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Meet Dr. Christopher Edward Hopey, the New President of Merrimack College

In his first year as President of Merrimack College, located in North Andover, MA, Dr. Hopey has brought new energy and swift change to policies, physical space and academic offerings. The changes are predominantly focused on the well being and intellectual growth of the 2,000 students who attend Merrimack, but he has also made changes that are popular with the faculty. This interview with Dr. Hopey gives insight into the man and his thoughts on growing a successful, contemporary Catholic college.

Awareness and Action at St. Augustine Prep School

The Augustinian Campaign Against Human Trafficking was taken to heart by the faculty and students at St. Augustine Prep in Richland, NJ., when they read the autobiography, *The Road of Lost Innocence*, by Somaly Mam, who was sold to a brothel in Cambodia when she was twelve. She has since become a heroine for the girls she has rescued from the same fate. Her subsequent visit to the Prep turned the students into heroes too.

Human Trafficking in the United States–Slavery in a Global Economy

For two years (2010-2012) the Augustinians’ International Justice and Peace Commission has chosen to focus on human trafficking. We examine human trafficking in the United States in order to raise awareness about this crime, its prevalence and what we all can do to combat it.
Dear Friends,

Welcome to this edition of The Augustinian. Much has occurred since the last magazine was in your hands and in these pages just a few of those things are being highlighted.

Upon assuming the duties as Prior Provincial, in less than a week, I was sitting on the Board of Trustees of Merrimack College and once again becoming reacquainted with Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D., the new president of the college. Chris and his wife, Cheryl and their son Christopher, lived in St. Thomas of Villanova Parish during the time I served as pastor of the community. Chris is bringing a new energy to the Merrimack College community especially focusing on the key areas of student life, campus and facilities, academics and alumni relations. He has dedicated much of his professional life to the area of literacy; he was a Literacy Fellow while at University of Pennsylvania National Center on Adult Literacy. I would say at Merrimack College, Dr. Hopey has the enthusiasm and gifts to bring about great change.

For those of you who follow not only the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova but the Order of St. Augustine, you may be aware that, as Augustinians, we are working to shine light on the global problem of human trafficking. Our school, St. Augustine College Prep in Richland, NJ, as a global problem of human trafficking. Our school, St. Augustine College Prep in Richland, NJ, as a

MAM. It is a riveting and beautiful memoir of tragedy and hope by a woman who has been named

the organization when AIDS was still

visible until 20 years down the line.

volunteers, our dedication, our persistence, our love make a difference to the organizations we serve...even if it is not visible until 20 years down the line.

The future of that little boy I held is infinitely more secure because of the AIDS Centre, which will help him go on to live a healthy life. My struggle has taught me to be part of the

Mary Kate Crane

Dulson, South Africa

Chicago

Merrimack College taught me the ways of 'Augustinian, and "community" was a word that you couldn't go a day without hearing.

My life now is no different. The community of Catholic Charities, where I serve as an Augustinian Volunteer is extremely diverse, welcoming, and spiritual. My coworkers have taught me what it means to be faithful and how to live a life that is devoted to praising God and everyone around us. Ms. Tyson, the Case Manager that sits in the cubicle behind me, always says to her clients, on the phone, that she is blessed, which always makes me smile. I was never able to fully understand it and live by it until

I went to a home visit before Christmas to see a client and her daughter and give their Christmas presents for the family. As I walked into the room with a big black bag filled with Christmas goodies, I was greeted by two little boys. Throughout the whole conversation they sat on the couch, patiently waiting for our conversation to be over. Right before I had to leave to leave the house, one of the boys asked, “What’s in the bag?” I said, “Presents for you, from Santa.” With huge eyes, he asked, “You know Santa?” My client then said, “Yes she does. He was at her work and gave her the gifts to bring to us.” Then the little boys ran over and gave me big hugs saying, “Thank you! Thank you!” The mom just sat there and smiled. As I was leaving, I wished my client a Merry Christmas. She gave me a hug and said, “Ms. Moretti, I hope you have a blessed holiday and a blessed day.” At first I was overwhelmed with emotions, but after a few seconds I found myself saying, “You too. I hope you have a blessed day.” For the first time in my life, I truly felt blessed to be alive, healthy, and where I am today. I know that my faith is stronger than it has ever been, and I know that is because God is with me at all times. This is what I have learned about my faith this year and I hope all of you will take a chance to remember how blessed you are and know that faith will always be your guiding grace.

Janine Moretti

Chicago, IL

VOLUNTEER LETTERS
MEET

DR. CHRISTOPHER EDWARD HOPEY
The New President of Merrimack College

"I have a service job. I am in service to the organization. And as I do that, I think I’m teaching others how to be the same way. And that in itself is very Augustinian and very Catholic."

DR. CHRISTOPHER E. HOPEY
President, Merrimack College

By Teddie Gallagher

In his presentation, Saint Augustine on Leadership, Gary N. McCloskey, O.S.A., Province Counselor for Education and former vice president and dean of Augustine as a servant-leader within the framework of Augustine’s values of unity, truth and love (unitas, veritas, caritas).

