THE AUGUSTINIAN

THE AUGUSTINIAN VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

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The Augustinian Fund
The spirit to make a difference.

Development Council
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:

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The Power of Community, Service and Spirituality
Now in its thirteenth year, the program known as the Augustinian Volunteers went through some growing pains, from its rocky inception under Fr. Ray Jackson, O.S.A.; through its growth and expansion under Fr. Joe Mostardi, O.S.A.; and transition to lay leadership under April Gagne, and finally to the present team of lay leaders under Patrick DiDomenico, the current director. The program that has evolved into the Augustinian Volunteers takes its direction from Augustinian values that are core to the program: Community, Service and Spirituality.

Communities Where Volunteers Live and Serve
Augustinian Volunteers are located near a community of Augustinian Friars, where they can share in the community life of the Friars, including occasional meals and prayers, while they are engaged in their service year. Domestic Augustinian Volunteers are located in sites including San Diego and Ventura (California); Chicago (Illinois); Lawrence (Massachusetts) and Philadelphia (Pennsylvania). International Volunteer communities are located in Chulucanas (Peru) and Durban (South Africa). Learn about the communities where Augustinian Volunteers live and serve.

Augustinian Volunteers: Alumni Stories
Experiences during the Augustinian Volunteer year can have wide-ranging impact that serve to transform these young people. These transformations can be sudden, complement a chosen path or be a conduit to a life of ongoing service. Read three stories of the Augustinian Volunteer Alumni and the influence their service year had on each of them.

HELP US REACH OUR GOAL!
DONATE TO THE 2012-2013 FISCAL YEAR CAMPAIGN!

- Use the Envelope in this magazine at page 12 to send your check to the Augustinian Fund
- Go to www.AugustinianFund.org to donate online by credit card
Dear Friends,

The cover of the Spring/Summer issue of The Augustinian has a picture of Augustine Volunteers for the year 2012-2013. This is the thirteenth year of the Volunteer Program’s existence and we thought it was time to share with you the history, the communities and the service sites where these wonderful people share their gifts and talents. It is fitting that the Volunteers are pictured on the steps of Old St. Augustine’s altar in Philadelphia. This is the church that Matthew Cear, O.S.A., began to raise money for and later started to build, not long after arriving from Dublin, Ireland in 1796. The church opened in 1801 and was the first Augustinian foundation in America.

The birth of the Augustine Volunteers was not an easy one, starting with the work of Fr. Ray Jackson, O.S.A., and nurtured by Fr. Joe Mostardi, O.S.A. Yes, Fr. Joe did feed every Volunteer at one time or another with his Italian cuisine. The transition to lay leadership in the person of April Gagne and now Patrick DiDomenico has worked very well. Hannah Kunberger and Shannon Keough partner with Pat visiting our Volunteer communities and arranging the orientation and retreats for the new Volunteers each year. I thank Pat’s wife, Amy, for without her loving support Pat could not do what he is doing.

In News and Notes you will see that Craig M. McMahon, O.S.A., was ordained to the deaconate on January 13, 2013 at St. Rita’s Church in Chicago with three other Augustinians and a Redemptorist. Each Augustine Volunteer in the United States has a deacon ordained that day. Also, the Vicariate of the Augustinian Martyrs of Japan had John Futoshia Matsuo profess his first vows on February 11, 2013 at Saint Augustine Saseka Church in Fukuoka. Please keep our brothers in your prayers.

On a sad note, I recently traveled to Durban, South Africa and while there, Fr. Frank Doyle, O.S.A., and nuns of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Bocchetta, Durban, held a Mass with a brain tumor. Fr. Frank had signed up—and the program was a success in attracting volunteers to our Province. The Catholic community ever-growing need for help is greater than ever. Fr. Frank’s suddenly death left a need for someone to take over the process of creating an Augustinian Volunteer program. Fr. Joe Mostardi had filled out a card at the 1994 Provincial Chapter indicating he would like to work full time directing a lay volunteer program. Not long after Fr. Ray’s death, he received a call from Fr. Deegan, asking if he would take on the leadership in continuing the dream to start the Augustinian Volunteer program.

In Augustine,

Very Reverend

Fr. Anthony M. Genovese, O.S.A.

PROVINCE OF SAINT THOMAS OF VILLANOVA

THE AUGUSTINIAN VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

BY TEDDIE GALLAGHER

On February 6, 1996 Fr. Ray Jackson, O.S.A., wrote a letter to Fr. Jack Deegan, O.S.A., then prior provincial of the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova, saying, “It is with great reluctance that I ask that we discontinue our efforts on behalf of the Augustinian Volunteers. In spite of many hours of recruiting work, including attendance at workshops, participation in meetings of the Catholic Network of Volunteers...and the outlay of several thousand dollars, little has been achieved in attracting volunteers to our doorstep...I am sure that God blessed our work, for it was undertaken in a spirit of service to the Church and the Order. More adventure ahead.”

Despite Fr. Ray’s letter, he continued to work tirelessly to create a Province-sponsored Augustinian Volunteer program, where recent Catholic college graduates ages 22-29 could volunteer for a year-long service opportunity. Fr. Joe Mostardi, O.S.A., then pastor of Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, Staten Island, N.Y., volunteered to host Augustinian Volunteers as part of their community, but no volunteers had signed up—and the program was still evolving.

Then, unexpectedly, on June 5, 1997, Fr. Owen “Ray” Jackson, O.S.A., known for his passionate work for those in need, was dead, five weeks after being diagnosed with a brain tumor.

Fr. Ray’s sudden death left a need for someone to take over the process of creating an Augustinian Volunteer program. Fr. Joe Mostardi had filled out a card at the 1994 Provincial Chapter indicating he would like to work full time directing a lay volunteer program. Not long after Fr. Ray’s death, he received a call from Fr. Deegan, asking if he would take on the leadership in continuing the dream to start the Augustinian Volunteer program.

