• CARE OF THE SICK AND ELDERLY FRIARS
• JUSTICE AND PEACE INITIATIVES
• FOREIGN MISSIONS
• AUGUSTINIAN VOLUNTEERS
• VOCATIONS/FORMATION

Help us meet our 2013-2014 1.4 million dollar goal by May 31, 2014!
Dear Friends,

It is with great joy and anticipation that I write this final letter to you as Provincial of the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova. The joy that is in my heart is for the gift of the last twelve years serving the Province in leadership, eight years with Donald F. Reilly, O.S.A. and the last four years as Provincial. All of you that I have met and written to around the world have been a gift. I have visited you in New England, New York, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Florida, Illinois, Wisconsin, Japan, South Africa, Peru, South Korea, and the Philippines and met Pope Francis face to face in Rome this past St. Augustine’s Day. It seems wherever I go people come up to me and say “I know you” and after thinking awhile they say “The Augustinian magazine.” Over 20,000 households receive this award winning Augustinian magazine.

This spring 2014 issue tells the story of John J. Fedigan, O.S.A., a Prior Provincial who faced great opposition when he built a large Monastery and New College Hall at the turn of the 19th century. Fedigan’s conflicts with those with opposite views on the scope of the building project were wrenching for him, but at the end of his term Fr. Fedigan expressed fraternal love to the members of the Province.

Fr. Fedigan died in 1908 at the Villanova Monastery he built. In my years as Prior of the Monastery and Province I have walked with many Friars as they went home to eternal life. I am most grateful to all those donors who support our Residential Healthcare Center at the Monastery. Thank you Dr. Joe, our Director of Nursing, Alenka, all the nurses, CNAs, cleaning staff, kitchen staff, receptionists at the desk and laundry ladies—without you we could not do it. To the members of the Development Council under the leadership of Charlie Connolly, thank you for your outstanding efforts to raise funds for the Augustinians. I also want to bless Brad and Shirley MacDonnell and their family for their unwavering support. Brad died in 2012 at the age of 64 and I miss his deep voice and great smile. Thank you to my Secretary, Michael Bielecki, O.S.A. No task was too much. Marty Smith, O.S.A., thank you for holding us together financially and to my Counselors: Ray Dlugos, O.S.A., James McBurney, O.S.A., Gary McCloskey, O.S.A., James Paradis, O.S.A. and Carlos Urbina, O.S.A., for sharing your wisdom with me.

In most families, members have lifelong roles and responsibilities within the family. For Augustinians, it is rare to have the same role within the family. this is especially true for the Paradis, O.S.A. and Carlos Urbina, O.S.A., for sharing your wisdom with me.

In Augustine,

Very Reverend
Anthony M. Genovese, O.S.A.
PROVINCE OF SAINT THOMAS OF VILLANOVA

THE AUGUSTINIAN

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THE WISDOM OF FOLLY
BY TEDDIE GALLAGHER

The term “Fedigan’s Folly” is the ubiquitous term used to describe the Augustinians’ first massive Villanova campus building program initiated between 1898 and 1901 by John Joseph Fedigan, O.S.A., who, in July of 1898, was the newly-elected Prior Provincial of the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova.

“Fedigan’s Folly” goes the illusion of a light, alternative jab at Fedigan and his dream to create a college at Villanova, separate from its Prep School, and attract Catholic men to earn college degrees in a pious, modern setting. But the opposition was serious and those leveling the term “Fedigan’s Folly” deemed the massive gothic building plan excessive, unprofitable and damaging to the future of the Augustinians and Villanova College. Both sides were equally committed to their vision, and in the process, John J. Fedigan, O.S.A., would suffer bold acts to stop his plan, most notably from James O’Reilly, O.S.A., the newly elected Treasurer of the Provincial Trust and the powerful Assistant Provincial, Secretary of the Province and noted archivist, Dr. Thomas Cooke Middleton, O.S.A.

THE DEFINITION OF “FOLLY”

1. Something that lacks good sense, normal prudence and foresight.

2. A costly ornamental building with no practical purpose, especially a tower or mock-Gothic ruin built in a large park for decorative purposes.

3. An excessively costly or unprofitable undertaking; an often extravagant picturesque building erected to suit a fanciful taste.
John Joseph Fedigan was born in Rathbran, County Meath, Ireland, on April 27, 1842. He was the son of James Fedigan and Ann McGovern Fedigan, with whom he came to the United States through the port of Philadelphia in 1849. His family settled in West Chester, Pa. and later in Wilmington, Delaware. He attended St. Mary's College, in Wilmington, Delaware, considered the most prominent Catholic men's boarding school in the mid-Atlantic region, graduating in 1864. The college, founded in 1841 by Rev. Patrick Reilly (1828-1878) closed in 1866 because of the Civil war and the fact that over one third of the students were from southern states.

