LOOKING BACK: DONALD F. REILLY, O.S.A., ENDS 8-YEAR TERM AS PRIOR PROVINCIAL  p. 4

FR. ANTHONY M. GENOVESE, O.S.A., ELECTED AS PRIOR PROVINCIAL  p. 10

HOLY DARING: OUR MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL PARISH MARKS 125 YEARS  p. 14
Augustinians on
The Visionaries TV Series
Beginning July 18th, the PBS network will offer their affiliate stations a TV series called The Visionaries, which will include a half-hour documentary on the work of the Augustinians. The program will be available for airing on PBS stations for the next two years. Check www.augustinian.org for airtimes in your area. Special viewings are being planned for next fall. Contact communications@augustinian.org to get Province News about these events and more. See page 22 for more information.

Augustinian Preaching Apostolate
Michael P. Sullivan, O.S.A., brings his popular parish retreat to the New Jersey shore this summer. His dynamic and entertaining retreats touch people’s lives. In addition to the retreats listed here, view a complete schedule online to see if Fr. Sullivan is coming to a parish near you.

AUGUST 7-AUGUST 11, 2010
Maris Stella Parish
5012 Duke Drive
Avalon, NJ 08202
PHONE 609-967-3746
WEB www.augustinian.org/preaching.htm

AUGUST 14-AUGUST 18, 2010
St. Francis Cabrini
114 Atlantic Avenue
Ocean City, NJ 08226
PHONE 609-399-4776
WEB www.augustinian.org/preaching.htm

Six Days of Creation Workshop
Ksenia Pokrovsky provides training in icon painting that is immediate and practical. Students receive intensive instruction in the language of iconography from the perspective of the iconographic canon.

AUGUST 29-SEPTEMBER 4, 2010
Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center
101 Living Waters Lane
Maggie Valley, NC 28751
PHONE 828-926-3833
WEB www.catholicretreat.org

Italian Festival at
St. Nicholas of Tolentine, South Philadelphia
This rain-or-shine Italian Festival has grown over the years to attract 8,000 people. The event begins at 12:00 Noon with a procession to honor three Italian Saints—St. Nicholas of Tolentine; St. Gianna Beretta Molla and St. Pio Pa. The best of Italian foods and pastries are available. Festivities are led by The City Rhythm Orchestra, Jerry Blavit, Billy Ruhl (Frank Sinatra), the Venuti Italian Dancers, the Verdi Band, Frank Tenaglia (Operatic Tenor), Nick DiSalvatore (Italian Favorites) and others. The day concludes with fireworks at 9:00 PM.

OCTOBER 3, 2010
St. Nicholas of Tolentine
910 Watkins Street
Philadelphia, PA 19148-1695
WEB www.smnicksphila.com

St. Augustine Lecture
Professor Paula Fredriksen, Boston University
The St. Augustine Lecture is presented annually at Villanova University by the Institute for the Study of Augustine and Augustine Traditions.

NOVEMBER 10, 2010
7:00 PM
Driscoll Auditorium
Villanova University
Villanova, PA 19085
PHONE 610-519-5431
WEB http://www.villanova.edu/artsci/augustinianinstitute

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Looking Back: Donald F. Reilly, O.S.A.,
Ends 8-Year Term as Prior Provincial
Every four years, Augustinian friars elect a Prior Provincial to serve as their leader for the next four years. The maximum term is eight years, and that’s how long Fr. Donald F. Reilly, O.S.A., has served as Prior Provincial. At the end of a Provincial’s term, he returns to the ranks. The legacy of each Provincial is shaped by his decisions, his team of Counselors and the issues of his time.

Anthony M. Genovese, O.S.A.,
“Fr. Mickey” Elected as Prior Provincial
The Augustinian friars have elected Fr. Genovese with a resounding margin of support. At 63, Fr. Mickey has stepped up to take over the management of the Province with a remarkable combination of vigor and grace. His love for God, his love for his fraternity and his priestly drive to let us all know that God loves us, is his life.

Holy Daring: Our Mother of Good Counsel Parish Marks 125 Years
On July 26, 1885, Our Mother of Good Counsel Parish celebrated its first Mass in an Episcopal Sunday Schoolhouse, used through the auspices of the Episcopal Church of the Holy Innocents. Since then, Our Mother of Good Counsel Parish has been a principal gathering place for the Holy Daring and the nearby communities. The parish has been a beacon of faith and fellowship for those who live and work in the community.

Features
A Glimpse 8
The Augustinian Family 12
The Augustinian Fund 24

Columns
Letter from the Provincial 2
Volunteer Letters 3
News and Notes 18

ON THE COVER
Fr. Donald F. Reilly, O.S.A., current Prior Provincial of the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova, stands by Fr. Anthony “Mickey” Genovese, O.S.A., Prior Provincial-elect as he gets a feel for the desk he will soon occupy and the corporate seal he will be soon be authorized to use.

Cover and principal photography by Bryan Smith for Scientific Marketing Services Inc.
Dear Friends,

This will be my final letter to you as Prior Provincial of the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova. This bittersweet reality enables me to share a couple of departing thoughts. During the past eight years I have had the privilege of a relationship with you that has made me more of what it means to be an Augustinian. Saint Augustin said: “Our attitude toward others should be such that the possibility of taking them into our friendship remains open.” The Augustinian magazine has been our family album, our record of reunions, and the bond of our friendship, keeping each other informed as to what is happening in the Province here and abroad.