Fr. Gary portrays St. Augustine as a leader who is rarely alone, who serves his community through dialogue with them, by knowing them, listening to them, empowering them. He describes Augustine’s value of truth as a restless journey to do meaningful things, to be transparent, to go forward creating change to serve others. He depicts Augustine’s value of love as respect for his fellow human beings, building them up, working cheerfully as a disciple of love through faith, inspiration and humility to get to the next level.

It’s surprising how this servant-leader description of St. Augustine, who was born in 354 A.D. - over 1600 years ago - sounds like the contemporary servant-leadership philosophy and practice, coined and defined by Robert K. Greenleaf in 1970. Greenleaf’s new organizational structure challenged the concept of bureaucratic hierarchy, suggesting instead that leaders manage by listening, building community, encouraging self expression and helping people get what they need so they can be their best. But there’s one thing missing in Greenleaf’s business model that’s prominent in St. Augustine’s model and that is love, or caritas.

The interview that follows gives the reader a look into Dr. Christopher Hopey’s leadership values and his work since the Board of Trustees voted unanimously on March 5, 2010 to select him as president of Merrimack College, to start on July 1, 2010.

Merrimack’s press release for Dr. Hopey said he “came to Merrimack College with considerable leadership experience in higher education, having served as vice president and dean of Northeastern University’s College of Professional Studies, as well as vice dean of the Graduate School of Education at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Hopey has a Ph.D. in Higher Education Management from the University of Pennsylvania and an M.P.A. and B.S. in Political Science from Northeastern University.”

What the press release didn’t say is that beneath all of the experience and education is an exceptionally dedicated servant-leader, a person who really cares about people. He is a Catholic with Augustinian leadership values, who wants to nurture the Merrimack community; who listens to and empathizes with the students, the faculty, the staff and the Trustees. He has the ability, drive and education to conceptualize ways to solve problems big and small, to look for consensus in addressing issues and to act.

Speaking with faculty, students and staff the “word” on President Hopey was hope itself.

As Patricia Scudell, Faculty Senate President and Professor put it: “I’m very hopeful for Merrimack under Chris. It’s really ironic that his name is “Hopey” because it has hope in it. I feel like he’s brought ‘hope and change’.”

As an outside observer, I see the new hope at Merrimack more as the byproduct of what Dr. Hopey actually brings – and that is his heart. That is his ouro; the heart of a Christian servant-leader, who openly promotes Unity, Truth and Love. It’s a heart that is very Augustinian and very Catholic. And now, is very, very Merrimack.
TG: Merrimack has a rich Augustinian tradition. How will you continue that tradition?

CH: Firstly, we appointed Fr. Ray [Ray Dlugos, O.S.A.] to a new position as Vice President of Campus Ministry and Student Life. We put the two together. I think that’s very important to enhance and develop Campus Ministry to a higher level. That was the first step in bringing all the disparate pieces together, to get a clearer focus. It’s a big part of what we do.

Secondly, we want to honor the Augustinians and their involvement, everything from trying to recruit more Augustinians to be here, to getting involved in our community, to actually doing things that we’ve talked about, like naming one of our streets Augustinian Way. Make that our address. Instead of having 315 Turnpike Road, I think the address Augustinian Way would be neat.

Thirdly, we want to infuse in our curriculum, and in our hires, and in what we do, the values of being Augustinian Catholic. That’s a harder task because it really is about things like diversity and building an emphasis with the faculty on social justice and community action and involvement.

Fr. Ray and I have spent a lot of time talking about “What if we did a mission?” What if the students were required in their junior year to do a mission to South Africa or one of the Augustinian facilities or places down in South America? And actually have each one of our kids spend two weeks there as part of their five-week break period in January. So they could understand what the Augustinians are all about and what they do around the world. We also have the Pellegrinaggio [a yearly pilgrimage to Italy], which Fr. Jim [Jim Wrenz, O.S.A.] does very well. But how do you expand that? So we’ll expand our study abroad. It’s not just coursework. It’s how we live our lives and what we do, our involvement in Lawrence and Haverhill.

How do we really get our kids to understand that it isn’t just about the classroom work? It’s deeper than that. How do we practice our faith? How do we practice our belief systems? How do we practice the universal values that the Augustinians bring to Merrimack and how do we infuse that into our community in a different way? That’s a process and we think that makes it more attractive, both for Augustinians in other parts of the world to come here and be part of Merrimack Community just for a little while, combined with attracting a student here who actually wants to be part of that kind of social environment. That’s important to us. It’s part of our DNA. It’s one of our greatest assets. The question is how do we apply that and turn it into a more contemporary thing for the kind of kids who we bring here now? It’s putting Campus Ministry front and center. It’s putting Fr. Ray in a position of leadership. He’s engaging the students. He’s building our community across the board.

TG: What if anything has changed? I think that’s a funny question…because everything has changed. One of the things that the faculty has noticed, really for the first time in my professional lifetime, the faculty actually has respect. We feel it. It’s engaging faculty. It’s engaging staff.

He’s engaging the students. He’s building our community. And I think all of that can only get better.”

