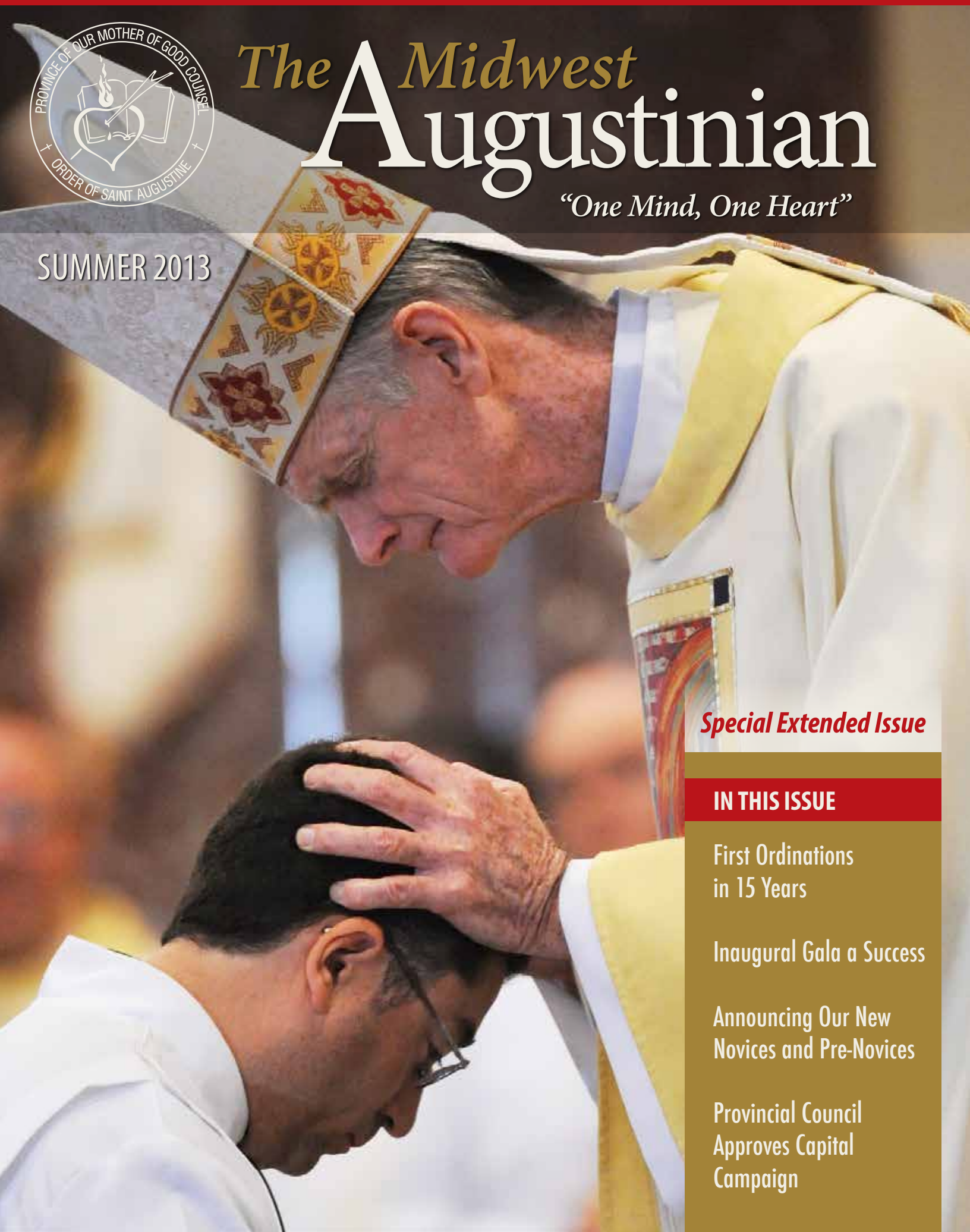
The Midwest Augustinian

"One Mind, One Heart"

SUMMER 2013



Special Extended Issue

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First Ordinations in 15 Years

Inaugural Gala a Success

Announcing Our New Novices and Pre-Novices

Provincial Council Approves Capital Campaign

LETTER FROM THE PRIOR PROVINCIAL

DEAR FRIENDS OF THE AUGUSTINIANS,

I hope you are enjoying your summer and finding some time to relax, refresh and renew yourself. The Augustinians had a wonderful week of retreat at Mundelein Seminary in Northern Illinois. We had inspirational talks by Sr. Dianne Bergant, C.S.A. who many of us had as a teacher at Catholic Theological Union. We also had wonderful moments of prayer and fraternity. A few of us watched a triple overtime hockey game when the Chicago Blackhawks defeated the Boston Bruins on their way to the Stanley Cup!

