CARE OF THE SICK AND ELDERLY FRIARS
Many friars listed in our In Paradisum columns were lovingly cared for in the St. Thomas of Villanova Monastery. Thank you for the grace and gift of home.

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

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

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

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

IN EVERY ISSUE
Features
The Augustinian Fund
Columns
Letter from the Provincial
Volunteer Letters
A Glimpse
News and Notes
In Paradisum

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

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THE AUGUSTINIAN
A publication of the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova.
Dear Friends,

It is a great joy for me to greet you at the beginning of my ministry as Prior Provincial of the Augustinians of the Saint Thomas of Villanova Province. While I am new to this role of service, my journey with the friars has occupied more than four decades, has introduced me to hundreds of the brothers and sisters who are members of our religious family and has brought me to many places on the Augustinian map. The opportunities that have been granted to me over these years have been blessings, and I have confidence that God will make of my present ministry a blessing to me as well.

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

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

In the days following our Provincial Chapter, I have joyfully reviewed the renewal of vows of four of our friars in formation, and, during the month of August, the first profession of vows of a novice. These newer vocations to our Province are very much a blessing to us, and a sign of hope for the future.

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AUGUSTINIAN
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ARCHIVIST

TINA TESFILO
Chulucanas, Peru

Ventura, CA

As an international volunteer, I wasn’t officially told what my service site would be until days before leaving the country. Two months in, I am still finding new responsibilities and titles almost daily. Officially I serve at Central Pastoral, the health center headquarters for Chulucanas and the surrounding parishes/cities. Every day I go in to work 97% unsure of what the day will bring. I love it. Some days I serve as a nurse, checking blood pressures and sugars. Other days I serve as a pharmacist distributing medicine. Still other days I serve as a social worker visiting the hospital to see children in need of surgeries, whom I will represent to apply to get them funding. Finally I serve as a teacher, teaching English to seminarians and college students who want so badly to learn the language.

The staff welcomes me to work with them every single day, even though they are the professionals. When I am having a hard time understanding, they simply say, “Dame-calma” - be cool — don’t worry about it. They take the time to explain everything to me and make me feel included and a part of the team. I only hope I can give back to them half of the mark they have already left on me.

Emily Thompson
Ventura, CA 2013-2014

As I head into the school’s PA system, I hear my voice echo in the loud speaker: “Attention Villanova. Campus Ministry will now be praying the rosary at the Grotto. If you would like to join, please meet at the Grotto.” I hang up the phone, grab my rosary, and walk with purpose toward the heart of campus, where the Grotto stands. As I approach, I see that the space around the Grotto is unoccupied. I wait several minutes, and when nobody comes along, I begin, “In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

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

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

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

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

BY TEDDIE GALLAGHER

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

EARLY LIFE AND EDUCATION

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

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

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

His father’s parents came to Rosebank, Staten Island, N.Y., from the town of Palhila in the Province of Salerno, in the Campania region in the southeast of Italy. Neither of his grandparents spoke much English. His grandmother spoke English, but his grandfather, who supported the family as a boot black on the Staten Island Ferry and operated an elevator in a chewing gum factory, spoke little English. Fr. Michael was always interested in speaking foreign languages, including Italian, and, although he could understand some Italian that was spoken by his grandparents, he would not learn to speak it until he joined the Order and studied Italian, French, German and Spanish at Villanova University.

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

“Case deeply, give quietly, teach gently...and love.”
— Monsignor Paul M. Andrews