Fedigan was accepted into the Augustinian Order at Villanova in 1864 and made his first profession of vows on August 28, 1865. He was ordained to the priesthood on October 28, 1868, by Bishop Jeremiah F. Shanahan of Harrisburg in the Cathedral in Philadelphia and said his first Mass the next day at Old Saint Augustine’s in Philadelphia.

Even in his early days as a young priest, Fr. Fedigan was a charismatic leader who renewed, built, bought and paid off debts wherever he served. The Washington Courier Post summarized his three years and three weeks of service (1869-1873) at St. James Parish, Carthage, New York, and its two mission churches at Salem and Greenwich as follows: “Fr. Fedigan has accomplished wonders during his less than four years stay here. He has paid a large part of the debt on the church here, put it in good repair, built a new parsonage, laid out a new cemetery, formed the nucleus of a fine library, removed debt from the church at Salem and paid for a church at Greenwich.”

In the Provincial Chapter held in 1878, Fr. Fedigan was elected to serve as the 11th president of Villanova College. During his two years in office a fourth floor was added to the monastery (formerly Belle-Air’s Rudolph residence), and steam was added before and after renovations.

Fedigan took up residence in Bryn Mawr, Pa., and set about working on his first major project: a large-scale building and expansion program at Villanova College. On August 9, 1898, Fedigan wrote: “Engaged the services of E.F. Durang, architect, to draw and execute suitable plans for College and Convent (Monastery).”

On September 10, Fedigan presented pencil drawings of the new buildings to the Provincial Fund’s Board of Trustees (Fr. O’Reilly and Regan) and found opposition on their part because they thought the project was too massive.

In June of 1898 the Augustinians held their Provincial Chapter. Archbishop Sebastian Martinelli, O.S.A., who was both Prior General of the Order and Apostolic Delegate to the U.S., presided as president of the Chapter. Fr. Fedigan was elected Prior Provincial and the Definitors (voting counselors to the Provincial) approved Fedigan’s plan and budget to build a new Monastery and New College Hall for $250,000.

The Provincial Fund, in Board of Trustees (Fedigan, James T. O’Reilly, O.S.A., and Daniel D. Regan, O.S.A.) and its sixteen statutes were approved at the 1898 Chapter. There and other “Acts of the Chapter” were recorded by Dr. Thomas Cooke Middleton, O.S.A., Assistant Prior Provincial and Secretary of the Province and sent to Rome for approval.

Fedigan took up residence in Bryn Mawr, Pa., and about working on his first major project: a large-scale building and expansion program at Villanova College.

In the Provincial Chapter held in Atlantic City, New Jersey, and served the congregation of Saint Nicholas of Tolentino and St. Monica’s (later renamed Our Lady Star of the Sea) for eighteen years. On June 1, 1893, Fr. Fedigan issued a proposal envisioning a larger Augustinian presence in Atlantic City, adding a house of postulants. Fedigan’s vision for the Augustinians in Atlantic City was denied by the Prior Provincial James D. Waldo, O.S.A. He appealed to the Assistant Provincial and Secretary of the Province, Dr. Thomas Cooke Middleton, O.S.A., but Middleton refused, saying that, as Secretary of the Province, making an appeal against the Provincial “would be an unheard of step one that would rightly be looked upon as unwarranted, injudicious and worthy of Censure.” Disheartened, Fedigan announced his resignation as pastor at a Mass at St. Nicholas on January 28, 1894, but ultimately stayed for another four years.

On July 6, 1899, Fr. Fedigan was elected the first resident prior and pastor in Atlantic City, New Jersey, and served the congregation of Saint Nicholas of Tolentino and St. Monica’s (later renamed Our Lady Star of the Sea) for eighteen years. On June 1, 1893, Fr. Fedigan issued a proposal envisioning a larger Augustinian presence in Atlantic City, adding a house of postulants. Fedigan’s vision for the Augustinians in Atlantic City was denied by the Prior Provincial James D. Waldo, O.S.A. He appealed to the Assistant Provincial and Secretary of the Province, Dr. Thomas Cooke Middleton, O.S.A., but Middleton refused, saying that, as Secretary of the Province, making an appeal against the Provincial “would be an unheard of step one that would rightly be looked upon as unwarranted, injudicious and worthy of Censure.” Disheartened, Fedigan announced his resignation as pastor at a Mass at St. Nicholas on January 28, 1894, but ultimately stayed for another four years.
Fedigan often refers to himself as “The provincial” or “Father provincial.” The following accounts were discovered by Fr. Middleton, among Fr. Fedigan’s effects after his death in 1908.