This spring was filled with joyous events in our Province! The Inaugural Gala was a great success. You will see many pictures and stories in this newsletter on this event. We plan to have another Gala on Friday, April 25, 2014 so please mark your calendars now!

We also celebrated the ordination of two young men to the priesthood—Fr. Robert Basler, O.S.A. and Fr. Homero Sánchez, O.S.A. The Augustinians of the Californian Province also ordained two men, and the Villanova Province ordained one. This makes five new Augustinians ordained in the past year alone. This is the most ordained in over twenty years! We also have many more young men professing vows and entering our formation programs. We are truly experiencing a rebirth! Please continue to pray for these young men and for others discerning our way of life.

I will be heading to Rome along with delegates from our Province, Fr. Tom McCarthy, O.S.A. and Fr. John Merkelis, O.S.A., for our General Chapter beginning August 28, the Feast of St. Augustine. It is at this meeting that we will elect a new Prior General and set the program for the next six years for our Order. Please join me in thanking Fr. Bob Prevost, O.S.A, a member of our Province, for his twelve years of faithful service as our Prior General.

May God Bless you and your loved ones. May He continue to bless our Province, our Order, our Country and our Church!

Sincerely in Christ and St. Augustine,

Fr. Bernie

Very Rev. Bernard C. Scianna, O.S.A., Ph.D.
Prior Provincial of the Midwest Augustinians

COVER PHOTO
Bishop Dan Turley, O.S.A. ordains Robert Basler, O.S.A. to the priesthood on June 8 at St. Rita Parish, Chicago

THE MIDWEST AUGUSTINIAN
SUMMER 2013

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Two Augustinians Ordained Priests

CHICAGO, IL: Frs. Robert Basler, O.S.A. and Homero Sánchez, O.S.A. are the first Augustinians to be ordained priests in the Midwest in 15 years

A new spirit of life, hope, and joy has entered the hearts of our Augustinian Order and Province. After 15 years without any ordinations to the priesthood, we are happy to announce that we have ordained two young men as priests this past June 8: Rev. Robert Basler, O.S.A. and Rev. Homero Sánchez, O.S.A.

Held at St. Rita of Cascia Parish in Chicago, Illinois, Bishop Daniel Turely, O.S.A. arrived from his Diocese of Chulucanas in Peru to ordain both men on this momentous occasion. In his homily, Bishop Dan noted that "Jesus is so close to us. He's all around us, and there are so many that need Him." He encouraged the two newly ordained to especially continue devoting themselves to prayer and service to the Church, so that they may be servants to those in need. He also reiterated how their vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience would guide them in their journey toward God. Hundreds joined in prayer during this Mass and the following reception.

The following day, both of our new priests celebrated their first Masses as the Principal Celebrant. Fr. Basler celebrated his Mass in his home parish of St. Irenaeus in Park Forest, Illinois, located in the Archdiocese of Chicago. Fr. Sánchez celebrated his at St. Rita Parish in Chicago. Beginning July 1, Fr. Basler begins his assignment at St. Turibius Parish in Chicago; Fr. Sánchez begins his at St. Jude Parish in New Lenox, in the Diocese of Joliet. We ask for the continued prayers of our Augustinian family as they begin their new paths.

Fr. Rich Young, O.S.A. leads music during ordinations

Prior General Robert Prevost, O.S.A. vests Fr. Homero Sánchez, O.S.A. in his priestly vestments

Bishop Dan Turley, O.S.A. celebrates the Eucharist after ordaining our new priests

TO SEE MORE PHOTOS FROM THE ORDINATIONS AND OUR NEW PRIESTS' FIRST MASSES, PLEASE VISIT: www.midwestaugustinians.org/photos

