Augustinian Cardinals

Fr. Prospero Grech, O.S.A., was named by Pope Benedict XVI to the College of Cardinals on the Feast of the Epiphany, January 6, 2012. On February 18, 2012, when he received the red biretta, he joined the ranks of twelve other Augustinian Friars who have served as Cardinals. This line stretches back to 1378, when Bonaventura Badoardo da Padova, O.S.A., was named Cardinal, the first Augustinian Friar so honored.

Starting with the current Cardinal, Prospero Grech, read a biographical sketch for each of the thirteen Augustinian Cardinals.

Friars of the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova

Sebastiano Martinelli, O.S.A., the most recent Augustinian Cardinal prior to Cardinal Prospero Grech, O.S.A., served as Apostolic Delegate to the United States (1896 - 1902). While serving in this position, he made several trips to visit Augustinian sites. In 1897, while visiting Villanova, he was photographed with the professed friars of the Province. Among these men were friars who served in leadership roles for the Province, at Villanova College, and in parishes and schools run by the Augustinians. Who were these friars and where did they serve? Read a sketch, taken from our online necrology, for each of the 17 friars pictured with Archbishop Sebastiano Martinelli.

Historical information for Augustinian Cardinals supplied courtesy of Fr. Michael DiGregorio, O.S.A., Vicar General of the Order of St. Augustine.

On the Cover:

Thomas Eakins
Portrait of Sebastiano Cardinal Martinelli, 1902
Oil on panel
The Armand Hammer Collection
Gift of the Armand Hammer Foundation
Hammer Museum, Los Angeles
Photo by Robert Wedemeyer

To read more about Archbishop Martinelli and Cardinal Grech, see the Fall 2012 issue of The Augustinian magazine, by visiting: http://www.augustinian.org/what-we-do/mediaroom/publications/publications
Prospero Grech, O.S.A. (1925 - )

Stanley Grech was born in Vittoriosa (Birgu), Malta, on December 24, 1925. An only child, he served in the Royal Malta Artillery during World War II, while also attending the University. In 1943, he joined the Order of Saint Augustine and was given the name Prospero. He was ordained to the priesthood on March 25, 1950. He received a doctorate in theology from Gregorian University and studied Sacred Scripture at the Pontifical Biblical Institute. He studied Hebrew at Oxford University and attended Cambridge as a research assistant, studying Maltese Literature. He served as President of the Instituto Teleologico Augustinianum. With the Prior General of the Order, Agostino Trapé, O.S.A., he was the co-founder of the Instituto Patristico Augustinianum. He served as President there until 1979. He has taught at the Pontifical Biblical Institute and the Pontifical Lateran University in Rome.

Fr. Grech serves as Consultor of the Sacred Congregation of the Doctrine of Faith, a position he has held since 1984. It was here that Cardinal Grech worked with Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, now Pope Benedict XVI.

On the Feast of the Epiphany, January 6, 2012, Pope Benedict XVI announced the elevation of Fr. Grech to the College of Cardinals, along with 21 others. At the consistory held on February 18, 2012, Fr. Grech received the red biretta. He is the thirteenth Augustinian so honored with the title of Cardinal.

Prior to Fr. Grech, the most recent Augustinian Cardinal was Archbishop Sebastiano Martinelli, who was named Cardinal by Pope Leo XIII in 1901, while he was in Washington, D.C., serving as the Apostolic Delegate to the United States. Please see the following pages to read about the other twelve members of the Order of Saint Augustine who have served the Church in this capacity.
Sebastiano Martinelli, O.S.A. (1848 - 1918)

The younger brother of Cardinal Tommaso and Fr. Aurelio Martinelli, Sebastiano was born on August 20, 1848, in Borgo Sant'Anna, Lucca, Italy. He entered the Order on December 6, 1863 and was professed on January 6, 1865. He was ordained on March 4, 1871 and became professor of theology at the College of the Irish Augustinians, Santa Maria in Posterula and served for five years as Regent of Studies. In 1881, at the age of 33, he was named Postulator of Causes for the Order. He was elected Prior General in 1889 and re-elected in 1895. During the first year of his generalate, he promoted the reform of the Province of Peru and sought to re-establish the Order in France with the opening of a novitiate in Nantes. He advanced the reunion of the Spanish provinces with the Order, a decision which was confirmed by Pope Leo XIII, and in 1895 established the Province of Madrid. On April 18, 1896, he was appointed Apostolic Delegate to the United States and consecrated titular archbishop of Ephesus on August 30th in Rome by Secretary of State, Cardinal Mariano Rampolla.