**Fedigan Speaks**

The following accounts were discovered by Fr. Middleton, among Fr. Fedigan’s effects after his death in 1908.

Fedigan was appalled by O’Reilly’s actions and wrote this account of what had happened, referring to himself in third person:

“In the Provincial Chapter of July ’98 the Most Rev. Father General Sebastian Martinelli presided in person and gave full approval to all its acts. Among these was one to erect a New College and Convent (now called a Monastery) on our grounds at Villanova, and these to be modern and (now called a Monastery) on our grounds at Villanova, and these to be modern and

“Hence the Provincial wrote immediately to Mons. Martinelli (by now out of office as Prior General of the Order) and asked if he would present to the Provincial, who simply replied that it was

“With this confirmation of the present and past general of the Order, we did not much mind the opposition to the work by a few of the fathers—notably O’Reilly, Regan and Middleton, and the work of the preparations went on by the committee in charge. After this, the Provincial paid but little attention to the opposition and went on with the work of getting ready the plans for both buildings.”

“He also wrote to the present General, Rodriguez (elected in the summer of 1898 to succeed Martinelli as Prior General at the Curia in Rome), stating what had been done in the Provincial Chapter and in the Definitory meetings regarding these buildings and the opposition to them on the part of the above Trustees, and from him also under date of October 14th, 1898, received his (Prior General Rodriguez) approbation of said buildings.

“Given the approval from Rome, and an agreement from the Definitors to accept the lowest bid of $300,000, $50,000 over the approved amount from the Chapter, the building committee notified the contractor that they were ready to sign the contract for both buildings on Monday, February 24, 1899.”

On January 12, 1899, Fedigan noted:

“The plans and this decision of the Definitory were again submitted to the Trustees O’Reilly and Regan….and two days spent trying to get their approval, but in vain! They had taken their stand under Statute 13 and would not yield one iota. They approved of one building only, and that one the College—which according to the plans could not be erected first.”

On February 25, 1899, a telegram was received from General Rodriguez in Rome stating in English “Suspend Contract.” Fedigan wrote:

“This was a thunderbolt out of a clear sky, and we could not tell why. The need of the committee was given to the contractor to begin the work which had already been published far and wide in the public press… the committee had the previous permissions of both General Martinelli… and his successor… yet to show some regard for that cablegram, they signed the contract for one building only, as that could not possibly put them in debt beyond their means, the thing the General [Rodriguez] evidently feared.”

Fedigan wrote back to General Rodriguez, giving him details of how the money for the new buildings would be paid and asking the General to cable back and say “Proced.” Fedigan wrote:

“Meantime and while waiting to hear from that letter to the General, several cablegrams came through the agency of Dr. Middleton who had decided to take a hand in the contest and although by virtue of his office as Sosias [Secretary] to the Provincial, he was obliged to consult the peace and harmony of the Province, he nevertheless took sides with the opposition and pitched into the Provincial with might and main. He [Middleton] first declared that he did not approve of the expansion ideas of the Provincial, who simply replied that it was a pity he did not.” (Unlike Definitors, the Secretary does not vote on matters.)
“The General suspended me unless I would suspend all work, after I had contracted for that work. Well I did not suspend all work...writhing in agony and heart-broken at such perfidy, I asked God to tell me what I should do; and the result is that I did what I have done.”

J.J. FEDIGAN, O.S.A.

During the month of March, Fedigan continues documenting unprecedented acts against him:

“They then began the cablegrams which he (Middleton) translated and sent a copy instead of the original to the Provincial, telling him that he (Middleton) was acting as an agent of the General in the matter. As Provincial, already suffering more than I could bear, I asked to see such authority from the General—but have not yet seen such authority.

“The first message read ‘Tell the Provincial to suspend until I approve.’ He did approve as above written in his own hand we met in Mr. Durang’s office and word I had used ‘Proceed.’ having this in hand I had used the opposition still more, so that the same Dr. Middleton then sent out a circular type-written letter to all houses of the Order saying that the General had also forbidden ‘All Trustees’ of all corporations, to mortgage, sell or in any way burden property belonging to the Order. The General also wrote to Fathers of the Province to get their thoughts on the buildings. I asked to see this order from Rome, also, but received the pertinent and characteristic reply—‘I can’t show it to you Father.’”