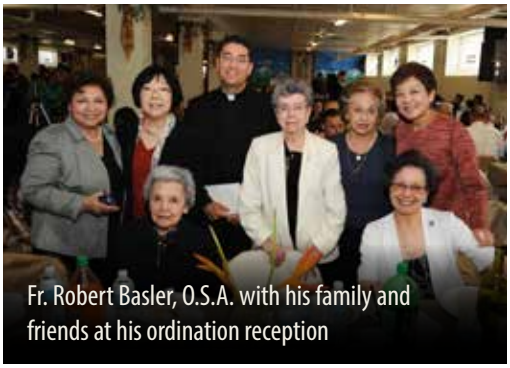
Fr. Bill Sullivan, O.S.A. congratulates Fr. Homero, who joins him in parish ministry at St. Jude's in New Lenox, IL

Fr. Robert Basler, O.S.A. blesses friends and parishioners following ordination

Fr. Homero Sánchez, O.S.A. greets and blesses one of many after ordination

Our newest Augustinian priests cut the cakes at their ordination reception

Frs. David Vargas, O.S.A. (center left) and Homero Sánchez, O.S.A. with some volunteers from St. Rita Parish

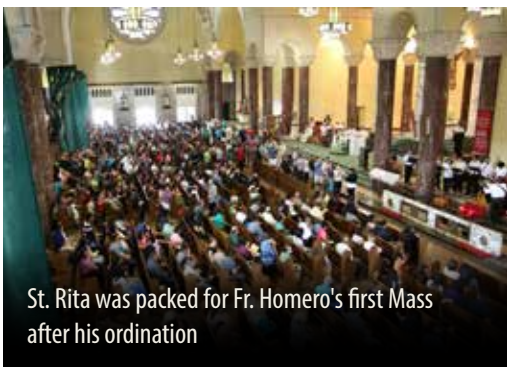


Fr. Robert Basler, O.S.A. with his family and friends at his ordination reception

Fr. Robert Basler, O.S.A. blessing the Holy Eucharist during his first Mass

Fr. Robert Basler, O.S.A. celebrates his first Mass at St. Irenaeus in Park Forest, IL

Fr. Robert Basler, O.S.A. with local parishioners after his first Mass



St. Rita was packed for Fr. Homero's first Mass after his ordination

Fr. Homero blesses Brother Bienvenido Rodgríguez, O.S.A., after first Mass

Watch a video recap of the Ordination Mass online! Visit www.midwestaugustinians.org/news/ordination-video

How I Found the Augustinians

By Rev. Homero Sánchez, O.S.A.

Not long ago, before my ordination on June 8 at St. Rita Parish in Chicago, someone came up to me and asked, "How do you know if you are making the right decision to follow Christ in such a committed way?" This is the most difficult question I've ever had been asked, and it is not the only time I have been asked it. In my own reflections, I have asked myself that if the choice to follow Christ is the greatest and most important priority to me, is it really what I want to do the rest of my life?

My response was: "Right now, I am totally sure that I want to give my life to Christ in the community of the Augustinian Order. I want to search for Christ with my brothers so that He may guide our communal life toward the single purpose of knowing Him, knowing that He is always by our side, and that He is with the needy, sick, lonely, sad, and helpless. I want to share the miracle of His presence in the sacraments and want to work toward creating His Kingdom on Earth."

How do I know if I'm doing the right thing? After living in community since I was 15 and after being a part of the Order for more than seven years since my novitiate in 2005, I believe I can say that because of my love of my vocation and the call I have felt to live in community, this complete surrender to Christ is authentic.

I remember when I was in high school, there were plenty of different paths of life that I was interested in. Living in Aguascalientes, Mexico was wonderful: they had a major respect for the Eucharist and Christ's presence was ongoing and constant. There were plenty of career options that interested me throughout, but there was still a gap that was only filled by living with the Augustinians.

Later in 2004 in Guadalajara, Mexico, I heard a call to follow a Christ who was hiding in the poorest of countries, in the small and imprisoned. A Christ who is shown to the world through the simplest ways, and the most humble ways I found were characterized in the saints of the Augustinian Order.

The Novitiate was the most intense period of my spiritual journey: praying and working together was a constant activity. The dedication to reading, and falling in love with, the history of the Augustinian Order is what now makes me so proud to be part of this community where God has called me.

In 2005, I made my first vows of chastity, poverty, and obedience, symbolizing my temporary surrender to God, with an annual renewal for the next five years. In 2010, I made my definitive consecration to God in the Augustinian Order by professing my solemn vows. I had then discovered the meaning of an Order, when I was invited to join the Midwest Province of the United States, where I was welcomed with open hearts and arms by my brothers. I have since found great examples of our charisms in our missions in Peru, where the spirit of Augustinian fraternity is alive and present. The youth of our Chulucanas Vicariate of San Juan de Sahagún makes community life a priority, and the love and holiness of God among them is present.