In this edition you will be introduced to Fr. Anthony M. Genovese, better known as Fr. Mickey, the newly elected Prior Provincial. Fr. Mickey’s current ministry as Prior of the Monastery on Villanova’s campus has endowed him to the friars because of his compassion and commitment to the welfare of those under care. I had the advantage of his wisdom at our monthly Provincial Council meetings. His candor and humor brought perspective to a wide variety of issues he and his fellow Provincial Councilors and I addressed over these past eight years. I know you join me in welcoming him to his new role in the Province as well as his new relationship with you.

It is awkward for a friar to speak of a personal legacy since all that we do in ministry is on behalf of the Augustinian Order. What you will read in the following pages is a legacy of challenges met through a collaborative effort of many men and women on the Provincial Staff. The Provincial Council, whose picture appears on these pages, played an important role in leadership in the Province these past eight years and to them, I owe a great deal of gratitude. Their advice and support were generously given, without which, our shared responsibilities would not have been met.

You will also read an article about Our Mother of Good Counsel Parish in Bryn Mawr, PA which celebrates its one hundred twenty-fifth anniversary this year. The picture of our Mother of Good Counsel holding the parish church is a splendid depiction of the trust and confidence the parish community has in the future. I congratulate the parish on this wonderful occasion.

Be assured of my grateful prayers for you and for your families as I take leave of my current ministry in the Province. I have an opportunity for sabbatical time, after which, I expect to be fully engaged in my next assignment. These past eight years have been a wonderful journey, giving me opportunities to be with you and our friars in Peru, Japan, South Africa and here in the United States. Our commitment to the Church, the People of God, is strong. Your loving support of our life ministries is cherished. Let us keep Fr. Mickey and one another in our prayers.

As the words rise to Mary who hears and understands, whether in English or in Zulu, I close my eyes and lean against the bookshelf near my desk, reflecting on the day so far and silently asking God to help me through the rest. I open my eyes again and look around the room, at the boys and girls in front of me, praying fervently in the midst of the school day. My heart is filled with so much love.

Though I’m the teacher, I’ve learned from these students; learned that prayer has to be an integral part of every day, even if it is just a few Hail Marys quickly spoken during a vocabulary review, or hymns sung during assembly as the sun rises over the valley. The Zulas’ prayer life is one without expectations or judgment, where I can participate in a Zula teachers’ prayer meeting in English and no one minds. The devotion to everyday spirituality that I’ve witnessed here in South Africa is inspiring especially when the living conditions of some should adversely affect their wellbeing. But it is this simple daily encounters with a very present God that give South Africans the hope they need to push onward. This entire year is my classroom, and the people with whom I spend my days are my teachers, gently guiding me towards the presence of God.

As those from the Bronx know, even in the darkest darkness of winter, there will always remain hope for spring.

CORRECTED COPY

Donald F. Reilly, O.S.A.
PRIOR PROVINCIAL
PROVINCE OF SAINT THOMAS OF VILLANOVA

Donald F. Reilly, O.S.A.
PRIOR PROVINCIAL
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For Fr. Reilly, his two-term, eight-year legacy as Provincial is over. He, the Secretary of the Province, and his six Counselors, (pictured above) who have been with him for eight years, will disband. The team has a rich history of accomplishments to celebrate as it turns over the reins to Fr. Mickey Genovese and his six-to-be-named team.

To hear Fr. Don describe his first six months as Provincial, one quickly understands that his agenda was not his own. Instead, it was shaped by a series of perfect storms that were pressing, serious and vital to the future of the church, its parishioners and the fraternity of friars.

For starters, in June of 2002, the same month that Fr. Don and his team began their first term, the United States Conference of Bishops (USCCB) commissioned the John Jay College of Criminal Justice to survey every diocese and religious organization in the United States to measure the nature and scope of sexual abuse of minors by priests and deacons between the years of 1950-2002.

For the new Provincial and his team, the survey required immediate and detailed attention. Fr. Don turned to Dr. Bob Thornton, O.S.A., a clinical psychologist, whose practice over the years included work with abused victims, and Jim Paradis, O.S.A., Personnel Director and Counselor for the Province. Together, they completed the survey, presented it to the friars, and went on to create a full-time position at the Provincial offices for Abuse Prevention. The position, filled by Bob Thornton for the past seven years, has been instrumental in helping victims and proactively working to put a zero-tolerance policy in place for clergy and non-clergy personnel actively working with minors. This process also includes accreditation by Praesidium, an organization that specializes in protecting minors from abuse through a rigorous and lengthy certification and training program.

According to Fr. Marty Smith, O.S.A., curator of the Augustinian Heritage Room and a gifted historian of the Order, “In 1987, while Personnel Director, Donald Reilly, O.S.A., devised a policy for how the Province would handle abuse complaints. Fr. Reilly made it clear that the Province would cooperate with police, make a move to the future now. We were top heavy with friars over 50, we had very elderly friars. Our first stab at health care was in 1970. Many of our men died in younger homes and we weren’t happy with that. We wanted them to be in community. So we took the first floor of the Monastery and made that the Health Care Center. It was like that from 1970 until 1992. And then in 1992, Fr. John Hagen did some fundraising and got donations and we took over the top floors of the wing over the dining room which were, up until that point, leased out to Villanova University. We created the Health Center on the two floors. And it was like that until 2002. It was inadequate; it wasn’t enough space in terms of rooms, it was not accessible, and it was not ideal being on two floors.” For the new Provincial and his team, the survey required immediate and detailed attention. Fr. Don turned to Dr. Bob Thornton, O.S.A., a clinical psychologist, whose practice over the years included work with abused victims, and Jim Paradis, O.S.A., Personnel Director and Counselor for the Province. Together, they completed the survey, presented it to the friars, and went on to create a full-time position at the Provincial offices for Abuse Prevention. The position, filled by Bob Thornton for the past seven years, has been instrumental in helping victims and proactively working to put a zero-tolerance policy in place for clergy and non-clergy personnel actively working with minors. This process also includes accreditation by Praesidium, an organization that specializes in protecting minors from abuse through a rigorous and lengthy certification and training program.