Archbishop Martinelli took possession of the delegation on October 4, 1896 while retaining the title of Prior General of the Order. Pope Leo XIII named him Cardinal Priest on April 15, 1901. He received the red hat on May 8, 1901 from Cardinal Gibbons in the cathedral of Baltimore, and the title of Sant’Agostino on June 9, 1902. The following year he participated in the conclave which elected Pope Pius X. As cardinal he served in various dicasteries: the Apostolic Signatura, Propaganda Fide, Prefect of the Congregation of Rites, and member of the Congregations of Bishops and Regulars, Studies, Extraordinary Ecclesiastical Affairs, Sacraments, and the Apostolic Secretariate. He was also Cardinal Protector of 21 religious institutes and associations. He served as Camerlengo of the College of Cardinals from April, 1907, until April, 1909. Due to infirmity he was unable to participate in the conclave of 1914 which elected Benedict XV. He died at Sant’Anna in Rome on July 4, 1918, and following his funeral at Sant’Agostino, was entombed in the mausoleum of the Order in Campo Verano.
Agostino Ciasca, O.S.A. (1835 - 1902)

Agostino Ciasca was born on May 7, 1835 in Polignano a Mare, in the province of Bari, Italy. He joined the Augustinians in 1856, and was professed on March 11, 1857. He did his philosophical and theological studies at Sant'Agostino in Rome and was ordained priest on September 18, 1858. A man of remarkable memory, sharp intellect and great industry, he pursued higher studies in various fields, obtaining doctorates in both theology and Hebrew, the chair of which he held at the Pontifical Urban Athenaeum of Propaganda Fide. He participated in the First Vatican Council as theologian and interpreter of Oriental languages. Father Ciasca was named consultor of the Oriental Rites area of Propaganda Fide in 1876 and president of its pontifical college of interpreters in 1882. He was also a consultor of the Holy Office, Assistant General and Procurator General of the Order. In 1891 he was named Prefect of the Vatican Archives. Father Ciasca was named titular bishop of Larissa on June 1, 1891 and was ordained to the episcopacy the following June 7th. That same year he was sent by the Holy See to preside over the Ruthenian synod at Lemberg. In 1892 he was appointed pro-secretary of the Congregation of Propaganda Fide. On June 19, 1899 he was created Cardinal Priest and received the red hat and title of San Callisto on June 22nd of the same year. Cardinal Ciasca, considered one of the most learned members of the Sacred College, contributed widely to ecclesiastical scholarship with many publications in theology, biblical studies, and Oriental languages, especially Coptic and Arabic. A religious dedicated to his vocation and to the Order throughout his life, he died on February 6, 1902 and was interred in Campo Verano Cemetery following his funeral at Sant’Agostino, Rome. On April 28, 1938 his remains were transferred to the Basilica of Santa Maria del Popolo in Rome.

Luigi Sepiacci O.S.A. (1835 - 1893)

Luigi Sepiacci was born on September 12, 1835 in Castiglione del Lago, Perugia. He entered the Order at Terni on June 27, 1851, taking the name Luigi in place of his baptismal name, Domenico. He was professed on June 28, 1852, and was ordained priest on May 29, 1858, in Perugia by the future Pope Leo XIII, Gioacchino Pecci, who at the time was Archbishop of Perugia. He obtained degrees in philosophy, theology and Oriental languages and served at various times as professor in Italy as well as in Belgium, and as Secretary General and Procurator General of the Order. In 1870 he was awarded the Chair of Theology at Sapienza University in Rome over several other professors, all of whom were his seniors. He was appointed titular bishop of Callinico in March, 1883 and consecrated on March 18 of that year at Sant’Agostino, Rome. He was named president of the Vatican School of Diplomacy (the Pontifical Academy of Ecclesiastical Nobles) in August 1885, and Secretary of the Sacred Congregation of Bishops and Regulars in 1886. Bishop Sepiacci was created Cardinal Priest at the consistory of December 14, 1891, and received the red hat and the title of Santa Prisca on December 17, 1891. He took canonical possession of the church on the feast of its patroness, January 18, 1892. In August of the same year he became Prefect of the Sacred Congregations of Indulgences and Relics. He died on April 26, 1893 in Rome at the age of 58 and was interred in the Order’s mausoleum in Campo Verano, Rome. In 1938, on the 45th anniversary of his death, the remains of the Cardinal were reinterred in the Basilica of Santa Prisca.
Tommaso Maria Martinelli, O.S.A. (1827 - 1888)