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

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

Monsignor Paul Michael Andrews was born Paul Andriaccio in 1910, son of Italian immigrants, Rocco and Anna Andriaccio. At some point the family changed their name to Andrews. The Monsignor was ordained to the priesthood on June 6, 1936, by Patrick Cardinal Hayes at St. Patrick’s Cathedral, New York City. He was the beloved pastor of St. Rita’s, Staten Island, N.Y., from 1950 to 1985. In 1975, Cardinal Cooke gave Monsignor Andrews the seat of office when he was elevated to the position of the Episcopal Vicar of Staten Island, a position he held from 1975 to 1982. The late James L. Galligan, O.S.A., was a consecrator at the installation Mass. Monsignor Andrews died on February 22, 1991, at the age of 80. He is buried at Calvary Cemetery, Long Island City, Queens, N.Y., with his mother Anna (d. 1946) and his father Rocco (d. 1921). Wellbrook Avenue, the street where St. Rita Parish Offices are located, bears an honorary street name: Monsignor Paul M. Andrews Way.
In addition to being a day school, the Augustinian Academy functioned as a minor seminary for the Augustinian Order. Day students and seminarian students mixed together in classes and school activities. Fr. Michael became good friends with many of the seminarians and it was during these four years that he learned about St. Augustine and ultimately decided to enter the Augustinian Order following his graduation. Another reason in Fr. Michael’s class made the same choice to enter the Augustinian Order — Fr. Mickey Genovese, O.S.A., who is pictured with Fr. Michael in the 1965 Augustinian Academy class photo.

THE FORMATION YEARS

Fr. Michael was received into the Augustinian Order as a novice on September 9, 1965, and after a year at Good Counsel Novitiate in New Hamburg, N.Y., he professed his first vows on September 19, 1966. He then attended Villanova University, where he received a BA degree in Philosophy (1966-1970). He attended Augustinian College, Washington, D.C., for his theological studies, where he received his MA degree in 1973. Father professed solemn vows on January 15, 1972, and was ordained in 1973.

Fr. Michael was received into the Augustinian Order on March 1, 1972, where he studied spirituality. Upon his return to the U.S. in 1981, he was assigned first to the formation team and then as the Director of Novices at Good Counsel Novitiate, which was then located in Lawrence, Mass. (1981-1986). From 1986 to 1989, he served as pastor of Saint Nicholas of Tolentine, Bronx, N.Y.

In 1989, Fr. Di Gregorio had just started a new assignment to be the Pre-Novitiate Director, when he was asked to go to the General Chapter of the Order in Rome. At the Chapter, the Prior General, Fr. Miguel Ocestas, asked Fr. Michael if he would come to Rome to be the Director of Social Communications for the Order. Due to his commitment to the Pre-Novitiate, Fr. Michael felt he could not leave the position at that time. However, a year later, when urged by the Prior General to take the position, Father went to Rome and served as the Order’s Communications Director from 1998 to 2002. In this position, Fr. Michael was the Editor of the Order’s Newsletter, OSA Internationalia, which is translated into four languages. Fr. Michael has a lasting commitment to friars in formation and has for many years gone to the novitiate to speak about the lessons of spirituality that can be learned through the lives of saints and blesseds. He has written four books about Augustinian Saints and Blesseds, Saint Rita of Cascia (2000), The Previous Pearl: The Story of Saint Rita of Cascia (2003), Saint Nicholas of Tolentino (2007), and Stephen Beccius, O.S.A. (2012), a Blessed of the Augustinian Order.

During his time at Villanova, Fr. Michael became concerned about his choice to be an Augustinian. The reason: the Province of Cascia was not open to young friars going directly to parish work. He expected to be assigned to teach in a high school, but his first assignment was to Saint Rita of Cascia Parish in Philadelphia. However, before he left for the assignment it was changed to Saint Augustine Parish, Andover, Mass. (1973-1977). From Andover, he was next assigned to Saint Nicholas of Tolentine Parish, Jamaica, Long Island, N.Y. (1977-1978). He then went to the College Santa Monica, in Rome for his subbacalur year where he studied spirituality. Upon his return to the U.S. in 1981, he was assigned first to the formation team and then as the Director of Novices at Good Counsel Novitiate, which was then located in Lawrence, Mass. (1981-1986). From 1986 to 1989, he served as pastor of Saint Nicholas of Tolentine, Bronx, N.Y.