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And so, the candidate, who may have been elected because he didn’t know enough about the problem to make a decision, now knew what needed to be done. Shortly after Don took office, he announced that the Monastery would not only be remodeled, but everyone would have to move out for two years. “Donald felt that, as our men aged and our resources dwindled with them, we would not be able to do this in the future. It was either do something or be stuck with the facilities we had. Even today we couldn’t do what we did in 2002. That whole thing started under Don and it was controversial.”

Other decisions about the renovations were controversial as well. Fr. Don wanted to have a new chapel that would look out to the campus, instead of the small interior chapel that had been used by the friars. He wanted the dining room, a true center of friar community life, also opened up, so you could look out to the sunlight atrium and the chapel. The shift of light and openness would result in an anticipated culture change for the friars, a culture that welcomed the community to pray together each day at the 11 A.M. Mass and frequently opened up the dining room to guests of the friars, particularly at lunch.

Even before Fr. Don knew he would renovate the monastery, he knew he needed to change the perception of the Province as a wealthy foundation. He needed donors to know that a donation to an Augustinian institution or parish was not a donation to the Augustinians. Despite the fact that the Province had no serious fund-raising experience and no current day development tools, Fr. Don set out to raise 25 million dollars to fund the Monastery; the Missions in Africa, Peru and Japan; the Augustinian Volunteers; and Peace and Justice Initiatives.

According to Fr. Marty, “When Donald started Development here in his Provincialate, it was the first time we did any major fundraising since the 1960s, and it was not easy. A year earlier, the Province had asked donors for a significant amount of money, and the response was that we should keep employees and salaries the same, and we took a $750,000 cut.”

The Augustinians took no salaries. They contributed their services, so money was sent down for the men to live.”

To address the situation, Fr. Don hired Natalie Agraz, as Development Director and began a Capital Campaign with Honorary Co-Chairs Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Clay III, and Michael P. Sullivan, O.S.A.; and Honorary Spokesperson Mr. Howie Long. In 2006 Fr. Don called Charles P. Connolly, Jr., with whom he had worked on the Board of Malvern Perg. He asked Charlie to become the Chairman of a Development Council to oversee the Augustinian Fund and steer a yearly fundraising effort. Charlie and the members of the Development Council have shown extraordinary skill in fundraising and have given of themselves with passion and generosity.

The combination of support and involvement from the leadership teams and major donors, combined with those who lovingly continue to do what they can to give a few dollars, has changed the lives of so many: fruit and a daily meal for children in Africa; a new church for the Zulu community; a legacy of care and service in Peru; a health clinic for the poor in Philadelphia; a post-college program for Augustinian Volunteers to work in Augustinian missions here and abroad. For the Augustinians themselves, the continued support of the elderly friars has meant so much, to allow these dedicated men to live in community, with liturgy and prayer at its core.

The miracle of love continues to happen around the ideals brought to us all by Saint Augustine. This miracle is evident in the fact that Fr. Don has just announced that the Capital Campaign will exceed the 25 million dollar goal Fr. Don set out to raise in 2002. What seemed so unrealistic then, so impossible, stands today as a tribute to the Augustinians who go out to serve God’s people and the people who support them on their journey.

For those of us who have known the Augustinian Friars over the years, it will not surprise us that the use of the word “Prior” in the context of the Augustinian community means first among equals. And so, with a legacy that includes so much more than has been stated here, Donald F. Reilly, O.S.A., will return to the ranks, just as all Prior Provincials have done before him.

When asked where he sees himself in the future, Fr. Don answers, “I see myself sitting with Mickey talking about my next ministry.”

The Meaning of a Chapter

Sadly, Fr. John was too ill to attend the Chapter and passed over to the Lord in September, 2002.

A Chapter is a gathering of the brothers who live the common life in a particular place or places. It is a time of greeting one another in joy and love, of praising together, of sharing the work of one another, of looking at the past, evaluating the present, and moving forward to the future. It was so important to our ancestors that in larger houses there was a particular room set aside for these meetings to show their importance, like a room set aside for prayer. It is, above all, a time of grace, for we discover that the Spirit is with us and that we accomplish much because of the Spirit.

In light of our heritage, when we come together we look at ourselves and our way of life. We also look at the Church of which we are a part. In this way, most importantly, we look to our work because the Church and the world speak to us in the here and now with a prophetic spirit of challenge, looking for our response.

At a Chapter there will be a variety of opinions, solutions, and the like, because each of us is different, and each of us has our own way of observing reality. Thus, through dialogue, discussion, and prayer there is a need for the group to come together, to reach a consensus. Such does not signify that each will agree with the solution, but when the Chapter has taken a direction or adopted a program by some agreed-upon method for reaching a conclusion, for example, a vote, then the matter no longer rests with individuals and how they think about it. It becomes owned by all. All members assume ownership of the decisions legislated.

What we say to one another, what we share with one another, has no bounds or boundaries other than charity. We can and should speak about anything. However, what we deliver to the Church and to the world is that which is tempered by our prophetic witness as a fraternity, brothers with one mind and one heart on the way together to God.