Tommaso Maria Martinelli was born on February 4, 1827 in Lucca, Italy, the eldest of five children. He entered the Order in 1842 and was professed on April 19, 1844. Two of his brothers were also members of the Order, Father Aurelio, for many years prior at Genazzano, and Cardinal Sebastiano. After completing his studies at Sant'Agostino, Rome, he was ordained to the priesthood on December 22, 1849. Father Martinelli served the Church and the Order in a variety of ministries: as master of professed, regent of studies, Secretary General of the Order, professor of Sacred Scripture at La Sapienza University, Consultor for the Sacred Congregation of the Index, Assistant General, sub-dean of the theological faculty of the Roman University and theologian at the First Vatican Council. He was created Cardinal Deacon of San Giorgio in Velabro by Pope Pius IX in the consistory of December 22, 1873. When Cardinal Bilio went to bring him word of his nomination he was washing purificators in the sacristy of Sant'Agostino. He received the red hat on March 15, 1874, three days after having been appointed pro-prefect of the Sacred Congregation of Studies. He later belonged to the order of cardinal priests and was given, on September 17, 1875, the title of Santa Prisca, one of the three Augustinian churches in Rome. On October 18, 1877 he was named Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of Rites, but the following year was reassigned to Prefect of the Congregation of the Index. From 1877 he was also Cardinal Protector of the Order. Cardinal Martinelli participated in the conclave of 1878 which elected Pope Leo XIII, though Martinelli himself was the favored candidate of a number of cardinals. He was appointed Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of the Index on July 15, 1878, and served as Camerlengo of the Sacred College of Cardinals from March 15, 1883 until March 24, 1884. On that latter date he opted for the order of cardinal bishops with the title of the See of Sabina and the Abbey of S. Maria di Farfa. He was consecrated bishop on March 30, 1884 in the Basilica of Sant'Agostino, Rome. Cardinal Martinelli died on Good Friday, the anniversary of his episcopal consecration, March 30, 1888, in Rome following a brief but severe illness. Bishop Luigi Sepiacci, OSA, then Secretary of the Sacred Congregation of Bishops and Regulars, celebrated the requiem Mass at Sant'Agostino on April 4, 1888. Eighteen cardinals were in attendance. Cardinal Martinelli was interred in the Order's mausoleum in the cemetery of Campo Verano, Rome. A man of great simplicity, he preferred as cardinal to live with the Irish friars at their friary of Santa Maria in Posterula, where he participated in the life of the community as far as possible. As Ordinary of the diocese of Sabina he gave most of his income to the poor and to needy causes. Saint John Bosco referred to him as “the pearl” of the Sacred College.

Cardinal Patrício da Silva, O.S.A. (1756-1840)

Born September 15, 1756 in Pinheiros, Portugal, da Silva was professor of theology and Scripture at Coimbra. He was Royal preacher and chaplain of the royal chapel. He was appointed bishop of Castelo Branco, Portugal in 1818; Metropolitan Archbishop of Évora, Portugal, May 3, 1819 and named minister and secretary of ecclesiastical affairs and of justice by the king. He was created Cardinal Priest September 27, 1824 and Patriarch of Lisbon, March 13, 1826. He died January 3, 1840
**Cardinal Girolamo Seripando, O.S.A. (1492 - 1563)**

Seripando was born May 6, 1492 in the Kingdom of Naples, Italy. He served as Secretary General of the Order and later Regent of Studies in Bologna; also, he was Vicar General of the Congregation of S. Giovanni a Carbonara. In 1539, he was elected Prior General of the Order. He was named Metropolitan Archbishop of Salerno on March 30, 1554. He was created Cardinal Priest of Santa Susanna on March 10, 1561. He was Papal Legate to the Council of Trent (1554 - 1563); he died March 17, 1563.
Cardinal Bonaventura Badoardo da Padova, O.S.A. (1332 - 1385)

Da Viterbo was born Egidio Antonini in 1472 in Viterbo, Italy. A former Prior General of the Order, he was elected in 1507. He was a theologian, a papal diplomat, and served as Vicar General of the Order. He was created Cardinal Priest of San Bartolomeo all’Isola on July 1, 1517. His service, in many capacities, included being named bishop of Viterbo and Tuscania on December 2, 1523; Titular Patriarch of Constantinople on August 8, 1524; Cardinal Priest of San Marcello on May 9, 1530; Apostolic Administrator of Zadar (Croatia) December 19, 1530 and Apostolic Administrator of Lanciano on April 10, 1532. He died November 12, 1532.