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

Although Fr. Michael attended Saint Rita grade school for seven years, at the time he had no idea who Saint Rita was, why she was a saint or that she was connected to St. Augustine through her vocation as an Augustinian nun. He would discover this through his attendance at Augustinian Academy, where the hill on which the school sat was called “Mount Saint Rita.” Eventually, while he was serving at the Pre-Novitiate, Fr. Michael submitted a proposal to revive the National Shrine of Saint Rita of Cascia on Broad St. in South Philadelphia. The parish was established by Archbishop Patrick Ryan and placed under the care of the Augustinians in 1907, to serve the growing Italian immigrant population. The church was designed by George Ignatius Lovatt, Sr. (1872-1958). The shrine existed on the basement level of St. Rita’s, with church and shrine coexisting until the main church was completed in 1916. The shrine flourished in its early days, when thousands came for the novena devotions and for healing from St. Rita. However, as time went by, there was a sharp decline in attendance, largely because in the 1960s and 1970s the neighborhood was changing. Fr. Michael’s proposal was to revive the shrine, to bring it back to what it had been.

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

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

“The path by which some individuals have found their lives bonded with that of Saint Rita is at times, by their own admittance, mysterious and mystifying.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A significant event during the Chapter is the Installation of the Prior Provincial. In early February, members of the Province cast their ballots for candidates and the newly elected Prior Provincial was Michael F. Di Gregorio, O.S.A., the former Vicar General of the Order, who had recently fulfilled his term at the Augustinian Curia in Rome. A Mass of Installation was celebrated by the Prior General of the Order of St. Augustine, Fr. Alejandro Moral, O.S.A., who was also here in the role of president of the Chapter.

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

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

In Chapter, the proposals that pass serve as the foundation on which the new “Program of the Province” emerges and which guides the Prior Provincial, aided by his Counselors, over the next four years. In his opening remarks at the Chapter, the Prior General, Fr. Moral, emphasized, “We [Augustinians] are called to be disciples not in just any way, but as disciples in one mind and in one heart, as sons of Augustine.”

The Province’s program manifests the charism of the Augustinians in light of their service to the Church, as the Chapter provides an opportunity to renew and enhance their role in fulfilling their mission as members of the Christian community. In an atmosphere of collegiality, engaging in dialogue, listening to the ideas and comments of their brothers, members determine how God calls the Province of St. Thomas to minister to the People of God.

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

In his commentary on Matthew’s Sermon on the Mount (Mt 5:1-12, the Beatitudes), St. Augustine states, “If any one will piously and soberly consider the sermon which our Lord Jesus Christ spoke on the mount, as we read it in the Gospel according to Matthew, I think that he will find in it, so far as regards the highest morals, a perfect standard of the Christian life.”

Recommitting themselves to the Church’s long-held teaching of a preferential option for the poor, the members echoed the example of Pope Francis in efforts to lead a life of simplicity, weighing their needs, both as individuals and as members of their communities, by engaging in assessments...
to review consumption and spending, with an aim to reduce each and live as simply as possible. Additionally, as they look ahead to the needs of the Church in their mission as ministers in the People of God and their own charism of community, the friars advocated development of a strategic plan to consider locations for ministry and the use of available resources in the future.

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

The Prior Provincial noted that vocations also a key matter addressed at the Chapter. He reminded the friars of the responsibility that rests with them to share the knowledge of how the Augustinian way of life animates their own lives. Fr. Di Gregorio invited the Province’s vicar directors, Fr. Tom McCarthy, O.S.A., and Jorge Cleto, O.S.A., to address the friars. Each spoke with enthusiasm of their work. The Prior Provincial encouraged schools and parishes of the Province to invite their vocation directors to speak on the topic of vocations to the Augustinian way of life.

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

As sons of Augustine, the Province echoed loudly the themes that are a priority, not only at the highest levels of the Order of St. Augustine, but the highest level of our Church. A new team has been elected to address the current issues for the Province. The new team is comprised of:

**Michael H. Bielecki, O.S.A.**
- **Treasurer, Province of St. Thomas of Villanova**
- **Education**
  - Cabrini College, BA (Religious Studies)
  - The Catholic University of America, JCL (Licentiate of Canon Law)
  - The Catholic University of America, JCD (Doctor of Canon Law)

**Francis J. Horn, O.S.A.**
- **Secretary, Province of St. Thomas of Villanova**
- **Education**
  - Villanova University, BS (Mathematics)
  - Washington Theological Union, MA (Theology)
  - The Catholic University of America, JCL (Lavatariate of Canon Law)

**Profeessed**
- **Ordained**

**Profeessed**
- **Ordained**

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

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

Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. Fr. Bob entered the National Intelligence Community, served in the Theology Department at Msgr. Bonner High School, and professed at the Our Lady of Good Counsel, Staten Island, N.Y.