I made a choice, and my choice was Christ. I made a choice to serve Christ among men and women, as a human being in need of the grace and mercy of God. Now more than ever, I am aware of my own frailty as a human being, and I ask God to keep me in His presence and by His side: keep my vocation to be humble and intact and to live with my brothers in the pursuit of truth with "one mind and one heart on the way to God."

Translated from Spanish by Patrick T. Murphy,
Senior Advancement Associate of the
Province of Our Mother of Good Counsel

To read Fr. Homero's original full article in Spanish, please visit www.midwestaugustinians.org/news/sanchez-articulo

Rev. Brian Barker, O.S.A. | Brother Bernard D. Cissell, O.S.A. | Brother Joseph L. Ruiz, O.S.A.

You're Invited!

Please join us to witness the First Vows to the Augustinian Order of our novices. That day we will also anticipate the Solemnity of Saint Augustine and congratulate this year's Augustinian Jubilarians.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 11 | 5:00 P.M.

Celebrating their Profession to the Augustinian Order:

75 years

Rev. Daniel J. Hartigan, O.S.A. Rev. Francis X. Lawlor, O.S.A.

60 years

Rev. Donald J. Bates, O.S.A.
Rev. Erwin J. Dodge, O.S.A. Rev. Karl A. Gersbach, O.S.A.

50 years

Rev. Jack R. Flynn, O.S.A.
Brother R. Frederick Kaiser, O.S.A. Rev. James G. Thompson, O.S.A.

40 years

Rev. Bernard R. Danber, O.S.A.
Rev. Robert F. Dueweke, O.S.A. Rev. David V. Petraitis, O.S.A.

25 years

Rev. Thomas R. McCarthy, O.S.A. Very Rev. Bernard C. Scianna, O.S.A., Ph.D.

The event will be held at:

St. Rita of Cascia High School Shrine Chapel
7740 South Western Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60615

Reception to follow.

There is no cost to attend. All friends, family, and benefactors of the Augustinians are welcome! Please RSVP to Becky Schmitt by Wednesday, August 7, 2013 at advancement@midwestaugustinians.org or 773-595-4008.

In lieu of individual gifts, please offer donations to the Augustinians by making checks payable to **Province of Our Mother of Good Counsel** for our formation program, or by visiting www.midwestaugustinians.org/donate online.

Follow the event live on Twitter!
@mwaugustinians #osavows

Inaugural Gala a Success!

CHICAGO, IL: *(from left)* Very Rev. Bernard C. Scianna, O.S.A., Ph.D., Prior Provincial, Most Rev. Daniel T. Turley, O.S.A., Bishop of Chulucanas, Peru, His Eminence Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I., Archbishop of Chicago, Most Rev. John C. McNabb, O.S.A., Bishop Emeritus of Chulucanas, Peru, and Most Rev. Robert F. Prevost, O.S.A., Prior General of the Augustinian Order

We are happy to announce that our donors have helped us to far surpass our goals for our Inaugural Gala, held at the Hyatt Regency Chicago on April 26, 2013.

When we first planned the event, one year prior, we had set goals of attracting 360 guests, 30 sponsored tables, and $100,000 in net revenue. We are pleased to announce that we surpassed every goal with 460 guests (128% of goal), 40 sponsored tables (133% of goal), and $130,000 in net revenue (130% of goal)! The evening was energetic, spiritual, and a great opportunity to reconnect with many in our Augustinian community, which included guests from five countries and thirteen states! We are particularly thankful for our Major Sponsor, Hon. Francis and Kathleen Rooney, U.S. Ambassador to the Vatican (ret.), for ensuring the success of the event with their sponsorship; you can find Ambassador Rooney's remarks on page 10. We were blessed to have Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I., Archbishop of Chicago, offer us the opening prayer and remarks. We were able to pay tribute to our three very deserving honorees: Bishops John McNabb, O.S.A. and Daniel Turley, O.S.A., and Prior General Robert Prevost, O.S.A. All three offered inspirational and humble remarks of gratitude and joy.

