Tom Wilisowski, associate pastor, have brought a renewed energy and vitality to the parish.

“We’re attracting more people every week,” Ms. Guensche said. “[Frs. Kowalczyk and Wilisowski] just bring people in… We plan a lot of fun events that include everyone.”

While the parish community has welcomed in the support of the Michaelites, they remain close to their Augustinian heritage. Among the ways that the St. Clare of Montefalco parish has highlighted its Augustinian identity during its anniversary has been with the exhibition of a relics of Augustinian saints, including those of St. Clare. “The Augustinian have now left, but we still are an Augustinian parish, so we celebrate the Augustinian saints through our relics and our stained glass,” said Ms. Guensche.

The church’s rich interior was put on full display during its November 7th All Parish Mass and Dinner, presided over by Archbishop Michael Byrnes of Guam, for which parish volunteers “hand-polished”—one-by-one—more than 400 name plates” honoring those first parishioners who donated to St. Clare’s construction. To bring home the true immensity of 90 years of service, the mass and dinner was attended by the parish’s first baptism June Anne Fox Betzing who was baptized on July 8, 1928, and Salvatore and Marie Ciaramitaro, the first couple to be married within the current church on July 16, 1949.

For a full calendar of anniversary events, visit stclarem.org/90th-anniversary-celebration.

Donors that contribute $1,000 or more (only $3 a day) to the Augustinian Annual Drive are enrolled in the One Mind One Heart Society. Members of the society are recognized by receiving a handsome lapel pin (see left) and at Province events like the Feast of Saint Augustine and the annual gala.

Visit midwestaugustinians.org/omohs for more information.
In 2010, the youngest member listed in the Midwest Augustinians’ Province Directory, including two men in formation, was 40 years old, born in 1970. Set to be added to the directory’s next installment, after his novitiate, was Stephen Isley, born in 1987: “I remember looking at the directory and thinking, ‘Oh my God! I’m going to be the youngest guy here for 17 years!’”

It would be hard to imagine for Br. Stephen that just six years later the Augustinians would have 40 men in formation across North America with 11 newly professed friars in 2016 alone. Young men discerning today will have a very different image of the Order than the one had by Br. Stephen. What led a young man, just out of college, to make the leap to join a religious community that had not witnessed the solemn profession of a younger vocation in over a generation? Why the Augustinians of all Orders? On the occasion of his Diaconate Ordination, we wish to explore what led Br. Stephen into the Augustinian formation program in 2009.

BEFORE HEARING THE CALL

Br. Stephen grew up in the vibrant Catholic community of Wichita, Kansas, where he attended the local parochial school of Saint Francis of Assisi.
“It was a world where everyone and their dog was Catholic, and everyone I saw at school during the week I saw at Mass on Sunday,” he recalls. Br. Stephen went on to Bishop Carroll Catholic High School of the Diocese of Wichita, a school known for producing many vocations. While there were many good model priests and seminarians (and his name surfaced a few times among classmates as someone who should consider a priestly vocation) the diocesan priesthood never held much attraction for Br. Stephen.

Meanwhile, he continued to be attracted to experiences of community through the cross-country and track teams, through the local youth group, and in college through the University of Tulsa’s Newman Center. He began to deepen his spirituality, attending adoration and daily masses, and began to pray the Liturgy of the Hours. Still, in college, he would be asked from time to time whether he had thought about becoming a priest. “I’d tell people, ‘Woah! You can study philosophy, go to Mass, and grow a beard without becoming a priest.’” At this point, the idea of a vocation to religious life was still unknown.