Looking Back: Who Was the First Prior Provincial?

In 1874 Thomas Galberry, O.S.A. (1833-1878), was elected to serve as the first Prior Provincial of the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova. Born in County Kildare, Ireland, he entered the novitiate at Villanova, PA, and was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Neuman in 1856. The newly ordained Father Galberry first served on the mission at Saint Denis’ in Ardmore, PA (now Havertown, PA), and at Lansingsburg (Troy), NY. He later became Prior Provincial of Villanova College. During this time, the west wing of Alumni Hall was added to the original building. In 1876, he was consecrated the fourth Bishop of Hartford. Bishop Galberry was on his way to visit Villanova when he died on October 10, 1876 in New York City at the age of 45. He is buried in the Cathedral in Hartford, CT.
A GLIMPSE

LOOKING BACK
The original seal of the Order of Saint Augustine is richly depicted in stained glass from Our Mother of Consolation Parish, in Chestnut Hill, PA.

On the banner, the words Tolle Lege (Take and Read) are the words that Augustine heard when, as a young man struggling to decide whether to be baptized or not, he was prompted by God to pick up, open the scriptures and read the words from Paul’s letter to the Romans (13: 13-14), telling him to put on the Lord, Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the desires of the flesh.

Today, this graphic (left) is commonly used as the seal of the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova. Its simplified design uses only the book, the heart, the flame and the cross.
Some might assess that Fr. Mickey was the logical candidate because, as one of six Provincial Counselors to Fr. Don for the past eight years, Fr. Mickey understands the current issues, the tough decisions that need to be made to resolve problems and the intricate details of what a Prior Provincial and his Counselors need to address. This wealth of experience as a counselor, coupled with his work as a Pastor of Parish Apostolates and Preacher for the Augustinian Preaching Apostolate would likely be enough to put him over the top when the voting started. But so many Augustinians understand the workings of the Province, are religious scholars and pastoral leaders, that one could make a case for a draw in the vote.

So what led the friars to elect Mickey Genovese? To find the likely answer you need to visit the St. Thomas of Villanova Monastery, where Fr. Mickey has been assigned as Prior for the past four years. The Monastery currently houses 57 friars, with 15 of them residing on the second floor in the 24-hour Health Care Center. The Monastery is a small city, impossibly kept, with computer networks, a 12-member healthcare team, a chapel that has Morning and Evening Prayers, and a Daily Mass. It also has a kitchen staff that cooks meals for friars in residence and friars from the campus of Villanova University.

It’s rare to enter the building without seeing Fr. Mickey somewhere, putting a battery in a remote control for an elderly friar, joyously attending concerts by students from Malvern Prep and Notre Dame or his beloved children from the St. Thomas of Villanova pre-school program, or meeting with Alenka Hocevar, the Director of Nursing at the Health Care Center.

Perhaps the true answer to “why now?” can be found in what Alenka says when asked about Fr. Mickey. “He really truly has been so devoted to this place, devoted to every man individually, he solves their problems individually and he gives them time, and the men love that. He takes care of every angle of their life. He would sit here all night if he had to with the men when they are dying. He will come in during the night and sit down with them, pray with them and just sit there silently and he present to them. That just shows you his commitment to them. Sometimes I ask if he ever sleeps, because he’s here at 2 or 3 A.M. Nothing else matters when it comes to the men.”

“He sees every man individually, he hits their problems individually, he solves their problems individually and he gives them time, and the men love that. He takes care of every angle of their life. He would sit here all night if he has to with the men when they are dying. He will come in during the night and sit down with them, pray with them and just sit there silently and he present to them. That just shows you his commitment to them. Sometimes I ask if he ever sleeps, because he’s here at 2 or 3 A.M. Nothing else matters when it comes to the men.”

And he is big on the St. Thomas pre-school kids. He truly loves those kids. Kids bring a lot of love to the other men too and the events with kids have the largest attendance. The first thing Fr. Mickey did after the election was to write to the friars, expressing 6 key issues for his administration, all geared to share the message of God’s love: Vocation/ Formation; Augustinian Spirituality; Education; Stewardship; Protection of Children and Wellness; and Communication.

Going into the Provincial Chapter, the only known and confirmed member of the next administration is the Prior Provincial-elect. During the Provincial Chapter, the Provincial-elect nominates candidates for the Treasurer, the Secretary and the six Provincial Counselors who want on his team. These nominees need to be voted upon by the friars, and, only then, will the selections be confirmed.

The second thing Fr. Mickey did was to travel around the province as Prior Provincial-elect to personally speak with as many friars as possible. He was the first Provincial-elect to travel to meet with friars prior to his installation. Now every friar is one of his “guys” and it is clear that his dedication, loyalty and love will put the friars and his staff front and center, while expecting the best of them.

I think it is safe to say that the last line in Fr. Mickey’s first letter to the friars is something he would ask of us all: “Please keep me in your prayers that my service to you will help you to continue to know that God loves you.” Amen, Fr. Mickey, Amen.

Looking Forward: Who is the new Provincial Leadership Team?