Fr. Joe, as he was known, relinquished his job as pastor of Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish on Staten Island, N.Y., and continued to lay the groundwork for what is today, the extremely successful and awe-inspiring Augustinian Volunteer program.
Fr. Joe formed a small group consisting of Fr. Art Johnson, O.S.A.; Barbara Haenm, then a member of Villanova’s Campus Ministry staff, and Fr. Jorge Reyes, O.S.A., to set the philosophy of what the program would be and what it would not be. It had from the start been envisioned that, first and foremost, the sites where Augustinian Volunteers would serve and live in community would be near a local Augustinian Community, so Volunteers would have opportunities to take part in meals and prayers with the friars. In addition to the East Coast site in the Bronx, New York, Fr. Joe thought a West Coast site would attract potential volunteers from Villanova and Merrimack, so he set up a site in San Diego, where friars from the Province of Saint Augustine could serve as site supervisors and counselors to the Volunteers. Next, the goal of the program was to create an opportunity for service to the community and, even more importantly, a program for formation of lay people and to attract vocations—although vocations would be readily welcomed if a Volunteer had heard the “call.” Lastly, the program was formed to initially be staffed and directed by Fr. Joe, but ultimately, and ideally, the program would have friars on its Advisory Board, but he staffed and directed by members of the laity.

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set up work sites for the Volunteers, but spiritual direction and, oh yes, he cooked homemade meals for the Volunteers whenever he was with them. The program developed, adding more domestic sites in Illinois, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, and, in 2002, Fr. Joe saw an opportunity to begin an international program to serve in Peru and eventually in South Africa in 2005, where friars served at mission locations. By 2008 Fr. Joe, who had become pastor of Old St. Augustine’s, Philadelphia, Pa. in 2004, went on sabbatical and April Gagne, who had not only served as a Volunteer in 2000 and 2001, but worked as associate director of the program, assumed the leadership role as director of the Augustinian Volunteers.

Somehow, through grace and faith, and the attraction to the Augustinian charism of life in community, 2000-2001 was the first year the program was in action with ten Augustinian Volunteers signed up! Fr. Joe sees the attraction to the Augustinian Volunteers as a part of the legacy of St. Augustine, Bishop of Hippo: “The Augustinian Volunteer program supports the concept that we are all born with a restless heart and that our hearts are not going to be satisfied until they rest in God—and that service is one of the ways that we can satisfy our restless yearnings to reach ourselves to be better people.” Fr. Joe was the director for the first eight years of the program. He rented the places where the Volunteers stayed, bought furniture, hauled mattresses, worked to set up work sites for the Volunteers, but spiritual direction and, oh yes, he cooked homemade meals for the Volunteers whenever he was with them. The program developed, adding more domestic sites in Illinois, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, and, in 2002, Fr. Joe saw an opportunity to begin an international program to serve in Peru and eventually in South Africa in 2005, where friars served at mission locations. By 2008 Fr. Joe, who had become pastor of Old St. Augustine’s, Philadelphia, Pa. in 2004, went on sabbatical and April Gagne, who had not only served as a Volunteer in 2000 and 2001, but worked as associate director of the program, assumed the leadership role as director of the Augustinian Volunteers.

April’s tenure ended in 2011, when she left to pursue a masters degree in Pastoral Counseling. Patrick DiDomenico, who served as a Volunteer in 2004 in San Diego and 2005 in South Africa, and was associate director under April, assumed the directorship of the Augustinian Volunteers for the 2011-2012 Volunteer year.

When April moved on, I wanted to bring something new to the program.”

This year Pat expanded the program when he opened a new site in Ventura, California, and reopened the Philadelphia site. “I do see the leadership staying in a lay person’s hands for the foreseeable future and I think that’s important. It’s important to have the Augustinian connection and to have Augustinians involved. At the same time, it is also a statement to people on the outside who are looking in that there are lay people who are taking interest in these types of programs that in the past would have been staffed by a religious order; that there are people who are in Church leadership to continue it. Vocations have diminished over the years. To have people step up to lead programs like this is the only way it will last. You also want to keep the leadership of a program like this relatively young, to be able to communicate and be able to identify with the men and women who are coming into the program.”

What is the value that the Augustinian Volunteer program brings to the Volunteers and the world? “Community, that feeling of community, that feeling of hospitality that the Augustinians do really well. They make the Volunteers feel really welcomed. When our Volunteers are living in community with their peers, it’s something that most people don’t get to experience—when you’re responsible to each other, when you’re accountable to each other. It’s the support system that’s there that’s something the Volunteers really miss when they move on. But they are able to take what they have learned in community and build community outside of the walls of the Augustinian Volunteers. Build community in whatever they are called to do, be married or not, or have a religious vocation. The biggest thing is that Volunteers are developing relationships and learning how to form strong relationships.

Pat, who married fellow Augustinian Volunteer Amy Phelps in 2008, goes on to say: ‘We always talk about our tenets of the program being Community, Service and Spirituality.’ Even from my own experience, knowing how my marriage has gone, really the basis of it all is Community, Service and Spirituality.’

Former Director: April Gagne

“I received a lot of positive feedback from Volunteers right after orientation about how they felt they were already a community.”

“There were a few volunteers who had been in other programs, like the Jesuit Volunteers, but they noted how different they felt as an Augustinian Volunteer because they were connected to the Augustinians and to each other. There is a lot more focus placed on the Volunteers themselves because if you can help to form the minds and hearts of the Volunteers in a way that they take this experience with them throughout their lives, they are going to bring that into whatever communities they enter.”