“Now that Chris has come on board, the energy that he possesses is contagious. And we feel that energy and we feel revved. Putting Fr. Dlugos in the key position of Vice President of Campus Ministry and Student Life, combining those two areas, spurs volumes that we’re not just Augustinians in name, we’re going to enhance the Augustinian presence and really the core of this institution.”
Those kinds of retention strategies are really important.

That’s what it means to be at Merrimack. It’s kind of a philosophy. That once you join this family you’re a member for life. And we want to make sure you graduate and get all of the benefits of a degree from here. But also, you’re part of the broader community of Merrimack. Those are the changes we’re making for students. And I think we’re very student focused.

I have a town hall [Mack Meeting] with the students a couple times a year. It’s an open forum where I think the kids trust me and they feel safe. If they tell me something it will get done. Those forums become very useful to say “What can we do to make your lives better?” What can I as the President, but also as an adult, as a mentor, as a coach, what can I do to make it better here for you?

I have a service job. I am in service to the organization. And as I do that, I think I’m teaching others how to be the same way.

And that in itself is very Augustinian and anything that comes through the chain of power quickly. It’s fantastic.”

For me, it’s all about “They are my students.” They are my stakeholders. They are members of my family, the collective Merrimack family. I take that responsibility very seriously.

DR. HOPEY
President, Merrimack College

“So there’s no reason we can’t be a modern, contemporary, Catholic, Augustinian institution that has a master’s comprehensive program. There’s a Boston College and then there are small Catholic colleges. There’s nobody in the middle around here. I think for us there’s a sweet spot for Catholic colleges to be just that. I think there’s a Fairfield, a Marist, a St. Joe’s kind of place needed. There’s nothing like that here. It’s either the big research schools of Boston or 65 small colleges. And I think there’s a space for a medium-sized institution with strong sports programs that very student focused that can be very successful.

So that’s the area of student focus we’re working on. We’re excited about that. Like anything it takes time. Rome wasn’t built in a day. We plan to go fairly fast. We’re building a lot of excitement. At the same time, there are a lot of bumps in the road. The library should be done by now. I couldn’t get the building permits as fast as I wanted. I’d love to build a dome but they told me it was so much money, and it was actually a lot more than they told me, so we’ll put that on hold for a while. I think the students appreciate it. I think they’re excited by it. I end up talking to the students a lot. I go to all the hockey games, I go to a lot of sports events and student activities.

My son is 12 years old. My wife and my son are very involved in all the things on campus, which makes it beautiful. And Merrimack is a very family oriented institution, so it makes it a lot easier for me to be here as president and spend time on campus.

For me, it’s all about “They are my students.” They are my stakeholders. They are members of my family, the collective Merrimack family. I take that responsibility very seriously.

I have lots of choices in my life. Being a Ph.D. from Penn, a vice dean at a young age, then a dean and then a vice president...and I’m 60...I have lots of options. But Merrimack just seemed like a place that needed somebody like me; a place where I would be successful and a place I’d like. The fact that I knew the Augustinians and I knew what they were about, all that’s one of the reasons I took the job. It adds a different perspective.”

The Augustinian • Spring/Summer 2011
Augustinian Campaign Against Human Trafficking

Awareness and Action at St. Augustine Prep School

BY TEDDIE GALLAGHER

The pictures on these pages and our “Giamp” spread-capture events that took place at St. Augustine Prep, in Richland, NJ, when the students and faculty got involved in the Augustinian Campaign Against Human Trafficking. Central to their social justice campaign was an assembly where Somaly Mam, a former child trafficking victim, and five of the girls she rescued from slavery in Cambodian brothels came to tell their stories. Somaly Mam, author of The Road of Lost Innocence, had already told her story in a heart-wrenching autobiography that vividly and painfully shows readers into a world where children are routinely sold by their families to brothels, where rape, torture and sheer depravity are the order of every day.

Somaly Mam’s visit to the United States was limited to five schools, including Stanford and Harvard, because she worries about her girls when she is away too long. They are fragile. Prior to Somaly Mam’s visit, Kathy Vermeeren, a French teacher at the Prep, sought permission to set up a Human Trafficking Task Force, and 14 students were selected from the 39 students who applied. At the time of Somaly Mam’s visit, the boys on the Task Force prepared questions for Somaly Mam and the students, unable to wash off the filth she felt, she went back to the brothels to rescue girls. She and her Somaly Mam Foundation have rescued over 5,000 Cambodian girls, most of whom range from the age of three-to-twelve years old. They are given shelter, medical attention and a program to restore their lives through education and job training. Most of all, Somaly Mam holds these girls, gives them love, restores their dignity and in the process, soothes her own pain through education and job training. Most of all, Somaly Mam holds these girls, gives them love, restores their dignity and in the process, soothes her own pain through their common bond of human bondage.

For Somaly Mam, her work to rescue, restore and prevent the sale of people is the focus of her life. In her early years, as she foraged for food and slept outside the huts of those who had families in the village, she is an ethnic mix of Khmer and Phnong, with the dark complexion of a Phnong, which was deemed ugly by the Khmer. Her beauty was seen by a boy of a Phnong, which was deemed ugly by the Khmer. Her beauty was seen by a boy who trafficked anyone anywhere in the world, including the U.S. The light of hope comes from the people who turn empathy and anger into action.