By Teddie Gallagher

Fr. Anthony Genovese, commonly known as Fr. Mickey, was in his 37th year as an Augustinian priest when he stepped up as a candidate for Prior Provincial for the first time. The 63-year old Genovese ran with a group of three other friars, all younger than he. As is the custom, the candidates travelled around the Province prior to the election, answering tough questions from friars. The rule: one man, one vote, where a simple majority is needed to become the Prior Provincial. When the voting was over, Fr. Mickey had an overwhelming majority, a resounding mandate from the friars to take over the leadership of the Province. So why did the friars give Fr. Mickey the job? And, why now?
Relationship, with all its brokenness, all its pains, all its joys; we call it community. The church taught me, couples taught me that you make a decision to love no matter what. That's relationship. And it's a journey, not a quick trip; forgiveness is key, hospitality, presence, taking responsibility, love and heart. That's what I bring.

NA: The Augustinians will continue to face many of the same challenges other Orders face, declining numbers and increasing retirements. What are your thoughts on how to best keep the spirit and ministries of the Province not only surviving but thriving?

MG: Augustinian spirituality will be a theme of my Provincial administration. Fr. Reilly started it, and we need a Provincial who can continue to move Augustinian spirituality out into the light and invite people to join in the work of the Augustinians in this spirit. And people shouldn't have to come to Villanova for it. I would like to get our friars, who are good teachers, to go out to different regions of the Province and share Augustinian spirituality with those in ministry, bring it back into the forefront, so they can share with those to whom they minister. Augustine has what our hearts yearn for; what he searched for in his modern world. His search is our search. In his world he had money, position in life; relationships that weren't growing, and nothing satisfied. The spirit was calling him and until he answered the call there was no peace. It's this spirit I hope to build on. I really want to build on what Fr. Don did. I'll bring my own style to it, but we will continue to move it forward. It will be a continuation. It's a conversion of the heart.

NA: We currently have seven men in formation for the priesthood. How will their experience of priestly ministry compare with how you and your peers approached ministry?

MG: When I was a young priest, you did your house job, went to class and then prayer and that was the way it was for a long, long time. Now in the formation houses that I visit there is more of an emphasis on community. It's community life and you're called to be in relationship with one another.

NA: In your mind, how have the changes of the past five years impacted the Province? How do you expect them to continue to impact the Province?

MG: I want the friars to do what they want to do, they serve best that way. But with those in formation as well as the friars, I'm looking for their hearts, not their time, not their ability to produce income, I want their hearts. They bring their very life to the community, and you're called to be in relationship with one another.

NA: Back in the day I've heard that you weren't given much of a choice in terms of ministry. You had to do what you were told, be it get a doctorate, or do parish work, you responded to what was needed. Has that changed?

MG: I want the friars to do what they want to do, they serve best that way. But with those in formation as well as the friars, I'm looking for their hearts, not their time, not their ability to produce income, I want their hearts. They bring their very life to the community and I want them to be involved, be productive, but to do it with heart. I'm choosing to visit most friars before my installation. I won't get to Peru, South Africa or Japan before that but I will visit most of those here and that's never been done before. I really want to tell my brothers that I care about them, and that I want their hearts. People are always talking about numbers, it's about the heart. And again it's about relationships and the numbers will follow.

NA: Anything else you would like to share with us?

MG: I would just like to thank everyone for their generosity, thank them for taking care of my brothers. The monastery community is keenly aware that we could not survive without them. And I would also like to thank everyone for all the kindness they've shown to us, for opening their hearts to us. It's very cherished.
When Alex Wolfington met Lois Carita in the parking lot after Mass in October of 2008, she invited him to a planning meeting for the 125th anniversary of Our Mother of Good Counsel Parish. Alex thought he was being invited to a party. Instead, Alex and Lois would spearhead a serious process, worthy of a Fortune 500 company, to find common ground among their parishioners, to envision the future of their parish, to dare to dream, dare to explore, dare to become. Holy Daring.

The lofty goals of the members of Our Mother of Good Counsel Church, an Augustinian Parish in Bryn Mawr, PA, are this: they want to celebrate their 125th anniversary with year-long events, but, more importantly, they want to set a path to ensure that the parish community is vibrant now, 10 years from now, and 125 years from now.

To do this, Alex Wolfington suggested they hire InSyte Partners, a strategy and leadership consulting firm owned by St. Thomas of Villanova parishioner Marie McCormick, MBA, Ph.D., and Liz Alperin Solms, MPA. With the blessings of their pastor, Fr. Jim Martinez, O.S.A., and the backing of the Parish Council, led by Lois Carita, the “Strategic Visioning Leadership Team” began working with Marie and Liz to envision the future of Our Mother of Good Counsel Parish and express that vision as part of the 125th Anniversary celebration and beyond.

The first step entailed preparing the 12-member Strategic Visionary Leadership Team for their role as leaders in the process, to articulate the future that “wants to happen.” Marie and Liz used a technique called a Mind Map, to chart feelings, points-of-views, interests and concerns of the group, that starts as a large piece of paper tacked to a wall. Thoughts and feelings are written on the map in spokes radiating from the center. When all thoughts are on the map, members vote on what they see as important by applying colored dots to the map.

The next steps for the leadership team were a series of learning journeys, targeted field trips to uncover what other organizations are doing, to learn from them. All in all, the group experienced two dozen journeys. “We learned something terrific from each one,” says Alex, “We’re learning-journey junkies.” The group went to Mass at other Catholic parishes. They visited a Presbyterian church, a Synagogue, a Public High School, Upper Darby Summer Stage, The Attic Youth Center, and Youth Build Philadelphia Charter School, to name a few.

The Visionary team talked about relationships and how best to handle discussion from a broad range of people on topics that might have a broad range of views. They sought advice from Dr. Stephen Treat, Director and CEO for the Council for Relationships. Dr. Treat suggested the team think about Programmatic Thinking, where there is no correct or incorrect thinking, where beliefs are differentiated, but where each view is respected.