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Today, the program that almost wasn’t is alive with youthful community, enthusiastic service and shared spirituality. Now in its thirteenth year, the 2012-2013 Augustinian Volunteer program, led by Pat DiDomenico, and a small team of committed lay staff, Hannah Kunberger and Shannon Kroush, are getting over 100 applications for 20 spots, a testament to the work of Fr. Ray Jackson, O.S.A., Fr. Joe Mostardi, O.S.A., and Fr. Jack Deegan, O.S.A., who did not give up on the program.
ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The program is open to recent college graduates, with early acceptance beginning in February. Application information, details and FAQs about all aspects of the application process are online at www.augustinian.org. Communities and service sites are described in this issue on pages 8-15.

The Augustinian Volunteer year starts with an eight-day orientation in Philadelphia, Pa., where Volunteers are asked to write and share their faith journeys, followed by a Commissioning Mass where each Volunteer publicly proclaims his or her commitment to serve others. It is also focused on the Volunteer’s personal and spiritual development in the Augustinian tradition. By building and living in community with other Volunteers and forming relationships with local Augustinian Communities, the Volunteers’ lives are enriched, even as they enrich the lives of others.

THE PROGRAM’S MISSION STATEMENT

Augustinian Volunteers are Catholic men and women who wish to serve God's people in partnership with the Augustinian Order and others. The service of the Volunteers is with established educational, social, and health programs, and varies according to the needs of the sponsoring site and the individual Volunteers. The experience of the Augustinian Volunteers is designed to facilitate a person's desire to serve others. There are two types of Volunteers: Domestic and International. Because the International sites are below the equator, their school terms vary and so does the timing of international service.

Domestic Volunteers leave for their assignments in late August and work on site until June of the next year. International Volunteers leave in January and return in mid-December.

There is a mid-year retreat for Domestic Volunteers in Ocean City, N.J., where Volunteers can join their larger community and discuss their feelings about the year and their journey thus far. Fr. Joe is on hand to cook, bake and join the Volunteers for their meals.

The Domestic and International years end with a Mass of Thanksgiving and retreat where Volunteers share their intimate stories and reflections on the year with everyone in the room. The stories are not always easy and the session is closed to all outsiders so as not to inhibit the Volunteers from speaking from their hearts and souls with those coming out of the same experience.

April Gagne put it this way: “For me, one of the most impactful things about being director was at the end of the year when we ask the Volunteers to share their stories of their year. Inevitably, it was all about relationships and less about things they had accomplished, more about building their relationships with their communities and the people who they served and how those relationships had changed them.”

The Domestic Volunteers gather in January for a mid-year retreat in Ocean City, N.J.

The International Volunteers with Shawn, Pat and Hannah take a break for a photo while on their mid-year retreat.

Patt, Hannah and Shannon are now in their second year as leaders of the program and they spend an enormous amount of time going to the Volunteer communities to lend support, problem solve and pray with the Volunteers, who come together at least twice a week to intentionally pray together as a community. It is truly a year lived in community, service and spirituality.

THE DOMESTIC VOLUNTEERS GATHER IN JANUARY FOR A MID-YEAR RETREAT IN OCEAN CITY, N.J.

The staff of the Augustinian Volunteers places a medal of St. Augustine on each person. The Volunteers receive a special blessing from the prior provincial and friars.

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Volunteers are required to write blog entries about their experiences as Augustinian Volunteers. These blogs can be found online at www.osavol.org. Selected blogs can also be found in some Augustinian magazine issues. Here’s a sample:

Being a young female, walking through a swarm of teenage boys everyday can be a bit intimidating. Before my year as an Augustinian Volunteer, I had minimal experience working with high-school-aged kids, especially high school boys. So when I was placed at St. Augustine High School, an all-boys Catholic high school, I was apprehensive. I was sure they’d all think I was weird or not relatable. But in the past six or so months I have been at Saints, I have been warmly welcomed and loved every day I spend there.

Our office is constantly filled with kids, before school, between classes and during class (high school boys go through a lot to try to skip class), at lunch, and after school. Understandably, it’s a hard environment to actually get real work done, due to the constant mass of boys who stand over me begging to use my printer to print last minute homework or to look up a “hilarious” YouTube video. While I have a handful of what I like to call “Campus Ministry Regulars,” the six or so students who are constantly there, a lot of other students occasionally stop by to “say hi,” aka get candy. Therefore, I get the whole range of the student body in my office. It’s these seemingly mundane conversations that I’ve enjoyed most about my job. Since I’m significantly younger than any other faculty and since I’m a female (there is an immediate apparent lack of females on our campus), the students tend to tell me a lot. I hear everything: from girlfriend drama, to what someone tweeted last night, to why they are grounded this weekend. Every conversation I have allows me to get to know them a little more. I love that they feel comfortable enough talking to me, and even though I don’t always have advice, I hope a listening ear helps. I hope that my age can be relatable to them, although I frequently find myself saying cliché adult things, such as, “You’re never going to be able to get away with that in college!”

Although my job description only describes the seven retreats I plan throughout the year, my job is so much more than that. The everyday experiences I have there with students are the things I will remember most. I’ll remember the conversations I had the relationships I formed. And I don’t think any job I have from now on will ever be as fun and absurd as working with teenage boys.

**KATIE MCALOON**
San Diego, Calif.
2012-2013

**COMMUNITIES**
WHERE VOLUNTEERS LIVE & SERVE

**THE SAN DIEGO VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY** lives in the vibrant and diverse neighborhood of South Park.

The Volunteers live in a two-story, three-bedroom home just a couple of houses away from the local Augustine Friar community. South Park is located about ten minutes from downtown San Diego. The Volunteers serve at a variety of sites in the San Diego area including three schools, a homeless shelter’s medical clinic, and a home for children in need located in Tijuana, Mexico.