So she worried about her girls when she is away too long. They are fragile. At the time of Somaly Mam’s visit, the boys on the Task Force prepared questions for Somaly Mam and the boys on the Task Force prepared questions for Somaly Mam.

The faculty read it too. For Bernie Abbott this is now personal. “I might want to major in psychology in college next year, and if I do, I realize there’s a whole opportunity to use psychology in human trafficking with the victims once they are rescued. I also have been thinking that if I go to college and they don’t have a Human Trafficking Task Force, I might want to set one up and raise awareness about it in college.”

For Bernie Abbott, expected more students at the event at the State House in Trenton, New Jersey. “It was surprising because there were a lot of people, but we were the only high school people. Most of the people were social workers and law enforcement. Social workers talked about their hotline where girls call up from the casinos. The ones I heard about were trafficked Americans. Some of them were flown in from other states. At the State House they had a survivor who talked. She was from this area [NJ] and went to school in Boston where she met an older man who forced her into prostitution.”

In March, the students voted to continue the Task Force next year. They also were in the process of organizing a walk for the entire school against human trafficking and sexual violence. The walk, which took place on April 15th, featured information boards with facts about Human Trafficking. The boys raised over $3,000 and will donate the proceeds to local and international organizations, including the Atlantic County Women’s Center (www.acwc.org) and the Somaly Mam Foundation (www.somaly.org) whoresue.

There are no soft spots, no shining lights, no compassion in the people who run the brothels in Cambodia or those who traffic anywhere in the world, including the U.S. The light of hope comes from the people who turn empathy and anger into action.

Crossing the boards with facts about Human Trafficking.
Five Cambodian girls sold into sex slavery before their teens and rescued by Somaly Mam, performed a traditional Cambodian “Blessing Dance” for the assembly gathered at St. Augustine Prep in Richland, NJ. In the dance, flower petals are sprinkled toward the people, symbolizing the blessings of the gods falling on the audience. The movements are part of the unbroken Khmer dance tradition, dating back to the ninth century Angkor period, originally performed only for Khmer royalty.
The Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, ratified December 6, 1865 officially abolished slavery in the United States. “Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.” Has slavery ended in the United States? How do you answer? A trick question and, if you are a TV, read the newspapers, the radio, surf Internet news sites, read books. The slave trade is very much alive. Fact, it is not just alive – it is thriving! How can this be?

Human trafficking is the illegal trade of human beings; it is the sale, transport and profit from human beings who are forced to work for others; usually this is done with fraud, deception, threats or coercion. Human trafficking is slavery – slavery for our modern day, global economy. It is a crime under U.S. and international law. The slave trade is the fastest growing illegal activity.

The Augustinian Order’s International Commission on Justice and Peace has designated human trafficking and immigration as its area of focus for two years, 2010-2012. It was felt that, internationally, the Order could “speak with one voice” by concentrating attention in this area of trafficking and the underlying issues that feed it, immigration and poverty. Fr. Jack Deegan, O.S.A., is the director of Justice and Peace for St. Thomas of Villanova Province, and is also director of ADROP (Augustinian Defenders of the Rights of the Poor), a ministry being reported by the Augustinian Fund that operates in the city of Philadelphia. For Fr. Jack, when you consider the issue of human trafficking, you can’t isolate it from poverty and immigration. “Poverty is the reason people go to another country,” said Fr. Deegan, “for a better life than is offered in their own. They sign up for transport and find they are enslaved – they can never get out of the debt. It leads to prostitution among women and children, and forced commercial or domestic labor.”

The reality of this problem is often in their own backyards.

In Norristown, a drug and prostitution ring operating opposite an elementary school, was raided in March 2010. Norristown is 7.6 miles from Villanova.

In Phoenix, a 14-year old was kidnapped from her driveway while her mother was inside the home. She had responded to a friend’s call to meet her outside the house. Once there, her friend pushed her into the car where two men restrained her and threatened her to kill. Driven miles from her home, she was kept in a dog crate and fed biscuits to “break her,” advertised for sex on the Internet by her captors and repeatedly raped. She was captive for over 40 days. A tip to police led them to an apartment where she was found bound, gagged and stuffed in a dresser drawer shoved under a bed. A well-dressed couple approached a 15-year-old woman working at a Phoenix mall. The man identified himself as a modeling agent and told the young woman he could set up a professional photo shoot in California. Lured there, the victim found she had been advertised on an escort service’s website. She was constantly moved and “sold” to men. A 16-year-old Florida teen was asked by a school friend to a sleepover. Her reluctant mother agreed only after meeting her daughter’s friend and finding her to be a sweet, kind girl. Once at her friend’s house, the girl was given a drink. She was drugged and awoke to find she was being raped. She was beaten and told by her captors that she’d been sold to a man in Texas for $300,000. She was rescued when a search party saw her in the back of a car. Her captors escaped, while the teen was airlifted to a hospital. There are not the stories of foreign nationals who enter the U.S., whether legally or illegally. In each of these cases, the girl had homes and loving parents. Nor is trafficking restricted to sexual trafficking. In fact, forced labor and debt bondage contribute to the plight of trafficked persons.