READING SAINT AUGUSTINE

This would change during Br. Stephen’s second semester at Tulsa with a course on Medieval Culture. Early readings included the Life of Anthony of the Desert and Saint Benedict. “Growing up where it was so easy to be Catholic, I was stunned by how radically these men lived out the Gospel. I wondered, ‘Where can I see this in the Church today?’” Still, he felt more admiration than attraction. The accounts of these men made them seem otherworldly—figures more of awe than of imitation. In Augustine’s Confessions, written by that saint’s own hand, Br. Stephen found something much closer to home. “It was like looking in a mirror,” he said, “His questions to himself about himself were the same questions I was asking myself. Eventually his journey became my journey and his prayer became my prayer.”

“O LORD, YOU KNOW ALL MY LONGINGS”

Br. Stephen’s prayer did begin to change, marked more by questions than answers, and more by silence than by speech. The path he had envisioned for himself began to look less clear. He had a loving romantic relationship of more than two years but found that a different longing was building up: a longing for prayer and community, a longing for poverty, chastity, and obedience.

As the semester went on, the shape of this longing became more clear. Br. Stephen discovered the important vocation of religious brotherhood, which showed him that religious life was not just a different way of being a priest, but was its own vocation. He became enamored, too, of the Mendicant Movement that mixed the prayer and community of the monasteries with ministry in the world.

AN AUGUSTINIAN ENCOUNTER

The summer after his first year, he felt it time to confess his restless heart to his girlfriend and end their relationship. Strengthened by her support and God’s peace, he journeyed to a discernment retreat to find some direction. The first presenter was an Augustinian friar, Br. Paul Koscielniak, O.S.A. Struck by his enthusiasm, Br. Stephen searched him out to visit one-on-one. He was struck by the connections between his recent discoveries of Augustinian spirituality, religious brotherhood, and the Mendicant Movement with what he was hearing from Br. Paul.

Delighted to hear that there was a community just a few miles from the University of Tulsa, Br. Stephen began to spend time with the Augustinians at nearby Cascia Hall, where he joined with them for prayer and meals and sought out spiritual direction. The friars were warm and inviting, and the monastery itself very homey. “More than anything, it felt like entering my grandpa’s house, where we had celebrated all the major holidays as kids,” said Br. Stephen, “The feeling caught me off-guard, but it was a welcome one.”

There were, however, plenty of ups and downs over this period, during which he was also finishing college. The age disparity between himself and the Augustinians at Cascia Hall was striking, especially after the narrow age range of campus life. The warmth and hospitality of the community, surprisingly, was its own obstacle. Br. Stephen explained, “You have to realize, at 20 years old, you want grand gestures. Anthony going to the desert or Francis stripping out of his clothes before the bishop. At that time, I thought a religious vocation meant renouncing who you were rather than consecrating who you are.”

Despite some lingering hesitations, Br. Stephen continued to feel conviction in his call and decided to apply to enter the Order. “People would ask me, ‘Why did you join the Augustinians?’ At that time, I didn’t know why? I just knew that God was calling me. But the reasons for that call would be revealed in time.”

ONE MIND AND ONE HEART

It was not until entering the pre-novitiate that Br. Stephen discovered the Rule of Saint Augustine and the reason for God’s call to this community. As he had once read himself and the longings of his heart in Augustine’s Confessions, the same happened now in those early words of the Rule: The primary purpose for you having coming together is to live harmoniously in your house, with one mind and one heart on the way to God. “Reading these words that may as well have been my own,” said Br. Stephen, “I realized that I had already been living then, has been a journey of self-discovery in the loving presence of God and my brothers.”

We are incredibly blessed as a community for the example Br. Stephen has set for the young men who have entered into formation behind him. Please continue your prayers for Br. Stephen as he prepares for his priestly ordination this summer.
Blessing a Wall
That Opens to the Future

Fast Facts About the Plans for Colegio San Agustin in Trujillo, Peru

- Once the construction of the campus is complete, Trujillo will be fully self-sufficient, and its revenue will be used to fund needy schools at Augustinian schools in Chulucanas, Peru.

- Students of Trujillo currently attend classes in temporary structures.

- The completion of this campus is seen as a vital step towards the independence of the Augustinians in Peru.