Cardinal Alessandro Oliva, O.S.A. (1459 - 1463)

Oliva was born 1407 in the province of Ancona, Italy. He was Prior Provincial of the Marches and he was Vicar General of the Order. In 1459, he was elected Prior Provincial of the Order. He was created Cardinal Priest of Santa Susanna on March 5, 1460, ten months after his election as Prior General. He served as Camerlengo of the Sacred College of Cardinals (1461 - 1462) and Apostolic Administrator of Camerino (1461 -1463). He died August 20, 1463.

Cardinal Egidio da Viterbo, O.S.A. (1407 - 1463)

Da Viterbo was born Egidio Antonini in 1472 in Viterbo, Italy. A former Prior General of the Order, he was elected in 1507. He was a theologian, a papal diplomat, and served as Vicar General of the Order. He was created Cardinal Priest of San Bartolomeo all’Isola on July 1, 1517. His service, in many capacities, included being named bishop of Viterbo and Tuscania on December 2, 1523; Titular Patriarch of Constantinople on August 8, 1524; Cardinal Priest of San Marcello on May 9, 1530; Apostolic Administrator of Zadar (Croatia) December 19, 1530 and Apostolic Administrator of Lanciano on April 10, 1532. He died November 12, 1532.

Cardinal Bonaventura Badoardo da Padova, O.S.A. (1332 - 1385)

Born June 22, 1332 in Padua, Italy, da Padova was a theologian in Padua and Bologna and a confidant of Petrarch, whose funeral oration he delivered. A former Prior General of the Order, he was created Cardinal Priest of Santa Cecilia on September 18, 1378. He died sometime before the 30th of March, 1385.

Of the 17 friars pictured with Archbishop Sebastiano Martinelli when he visited Villanova in 1897, two went on to serve as president of Villanova College (Edward G. Dohan, O.S.A. and James J. Dean), four served the Mission in Cuba, where the Province erected the Colegio San Agustín (Bernard J. O’Donnell, O.S.A., Patrick E. Moynihan, O.S.A. James A. McDonald, O.S.A. and William A. Jones, O.S.A.). Three served as vice-president of Villanova College (Bernard J. O’Donnell, O.S.A., James J. McCarthy, O.S.A. and Nicholas J. Vasey, O.S.A.) In addition to serving as vice president at Villanova College, Bernard J. O’Donnell held the same position at the Colegio San Agustín in Cuba. James A. McDonald served as an army chaplain. Two men, Daniel A. Herron, O.S.A. and Nicholas J. Vasey, O.S.A., went on to hold the post as prior provincial of the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova. One, William A. Jones, O.S.A., was appointed Bishop of Puerto Rico in 1907. Three friars were ordained by Martinelli. Bernard J. O’Donnell and Francis A. Tourscher were ordained in 1898 at Villanova by Archbishop Martinelli, while he was Apostolic Delegate. James A. McDonald was ordained in Washington, D.C., in 1901 by Cardinal Martinelli.

A brief sketch of each of the friars who are pictured with Archbishop Martinelli follows.
1. Nicholas J. Vasey, O.S.A. (1875 – 1931)

Nicholas Joseph Vasey was born in Philadelphia, Pa., in 1875. He entered the novitiate at Villanova in 1894, and was ordained to the priesthood by Apostolic Delegate Martinelli in 1898.

Father Vasey served for many years at Villanova in various posts including Vice President of the College. From 1918 to 1926, Father Vasey was a Provincial to the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova. During this time, the Augustinian expansion program began in California with the opening of Saint Augustine High School in San Diego.

Father Vasey died on November 10, 1931 at the age of 56. He is buried at Villanova in the community cemetery.

2. Bernard E. Daly, O.S.A. (1871 – 1931)

Bernard E. Daly was born in Kells, Ireland in 1871. He entered the novitiate at Villanova, Pa. in 1897, and was ordained by Bishop Prendergast in 1902. He served at Saint Laurence O’Toole in Lawrence, Mass.; Saint John’s in Schaghticoke, N.Y., and at Saint Nicholas of Tolentine in Atlantic City, N.J. He was, for many years, also on the mission band. From 1910 to 1918, he was rector at Tomkinsville on Staten Island, N.Y., after which he returned to the mission band.