Florida is considered ideal for bringing trafficked persons into the country. The state provides a fertile ground, both for its agricultural industry and the farm laborers trafficked into the state. In 2008, a family in Florida plead guilty to enslaving undocumented persons trafficked from Mexico and Guatemala. The immigrants were threatened, beaten, locked in beds and forced to work as farm laborers. Indeed, when foreign nationals do have legal documents and visas to enter, the traffickers generally set them up to work in factories until the victims repay “debt” incurred for transportation, lodging, clothing and food. A woman in Oakland, CA, was sentenced to three years for trafficking in November 2010. She had recruited a woman from China, who arrived in the U.S. in 2008 with her passport and visa. Once here, the passport and visa were taken and the victim was physically abused, threatened with being reported to authorities and forced to work as a live-in domestic with no pay. A 26-year-old woman, who wanted a girl to help with her own child, trafficked a 12-year-old Mexican girl illegally into Laredo, Texas. The girl was found chained to a pole in the backyard, which was surrounded by a 12-foot high concrete fence. She had lacerations on her ankles and wrists, was severely dehydrated and malnourished and burned due to being left in the sun. A neighbor, working on his roof, saw the girl chained in the yard and called 911. The woman was given a life sentence for torturing the child.

Fact: Nail salons have become venues for forced labor and prostitution. In York, PA, a woman owner of a nail salon enslaved two women from Vietnam who were forced to work for three years without pay. While the salon owner was convicted in February 2010 of trafficking for forced labor and has to pay her victims restitution, international borders annually (U.S. DEP’T OF STATE, TIP REPORT, 2007)

• 800,00 people are trafficked across international borders annually (U.S. DEP’T OF STATE, TIP REPORT, 2007)

• 50% of victims are minors (U.S. DEP’T OF JUSTICE, 2003-2004)

• It is estimated that 14,000 to 17,500 people are trafficked annually into the U.S. from foreign countries (U.S. DEP’T OF STATE, TIP REPORT, 2006)

• One child is sold every 30 minutes, on average.
human dignity

We see cars. We sell clothing. We sell people. Why not? People belong to others? It’s cheap to buy a person. Estimates are that for an investment of $90 on average, a person can be bought. The return on investment is estimated anywhere from $6,000 to well over $200,000 per year. People are looked upon as commodities. Employees may be literally hidden, or they are held in plain sight. We see what we expect: a worker, someone performing a service. A man or woman seen trafficking victims. It’s unusual—it’s the norm.

The Catholic Church believes and teaches that human trafficking is a sin, that there is a profound dignity intrinsic to each person. “At the center of all Catholic social teaching are the transcendence of God and the dignity of the human person.” (The Challenge of Peace, U.S. Bishops, 1983) We are familiar with the transcendence of God and the dignity of the person, but the common good is a social factor we are taught to consider as Christians.

When we talk about poverty, we often think of people in the third world who are destitute. The U.S. Bishops, 1983) We are familiar with the conditions of people in the third world, but we are not familiar with the conditions of people in the United States. We need to consider what human trafficking looks like in our own backyard.

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Brother John J. DelCasale, O.S.A.

The Eagle Tribune, a newspaper in Lawrence, Massachusetts, ran a tribute to Br. John J. DelCasale in the Saturday issue of February 12, 2011. The article noted that Br. John was celebrating 40 years as an Augustinian Brother.

Originally from Philadelphia, Br. John presently serves as prior of the community at St. Augustine Friary, in Andover, MA. Br. John has served at St. Augustine Parish for the last ten years. In the article Br. John spoke of his time at St. Augustine’s as one of spiritual growth and of his own recommitment to religious life, daily prayer and Mass.

Organization of Augustinians of Latin America/Youth Gathering

The Organization of Augustinians of Latin America (OALA) held its assembly the first week in February, 2011, in Bogota, Columbia. Four members of the Peruvian Vicariate attended the assembly, which is held every four years. Fr. John Lydon, O.S.A., finished his term as Secretary-General of the Organization.

News from Peru: the week prior to the Assembly, the OALA held its first-ever Youth Gathering of Latin America, which drew over 700 youth from almost all the countries of Latin America. Hosted in the San Agustín School in Lima, Fr. John Lydon gave the welcoming remarks and presided at one of the Masses. Fr. Luis Madera, O.S.A., of Casa Agustín in Miami, along with two young men from the Casa Agustín program, were also in attendance.

A new pastor for San José Obrero parish in Chulucanas, Fr. Juan Carlos Olaya, O.S.A., was installed the second week of February. Fr. Art Purcaro, O.S.A., who had been pastor, has helped to guide the young Peruvian friars in the pastoral plan of the dioceses and helped mentor them towards taking over administration of the parish. The installation Mass was once again celebrated in the parish church, which had been renovated to expand the space.

Augustinian Federation of Africa

Fr. Frank Doyle, O.S.A. and Fr. Jack McAtee, O.S.A., of the South African Mission, attended the Triennial Meeting of the Augustinian Federation of Africa (AFA), held in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo. Two South African Augustinian Sisters, Sr. Dolores and Sr. Bongive, joined the friars at the meetings. The conference theme was “Peace and Reconciliation in Africa in the Context of the Post African Synod 2009.”