- The construction of a wall is a necessary step in construction in Peru in order to secure the grounds and equipment.

- The wall will enclose nearly 10 acres of land, which was purchased through the Augustinian missions in 2014.

- Will include students from pre-K through high school. The first high school class will begin in March of 2017.

- School administrators currently plan on beginning classes at the new campus in March of 2018.

Artist’s rendering of the future home of Colegio San Agustin; the front entranceway leads to a chapel with 80 ft. steeple, auditorium and administrative block.
Over the past year, it has become difficult for residents of the United States to hear the phrase “build a wall” without exciting divergent, politically-charged reactions. Most will not see the erection of a wall as a sign of hope for our children, a herald announcing the coming of a school. Yet for the families of Trujillo, Peru this is exactly what a wall signifies. So, in December 2016 families, brothers, and teachers of the Private Educational Institute of Saint Augustine gathered together in prayer and celebration to bless the wall that would guard the growth of their fledgling school.

In Peru, a wall is routinely the first step in any construction project, says Fr. John Lydon, O.S.A., due to the migrant communities from the nearby mountains who often set up camps around the equipment.

The blessing is a significant and daring step forward for the Augustinian missions in Trujillo, a city which has been served by the Midwest Augustinian province since 1963. Since welcoming in its inaugural class of first-graders in 2011, Saint Augustine has held classes in temporary structures close to the Trujillo Diocesan offices. Despite these humble lodgings the community has seen considerable growth, as families are drawn to the quality that has come to be associated with the Augustinian education in Peru.

In Peru, private education currently accounts for around 45% of all pre-K through high school education, as opposed to current US numbers, which hold at 10 percent. This figure highlights the need for alternatives to the publicly funded education in Peru, which is largely seen as underfunded and inadequate by the general population, according to Fr. Lydon.

Nevertheless, the potential for growth will remain limited without a permanent home that has the proper facilities to attract families coming from the largely middle-class communities of Trujillo, Peru’s third most populous city. Under the directorship of Fr. Eleodora Villanueva, O.S.A., the planned campus will include a chapel (with 80 ft. steeple), an auditorium, soccer, basketball and volleyball grounds, a swimming pool, kindergarten buildings, and housing for the friars, among other features.

Currently, the Colegio San Agustin is financially self-sustaining, and will remain so in the future. Mission funds are exclusively needed for the stage of initial construction of the school, of which the wall blessing is only the beginning. These funds will need to come in large part from appeals by North American Augustinian provinces. Additionally, funds for construction have already been contributed by the Archdiocese of Trujillo and the Augustinians in Brazil and in Rome.

The construction of the Colegio San Agustin, however, will not be an end in itself. The establishment of a stable source of revenue, through the tuition of a large student body coming from a middle-class community, should provide consistent support to the Augustinian schools in the impoverished and underdeveloped Chulucanas region, nearly 300 miles to the north. Thus the Midwest Augustinians see the success of the Colegio San Agustin as a vital step towards the self-sufficiency of the Order in Peru.
As the former CEO of railroad equipment manufacturer Klasing Industries, Wayne Klasing understands the principles of sound financial planning that lead to high returns on investment. When Mr. Klasing invested three years of his career in the mid-1960s to researching existing hand brake models for freight trains, his “return” was the invention of an improved design and patents which continue to be manufactured today.

Fifty years later, when making lasting decisions about what charities he would list as beneficiaries of his will and retirement plans, Mr. Klasing knew from direct experience that the Midwest Augustinian Province would prove a faithful and efficient steward of his legacy. “I have witnessed closely the Midwest Augustinians’ maturity and responsibility in handling their finances,” he said.

Mr. Klasing’s familiarity with the fiscal management of the Augustinians has developed over a period that has seen the Midwest Province rise from the brink of closure to its current position of healthy vocations and increased financial sustainability. When Fr. Bernie Scianna, O.S.A., was first elected to Prior Provincial in 2010, the Midwest Augustinians lacked sufficient funds to care for many of their retired friars, while incoming vocations had dropped off and the Province had not ordained a new priest in over a decade.