On May 26th, 1899, Fedigan wrote:

“Received the resignation of Rev. Fr. O’Reilly as Trustee of the Provincial Fund, who in his letter of resignation boasts that he was sustained by the Father General in his contention about Statute No. 13 and now that he was so sustained, he thought best for the interests of peace to resign. Cool logic.”

June 30, 1899, Fedigan wrote,

“Also filled the vacancy in the office of Trustee of Provincial Fund by the appointment of the Rev. L.A. Delaney in place of the Rev. J.T. O’Reilly, resigned.”

On August 2, 1899, Fedigan wrote:

“The long looked for letters from Rome came to hand only on the 31st. In these The Most Rev. Father General Thomas Rodriguez, having carefully examined and considered the project of new and commodious buildings, namely a new convent (Monastery) and a new College at Villanova, and having found that the majority of the Fathers of this Province heartily approved of and to the erection of said buildings pledged their generous support, disapproved of the same.”

October 24, 1900 Fr. Fedigan read a letter to the Prior and Community of Villanova before the move to the new Monastery:

“O Lord we thank thee for all thy past favors and beseech thee to increase and multiply them in our new home...unless we live according to Rule, we cannot have peace with ourselves, God or our brethren in religion, but if we keep the Rule, this rule will keep us, and make us truly happy in time and in Eternity.”

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FEDIGAN DECLINES NOMINATION FOR

The first session of the Provincial Chapter of 1902 was held on July 16th in the new Villanova Monastery. Fedigan declined to be nominated for a second term and Martin J. Geraghty, O.S.A., was elected as Prior Provincial. Fedigan delivered a candid Provincial Report covering his four years as Provincial. He spoke of the misery and sleepless nights he encountered because of those who tried to thwart his building project. He suggested the work of the College and Monastery be divided to have a separate Prior, President and Procurator.

The document also lists the following as contributors to pay for the Monastery and New College during his term as Provincial: The Province Trust Fund $86,215; Eighteen Augustinian parishes $101,750; Our Mother of Good Counsel, Montgomery, subscriptions: $1,800; Priest Missionary returns for four years: $40,000; Collections and donations: $34,457; Sale of Land: $47,000; By loan: $20,000.

Fedigan was proud that only $20,000 was left due on both buildings, calling it a “good showing for the Convent Provincial...indeed it was a better fight.”

“May the next provincial have less trouble and more glory than fell to the lot of Yours Truly,

J.J. Fedigan, O.S.A."

“I have had my fair share of building and begging for the past 35 years and am quite willing and determined to rest from all such labors, and devote the balance of my time here below to building a little house for myself in eternity.”

J.J. FEDIGAN, O.S.A.

Fr. Fedigan left office and with it any connection to the operations of the Province, Villanova College or the Villanova Monastery.

He became prior and pastor of Our Mother of Good Counsel in Bryn Mawr, Pa. from 1902 to 1906.

He died at the Villanova Monastery on April 27, 1908, the same month and day on which he was born. He was 66 years old. The Provincial, Fr. Martin J. Geraghty, O.S.A., said the Mass. Fr. Delaney preached. About 80 priests attended, along with Archbishop Ryan and Bishop Prendergast.”
The task of managing the Monastery as well as modernizing the curriculum and faculty of Villanova College fell to Laurence Augustine Delurey, O.S.A., the sixteenth president of Villanova College. Delurey had been president since January 15, 1895, when Francis McShane, O.S.A., resigned the presidency.

In 1898, a Villanova College Board of Administration was formed and Delurey took on the role of treasurer. In 1898, he was elected prior and procurator of the monastery. In 1899 he was appointed Treasurer and Treasurer of the Provincial Trust of the monastery. In 1899 he was appointed Trustee and Treasurer of the Provincial to address a $30,000 note on December 21, 1922 in the Troop Hospital, Troy, N.Y. He was 55 years of age. Nicholas J. Vasey, O.S.A., Prior Provincial of the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova said the funeral Mass.

In 1898, Delurey began receiving honors for his work with special recognition from Pope Leo XIII who bestowed a Master of Sacred Theology with the title of Doctor of Divinity on Delurey.

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Fire started in the dorm area of new college hall, where some 200 students resided in the two floors above most classrooms and labs. A foot of snow on the ground delayed firefighters, buried fire connections and froze pipelines. Within two hours of the blaze, water was exhausted and firemen resorted to chemicals. New college hall was destroyed and part of the monastery was damaged. In 1929 New College Hall was rebuilt within its original walls and renamed Mendel Hall (see above color photo in collage).