Sessions were held at Centre Catholique Nganda, where they were joined by 40 friars and sisters from Algeria, Congo, Kenya, Nigeria, Benin Republic, Tanzania, Sudan and Togo. The Prior General was in attendance along with Franz Klein, O.S.A., Assistant General for Africa and other friars from Belgium, Italy, Germany, and Malta. The next AFA meeting will be held in Togo in 2014.

Books

The Bond of Lost Innocence, the candid and moving book by Somaly Mam featured in our story on human trafficking can be purchased online or in local book stores.

OALA representatives gathered at the meeting in Bogota, Columbia in February, 2011. The Prior General, Robert F. Prevost, O.S.A., is at the center, standing. Fr. John Lydon, O.S.A., is in the last row on the left (white habit).

THE AUGUSTINIAN OF LATIN AMERICA/ YOUTH GATHERING IN LIMA, PERU.

O.S.A. International Commission for the Laity Meeting

Fr. Gary N. McCloskey, O.S.A. facilitated a multi-lingual meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina, January 25-27, 2011. Fr. McCloskey and other members of the O.S.A. International Commission for the Laity, were joined by Lay Representatives of the Augustinian Family. Discussions centered around the upcoming Lay Augustinian Congress scheduled for 2012 in Rome. Among the topics discussed: the involvement of Lay Augustinians in creating descriptions for representations for the Congress; the role of the Lay representatives at the Congress; and Lay Augustinian Family members serving as speakers at the Congress.

Fr. Frank Doyle, O.S.A. (left) and Fr. Jack McAtee, O.S.A. (right with two Augustinian Sisters who joined the friars at the AFA meeting in January, 2011.


The Road of Lost Innocence, the candid and moving book by Somaly Mam featured in our story on human trafficking can be purchased online or in local book stores.

Augustinian Federation of Africa

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THE OFFICIAL PICTURE OF THE YOUTH GATHERING IN LIMA, PERU.

Brother John J. DelCasale, O.S.A.

The Eagle Tribune, a newspaper in Lawrence, Massachusetts, ran a tribute to Br. John J. DelCasale in the Saturday issue of February 12, 2011. The article noted that Br. John was celebrating 40 years as an Augustinian Brother.

Originally from Philadelphia, Br. John presently serves as prior of the community at St. Augustine Friary, in Andover, MA. Br. John has served at St. Augustine Parish for the last ten years. In the article Br. John spoke of his time at St. Augustine’s as one of spiritual growth and of his own recommitment to religious life, daily prayer and Mass.

Brother John J. DelCasale, O.S.A.
Augustinian Spirituality iPhone App Available

“Minute Meditations for Every Day Taken from the Writings of Saint Augustine” is available as an iPhone app. These meditations are taken from Augustinian Day by Day: Minute Meditations for Every Day Taken from the Writings of Saint Augustine, by John E. Rotelle, O.S.A. (Catholic Book Publishing Co., New York, 1995). For more information, please visit http://appshopper.com/reference/augustinian-spirituality

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Fr. Michael J. Scanlon, O.S.A. Receives the Sofia Award

The Washington Theological Union presented its 2011 Sofia Award for excellence in theological scholarship contributing to the ministry of the Church to Fr. Michael J. Scanlon, O.S.A. The 2011 Sofia Award and Lecture were presented on February 13, 2011 at the O’Toole Library at WTU. Fr. Scanlon delivered the 2011 lecture entitled “A New Turn in Theology - The Material Turn.” Fr. Scanlon is a Professor in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies and holds the Josephine C. Connelly Chair in Christian Theology at Villanova University.

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Fr. James E. Martinez, O.S.A. Retires

Fr. James E. Martinez, O.S.A., ministered at his farewell Mass at Our Lady of Good Counsel, in Bryn Mawr, PA, on January 30, 2011. Fr. Jim retired after serving as pastor at the parish for 31 years. Cardinal Justin Rigali, Archbishop of Philadelphia, conferred on Fr. Jim the title “Pastor Emeritus.” This honor is usually reserved for diocesan priests. Parishioners, family and friends packed the church and the reception that followed the Mass. Fr. Jim resides at St. Augustine Friary in Villanova, PA.

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Archbishop Timothy Dolan’s Visit to OLGC Staten Island

Archbishop Timothy Dolan of New York paid a visit to Our Lady of Good Counsel School on Staten Island on Thursday, February 10, 2011. He began his visit with the celebration of Mass in the Church. School principal, Mrs. Frances Santangelo, Music Director, Scott Ness, the teachers and the students did a wonderful job of preparation. The Mass was a joyful celebration and the Archbishop preached a good homily.

Following Mass, Archbishop Dolan met some of the parents and people associated with the school in the teachers’ room over tea and coffee and then he toured each of the classrooms. The Archbishop was very pleased with all that he learned about the school and everyone had a great day.

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Fr. John E. Bresnahan, O.S.A. Celebrates His 100th Birthday

Fr. Bresnahan (affectionately known as Fr. “B”), started reading the New York Times “with regularity” in 1932 and has read it every day since he was ordained, in 1936.