**Holy Family School**

Holy Family School is a Catholic grade school located in the neighborhood of Linda Vista, a small diverse community in San Diego. Holy Family has a student population of roughly 125 children, serving grades K-8. The students and faculty form a very close-knit community from diverse ethnic, cultural, and socio-economic backgrounds. Augustinian Volunteers at Holy Family serve as the physical education instructor and the coordinator of the Extended Care program. The PE Volunteer teaches classes to grades K-8, assists in classrooms as an aide, and assists with the Extended Care program. The Extended Care Coordinator Volunteer runs the after-school program for children in grades K-8.

**St. Patrick’s School**

St. Patrick’s School is a Catholic grammar school connected with St. Patrick Church in San Diego, which is staffed by Augustinians. The student body is comprised of approximately 170 students in grades K-8 from mostly working- and middle-class backgrounds. Its warm and welcoming staff has a long history with the Volunteer program. The Augustinian Volunteer at St. Pat’s serves primarily as a physical education instructor for grades K-8, a computer instructor for grades 6-8, and as an assistant with the after-school program, which includes tutoring, coaching, and assisting with the Kindness in Community Service Club. The Volunteer also substitute teaches when needed.

**Hogar Infantil La Gloria**

Hogar Infantil La Gloria is a home for children in need, and houses approximately 40-50 children. These children, who range in age from 4 months to 14 years, have been abandoned or been rescued from situations of abuse or neglect and placed under the custody of the Mexican government. Hogar Infantil is responsible for providing for all of their needs, from shelter and medical care to education and social development. Their mission is to raise the children in a family atmosphere and to create for them a happy childhood. The Volunteer position consists of serving both in the home’s fundraising office in San Diego and at the home itself. In the San Diego office, the Volunteer receives and processes donations and assists with fundraising, grant writing, and expense tracking. At the children’s home in Tijuana, the Volunteer spends time in the baby room helping out the workers and playing with the infants and toddlers. The Volunteer also assists the older children with homework, and spends time playing with the younger kids and hanging out and talking with the older kids. This position is very much about a ministry of presence, letting the children know that the Volunteer wants to be there and enjoys spending time with them. Additionally, the Volunteer must be competent in conversational Spanish.
Santa Clara High School is located in Oxnard, California, an urban city with a high Latin American and Pacific Islander population. It is a co-ed Catholic college preparatory high school that serves 500+ students in grades 9-12. Santa Clara High School was established in 1903 and is one of the oldest schools in Ventura County. The Volunteer serves as an assistant director of campus ministry and director of volunteer programs during the academic school year. This job allows the Volunteer to work hands on in the creative process of student body Masses, prayer services, retreats, and service opportunities in the Oxnard community.

St. Bonaventure High School is a co-ed Catholic High School under the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. With about 700 students, the opportunities for the Volunteer, who primarily serves as the campus ministry assistant, to get more involved are nearly endless. They range from attending exciting football games, to Habitat for Humanity projects, to substitute teaching in religion classes, to helping out with the largest club on campus, the Christian Fellowship of Athletes. There is never a lack of excitement or spiritual energy at St. Bonaventure.

HELP of Ojai is a social services nonprofit located in Ojai, a close-knit suburban town 25 minutes north of Ventura. The Community Assistance Program, where the Volunteer will spend the first half of the year, provides basic needs and case management services for the homeless and low-income residents of the Ojai Valley. The Volunteer will spend the second half of the year in a position where he or she will learn about the logistics of the organization, ranging from fundraising and grant writing, to budgeting and financial planning for the next fiscal year.

Villanova Preparatory School is an Augustinian Catholic co-ed boarding and day school nestled in the foothills of Ojai, California. Almost 300 students in grades 9-12 attend school on this picturesque campus, and its small size cultivates a comfortable sense of community among both students and staff. The Volunteer serves as a campus ministry/student life assistant, working closely with Villanova Prep’s full-time campus minister to plan and execute retreats, service projects, liturgies, prayer services, and other faith-based events on campus. The Volunteer also spends time talking with students, both in formal meetings and more casually during lunch and other breaks.
THE LAWRENCE VOLUNTEER
COMMUNITY

Lawrence lies 15 minutes north of Boston. The city was the first organized industrial city in the United States, originally drawing significant populations of immigrant Irish and Italian workers. Today, the community is multi-cultural, with residents from Latin America, Central and South America, Puerto Rico, the Caribbean and Southeast Asia. This area is one of the poorest in Massachusetts, yet borders the affluent town of Andover. The close proximity of very different socio-economic populations offers a wide range of service and social opportunities. The Volunteers live in the second floor two-bedroom apartment of a two-family home, located in the neighboring town of Methuen. The Volunteers in Lawrence all serve in local Catholic schools.

Merrimack College is an independent Catholic College, founded and sponsored by the Augustinians. It is located in North Andover, Massachusetts, with a student population of about 2800. The Campus Ministry Office at Merrimack has a staff of five full-time employees in addition to an Augustinian Volunteer. While there are many different programs offered through Campus Ministry, including retreat experiences, liturgies, and faith formation, the Volunteer primarily organizes service experiences, liturgies, and faith formation, coordinating after-school clubs that are associated with the Talented and Gifted program.

Augustinian Volunteers

Augustinian Volunteers Advisory Board Members

Patrick DiDomenico
Anthony M. Genovese, O.S.A.
Joseph S. Mostardi, O.S.A.
Anthony P. Burdascano, O.S.A.
John T. Denny, O.S.A.
Hannah Kunberger
Shannon Keough
Lori Blake
Joanna Bowen
JJ Brown
Caroline Patterson

MERRIMACK COLLEGE

THE PHILADELPHIA VOLUNTEER
COMMUNITY

Augustinian Defenders of the Rights of the Poor (ADRiOP) is a not-for-profit public charity organization whose underlying principle is the preferential option for the poor. ADRiOP is dedicated to advocacy and collaboration with the poor and powerless in our society. They work to identify the face of poverty, challenge the politics that perpetuate it, and seek to influence systematic change that could lead to the alleviation of poverty. The Volunteer serves as assistant coordinator for ADRiOP. The Volunteer facilitates ESL (English as a Second Language) classes, oversees mentoring and tutoring programs at a local Catholic school, and assists in a health clinic in South Philadelphia. In addition, the Volunteer organizes various programs for the community.