And that’s what they did.

The next step in the process: widen the circle.

To widen the circle, a three-day Visioning Conference was planned for October 15-17, 2009, with the hope of getting 80 parishioners/stakeholders to give voice to their thoughts, to create a Mind Map, and to find common ground for action.
According to Luis Garita, “When we invited people to the conference of 110 people, we wanted to make sure we represented all areas of the parish the youth, the adults, the seniors — different points of view, and that was very evident at the conference.”

Alex continued the thought, “And a big focus on youth. We wanted as much youth input as possible and we wanted them to own whatever the outcomes were.” Luis added, “Absolutely, they were very active in the dialogue, very inspiring to the rest of us.”

Deanna King, a senior at Lower Merion High School and co-chair of the OMGC Youth Group, concurs: “The adults who were at the conference were very appreciative that we were there and glad that we were able to voice our opinions. They were listening to us, and it was good to see that they know we are the future.”

And so it was, that over 90 parishioners attended the visioning conference. Marie and Liz from InSyte Partners led the sessions, created another Mind Map, explained that the participants were there to propose action and stay open to hearing all voices.

The small group discussions led to big ideas. The first outcome from the discussion — the Mind Map — was the common ground. The second was to produce and craft bold vision statements. Here are those statements:

OVERALL VISION: HOLY DARING
Celebrating Ourselves, Envisioning Ourselves: Dare to Dream, Dare to Explore, Dare to Become

At the end of the conference, the 80-member cross-section of the parish had come together, achieved a common vision, laid the groundwork for action to kick-off their 125th anniversary year and created plans to direct their common future as a parish.

The reaction of those who attended the conference was a mix of pride and disbelief at what they had been able to achieve. Pastor Fr. Jim Martinez, O.S.A.: “It was amazing to see the energy, the passion, the ideas that were presented. It was like giving us three days of their time, dared people to take risks in setting goals.” His greatest surprise? “They came!”

Deanna King recalls, “At first, I was questioning what could I do there. But then, when I got there, it was amazing how I could share my opinion in the small group, then share our group’s ideas with the larger group. That became our statement and our big ideas, I’m really glad that I went.”

Fr. Dennis McGowan addressed the group, assuring them that the Visioning Conference had not come to specific decisions; instead, they had created a framework for the seven areas of action.

“What we’re looking for today is to be able to engage with you to mold our future together … and to have Holy Daring to carry it out.”

Liz Alperin Solms told the group, “We want to be a community of the ‘holy daring’ that dares to be Jesus’ voice and hands. We want to be a community of the ‘holy daring’ that dares to be Jesus’ voice and hands.”

To teenager Deanna King, “Holy Daring is to not be afraid to show your faith and to believe in it, to be able to speak to others confidently about what you believe, not fearing what anyone else would say.”

One parishioner stood up and said Holy Daring was remaining faithful to the Magisterium of the church. Another quickly followed saying Holy Daring was remaining faithful to the Magisterium of the church, but questioning it with an open heart.

To teenager Deanna King, “Holy Daring is to not be afraid to show your faith and to believe in it, to be able to speak to others confidently about what you believe, not fearing what anyone else would say.”

To Fr. Jim Martinez, “The ultimate dare is to take Christ as best as we can into society… to live in community, to be a call for everyone.”

THE AUSTRIAN AUGUSTINIAN

FIFTEEN STAINED-GLASS WINDOWS IN OMGC CHURCH COST $3,630.17, AND WERE MADE IN INNSBRUCK, AUSTRIA BY TIROLER GLASMALEREI. … AND VIENNA. THERE WERE ALSO AFFILIATED SHOPS IN NEW YORK AND CHICAGO. TSA HAS THE GREAT COMPETITION FOR TIFFANY.

DEANNA KING ATTENDED THE 3-DAY CONFERENCE. “I’M REALLY GLAD THAT I WENT.”

IT’S TIME FOR HOLY DARING!
Four Men Join the Augustinian Discernment Program at Casa Agustín

On March 13th, 2010, four young men joined the Augustinian discernment program Casa Agustín in Miami Gardens, Florida. The welcome ceremony was presided by the Prior Provincial Donald F. Reilly, O.S.A. The new members are: Anthony Veiga, from Ruscon in Havana, Cuba; Daidon Lacedet, from Guabar, Cuba; Emilio Núñez from Santiago, Cuba; and Walberto Colón from Ponce, Puerto Rico. Casa Agustín is a house of discernment for Spanish speaking Hispanic/Latino men discerning their vocation with the Augustinians. For further information call 305.474.0576 or email vocaciones@losagustinos.org

Augustinian Lay Congress 2012

The International Commission for the Laity met in Rome from 20 - 22 of November, 2009 including Fr. Gary N. McCloskey, O.S.A., who replaced Joseph Narog, O.S.A., as a member. The Commission met with the lay representatives (LAR) elected at the Lay Congress 2006, as well as other representatives (Spanish, Italian, American, Maltese, Dutch, Australian and Slovaks) to discuss themes, expectations etc., with regard to the next Augustinian Lay Congress in 2012 and also to share information about initiatives in each country.

Augustinian Lay Congress 2012

Change of Augustinians on the Villanova Board of Trustees

William T. Garland, O.S.A., has stepped down as a Villanova Board member after two five-year terms. Congratulations to Fr. Bill on his decade of dedication and service to Villanova University. Paul W. Galetto, O.S.A., has been elected to the Villanova Board to fill the seat vacated by Fr. Bill.