In an interview with Fr. B. on the morning of his 100th birthday, Teddie Gallagher asked him what he liked about the NY Times. “I want to know what’s on people’s minds. I read the Times because it contains the views of critical-minded people. It reflects the sophisticated mind. I’m a conservative, but I’m quite open-minded to hear what people have to say.” Father also reads the Philadelphia Inquirer every day. “Whatever is in the newspaper I’m thinking about it and praying about it.”

WHAT’S HIS BIGGEST CONCERN? “Secularism of the world.”

WHAT’S HIS ADVICE FOR THE WORLD? “I think most people consider religion as their last concern and I think it should be their first concern.”

Family members, his fellow friars and friends gathered with Fr. “B” on the occasion of his birthday at the Monastery for celebratory drinks, speeches, dinner and cake. Fr. “B” was congratulated on this milestone by Fr. Mickey Genovese, O.S.A., Prior Provincial and Fr. Gary N. McCloskey, Prior of the Monastery. Greetings from the Prior General, Robert F. Prevost, O.S.A., in Rome were delivered by the Vicar General, Fr. Michael F. DiGregorio, O.S.A., who attended the celebration. After the gathered guests offered a chorus of “Happy Birthday” to Fr. Bresnahan, dinner and cake were served.
Fr. John T. Denny, O.S.A.

Fr. Denny was ordained in 1990 at Our Mother of Good Counsel in Bryn Mawr, PA. His first assignment was to Montignor Bonner High School in Drexel Hill, PA, where he taught from 1990-1999. He also served as chaplain (1990-93), as principal (1993-99) and finally, as the school’s president (1999-2001). In 2001, he was appointed director of vocations for the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova. From 2002 through 2007, he taught theology at Villanova University and also served as the first chaplain of the Law School. In 2007, Fr. Jack was assigned as pastor of Our Mother of Good Counsel in Bryn Mawr, PA, where he currently resides.

Br. William C. Harkin, O.S.A.

After professing solemn vows in 1966, Br. Bill’s ministry was in parishes for nearly 30 years, where he served as business manager. During these years he served in three parishes: St. Rita in Philadelphia, St. Thomas of Villanova in Rosemont and St. Denis in Hertford. In 1996, after two years studying at Washington Theological Union, Br. Bill was ordained a deacon. After his ordination, he was assigned to Our Mother of Consolation in Chestnut Hill, PA. During this time Br. Bill was involved in forming three groups, with roots in justice and peace, to aid the community of Chestnut Hill. In February, 1998 the Augustinians were invited to work in the diocese of Charlotte, NC. In September of that year, Br. Bill was assigned as pastoral associate of St. Margaret of Scotland Parish in Maggie Valley, NC. He also served as director of a retreat center located near the church, Living Waters Reflection Center. Presently, Br. Bill is assigned to Our Mother of Good Counsel in Bryn Mawr, PA, where he resides and serves as prior and treasurer of the community.

Fr. Richard T. O’Leary, O.S.A.

Fr. Richard was ordained in 1973. He has worked in the education apostolate, having taught at Archbishop Carroll High School in Washington, DC. Fr. Rich was assigned to parish ministry at St. Augustine in Andover, MA. From 1997-2002, he served in campus ministry at Villanova University. Following this, Fr. Rich was assigned as pastor of St. Thomas of Villanova in Rosemont, PA. Fr. Rich’s current assignment is St. Augustine Parish in Andover, MA where he serves as prior for the friary.

Fr. J. Thomas Pulto, O.S.A.

Fr. Tom has served the educational apostolate, having taught at all three Augustinian higher education venues: Villanova University, Merrimack College and Bayside College (now St. Thomas University in Miami). He has also taught at Malvern Prep and at Neumann High School in Golden Gate, FL. From 1998-1994, he served as province secretary under John J. Hagen, O.S.A. His pastoral assignments have included St. Mary Immaculate Conception, Lawrenceville, MA; St. John, Schaghticoke in upstate New York; St. Thomas of Villanova, Rosemont, PA; Our Mother of Good Counsel, Bryn Mawr, PA; St. Elizabeth Seton, Golden Gate, FL; St. Katharine Drexel, Cape Coral, FL and Resurrection Church, Dania Beach FL, where he was pastor. Fr. Tom’s previous assignment was to Maggie Valley, NC. He currently resides at St. Thomas Monastery in Villanova, PA where he serves as the community’s treasurer.