ADRiOP

Covenant House Pennsylvania is part of the national network of Covenant House locations across the country. The Covenant House Pennsylvania Crisis Center, located in the historic Germantown Neighborhood of Philadelphia, serves displaced and homeless teenagers and young adults primarily aged 16-21. While onsite, the Volunteer serves as an educational and vocational youth assistant, and helps to teach a job readiness course, providing resume assistance, running mock interviews, and providing application support to the youths of Covenant House. Additionally, the Volunteer assists the youths in job searching, while helping them create and achieve feasible educational goals.

Covenant House Pennsylvania

Philadelphia VIP is a public interest legal services agency and its mission promotes equal justice for the poor by providing civic legal services not otherwise available. VIP reviews thousands of cases and connects many needy clients with volunteer attorneys to help achieve justice in the legal system. The Volunteer serves as a pro bono case manager, helping to work up cases to prepare them for referral to pro bono attorneys. Additionally, the Volunteer assists both clients and attorneys throughout the legal process and attends court on a regular basis. The Volunteer also helps to execute a variety of outreach projects, such as Pro Bono Opportunities Day, VIP’s signature training where attorneys learn about the many injustices that affect the poor of Philadelphia and contribute to their legal troubles.

Philadelphia VIP

PHILADELPHIA

Pennsylvania

Spring/Summer 2013

12

www.osavol.org
The Peru Volunteer Community

Chulucanas is a relatively small desert town located in the province of Morropón. There is a plaza in the center of town, which encompasses a Cathedral, the municipal offices, banks, restaurants, and the post office. Mototaxis and motorcycles are prominent modes of transportation, as well as bikes, cars, donkeys, horses—and lots of walking. Heavy rains at night bring mosquitoes and other insects.

For the first few weeks on site, the Volunteers live at the Obispado, the bishop’s house, which is similar to a retreat center. Following that, each Volunteer moves into a family house for a month-long home stay. The Volunteers learn to live with limited water and strengthen language skills. Then, by the beginning of March the Volunteers move into their home together.

The Volunteers in Peru serve in a variety of areas within the Diocese of Chulucanas, as most social services and education are run by the Catholic Church. The Volunteers translate for American medical teams who visit the area periodically throughout the year. Perhaps the greatest need that the Volunteers fill in Chulucanas is teaching English and providing a ministry of presence.

Santínima Cruz is the parochial school of San José Obrero Parish. The school includes grades 1-12. There are six years of primary school and five years of secondary school. The Volunteers serve in a variety of capacities including co-teacher, teacher’s aide, tutor, and counselor. The school has a variety of needs that are filled based upon the education and experience of the Volunteer.

Latin America Volunteer

THE SOUTH AFRICA VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY

St. Leo Primary School is a government school sponsored by the Augustinians, and is attended by the Zulu children of Mkhweni and the surrounding towns. Though its administration must answer to the Kwa-Zulu Natal Department of Education, only some of its funding comes from the government. The Volunteers placed at St. Leo teach an Oral English class to grades 5-7, one grade per day, five days a week. Using materials provided in the library where the class takes place, the Volunteers aim to develop reading, writing, and speaking skills of the Zulu learners.

The Volunteer assists in structuring the primary school curriculum and implementing a phonics program. Respite Center at the Hillcrest AIDS Center serves people affected by AIDS in the area outside of Durban. The Volunteers are stationed primarily in the Respite Center serving in a variety of capacities, as needed. The center can accommodate up to 25 patients, most of whom are extremely ill with fully developed AIDS. The Volunteers assist in the treatment of these patients in any way they can, including providing transportation, acting as an advocate for the patients during medical visits, providing basic medical care and comfort for the patients, and handling administrative tasks.

CETPRO (CEO) Betania is a cooperative and educational community center run by the Sisters of Mercy. They offer courses in sewing, cooking and baking, computers, and English, along with a variety of other services. The center is working to promote human dignity focusing primarily on women, offering education and technical training. The Volunteers have the opportunity to be involved in the different classes, especially in teaching basic English classes to both children and adults. They may also have the opportunity to teach basic computer skills to adults based on the background of the Volunteer.

SANTISIMA TRINIDAD

Santísima Trinidad is the new seminary in the Diocese of Chulucanas. As part of their mandatory courses, the seminarians need to learn English. The Volunteers teach either basic English or intermediate English classes depending upon the needs of the seminary. There are about 15 seminarians enrolled.

The Health Office for Centro Pastoral

The Health Office for Centro Pastoral houses a variety of services and offices for parishes and parishioners in the Diocese of Chulucanas. One of these is the Health Office, which coordinates a variety of endeavors each year including: educational training on health-related issues for parishes in the Diocese, medical campaigns from abroad, and a weekly radio show.

The Health Office for San José Obrero Parish

The Health Office for San José Obrero Parish is part of the Augustinian parish in Chulucanas. One of the services the parish provides is health care assistance. The parish has health assessors who travel to 71 zones within San José Obrero parish to determine the needs of people in each zone, as well as to provide educational health training. The Volunteer assists the assessors on their zone visits.

1000 Hills Community Helpers (ikhaya lo Thandu) is a community care center comprising a health and wellness clinic, children’s infirmary, and education and development facility located in the Inchanga Township. Volunteers serve in the clinic as well as in the education center. In the clinic, responsibilities include filling prescriptions for patients, decanting medicine, and checking vital statistics for patients. In the education center, the Volunteer assists in structuring the primary school curriculum and implementing a phonics program.