Fr. Bernie began searching for an advisor, experienced in serving on non-profit boards, who could help him develop an Office of Advancement and assess the possibilities of developing a sustainable donor base. After consulting with Fr. Dick McGrath, O.S.A., at Providence Catholic High School, and Fr. Mike Slattery, O.S.A., Province Treasurer and Pastor of St. Jude Parish, he was quickly directed to Wayne Klasing.

Fr. Bernie first contacted Mr. Klasing on what he described as a “cold call.” “[Mr. Klasing] certainly did not know who I was at the time, but I had to take a leap of faith and ask if he would take on this enormous task of rebuilding the Province with me.” After reviewing a consultant’s report on the province, Mr. Klasing saw a pathway for growth and offered to donate his time and experience to assist in establishing an Advancement Office, which replaced the Development Office. With Province Director of Advancement, Michael Gerrity, Mr. Klasing

Continued on Page 16
The Advancement Staff of The Province of Our Mother of Good Counsel is going through some major transitions, making this a both sad and exciting time.

This January, Patrick completed nearly seven years of working with the Augustinians and has taken a new position as the Director of Development for the George M. Pullman Educational Foundation. The foundation offers merit-based scholarships to college students with financial hardship. Had it not been for the foundation’s support, over 14,000 students, including some from Mendel Catholic and Saint Rita of Cascia High Schools, as well as Patrick himself, might not have been able to afford a higher education. Patrick’s final day with the provincial staff was January 20, and he is already sorely missed. We send him our prayers for success and joy in his new position.

Patrick wished to share his last parting words that, “In coming to walk on this journey with the Augustinians these past seven years, I have met some of the world’s humblest priests and brothers that have served God and His people. I have worked on some pretty incredible projects with the Augustinians: renovating a website, launching an annual gala and capital campaign, chronicling the province’s history in a book, celebrating the Feast of Augustine at Holy Name Cathedral, etc. However, the most inspiring moments stemmed from getting to know some of the friendliest and most generous philanthropists—regardless of their financial means or walk of life—from Chicago to Canada to Chulucanas and everywhere in between.

Further, Elizabeth Mazur, the Associate Director of the Annual Fund, will be departing at the end of April for a position in parish ministry in Chicago’s Western suburbs. She has been with the Augustinian for three years now, and in that time has organized three increasingly successful Augustinian galas! She will stay with us until this year’s gala in April, so we are not saying good-bye to her just yet!

We these departures, though, come new faces. Let us introduce you to our three new staff members!

In early December the Midwest Augustinians welcomed Sean Reynolds as the incoming Associate Director of Communications.

Sean comes to us after teaching for three years as a Lecturer in the Liberal Studies Program at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Prior to this, he taught literature and writing at the University of Lausanne, Switzerland, and The State University of New York at Buffalo, where he earned his PhD in English in 2013. He is a native of Naperville and Evergreen Park, attended Sts. Peter and Paul Elementary School, and was confirmed at Most Holy Redeemer in 2003.

He is a former intern and regular contributor to the Take Five for Faith, Prepare the Word at TrueQuest Communications. Sean is a passionate reader of the early Church Fathers and thrilled to be serving the Order of Saint Augustine! He can be reached at sean@midwestaugustinians.org or 773-595-7007.

Joe Zurawski has joined our Advancement team in the newly created position of Database Relations Manager. He will be responsible for providing timely and accurate reporting on all aspects of our Advancement work.

Joe comes to us with a wealth of knowledge gleaned at various Chicagoland nonprofits including four years at the Art Institute of Chicago, where he served as Associate Director of Development Information Services. Prior to his intentional transition to the nonprofit world, Joe spent many years with the Wrigley Company in research and development.