Augustinian Seculars Profess Promises

On Sunday, October 25, 2009, fifteen members of the Friends of Augustine Group of the St. Katherine Drexel Catholic Community of Cape Coral, Florida, professed their promises as Augustinian Seculars at the 10:30 Mass. Fr. Gary N. McCloskey, O.S.A., received the promises on behalf of the Order. At the same Mass three more members began their time of formation as Augustinian Seculars. Bill O’Connor represented the other Augustinian Seculars in the Province.

The new Augustinian Seculars are: Jean Cerabona, Dennis Delikat, Ann Friga, Teri Idler, Rose Midgrett, Barbara Monarchio, James Monarchio, Joseph Pescatrice, Robert Plazewski, Rosetta Plazewski, Yvonne Saiya, Sal Saiya, Russell Summerston, Geraldine Summerston and Lori Thorn.

Merrimack Announces a New President

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of Merrimack College, Chairman Dr. Laurence M. Demers recently announced the selection of Christopher Hopy, Ph.D. as the next president of Merrimack College. He will start the position on July 1, 2010. Dr. Hopy comes to Merrimack College 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. Hopy 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. The Augustinians welcome and congratulate Dr. Hopy on his new position.

The Dedication of a New Seminary Wing in Peru

On Sunday, March 7th, 2010, the new wing of the Holy Trinity Seminary in Chulucanas, Peru, was dedicated by Bishop Don Turley, O.S.A., of the Chicago Province. This addition was made possible by a grant from the Papal Foundation which was written by our Development Council member, Mary Ellen Maggitti. Mary Ellen, Jim O’Connor, Anthony Dellelce, Natalie Agraz, Larry Legner and Terry Sonna attended the dedication. All members of the group were close friends of Richard D. Appucci, O.S.A. (1926-2007), who spent 20 years of his life in Chulucanas. The group spent several days viewing the improvements made under Fr. Appucci’s direction, projects done by Villanova’s Christian Service ministry, Malvern Prep’s Senior Service projects, and the Augustinian Volunteers. Pictured above: Jim O’Connor, Mary Ellen Maggitti, Larry Legner, Anthony Dellelce, and Bishop Dan Turley, O.S.A.

Peruvian Augustinian Ordained to the Priesthood

Fr. Isos Dominguez, O.S.A., was ordained to the priesthood on November 11, 2009 at the Augustinian parish of St. Isidore in Morropon, Peru. The ordaining bishop was Bishop Daniel Turley, O.S.A., Bishop of Chulucanas, Peru, of the Chicago Province. Fr. Dominguez is from the Augustinian mission of St. Dominic, in the town of Santo Domingo. The friars who served in the mission parish were a tremendous influence on his decision to enter the Augustinian Order and to be ordained a priest. It is through the generous support of benefactors that we are able to maintain our Formation program in Peru and Japan bringing new life to the Church through young native friars and priests.

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Suspicious Fire at St. Nicholas of Tolentine, Bronx, NY

An intense two-alarm fire, that started in a storage room in the vestibule of St. Nicholas of Tolentine on March 5th, is still under investigation, but Fr. Joseph Girone, O.S.A., pastor, has no doubt that the fire was caused by arson. As to the toll of damages, Fr. Joe, says “I don’t have any figures, but I would say a million dollars or over. Nothing that was destroyed is irreplaceable; all will be restored as it was using the same materials as best as possible. The fire has made it imperative that the parish move on some projects in the church that will not be covered by insurance. The response... is disbelief that someone could have done something to the church... they take it personally since it is their church. This is the case for present parishioners as well as past. People want to know when they will be able to return as they are used to seeing the doors to the church open during the day and on weekends. We live in exile. As for me and my emotions—well that’s another whole story.”

Students from Saint Augustine’s Prep visited the UN on Feb.24.

Augustinian Volunteer Brian Roe, who is working part time with Fr. Jack Deegan, O.S.A., on the O.S.A./Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), helped to arrange the February 24th visit and gave a talk to the students on the Augustinian presence at the UN.

New Book About Saint Augustine by Merrimack Professor

Joseph T. Kelley, Ph.D., describes his new book, “Saint Augustine of Hippo, Selections from Confessions and Other Essential Writings: Annotated & Explained,” as an introductory anthology intended to give non-scholars access to Augustine’s life and thought. Mr. Kelley is founder of the Center for Augustinian Study and Legacy, and associate professor in religious and theological studies, and former provost at Merrimack College in North Andover, MA. He is also a board member of the Augustinian Heritage Institute, Villanova, PA. More info at: www.skylightpaths.com.

New CD from renowned Augustinian pianist, Denis Wilde, O.S.A.

Fr. Denis Wilde, O.S.A., pianist and Associate Director of Prions for Life, received his Ph.D. in music theory from The Catholic University of America (1984) and has been active as a choral director, pianist, and organist, giving performances in 5 continents throughout many years of priesthood as associate professor at Villanova University. Here he draws on the piano repertoire of the Romantic Period, including piano classics of Grieg, Beethoven, Liszt, Debussy, Chopin, Gershwin. The CD was recorded at Saint Thomas of Villanova Church, Villanova, PA. It is available at http://www.priestsforlife.org/store/c-30-audio-cds.aspx.

New Music from “Augustinian Friends”

“Be Still,” a new CD from “Augustinian Friends” is set to be released in fall 2010. All proceeds will benefit the Augustinians Missions.