St. Theresa’s Home for Boys cares for boys aged 3 through 16 whose families are either unable to care for them or have passed away. Many of the children have HIV/AIDS. St. Theresa’s is staffed by the Augustinian Sisters in South Africa. There is a school onsite that the boys attend during the day, and in the afternoons they return to their cottages, where they are separated according to age. The Volunteers assist in tutoring and mentoring the boys after school, three days a week. Each Volunteer is assigned to a particular cottage and works with the same boys throughout the year.
Service can lead people to places they didn’t foresee. Such is the experience of Augustinian Volunteer Alumni Jesse Imbriano and Dan Roderick. Each was a domestic Augustinian Volunteer in 2007-2008 and their experiences during their year of service led them in surprising ways.

Jesse Imbriano is a graduate of Columbia University in New York City, with a degree in Political Science and Latin American Studies. As an undergraduate, he had spent a semester abroad, he spoke some Spanish and he wanted to join a volunteer program before continuing his education with law school. While still an undergraduate, he began looking into volunteer programs, searching through a catalogue from the Catholic Network of Volunteer Service, listing different volunteer programs. It was here he found the Augustinian Volunteer program, and as Jesse says, “I couldn’t tell you why, but this one stuck out.” He applied and was accepted. He was assigned for the year to the San Diego site and his service involved sites at Catholic Charities Refugee Services, Villa Nueva, a low-cost housing project where children were helped with homework in an after-school program, and Hogar Infantil La Gloria, a children’s home located in Tijuana, Mexico.

Dan Roderick is a graduate of Merrimack College in North Andover, Massachusetts, a college founded by the Augustinians. During his four years, Dan lived at the Heminigan Center, a house that Merrimack maintained for students involved in service in the community of Lawrence, Massachusetts. At that time, the Augustinian Volunteers assigned to Lawrence were housed on the third floor of the Heminigan Center, so Dan was familiar with the Augustinian Volunteer programs and Volunteers who passed through during his time at Merrimack College.

Dan was studying Sports Medicine and planning to attend medical school. He had lined up a job at a research facility after graduation, and planned to apply to medical schools. While he was at Merrimack, Dan participated in an Alternative Spring Break program, where his service site was at Hogar Infantil La Gloria, a children’s home in Tijuana. Dan felt a strong call to return to Tijuana and continue service and he knew the Augustinian Volunteers had a site in San Diego. Although he was late for submitting his application, he called Fr. Joe Mostardi, O.S.A., who was the director at the time. Fr. Mostardi was planning to be at Merrimack’s campus the following week. Fr. Mostardi issued an invitation to Dan, “Come talk to me and have an interview.” Dan spoke with Fr. Mostardi, told him of his experience on spring break, and his desire to return to Tijuana. When Fr. Mostardi asked, “Do you speak any Spanish?” Dan responded, “I don’t speak any Spanish, but I can learn it. That won’t be a problem.” Dan submitted his application and before he knew he was formally accepted, he began to study Spanish. Dan was assigned to the San Diego site and his service sites included Villa Nueva, helping with the after-school homework program; an elementary school, St. Luke’s, where he taught PE; and Hogar Infantil La Gloria.

Jesse and Dan had different reasons for joining the Augustinian Volunteers. Jesse had planned a year of service before law school and Dan wanted to return to the site of his Alternative Spring Break experience, because he’d felt drawn to it. Jesse and Dan had met during the orientations for the Augustinian Volunteers and found they were assigned to the San Diego site. While in San Diego with the Augustinian Volunteer community, each carried through with plans for post-graduate studies. Jesse applied to law schools, and was accepted at Villanova Law School as a Public Interest Scholar. Public interest law focuses on the underserved or the general welfare of the community, usually with non-profits. Dan applied to medical schools and was accepted at the University of Massachusetts. Having been assigned to serve at Hogar Infantil, they each took on different aspects of things that needed to be done. About halfway through the Volunteer year, they began to wonder, how would a transition occur? Who would take over to continue the projects they had begun? Both Jesse and Dan had plans that would begin with the next academic year. As they developed as a team, their shared concerns led them to make decisions to request deferrals for their school for one year, which were granted. However, the Augustinian Volunteer program was one year. In order to return and continue the projects they had begun at Hogar, they received support from the Augustinians on the West Coast.

As the deferral year was approaching an end, both Jesse and Dan bumped into the same concern they had as their year as Augustinian Volunteers was concluding. Who would be there for the transition? They had taken on many administrative tasks and had been operating as on-site co-directors. As Dan said, “There was still so much to do and so much that could be done.” At the end of the second year of service at Hogar in 2009, Jesse went east to attend Villanova Law School. During that time, he remained a director of the organization. While on the East Coast, he was performing administrative work and he was traveling back and forth to San Diego/Tijuana regularly. Dan stayed at Hogar and continued as the on-site director of the children’s home.

After completing law school, Jesse returned to San Diego. Today, he is a member of the California Bar Association and works as a lawyer full time. Most weekends, he is at Hogar Infantil. He continues in his role as director, attending to on-site matters for the children’s home, as well as administrative and fundraising tasks for a U.S. non-profit for Hogar Infantil. Dan, as the director of Hogar Infantil, lives on-site. He eats breakfast with the children, transports them to school and other appointments and is involved with the daily operations of the home.

Although Jesse continued with his plans to go to law school, he says of his Volunteer year: “Well I need to make clear that it certainly did change my life plan. At the end of my Volunteer year I didn’t start law school, I stayed in San Diego for another year to work full-time at Hogar Infantil. Throughout my law school experience, I was coming back and forth between Villanova and here so that I could continue my work. Being back in San Diego now is certainly because of the role I have, so the work I was doing in my Volunteer year was certainly what started that whole progression and the involvement I have now, and that continues.” He added, “As time went on it became clear to Dan and me, our roles would be long term.”