Fire broke out at the Villanova Monastery, destroying the building, historic records of the order, paintings and statuary. Priests and seminarians joined firefighters, while nuns, who were attending summer school at the college, helped carry furnishings from the burning building. The Fegidan portrait on the cover of this issue was among the items carried to safety. In 1933, the monastery was totally rebuilt in a different style by Henry D. Dagit & Sons, losing its fourth floor and its gothic towers (see above color photo in collage).
The Monastery, first and foremost is our home. Renovated in 2005, it houses a Residential Care Center, where friars can age in place amidst our fraternal community. There are 59 residential en-suites, housing 9 retired and 17 active friars, as well as 24 friars in skilled or assisted care, some of whom live in Care Center rooms adjacent to areas where nurses and aides are centered. Nurses and aides also help friars from other local Augustinian communities who need regular or one-time assistance.

In our culture, as people get older their health assessments involve their abilities on Activities of Daily Living (ADLs). For friars, an important part of our daily living is prayer and liturgy. Friars of the Monastery gather communally for Morning and Evening Prayer. Of particular importance is the 11am daily Mass, with the Health Care schedule arranged, to enable even the frailest friar who can, to attend. For those who are physically unable to attend Mass, Holy Communion is brought to their rooms after Mass.

There are full-time and per diem staff members, including 37 who work in the Health Care Center (24/7) along with other staff who work in the Kitchen, Housekeeping and Laundry and in Facilities. Thus in a community of over 50 Augustinians, friars are able to have 3 meals a day with one another. Our daily prayers remember friars who have served before us as well as family, friends and benefactors who support our life of service. We are grateful to live in community according to the Rule of St. Augustine.

BY GARY N. MCCLOSKEY, O.S.A.
PRIOR, ST. THOMAS OF VILLANOVA MONASTERY; PROVINCIAL COUNSELOR FOR EDUCATION AND DIRECTOR OF AUGUSTINIAN FRIENDS

The Augustinian

Spring 2014

1512
The kitchen staff of the St. Thomas of Villanova Monastery provides nutritious, delicious buffet-style meals for the friars 365 days a year.

Some of the provincial offices, i.e., the Heritage Room, St. Thomas of Villanova Provincial Archives, the Augustinian Way of Life Center, the vocations office and Augustinian Friends are within the footprint of the monastery structure. Pictured here at left are vocations director, Thomas R. McCarthy, O.S.A. speaking with pre-novice, Jack Tierney; below is Gary P. McIlroney, O.S.A., speaking at the third international Augustinian Laity Conference in Rome; center: Charles Babcock, Chairman of the Heritage Room Committee and Martin L. Smith, O.S.A., curator; right: June Mclain, assistant archivist.

Following the 1932 fire, the chapel was never rebuilt. During renovation of the monastery, an exterior chapel and atrium were added to face the Villanova University campus. The 72-seat Augustinian Chapel, dedicated on June 12, 2005 is in constant use by the friars for morning and evening prayers and the 11 a.m. mass.

Day shift health center staff: Pamela Finnerty, Angela Gaglioti, Michael Grogan, Jennifer Hackett, Gary P. McIlroney, O.S.A. (Prior), Alenka Hocevar (Director of Nursing), Joanie Gailey, John J. Ferrence, O.S.A. shares his wit and humor as he chats with Pam and has his vitals checked by Alenka.
Michael F. Di Gregorio, O.S.A., Led Vicariate’s Annual Retreat in Japan

The Vicariate of Japan held its annual retreat February 17 to 21 at the Passionist Retreat House near Fukuoka, Japan. Fr. Michael F. Di Gregorio, O.S.A., led the retreat, which was attended by all the members of the Vicariate. Participating were the Vicariate’s two students in formation, Futoshi Matsuo, 31 years of age, who was simply professed in February, 2013, and is now beginning his second year of theology in Australia, and 28 year old pre-novice, Atsushi Kabahara, who entered the community in December, 2013.

Demolition of St. Rita Parish School for New Cascia Center at the National Shrine of St. Rita

In mid-January, the old (1951) grade school building at St. Rita of Cascia Parish located in South Philadelphia was demolished to make way for the new Cascia Center. St. Rita’s Parish Church and the National Shrine below it will remain untouched. Guided by the peacemaking efforts of St. Rita, the Cascia Center will be a non-denominational resource, facilitating conflict resolution, offering paths to peace, spiritual- ity, fellowship and community. Visit www.casciacenter.org for more information.

Francis E. Chambers, O.S.A., Defends Dissertation, Earns Doctorate

In November 2013, Fr. Francis E. Chambers, O.S.A., successfully defended his dissertation at Washington Theological Union, earning a doctoral degree in Ministry. Fr. Frank holds master’s degrees in Formative Spirituality (Duquesne University), Counseling (Villanova University), and Theological Studies (Washington Theological Union). Fr. Frank recruits for Villanova University in international locations and he is the Coordinator of Transfer Recruitment.