Sanctuary Plans Podcasts for summer and beyond…

“SEEDCAST,” Sanctuary’s podcast offering for Lent 2010, met with great success, drawing listeners from the US and beyond with seasonal material based on other recordings, new music, live recordings and other creative digital projects. Information about Sanctuary, recordings, podcasts and performances can be found at www.sanctuary.villanova.edu.

St. Helen’s Parish – New Home for 300 Zulu families to Worship

After many years of prayer, hard work and the leadership and generosity of North American benefactors, in particular Mr. and Mrs. Randy Thummon and Mr. and Mrs. John Kennedy, the dream of the Zulu community in South Africa was finally realized on Sunday, February 14, 2010, as Cardinal Wilfrid Napier, O.F.M., Archbishop of Durban, consecrated the new church of St. Helen’s in Ekwetheni, South Africa. Over 700 people were in attendance, some spilling over to the outdoor verandah. The cardinal and the chief (i.e. the Inkosi) each received a live goat and a ceremonial blanket. The cardinal even received a Zulu headband and staff, which, in a very kindly spirit, he put on as he sat in front of the altar once the Mass ended! Present also were the Augustinian Volunteers serving in South Africa and many parishioners from Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Kloof.

“Sidewalk Sam” comes to Merrimack College

“Sidewalk Sam,” the renowned artist, who creates art at the feet of pedestrians, was the featured guest during Merrimack’s first annual Blue, Gold and Green Festival. Known for participatory sidewalk art initiatives to raise awareness, “Sidewalk Sam” recruited students, faculty and staff to create a chalk vine throughout the paved areas of the campus. Participants then wrote environmental messages on the leaves.

The event was organized by Merrimack’s Campus Sustainability Initiative and student-led Green Team.

Stay on top of news and events from the Augustinian world – sign up for Augustinian eNews at www.augustinian.org.
The Visionaries is a PBS series, hosted by Sam Waterston, that crafts the stories of non-profits who take a stand for people and the planet. Now in their 16th season, the film company has selected the Augustinians of the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova, to tell the story of Augustinian Friars and their initiatives in downtown Philadelphia and South Africa.

Producer/Director, Jody Santos, an award-winning author, journalist and documentary filmmaker, along with Director of Photography, Bruce Lundeen, and Audio Engineer/Associate Producer, Ashley Bishop, filmed the episode on location in March of 2010. The result is a powerful documentary that captures the stories of lives that have been touched and changed through the work of the Augustinians, Augustinian Volunteers, Alumni from The Villanova School of Nursing and Augustinian benefactors.

Photos on these pages capture Jody and her crew at work.

The 30-minute documentary is scheduled to be up on satellite on July 18th, available for airings on PBS stations for the next two years. See www.augustinian.org for airtimes in your area.

Also, special airings are being planned for next fall. If you would like information about these events, please contact communications@augustinian.org.

This program is underwritten by Halloran Philanthropies and Lavin, O’Neil, Ricci, Celfone & DeBique. We are most grateful for their generosity and support.
The beautiful quote from the Swedish diplomat aptly sums up the fundraising efforts of the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova for the past eight years and the confidence with which we look forward to our future. In 2002 the newly appointed Provincial Council took a hard look at the needs of the Province and decided to launch its first fundraising effort in over 40 years. St. Thomas Monastery, on the campus of Villanova University, was over 100 years old and badly needed a massive renovation. The ministries of the Province needed additional assistance to continue to thrive. We asked you, our friends, to Embrace the Future with us and you responded. The accomplishments of that campaign have been many:

- The Monastery received a complete renovation and now houses 57 friars. The entire second floor is a medical suite where our infirm friars receive professional nursing care 24/7.
- The Richard Appicci Endowment for the Augustinian Missions has been set up to sustain our foreign missions in Japan, Costa Rica, Chad, Cameroon, and Peru. These young men and women have touched thousands of lives in schools, clinics, housing projects, orphanages, and homeless shelters.
- 69 young men have entered the seminary in Trujillo, Peru. Four wells have been dug in Chulucanas, computers have been placed in the elementary school, wheelchairs, walkers, eyeglasses and medicines have been donated to the clinic, and scholarships have been offered to enable poor students to attend trade schools.
- 203 Augustinian Volunteers have experienced the Augustinian Community way of life by serving with Augustinians in San Diego, CA; Chicago, IL; Houston, TX; Philadelphia, PA; Camden, NJ; Bronx, NY; Lawrence, MA; San Gimignano, Italy; Chulucanas, Peru, and Durban, South Africa. These young men and women have touched thousands of lives in schools, clinics, housing projects, orphanages, and homeless shelters.

In 2006 we launched our first annual appeal, the Augustinian Fund, and invited you to...be part of something powerful. The annual appeal gave the Province immediate funds to be used for day-to-day expenses. We added prison ministries and Augustinian Defenders of the Rights of the Poor (ADROP) to the outreach efforts of the Province. Friars minister to inmates in the Chester County Prisons and the Philadelphia Prison system, and run Acodatus, a support group for those recently released from prison. ADROP sponsors the Unity Clinic offering medical services to the immigrants and indigents in downtown Philadelphia in collaboration with the University of Pennsylvania and the Villanova School of Nursing. A legal clinic, ESL classes and a tutoring program are also offered. We are humbled by the support we have received; you have helped us achieve extraordinary things.

Our initial fund raising goal was $25,000,000.00. The past eight years have yielded a total of $25,683,490.

Thank you.
the prayer garden of
ST. THOMAS OF VILLANOVA

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

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

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

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO:
www.augustinian.org/brick.htm

OR CALL:
610-527-3330 Ext. 221