Dan, who planned to attend medical school and is now the director of the children’s home, sees his future differently. When asked whether he still harbors a desire to attend medical school, he says: “I don’t see that on the horizon anymore. I know that I still have a lot to do here. I mean, I love it… I think I’m good at it… I’m in my element.”
Both Jesse and Dan have positive memories of the Augustinian Volunteer program. Dan says although he came with the specific intention of getting back to the site in Tijuana, the program “...provided me with support and guidance and the opportunity to do that self-reflection and grow in ways I needed to be able to do what I’m doing today. The community element was crucial to that development over the course of the Volunteer year. So I think it was definitely a good fit for me.” Jesse noted that with the Augustinians, “There is much more of a support system...I think that helps the formative process in the young people who are doing these programs.”

Jesse offers this advice to anyone thinking of doing a volunteer program, “I think an openness is really important. I think you have to be prepared for the unexpected and to be flexible, both in the volunteer year and what comes next. If you do the volunteer year right, it will affect the rest of your life. I think you have to be open to that.” When Dan was asked he responded, “What I learned the most was to be open and flexible, just really be open to the different possibilities.” He added, “I’ve always been about having certain goals and following through. In a way, you can look at my story and see it as a lack of following through because I had set some goals, but I changed. But I think we need to not be afraid to do that.”

Each of these men is committed to the children they serve, but also inspired by them. “We certainly work with a very vulnerable population, but also a population capable of really great love,” says Jesse. And Dan notes, “It’s been almost six years exactly since I went on my first spring break trip. And I do see the children here as my family. They’ve really become my family – not like my family – they are my family.”

When Jesse and Dan were first at Hogar Infantil La Gloria as Augustinian Volunteers, the children’s home served a population from infant through twelve years. Through their efforts, the upper age limit has been raised to 14, and they continue to work to raise it, so that siblings in the home are not separated and so that children will have an opportunity to continue their education in a safe and loving environment.

Cheryl Mrazik attended the University of Scranton and had participated in service trips as an undergraduate, including an international program that took her to Ecuador. It was during the service trip to Ecuador that she had the opportunity to speak with the group leader, who had previously participated in a volunteer program. It was through these conversations that Cheryl initially became drawn to a long-term volunteer program. Through the Campus Ministry Office, she picked up a catalogue of service programs by the Catholic Network of Volunteer Service. She spent the summer after her junior year going through the catalogue, visiting websites and narrowing down the choices. She applied to three programs. All three had some emphasis on community.

Cheryl says, “It was just something that generally drew me to a volunteer program and then, while I was living in community as a Augustinian Volunteer, it was really important and served as a support system.” For the Augustinians, community is a charism that defines the Order and community is an aspect of the experience that is emphasized by the Augustinians. Of her experience in community, Cheryl says, “It was really lucky to be good friends with everyone who was in my community, and I actually still keep in touch with most of them today, over six years later. I was just really blessed to have it work out that way, and even if you don’t end up having that happen, it just really is a nice aspect of the program to have people who are going through a common experience and are able to support you, to listen to you and be a sounding board for you.”

Cheryl was assigned to the San Diego site and served in Campus Ministry at St. Augustine High School, a preparatory school for boys, founded by the Augustinians. In her role, she planned retreats for the students as well as service trips. She also tutored children at Villa Nueva, in the after-school program. Within her community, Volunteers visited each other’s service sites as a support and to understand what tasks the other members of their community had been assigned.

Cheryl recalls her experience as an Augustinian Volunteer with great fondness. She admits to being concerned about her assignment to an all boys school. However, she recalls that the entire experience with the students and staff at St. Augustine High School was great, and she had a wonderful supervisor, with whom she keeps in touch even today. Having a close friendship develop from that year as a Volunteer has really left an impression on her. Her experience of the Volunteer community left its mark as well.

Cheryl says, “I think it’s always a nice surprise when you’re able to have that great gift of friendship come from a situation where, essentially, six strangers were thrown into a house together.”

Today, Cheryl works for Catholic Relief Services (CRS) in Radnor, Pa., a suburb of Philadelphia, where she is a Relationship Manager. Here she works as an advocate for legislative issues and also with matters related to the economy and fair trade. She credits her Volunteer experience with exposing her to situations that helped in developing skills.

“I think the year definitely gave me more confidence, in a professional sense. I had to take on a leadership role, working with parents and other staff, speaking in public with the students and those groups... which I think has helped carry me into today.”

In two roles, Cheryl had opportunities to visit Hogar Infantil La Gloria. On one hand, she visited in support of a Volunteer in her community and on the other hand, she had arranged and accompanied students on service trips. Cheryl relates the story of a woman at the site, Alba, who invited the Volunteers to her home, where they shared a meal and met Alba’s family. Cheryl recounts, “I just remember feeling this moment of really profound connection and solidarity with her, just her gift of friendship and hospitality.” Especially with her work at CRS, Cheryl looks on that experience as demonstrating “the deep connections that we have to people all over the world and the humanity we share.”

Prior to her service year, Cheryl didn’t know of the Augustinians and their charism, but during her time as an Augustinian Volunteer she was exposed to practices that she has embraced and made part of her life today. “Their emphasis on community and hospitality, that’s really become part of my own faith – that aspect of hospitality and really welcoming people.”
Augustinian Named a Bishop by Pope Benedict XVI

On December 4, 2012, Pope Benedict XVI named Fr. Alberto Boschaty Chaneron, O.S.A., of the Vicariate of Argentina, to be Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of La Plata in Argentina. Born in 1955, he joined the Order in 1974, after studying at the Colegio San Agustín in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He studied philosophy in Spain and did theological studies in Rome, receiving a bachelor’s degree in sacred theology from the Augustinians. He holds a licentiate in moral theology from the Academia Alfonsiana, an MA in bioethics and he is a doctoral candidate at the Alfonsiana in Rome.