Father Daly died at Saint Mary’s in Lawrence, Mass., on January 23, 1931, at the age of 60. He is buried in Saint Mary’s Cemetery in Lawrence.
3. Edward George Dohan, O.S.A. (1870 - 1936)

Edward George Dohan was born in Troy, N.Y., on January 9, 1870. He was a Christian Brother before joining the Augustinians (1889-1893). He was ordained to the priesthood at Overbrook Seminary by Archbishop Ryan on May 27, 1899. In 1899 Father Dohan was assigned to the then new parish, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Grymes Hill, Staten Island, and the new school, Augustinian Academy, both housed in the Villa de Sales. In 1905, Father Dohan established a mission in the Bronx and was appointed the first rector of Saint Nicholas of Tolentine parish. At the Provincial Chapter in 1910, Father Dohan was made President of Villanova College. He resigned from the presidency in 1917. He was appointed prior and pastor of Our Lady of Good Counsel parish, Staten Island, and principal of Augustinian Academy there on January 5, 1921. His last assignment was to Troy, N.Y. Father Dohan died at Troy, N.Y., on January 16, 1936, and is buried in the Augustinian plot at Saint John’s Cemetery there.

4. James J. Dean (1879-1964)

James J. Dean was born on May 4, 1879. He attended Villanova College and attained a B.S. in 1895. He subsequently joined the Augustinian novitiate at Villanova and was ordained on September 29, 1901. He was a professor at Villanova, served on the mission band, was a professor at the Augustinian College and prefect of studies at Villanova College. He became the president of Villanova in 1917 and resigned the post in 1920. He left the Order on June 29, 1920. He died in April of 1964 at the age of 85.

Bernard Joseph O’Donnell was born in Foundryville, Pa., on February 11, 1874. He was ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop Sebastiano Martinelli, O.S.A., on September 29, 1898. Father O’Donnell’s first assignment was to the parish in Bryn Mawr, Pa.; in the same year he was transferred to Saint Laurence O’Toole, Lawrence, Mass. In 1901 he was assigned to Cuba and in 1902 became vice-president of the Colegio there. In 1906 he was transferred from Havana to Cathage, N.Y., and then in 1908 he was called to Villanova as vice-president of the College. From 1914 until his death on January 31, 1925 he labored in various diocesan parishes in Richmond, Va., Salt Lake City, Utah, and New Orleans, La. He is buried in New Orleans.

6. Patrick E. Moynihan, O.S.A. (1876 – 1940)

Patrick Edward Moynihan was born in Hoosick Falls, N.Y., on July 24, 1876. He entered the novitiate at Villanova, Pa., in 1896, and was professed the following year. He was ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop Prendergast in 1901. After ordination, Father Moynihan was stationed at Saint Augustine’s in Havana, Cuba, where he served for 25 years. In 1926, he became prior and pastor of our new foundation at Mariano, Cuba. He was transferred to Saint Mary’s in Lawrence, Mass., in 1934, where he served until his death.

Father Moynihan was 64 when he died on November 13, 1940 in Lawrence. He is buried at Villanova in the community cemetery.
7. James A. McDonald, O.S.A. (1877 – 1941)

James Aloysius McDonald was born in Andover, Mass., on February 8, 1877. He graduated from Villanova and entered the Augustinian novitiate on February 2, 1897. He was ordained to the priesthood by Cardinal Sebastiano Martinelli at the Apostolic Delegation in Washington, D.C., on September 29, 1901.

Father McDonald was assigned to the faculty of Villanova College and then for three years (1903-1906) he assisted in building up Colegio San Agustin at el Cristo in Havana, Cuba. He served as assistant pastor at Our Mother of Good Counsel Parish, Bryn Mawr, Pa. (1906-1910), and then as sub-prior under Father James T. O'Reilly, O.S.A., at Saint Mary's Parish in Lawrence, Mass. (1910-1916). He enlisted for service in the army as chaplain and held a captain's rank (1917-1919). His superiors sent him to Detroit, Mich., to establish a new parish, Saint Augustine, where he built a church, a school, and a rectory (1920-1926). From 1929-1935 he was prior and pastor of Saint Mary’s Parish, Lawrence.

Father died in Lawrence on January 13, 1941, and was buried with full military honors. He is buried in the Augustinian plot at Saint Mary’s Cemetery Lawrence, Mass.