Peruvian Friars’ First Profession

In Peru, ten young men made their first profession of vows at the end of January 2014. We congratulate them as they continue with their studies and their formation as Augustinian Friars.

New Director of Augustinian Volunteers

In January 2014, Joanna Bowen joined the staff as director of the Augustinian Volunteers, taking over the leadership from Patrick DiDonato, who had resigned. A former Volunteer himself who had served in San Diego and South Africa, Pat had been director since 2011. He and his wife Amy, also a former Volunteer, welcomed their first child in August 2013. Joanna served as a Volunteer in San Diego in 2007. She has her BA from Villanova and earned a graduate degree in Counseling and Human Relations there while serving as an intern at Villanova’s Campus Ministry. She had also served on the Advisory Council for the Augustinian Volunteers.

Francis E. Chambers, O.S.A., Receives Doctorate in Education

In March 2014, Fr. Stephen M. Curry, O.S.A., successfully defended his doctoral dissertation, which evaluated the Student Augustine Values Institute (SAVI). He received the title of Doctor of Education from Seton Hall University. Fr. Curry is currently assigned to Saint Augustine Prep in Richland, N.J.

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ANNIVERSARY OF RELIGIOUS PROFESSION

70 YEARS
Russell J. DeSimone, O.S.A.
Joseph J. Getz, O.S.A.
Robert E. Steinman, O.S.A.

65 YEARS
John J. Byrnes, O.S.A.
Eugene A. DeContie, O.S.A.

60 YEARS
John P. Betoni, O.S.A.
William M. Cleary, O.S.A.
Emanuel J. Dobbins, O.S.A.
William J. Garland, O.S.A.
Howard W. McGraw, O.S.A.

55 YEARS
T. Shanen Tracy, O.S.A.
Ralph J. Montesano, O.S.A.

50 YEARS
Thomas J. Casey, O.S.A.
Fritz J. Cerullo, O.S.A.
John P. Betoni, O.S.A.

45 YEARS
Joseph J. Getz, O.S.A.
Robert E. Steinman, O.S.A.

40 YEARS
Francis A. Farsaci, O.S.A.
Joseph J. Getz, O.S.A.

35 YEARS
John F. Payne, O.S.A.
Patrick B. McStravog, O.S.A.

30 YEARS
James D. Paradis, O.S.A.

25 YEARS
Joseph F. Wimmer, O.S.A.

20 YEARS
Francis J. Caponi, O.S.A.

15 YEARS
John J. Byrnes, O.S.A.

10 YEARS
Cherubin F. Kerr, O.S.A.

5 YEARS
Craig M. McMahon, O.S.A.

1 YEAR
James D. Paradis, O.S.A., Installed as novice director

Bishop Daniel Turley, O.S.A., of Chulucanas, Peru, Blesses Land for a New School

On January 7, 2014, Bishop Daniel Turley, O.S.A., head of the Chulucanas Diocese, blessed the land in Trujillo, Peru, that will become the permanent home of the new Catholic school, sponsored by the Augustinian Vicariate of Chulucanas. Copies of documents authorizing the opening of Colegio San Agustin (“St. Augustine Private School”) were placed in the ground by the friars. The Province of St. Thomas in the East, along with the Province of Spain, contributed for the purchase of the land.

Craig M. McMahon, O.S.A., Advances in His Program of Study

Fr. Craig M. McMahon, O.S.A., who was ordained to the priesthood in 1988, has served as a novice in the Province of Spain. He was originally from Michigan, did his novitiate year at Racine, Wisconsin, was ordained at St. Thomas of Villanova Church in June 2013, resides at a parish community in Hammersmith, London, while studying at the London School of Economics. Fr. Craig has been advanced from the MSc. program to the MSc. Res. (Research) program. This resulted from the quality of his work thus far and his preparation. This moves him further along the road to the MPhil/Ph.D.

Extraordinary in the Ordinary

January 30, 1911 - December 9, 2014

Fr. James (Jim) B. )Memorial) McMahon, O.S.A., affectionately known as “Fr. B.”, retired to the Villanova Monastery in 1995. Eighteen years later, at the age of 102, Fr. B. died peacefully there. He was the oldest Augustinian in North America.