Robert attended Villanova University for his undergraduate degree and, after graduation, was received into the Order. He had his novitiate year at New Hamburg, N.Y. and professed first vows on September 1, 1968. He returned to Villanova University, completing his philosophical studies, and then went to Augustinian College and the Washington Theological Union for his theological studies. Fr. Bob has taught at Archbishop Carroll High School in Washington, D.C., and served in parishes in Massachusetts and New York. He served as the Vicar for the Vicariate of Chihuahua, Peru, while serving in the mission there. He also served in the mission in South Africa, before returning to serve at the Our Lady of Good Counsel, Staten Island, N.Y.

Joseph L. Narog, O.S.A.
Counselor

Education
Washington Theological Union, MDiv
Washington Theological Union, MA (Pastoral Theology)

Robert P. Terranova, O.S.A.
Counselor

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

Luis A. Vera, O.S.A.
Counselor

Education
University of Puerto Rico/Cayey University College

Joseph attended Saint Joseph's University, Philadelphia, Pa. and the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va. He worked for the U.S. Government, including the Defense Intelligence Agency's counterterrorism unit. In 1993, he received the National Intelligence Community Award for his managing of the Community's Counterterrorism Training Program. In 1998, he entered the Province's Pre-Novitiate program at Augustinian College, Washington, D.C., and completed his theological studies. After a year at the National Novitiate in Racine, Wis., he professed first vows on August 12, 2006, and returned to Augustinian College and the Washington Theological Union to continue his studies. He has taught, served as a high school chaplain and served at St. Anthony's Parish in Andover, Mass. before his present assignment as Pastor of St. Thomas of Villanova Parish in Villanova, Pa.

Robert attended Villanova University for his undergraduate degree and, after graduation, was received into the Order. He had his novitiate year at New Hamburg, N.Y. and professed first vows on September 1, 1968. He returned to Villanova University, completing his philosophical studies, and then went to Augustinian College and the Washington Theological Union for his theological studies. Fr. Bob has taught at Archbishop Carroll High School in Washington, D.C., and served in parishes in Massachusetts and New York. He served as the Vicar for the Vicariate of Chihuahua, Peru, while serving in the mission there. He also served in the mission in South Africa, before returning to serve at the Our Lady of Good Counsel, Staten Island, N.Y.
Luis A. Vera, O.S.A., celebrates the Mass in memory of friars who have died since the last Chapter.

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

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

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


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

Friars come together for evening prayer in Corr Chapel.

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

Friars at evening prayer.

Eugene A. DeConte, O.S.A., and Peru missionary, John J. O’Toole, O.S.A., join the singing.

Friars at evening prayer in Corr Chapel.

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


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

Hiroyuki Thomas Shibata, O.S.A., celebrates Mass on the fifth day of the Chapter.
Augustinian Named Bishop in Panama

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

First Profession of Vows

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

Major Superiors Meeting in Rome

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

Augustinian NGO Granted ECOSOC Status

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

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

Pre-novice to live at Casa San Agustín

Former Prior Provincial and Former Prior General Receive Honorary Doctorates

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

Villanova University held its 171st Commencement for the Class of 2014 on Friday, May 16, at the Pavilion, on campus. Fr. Robert F. Prevost, O.S.A., former Prior General of the Order of St. Augustine, was awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Humanities by Villanova’s President, Fr. Peter M. Donohue, O.S.A.
Augustinians Celebrate 50 Years in Nagoya, Japan

The Vicariate of the Augustinian Martyrs of Japan celebrated its Golden Jubilee of ministry in Nagoya, Japan, in June 2014. After an absence of over 300 years the Order returned to Japan in 1952, when the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova sent missionaries to Nagasaki. In 1964, the Augustinian presence expanded to Nagoya, a port city, with the founding of St. Monica Minato Church. The friars in Nagoya minister to sailors on cargo ships, many from the Philippines, who are Catholic. Congratulations to all of the friars who have served at the Vicariate of the Augustinian Martyrs of Japan on this achievement!