He has done advanced studies in bioethics at Georgetown University. In Argentina, he has served in Buenos Aires, Mendoza and Rosario. Since 2010, he has been the prior for the Augustinian community at the International College of St. Monica in Rome.

First Profession of John Futoshi Matsuo, O.S.A., – The Vicariate of the Augustinian Martyrs of Japan

John Futoshi Matsuo, who recently completed his novitiate in Sydney, Australia, professed his first vows on February 11, 2013 in his home parish, St. Augustine. The solemn ceremony took place at St. Rita of Cascia Parish in Chicago, Illinois.

Villanova Church: Top 30 “Campus Cathedrals”

St. Thomas of Villanova Church, on the campus of Villanova University, has been named by Best College Reviews as one of the top 30 “campus cathedrals.” The image is a glimpse inside the church, showcasing its interior, architectural beauty, and the sacred space it provides for students and faculty.

Ordinations to Diaconate

On Sunday, January 13, 2013, Brother Craig M. McMahon, O.S.A., from the Eastern Province of St. Thomas of Villanova, was ordained to the diaconate by the Most Reverend John R. Manz, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Chicago. In addition to Craig, Bishop Manz ordained three other Augustinians and a Redemptorist. Augustinian Brothers have been serving in Japan, and Peter Jones from the Province of Australia. From left to right: Jesus M. Danio, O.S.A., Francisco Masaya Ide, O.S.A., Joseph Masami Yamaguhi, O.S.A., Peter Tetsuya Hirano, O.S.A., Peter Francis Mitaru Toyama, O.S.A., Thomas Masaki Imada, O.S.A., Charles B. Pomuceno, O.S.A., Anthony Kiyotsugu Yamano, O.S.A., Andrew Takashi Makamura (Oblate), Maurice J. Makikey, O.S.A., Peter Francis Metuku Toyama, O.S.A., Thomas Makami Imada, O.S.A.
Volunteers for 2013

The International Augustinian Volunteers departed for Peru and South Africa on January 21, 2013; they will return to the United States in December. The International Volunteers, who attended orientation with the domestic volunteers last August, had their own orientation retreat before departing for their Volunteer service. Chantelle Davis, Brit DeLine and Lacie Michahelson will be serving in Peru while Caitlin Geraci, Jimmy Kane and Brian Manning are bound for South Africa.

Fr. Cannuli, Director of the Villanova University Art Gallery and Curator of the Villanova University Art Collection, is the former chair of the department of Theater, Studio Art and Music at Villanova University.

Fr. Michaelson will be serving in Peru while departing for their Volunteer service. Volunteers, who attended orientation 21, 2013; they will return to the united States in mid-December, 2013, to the parish will remain in south Africa until June 2013. The Augustinian Friars assigned withdrawing from the parish in south Africa to the united States. Augustinian volunteers departed for their Volunteer as planned.


Cardinal Prospero Grech, O.S.A., to receive Honorary Degree at Merrimack College

Cardinal Prospero Grech, O.S.A., during commencement exercises, scheduled for May 19, 2013. Cardinal Grech was a co-founder of the Institutum Patristicum Augustinianum, in Rome, Italy. He was named a cardinal by Benedict XVI in January, 2012, and elevated in the consistory of February, 2012. Merrimack College was founded by the Augustinians in 1947.

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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

Fr. Dan was known for his great commitment to our fraternal way of life. His cheerfulness, generosity and affability were manifested in his work as a preacher at the Augustinian centers until 2011. He is remembered as a deeply spiritual man who lived the Augustinian way of life.

Daniel J. Menihane, O.S.A.

Born: 8/18/1928
First Profession: 9/10/1941
Ordained: 9/12/1954
Died: 1/27/2013

Fr. Menihane was ordained in Rome, where he received an STL degree from the Gregorian University. He served most of his priestly career, 34 years, as a teacher in high schools including Augustinian Academy, Staten Island, N.Y.; Mo. Bouver High School in Drexel Hill, Pa; Saint Nicholas of Tolentine High School, Bronx, N.Y.; and Malverne Preparatory School, Malverne, Pa.

He also served in parishes in New York (Our Lady of Good Counsel, Staten Island; St. Augustine, Troy; Immaculate Conception Parish, Hoosick Falls and Saint Mary Parish, Waterford).

“Fr. Dan was known for his great commitment to our fraternal way of life. His cheerfulness, generosity and affability were manifested in his great sense of humor and people skills.”

John F. Lipp, O.S.A.

Born: 4/1/1932
First Profession: 9/10/1941
Ordained: 9/12/1954
Died: 12/5/2012

Fr. Lipp gave his talents to the Church as a teacher at Archbishop Carroll (Washington, DC) and Austin Prep (Reading, Mass.); as an administrator for Villanova University in the Admissions Office, and as a preacher at Assumption/St. Paul Parish, Mechanicville, N.Y.; Saint Nicholas of Tolentine Parish, Atlanta City, N.J.; Saint Rita of Casia Parish, Philadelphia, Pa; and as chaplain at Sacred Heart Hospital, Norristown, Pa., and Havertford State Hospital, Havertford, Pa.

Following the example of St. Augustine, Fr. Lipp dedicated his life to the Church whenever he was sent.

When you support the Augustinian Volunteer program you are supporting the future of the Church and the Augustinian legacy by helping us offer young adults a way to their own spiritual growth. It is a well-placed investment that supports the apostolate or service site where Volunteers are assigned, affording teachers, mentors and role models in places where the needs are great.

FR. JOE MOSTARDI, O.S.A.
the prayer garden of

ST. THOMAS OF VILLANOVA

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.

Now you can 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