Having grown up on the Southwest Side and attending Quigley South high school and Loyola University, Joe has now "married into" the Episcopal Church and is a member of St. Luke’s Parish in Evanston. However he "feels right at home" and is very happy to be working with the Midwest Augustinians.
Joanne Maher joins the Midwest Augustinian Advancement team with over a decade of Catholic fundraising experience.

A native of San Francisco, Joanne has served as the Development Director for the Archdiocese of San Francisco under Cardinal William J. Levada, and for the Western Dominican Province at St. Dominic Church in San Francisco. She has worked with numerous non-profit agencies specializing in campaign fundraising and special events, and currently serves as a volunteer with the Junior League of Chicago.

Joanne enjoys living in the South Loop with her fifteen year old daughter, playing tennis and travel. Last summer, Joanne and her daughter spent three weeks in Italy following the footsteps of St. Francis and seeing Pope Francis in Assisi. Joanne is excited to return to her passion of fundraising and join in the mission of the Midwest Augustinians.

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On December 4, 2016, G.T. Bynum, member of the Midwest Augustinians’ Advancement Council inaugurated as mayor of Tulsa, Oklahoma. Hon. Bynum is an alum of the Augustinian Cascia Hall Preparatory School and Villanova University. After eight years on the Tulsa City Council, Hon. Bynum ran for mayor in 2016 and defeated in the incumbent, Dewey F. Bartlett Jr., in the June election by receiving 56 percent of the vote. Bynum’s election continues a strong and fruitful relationships between the Augustinians and the city of Tulsa, which celebrates Augustinians’ Day on October 25.


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also helped form the Advancement Council and has served as its Chairperson since inception.

"Wayne Klasing was, and continues to be, a leading force in the maturation of the Province’s efforts to secure charitable gifts,” said Gerrity “The counsel, gifts, and active leadership provided by Wayne have paid many handsome, and heavenly, dividends for all the Augustinians.”

At the time of first receiving a call from Fr. Bernie, Mr. Klasing had already become a vital supporter of the Midwest Augustinians at the parish and school level. Mr. Klasing had been actively involved at both Providence Catholic High School, where his son Stephen had been a student, and St. Jude Parish in New Lenox, IL, where he was a parishioner. He was further witness to the transition that took place at St. Jude’s Parish when the Augustinians took over leadership in 1993.

“As a member of the Parish Finance Council, I recognized early on that the Augustinians were an order of priests who understood the importance of handling the earthly affairs of finances and administration,” Mr. Klasing recalls. At St. Jude’s, working with the Parish Finance Council, the Augustinians eliminated deficits, raised funds to construct and pay for a new church building, saved the parish school, and put the parish on sound financial footing.

Apart from the Augustinians, Mr. Klasing contributes considerable time to serving on the boards of other non-profits, each of which holds a personal connection for him. He has served on the Board of Trustees for Bradley University, his alma matter, and Lambda Chi Alpha, his undergraduate fraternity, Joliet Junior College Foundation, and the Community Foundation of Will County. After graduating with a degree in industrial engineering in 1963, he joined his family business, Klasing Industries, as its sole engineer. He continued working at the company and managing it until he sold it in 2012. He now divides his time between his homes in New Lenox, IL, and Kerrville, TX, where he is a member of the Sons of the Republic of Texas.
Thank You to Our Newest Donors!

We are so grateful for those that join us in our mission to serve the Church through their charitable support! In each issue, we thank those newest donors that have given their first donation to support our Province. Thank you to the following 115 donors that began donating between September 23 and December 31. We ask that all our readers keep these newest supporters in prayer. Thank you!

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

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In each issue, we recognize the Augustinians, parishes, schools, and individuals that have been honored with a tribute or memorial gift. The following gifts were received between September 23 and December 31. List a friar in the enclosed envelope with a donation, and he will be recognized in the next issue of The Midwest Augustinian!

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