8. William A. Jones, O.S.A. (1865 – 1921)

William Ambrose Jones was born in Cambridge, N.Y. in 1865. He entered the novitiate at Villanova, Pa., in 1886, and was ordained to the priesthood in 1890 by Archbishop Ryan.

As a young priest, Bishop Jones served at Saint Augustine’s in Philadelphia, Pa. and then at Saint Nicholas of Tolentine in Atlantic City, N.J. In 1892, he was sent to Cuba because of poor health. While stationed there he translated Camara’s “Life of Blessed Alphonse Orozco”, and edited the Augustinian Prayer Manual. He returned to the United States where, from 1896 to 1899, he was Master of Novices and Professed at Villanova. He then returned to Havana, Cuba where he opened the mission. He was consecrated Bishop William A. Jones, Bishop of San Juan, Puerto Rico, in Cristo Church in Havana, in 1907. Bishop Jones died in Saint Joseph's Hospital in Philadelphia on February 17, 1921 at the age of 56. He is buried in the Community Cemetery at Villanova.
9. **Andrew Joseph Plunkett (1872 – 1941)**

Andrew Joseph Plunkett was born on May 11, 1872 in Stamford, Connecticut. He studied at Stamford and then at Villanova College. On May 4, 1896 he was received into the novitiate by Prior Sheehan (along with Frs. Viger, Healey, Moynihan, Barthouski and Dean.) He professed simple vows on May 4, 1897. On July 30, 1898 it is recorded by Fr. Middleton, O.S.A., that “Father, of his own accord, leaves us.” Fr. Plunkett became a secular priest and was Pastor of St. Mary Parish, Derby, Connecticut, from 1932-1941. He died on July 23, 1941.


Henry Thomas Conway was born on October 27, 1876, in Jenkintown, Pa. On May 4, 1897, Henry entered the novitiate at Villanova; he professed first vows on May 4, 1898; and solemn vows on May 29, 1901. On February 5, 1902, he was ordained to the priesthood in the Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul, by Edmond F. Prendergast, D.D., Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia.

In 1902, Father Conway received his first assignment to the Parish of St. Paul, Mechanicville, N.Y. Two years later he served in St. Nicholas of Tolentine Parish, Atlantic City, N.J., and in 1905, was appointed principal of St. Nicholas Academy, Villanova, Pa. In 1916, he was transferred to St. Laurence O’Toole Parish in Lawrence, Mass. Then, in 1920, he returned to St. Nicholas of Tolentine Parish in Atlantic City, N.J. In 1924, he was appointed prior and pastor of St. Thomas Church, Rosemont, Pa. In 1926, Father Conway became the prior of the novitiate at New Hamburg, N.Y. Then, in 1932, he was appointed prior in the community of St. Rita Parish in Philadelphia.

On April 1, 1940, at the age of 64, Father Conway died at St. Thomas of Villanova Monastery. He is buried in the Augustinian Community Cemetery at Villanova, Pa.

John Joseph Barthouski was born in Lebau, Prussia, in Germany on December 27, 1877. He received his early education at Saint Mary’s Academy in Hoosick Falls, N.Y. He later entered the novitiate at Villanova, Pa., in 1896, and was ordained to the priesthood there on January 19, 1901 by Archbishop Prendergast.

Father Barthouski taught at the Augustinian Academy on Staten Island, N.Y., and later at Saint Rita’s High School in Chicago, Ill. At various times he served as prior and pastor at Saint Clare’s parish in Chicago; at Saint Augustine’s in Detroit, Mich., and at Saint Clare’s in Grosse Pointe, Mich. At the Provincial Chapter of 1938, he was elected prior and pastor of Saint Augustine’s Church in Philadelphia, Pa., where he continued to serve as pastor for the next 18 years.

Father Barthouski was 80 when he died in Saint Joseph’s Hospital in Philadelphia on July 30, 1957. He is buried in the Community Cemetery at Villanova.

12. Francis E. Tourscher, O.S.A.

Francis Edward Tourscher was born at Dushore, Pa., on May 10, 1870. At the age of 22 he enrolled at Saint Rita Hall, Villanova. On September 18, 1894, he entered the novitiate. He was ordained to the priesthood in Saint Thomas Church, on campus, by the Apostolic Delegate Archbishop Sebastiano Martinelli, O.S.A., on September 29, 1898.