Vicar General Visits Cuba

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

Cascia Classics Benefit

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

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

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

Plaque Commemorates Mass Celebrated by Pope Francis at 2015 General Chapter

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

At the end of the liturgy, before the final blessing, Cardinal Parolin went with the concelebrants and the faithful to a wall near the chapel of St. Monica. There he uncovered a marble plaque commemorating the meeting and Mass celebrated the year before, August 28, 2013, with Pope Francis for the opening of the General Chapter. The following is the text of the plaque at the Basilica di Santi’Agostino in Rome commemorating the Mass celebrated by Pope Francis at the opening of the General Chapter.

THE AUGUSTINIAN  FALL 2014

21
IN PARADISUM

The following friars were called home to God. You can read full biographies of these Augustinians, and post your own reflections or favorite memory, online at www.augustinian.org.

Donald X. Burt, O.S.A.
Born: 4/29/1929
First Profession: 9/10/1948
Ordained: 6/4/1953
 Died: 4/11/2014

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

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

James P. Conway, O.S.A.
Born: 7/27/1930
First Profession: 9/10/1953
 Died: 4/20/2014

Fr. Conway, a native of New York, attended grade school and high school at St. Nicholas of Tolentine in the Bronx, where he later served in one of his parochial assignments. Aide from St. Nick’s, he served at Our Lady of Good Counsel, Staten Island, N.Y., and St. Augustine Parish in Ambler, Mass. Fr. Conway also served in the teaching apostolate at Magr. Bonner High School, in Direct Hill, Pa., and for a time he served at Mount Augustine Retreat House on Staten Island, N.Y. Fr. Conway served the Province’s education and parochial apostolates with equal dedication.

Cherubin F. Kerr, O.S.A.
Born: 9/1/1920
First Profession: 10/5/1937
Ordained: 9/25/1944
 Died: 7/26/2014

Fr. Cherubin was born in Valletta, Malta, where he attended Valletta Public Elementary School and Central High School. He entered the Order on September 22, 1936. He completed his studies at Saint Mark Seminary in Rabat. Following ordination, he taught at St. Augustine College, Malta, for thirteen years and served as a prison chaplain for nine years before coming to the United States as a member of the former Italian Vice Province. He served at Our Lady of Pompeii and St. Mary parishes in East Village, N.J., and St. Nicholas of Tolentine in Philadelphia, Pa. In 1988, he was assigned to St. Augustine Preparatory School in Richland, N.J. Fr. Kerr was an avid cook, stamp collector and woodworker who delighted in fashioning clocks, ships and furniture, which he graciously gave away to others. While still a member of the Province of Malta, in 2002 he was ascribed to the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova. He retired to St. Thomas Monastery in 2009. Until the very last day of his life he remained mentally alert, joy-filled, and positive in his outlook.

Ralph J. Monteiro, O.S.A.
Born: 6/24/1940
First Profession: 9/10/1959
Ordained: 11/19/1966
 Died: 7/20/2014

Fr. Monteiro was a native of the Bronx, N.Y., where he attended Our Savor’s Parish School and Cardinal Hayes High School. Fr. Monteiro served as a teacher and/or librarian at various high schools in the Province and served as a librarian in the public system of Prince George County, Md. He also served in retreat and preaching ministries and as a chaplain at Rosemont College. He was in parish ministry at St. Nicholas of Tolentine, Atlantic City, N.J., and at Our Mother of Consolation, Chestnut Hill, Pa. In 1983, he served in the Diocese of Santa Rosa (Calif.), at the Mission of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha in Hoopa as parish administrator and diocesan liaison for Native American ministry (1983-2000). He volunteered in the AIDS Resource Center, San Francisco (2000-2005). After returning to Villanova, he served as a preacher and fundraiser for Food for the Poor. Following the example of St. Augustine, Fr. Ralph’s restless heart led him to always search for God in the events of his life.