TO CONTACT FR. DENNY
Our Mother of Good Counsel
31 Pennwood Road
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010-3475

TO CONTACT BR. HARKIN
Our Mother of Good Counsel
31 Pennwood Road
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010-3475

TO CONTACT FR. O’LEARY
St. Augustine Friary
44 Essex Street
Andover, MA 01810-3748

TO CONTACT FR. POHOTO
St. Thomas Monastery
800 E. Lancaster Avenue
Villanova, PA 19085-1687

IN MEMORIAM

Fr. John Michael Driscoll, O.S.A.
September 14, 1923 - March 2, 2011
Thirtieth President of Villanova University
1975 - 1988

Fr. Driscoll was born in Philadelphia and attended Our Mother of Sorrows Grade School (1929-1936). He was a member of the first four-year class to graduate from St. Thomas More High School (1936-1940). In September 1942, he entered Augustinian Academy, Staten Island, NY. The following year, he entered Good Counsel Novitiate at New Hamburg, NY. He professed first vows in September 10, 1944 and solemn vows three years later, September 10, 1947. Fr. Driscoll graduated from Villanova in 1948 with a B.A. in Philosophy. Ordained in 1951, he went on to earn his M.A. (1952) and Ph.D. (1964) in Philosophy from the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. Fr. Driscoll spent his entire career in the educational apostolate. Following his ordination, he taught at Archbishop John Carroll High School in Washington, D.C. for four years (1952-1956). He then moved to higher education, serving at Merrimack College in North Andover, MA and at Villanova University, Villanova, PA. While at Merrimack, Fr. Driscoll served as a professor in the Department of Philosophy, college chaplain, vice president and dean, as well as a member of the Board of Trustees. In 1965, he joined Villanova University as vice president of Academic Affairs, where he served for ten years. In 1975, Fr. Driscoll was named president of Villanova, where he served until 1988. Fr. Driscoll returned to Merrimack, where he was prior of the community. For health reasons, he retired to St. Thomas Monastery in 1995. He remained in residence there for the next 16 years of his life, where he received the care of the nursing staff.

During his presidency, Villanova expanded physically and academically. Land was acquired, the campus borders grew and residence halls were built. During his tenure, the Curley Center and the Pavillon were added to the campus. Fr. Driscoll was instrumental in the expansion of the College of Nursing, and the introduction of the Masters Program in Nursing. In 2008, when the new building for the College of Nursing was opened, it was named Driscoll Hall in honor of his many contributions.

Among the awards given to Fr. Driscoll were the Chapel of the Four Chaplains: Legion of Honor Bronze Medalion; the Villanova College of Nursing Medalion for Distinguished Service to the College (1988); and the Villanova College of Commerce and Finance: Medalion for Excellence in Management (1988).

Fr. Driscoll’s funeral Mass was held March 7 at St. Thomas of Villanova Church on the university campus. Fr. Anthony M. Michery, Gano, O.S.A., Prior Provincial, presided at the liturgy and gave the eulogy. Fr. Peter Donahue, O.S.A., President of Villanova University, gave the homily. Fr. Driscoll is buried in the Augustinian plot on the campus of Villanova University.

Video of the homily preached by Fr. Peter Donahue, O.S.A., is posted on our website at http://www.augustinian.org/who-we-are/our-heritage/necrology. Please visit Fr. Driscoll’s page and see the link to the homily.

IF YOU WISH TO MAKE A DONATION FOR THE CARE OF THE SICK AND CLERICAL FINALS IN MEMORY OF FR. DRISCOLL, PLEASE USE THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE OR VISIT THE AUGUSTINIAN FUND’S WEBSITE AT WWW.AUGUSTINIANFUND.ORG.

Thank you for your support!

Our most sincere thanks to all who made a contribution to The Augustinian Fund in our 2010-2011 fiscal-year campaign. You enabled us not only to meet our goal of $1,125,000 but exceed it for the fifth year in a row. Chairing the Fund this year are Claudia Piccirilli of Newtown Square, PA and Anthony Dellomo of Staten Island, NY, both members of our Development Council and strong supporters of the Augustinians.

Each gift to the Fund supports Augustinian ministries, and helps our friars who have devoted their lives to serving God’s people and the Church. Each gift confirms our belief that the work of the Augustinians continues to be meaningful and relevant in today’s world.

We thank you for your support. Please visit us online at www.augustinianfund.org to learn how your contributions are being used to support the mission and vision of the Augustinians.

Make your support of the Fund an annual tradition. Founded over 750 years ago, the Augustinian Order was charged with preaching, teaching, and mission ministries. Our work continues today, evident in parishes, schools and universities where we teach, guide and care for people in our communities. It is seen in the ministries we sustain locally, regionally and internationally. By supporting the Augustinian Fund, you are helping the Augustinians themselves and you are empowering their mission to change lives for the better.

We are humbled by the support we have received.

God’s Foot Soldiers

is the compelling story of the Augustinians and the impact their presence has on our world. It is a perfect piece to be used for schools, youth groups or parish gatherings.

To obtain a copy please visit us online at www.augustinianfund.org and click on, AUGUSTINIAN STORE. The DVD is free of charge, while supplies last, but there is a $5.00 fee for shipping and handling.

Or you may contact the Development Office directly at 610.527.3330 ext. 221 or write to: natalie.agraz@augustinian.org or 214 Ashwood Road, Villanova, PA 19085.
Singer-songwriter Joseph A. Genito, O.S.A., joins forces with Michael Witte to create Be Still, a 14-song CD of music inspired by Augustinian themes.

The recording features Fr. Joe Genito, Michael Witte, Fr. Joe Farrell, O.S.A and Suzanne Smart on vocals, joined by musicians Chris Sapienza, Jack Whitaker, Brian Tobianski and Scott Ness.

All proceeds from the sale of this CD benefit the Augustinian Missions.

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