James D. Paradis, O.S.A., Installed as Novice Director

Fr. Jim Paradis, O.S.A., was installed as the newly appointed director of novices at the inter-provincial novitiate in Racine, Wisconsin, on December 7, 2013. The installation took place during Saturday evening’s vigil Mass at St. Rita of Cascia Parish in Racine, Wisconsin. Fr. Jim, originally from Michigan, did his novitiate year at Racine.

During his homily at the funeral Mass for Fr. B., Lee Makowski, O.S.A., expressed right remembered the eight years he lived with Fr. B. while studying for his doctorate: “A person who has eyes to see realizes the ordinary is really quite extraordinary. “Here was a man, Fr. B., who came into the world and understood as Jesus told us, that we are to serve and not be interested in being served. “The man that we celebrate tonight had abundant room for everyone. The person we are celebrating tonight had time for us. He always said yes. He always understood that divine energy that he so beautifully communicated to all of us. “We need to recognize, as Fr. B. did, that we need to be living not for the moments in time, but for the whole, for the eternal, because that is our destiny. “My hope is that as we pray this beautiful Mass for Fr. B., we will all feel that divine energy that he so beautifully communicated to all of us.

The point is this—no matter what happens to you, it could be the prelude to something that is absolutely extraordinary in the ordinary.” “Fr. B. was a profound example of what St. John, Jesus’ cousin said, ‘I must decrease and you must increase.’ “We need to recognize, as Fr. B. did, that we need to be living not for the moments in time, but for the whole, for the eternal, because that is our destiny. “My hope is that as we pray this beautiful Mass for Fr. B., we will all feel that divine energy that he so beautifully communicated to all of us.

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Keeping track of obedience, friars find themselves called to where they are needed. Each issue of The Augustinian hopes to connect you with some familiar faces as we provide brief updates on friars serving throughout the Province. Watch here to track down that old classmate, pastor, chemistry teacher, chaplain, philosophy professor, co-worker or friend.

Francis J. Caponi, O.S.A., Francis J. Caponi, O.S.A., earned a BA and a BAM at Villanova University. He entered the pre-novitiate program in 1983, did his novitate year in Lawrence, Mass. and professed first vows on August 10, 1983. He went on to Augustinian College in Washington, D.C. and entered the theological Union and was ordained to the priesthood on March 25, 1944, at Saint John Co-Cathedral, Valetta. He taught at Saint Augustine College, Malta, for thirteen years and served as a prison chaplain for nine years before coming to the United States to serve with the Italian Province. He served at Our Lady of Pompeii and St. Mary in East Vineyard, N.J. and St. Nicholas of Tolentine in Philadelphia. In 1990, he was assigned to St. Augustine Preparatory School in Richland, N.J. Fr. Kerr was a member of the Province of Malta until 2002, when he became a professed first vows. He completed theological studies in Washington, D.C. founded by former slaves and free people of color and known as the Mother Church of African Americans in Washington, D.C. He was assigned there, serving as associate pastor (1989-1996), the first African American ordained and assigned there. In 1995, he was appointed Director of the “He Rose Project” at the Duke Ellington School of the Arts in Washington, D.C. In 2000 he was named as Dean of Students. He currently serves as Director of Student Affairs, a position to which he was named in 2011.

TO CONTACT FR. CAPONI:
Saint Augustine Friary at Alters Hall
Malvern Preparatory School
415 South Warren Avenue
Malvern, PA 19355-2707

Edward V. Griffin, O.S.A.
Born: 1/4/1924
First Profession: 9/10/1943
Ordained: 6/7/1949
Died: 1/4/2014

After his first assignments Fr. Ed volunteered for the then newly established mission in Japan, where he served as pastor at several parishes as regional superior (1972-1976), over a 26-year period. Fr. Ed was a kind and gentle man, who followed the Rule of St. Augustine, especially imitating its first principle of “loving God and one’s neighbor.”

Roger M. Hanouille, O.S.A.
Born: 6/5/1933
First Profession: 9/10/1952
Ordained: 7/12/1959
Died: 1/26/2014

Fr. Roger, in the spirit of St. Augustine the scholar, teacher and preacher, spent his life studying, teaching and ministering to God’s people. He studied the Fathers of the Church and their profound impact on our understanding of the central mysteries of our faith, sharing that understanding with those to whom he ministered.