Thomas Shawn Tracy, O.S.A.
Born: 3/6/1940
First Profession: 10/5/1959
Ordained: 11/19/1966
 Died: 7/20/2014

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

Edson J. Wood, O.S.A.
Born: 9/17/1946
First Profession: 9/10/1965
Ordained: 6/24/1972
 Died: 4/9/2014

Fr. Wood was a native of Brien, N.Y. Fr. Wood’s priestly service was devoted, to a great extent, to working with young people in secondary education or higher learning. He taught at Archbishop Carroll in Washington, D.C., the School of the Holy Child in Potomac, and Good Counsel High School in Wheaton, both in Maryland, and Malvern Prep, Malvern, Pa., where he also served as chaplain. He served as assistant to the president at Catholic University. In 1985, he was commissioned as a chaplain in the U.S. Army and discharged in 1991. In 1993, he became assistant chaplain and, eventually, brigade chaplain, at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., for a wake at Holy Trinity Catholic Chapel and a funeral Mass in the Cadet Chapel. Fr. Edson followed the first Catholic of St. Augustine by his sincere love of God and dedicated service to the needs of others.
The circle of grace and gift…

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

Some of the most committed friends of the Augustinians serve on our Development Council and several members, past and present, were on hand to meet Fr. Michael just prior to his Installation Mass. These men and women play an important role in bringing awareness to what Augustinians do and how financial gifts can continue their work.

Our goal for the 2014-2015 Annual Appeal of the Augustinian Fund is $4 million. It’s a lofty goal that is set with the confidence that the friends of the Augustinians and the readers of this magazine are ready to continue the circle of grace and gift.

You are at the heart of what we do.

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

Michael F. Di Gregorio, O.S.A.,
Prior Provincial
Basil DiSipio
Chairman
Eric Quasenberry
Co-Chair, Annual Appeal
Anthony Delmastro
Richard E. Devine, Jr.
Raymond Falzone
Robert P. Hagan, O.S.A.
James J. McCartney, O.S.A.
Robert McKiernan
Michael Picotte
Jonathan Poling
Robert Saldutti
Margaret ‘Meg’ Sheetz
James H. Stewart
Michael P. Sullivan, O.S.A.
Robert Woods

HONORARY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL MEMBERS
William Hallissey
Gary Holloway, Sr.

For assistance with planned giving to the Augustinians, please visit www.augustinianfund.org and click on “Other Ways to Give.” You can also contact Francis J. Horn, O.S.A., Director of Development at 610.527.3330 Ext. 233.

2014 CATHOLIC PRESS AWARDS

“This magazine’s clean design and powerful images, along with its great writing, make it a cutting-edge publication among religious order magazines.”

CATHOLIC PRESS AWARD JUDGES

2014 BEST MULTIPLE PICTURE PACKAGE FEATURE

“JAMES T. O’REILLEY, O.S.A.: A LIFE FOR GOD AND COUNTRY”
by Teddie Gallagher

“Excellent use of Historic photos. Loved the colored bunting on an otherwise B&W photo. Very well done.”

CATHOLIC PRESS AWARD JUDGES

2014 & 2013 INDIVIDUAL EXCELLENCE
EDITOR
Teddie Gallagher
The Augustinian, Villanova, Pa.

“This is a beautifully designed publication that carefully presents content in a way that readers of today consume news.”

CATHOLIC PRESS AWARD JUDGES

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

Jesuit Bishop
the prayer garden of

ST. THOMAS OF VILLANOVA

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

Each step of the walkway is an opportunity for you to dedicate a stone to a member of your family or to an Augustinian.

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

You have a choice of a 6”x12” Sandstone paving stone or a 4”x8” dark grey paving stone.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO:
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610-527-3330 Ext. 221