Father Tourscher was stationed at Villanova for his entire religious life. His first appointment was as a teacher in the College and Studium. At various times he taught theology, Sacred Scripture, church history, homiletics, patrology, and Latin. Over the years he served as archivist, and college librarian. He went every Saturday and Sunday, from 1902 to 1921, to assist at Saint Katherine Parish in Wayne, Pa.; he was Chaplain at Immaculata College from 1921 to 1926; and from 1926 to 1937, he journeyed every weekend to Our Mother of Consolation Parish, Chestnut Hill. Though very weak, he celebrated Mass on January 30, 1939. Carried on a chair to his room, he took off his habit, lay down, and died within ten minutes.

Father Tourscher is buried in the monastery cemetery at Villanova University.

Father Moran was born in Washington, D.C., in 1866. He entered the novitiate at Villanova, Pennsylvania in 1897, and was ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop Ryan in 1901.

Father Moran served at St. Mary’s in Lawrence, Massachusetts; St. Mary’s in Waterford, New York and at Our Lady of Good Counsel on Staten Island, New York.

He was 50 when he died at Villanova on September 25, 1916. He is buried there in the Community Cemetery.


Daniel A. Herron was born at Buck Mountain, Pa., in 1874. He entered the novitiate at Villanova, Pa., in 1895, and was ordained to the priesthood in 1899.

After ordination, Father Herron taught for three years in our newly founded high school on Staten Island, NY. He was next assigned to parochial work in our parishes in Chestnut Hill, Pa.; Waterford, N.Y., and Lawrence, Mass. In 1910, he was appointed rector at Saint James in Carthage, N.Y. Later he served in the same capacity in Ardmore and Bryn Mawr, Pa.

In 1926, Father Herron was elected Provincial of the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova. In 1928, during the second year of his term of office, a disastrous fire destroyed most of the classroom and laboratory facilities of Villanova College. The building was completely rebuilt as Mendel Hall, which was later renamed Tolentine Hall. Three other structures were also erected within a few years, including Fedigan Hall; a Commerce and Finance Building which was later named Vasey Hall, and the gymnasium and stadium.

After a long illness, he died in Philadelphia Misericordia Hospital on July 27, 1942, at the age of 68. He is buried in the Community Cemetery at Villanova.

Edward James Murtaugh was born on September 30, 1874, in Mechanicsville, Lehigh Co., Pennsylvania. He entered the novitiate, and professed first vows on September 20, 1896. Edward was ordained to the priesthood on September 23, 1899, by Patrick J. Ryan, D.D., Archbishop of Philadelphia, in the Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul.

Father Murtaugh's first assignment was to St. Mary's in Lawrence, Mass. In 1904, he became an assistant at the parish of St. Denis in Havertown, Pa. In May 1905, he was transferred to St. Augustine Parish in Philadelphia and was an assistant there for sixteen years. In September 1921, he was appointed Pastor of St. Nicholas of Tolentine Parish, Jamaica, New York. In June 1932, Father Murtaugh returned to the Archdiocese of Philadelphia accepting the appointment of pastor of St. Denis Church, Havertown, Pa. In June 1938, he began six years of service as prior and pastor of Our Mother of Good Counsel Parish in Bryn Mawr, Pa. In June 1944, he returned as pastor to St. Denis Parish in Havertown.

On March 5, 1951, at the age of 77, Father Edward Murtaugh died in St. Denis Rectory. Interment was in the parish cemetery.


James Joseph McCarthy was born in Carthage, N.Y., in 1873. He entered the novitiate at Villanova, Pa., in 1895, and was ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop Ryan in 1899.

Father McCarthy served at Carthage and Waterford, N.Y.; at Villanova College as Vice President and Prefect of Discipline from 1905 to 1910, and then at Greenwich and Troy in New York.

He was 58 when he died on August 20, 1931, in Troy, N.Y. He is buried at Saint Augustine's in Troy.
17. Amedee J. Viger, O.S.A. (1876 – 1915)

Amedee Joseph Viger was born in Montreal, Canada, in 1876. He entered the novitiate at Villanova, Pa., in 1896, and was ordained by Bishop Pendergast in 1901. He served first at Carthage, N.Y., and then at Villanova, where he became Master of Novices and Professed and professor of Moral Theology and Liturgy.

Father Viger was 39 when he died on February 2, 1915, in Saint Joseph’s Hospital in Philadelphia, Pa. He is buried in the Community Cemetery at Villanova.