Cherubin F. Kerr, O.S.A.
Cherubin F. Kerr, O.S.A., was born in Malta and entered the Order on September 22, 1936. After a year in the novitiate, he professed first vows on October 3, 1937. He completed his studies at Saint Mark Seminary in Kuwait. Fr. Kerr was at the seminary when it was bombed during WWII. He was ordained to the priesthood on March 25, 1944, at Saint John Co-Cathedral, Valetta. He taught at Saint Augustine College, Malta, for thirteen years and served as a prison chaplain for nine years before coming to the United States to serve with the Italian Province. He served at Our Lady of Pompeii and St. Mary in East Vineyard, N.J. and St. Nicholas of Tolentine in Philadelphia. In 1990, he was assigned to St. Augustine Preparatory School in Richland, N.J. Fr. Kerr was a member of the Province of Malta until 2002, when he became a professed first vows. He completed theological studies in Washington, D.C. founded by former slaves and free people of color and known as the Mother Church of African Americans in Washington, D.C. He was assigned there, serving as associate pastor (1989-1996), the first African American ordained and assigned there. In 1995, he was appointed Director of the “He Rose Project” at the Duke Ellington School of the Arts in Washington, D.C. In 2000 he was named as Dean of Students. He currently serves as Director of Student Affairs, a position to which he was named in 2011.

TO CONTACT FR. PAYNE:
Saint Augustine Friary at Alters Hall
Malvern Preparatory School
617 Delfield Place, N.W.
Washington, DC 20011

Fr. Gus served at many of the same parishes at different times; the longevity and continuity of his service in each of these parishes provided him with the opportunity to serve many generations of the same families.

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.caugustinian.org

Augustus C. Sandmann, O.S.A.
Born: 9/20/1921
First Profession: 9/10/1940
Ordained: 9/8/1947
Died: 11/17/2013

Known to all as Fr. B. as librarian at the Augustinian College (1968-1995), he advised many theological students as they researched topics for their class projects and papers. He had a wealth of knowledge and insight that he most willingly shared with all. He epitomized the example of a true follower of St. Augustine in the sharing of what he learned with others and his life in community. His generosity and gentle kindness was a blessing to all.

John E. Bresnahan, O.S.A.
Born: 1/30/1911
First Profession: 9/10/1929
Ordained: 6/6/1936
Died: 12/9/2013

St. Augustine Friary at Alters Hall
Malvern Preparatory School
415 South Warren Avenue
Malvern, PA 19355-2707

TO CONTACT FR. KERR:
Saint Thomas Monastery
100 E. Lancaster Avenue
Villanova University
Villanova, PA 19085-1617

TO CONTACT FR. McSTRAVOG:
Saint Augustine Preparatory School
611 Cedar Avenue
Richland, NJ 08350-0279

TO CONTACT FR. PAYNE:
617 Delfield Place, N.W.
Washington, DC 20011

Patrick B. McStravog, O.S.A.

The Augustinian hopes to connect you with some familiar faces as we provide brief updates on friars serving throughout the Province. Watch here to track down that old classmate, pastor, chemistry teacher, chaplain, philosophy professor, co-worker or friend.
“A Monastery, where they may find a real and happy home as a “Mother House” who worn out by their labors in the vineyard of the Lord, or coming back in the evening of their missionary lives may seek rest...and die in the midst of their brethren with whom they cast their lot, while the prayer of the living goes up as sweet incense to the throne of the Almighty for the soul that is passing away to the reward of all its labors.”

JOHN J. FEDIGAN, O.S.A., JULY 31, 1899

John Joseph Fedigan, O.S.A., died on April 27, 1908 in the midst of his brethren at the Villanova Monastery he built and opened to residents in January 1901. Friars still hold Fr. Fedigan and all deceased members of the Province in prayer.

Today, the Villanova Monastery is a place where elderly friars, worn by age and labors in the s for compensation. Despite their physical limitations, the aged and infirm Monastery community continues their ministry of prayer with prayers for you.

An Augustinian like Fr. Tom Dwyer, O.S.A., who retired to the Villanova Monastery after 52 years of service in our mission in Japan, is able to write the memoirs of his missionary life in Japan and receive the physical support and spiritual sustenance he needs on a daily basis.

Thank you for your support!

Every season of life poses challenges and questions on the best way to take care of ourselves, our loved ones and the organizations we care about. As you plan for these seasons, please consider the Augustinians in those plans for a legacy that will weather all seasons.

CONTACT
Mario Dickerson
610.527.3330 Ext. 265
The Prayer Garden is a gathering space situated beside the St. Thomas of Villanova Monastery on the campus of Villanova University. Each day friars, friends and students come to pray amid the walkways paved with memorial bricks.

Support the work of the Augustinians and share this sacred space with a memorial brick dedicated to a friar, friend or family member.

You can now make your donation, reserve and inscribe your brick online!

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO: www.augustinian.org/what-we-do/st-thomas-monastery/buy-a-brick

OR CALL THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE: 610-527-3330 Ext. 221