> *"The main reason for your coming together is to be of one mind and one heart on the way to God."*
>
> – ST. AUGUSTINE

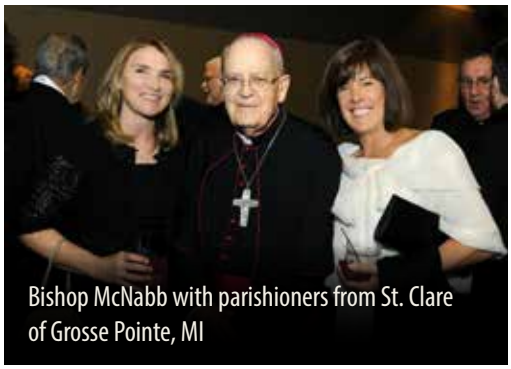
The Augustinians would also like to thank the many sponsors and advertisers that made the evening a success, and we ask that you keep them in your prayers. You can see the full listing of sponsors and advertisers on page 11. We also extend our appreciation to our Gala Committee, led by our Gala Co-Chairs, Anne Berschback and Rachel Rone; we could not have done this without you!

Bishop John McNabb, O.S.A. with his family

Fr. Bernie Scianna, O.S.A. with Gala Co-Chair Anne Berschback and Patrick Murphy

CHECK OUT THE FULL GALA PHOTO GALLERY ONLINE AT www.midwestaugustinians.org/photos

Cardinal George with Gala Co-Chair Rachel Rone and husband Bob Topor



Bishop McNabb with parishioners from St. Clare of Grosse Pointe, MI

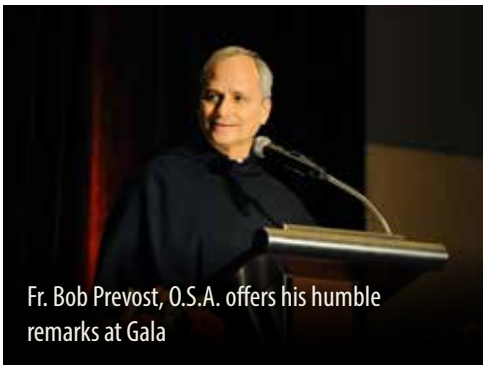
Cardinal George with Fr. Bernie Scianna, O.S.A. and parents Michael and Jean Scianna

Our friends from Providence Catholic High School in New Lenox, Illinois

Ed Schmit with family

If you would like to watch a video of Cardinal George's opening remarks, visit www.midwestaugustinians.org/news/cardinal-remarks-video

Mark Your Calendars! We are pleased to announce that we will have our next Augustinian Gala on April 25, 2014 at the Drake Hotel in downtown Chicago! This Gala will be co-chaired by Rachel Rone and Dr. Jim Foody, M.D. Details will be coming soon regarding our honorees, sponsorship opportunities and reservations. We hope you will join us!



Fr. Bob Prevost, O.S.A. offers his humble remarks at Gala

Bishop Daniel Turley, O.S.A., reunited with neice

Cardinal George with the Lauinger Family

Gala Major Sponsor's Remarks

By Hon. Francis Rooney, U.S. Ambassador to the Vatican *(ret.)*

When Fr. Bernie Scianna, O.S.A. asked us to help with this inaugural Gala, we did not have to think long about it. Being the primary sponsor of this gala is a major commitment. During many years in business and public life, Kathleen and I have been approached by many very worthy causes and charities. We cannot help all of them, and we have come to realize that as stewards of God's gifts, we must be especially judicious in choosing any significant commitment. The Augustinians truly are worthy of such a commitment.

Our association with the Augustinians spans two decades. It began with the decision to send our three children through the Augustinian school in Tulsa, Cascia Hall. We were very impressed with the quality of the education and the integrity and character of the Augustinians. As we witnessed our dear children blossom and mature at Cascia Hall, our commitment to them grew in proportion. I accepted a request to serve on the Cascia Hall Board of Directors, and later agreed to serve as Chairman of that Board. It was service I was proud to render. In 2005, I was appointed by President George W. Bush to be the U.S. Ambassador to the Vatican. This appointment allowed me to continue my relationship with the Augustinians through their Prior General, Fr. Robert Prevost, O.S.A., whom I am pleased to see is one of the Gala's three very deserving honorees. After returning from Rome, the Augustinians paid me the great honor of Affiliation to the Order.

So like many of you here tonight, I am here with Kathleen to recognize, to thank, and to help support these great honorees and all the Augustinians. Like many of you, our lives have been enriched and changed for the good by the fine efforts of the Augustinians. I am sure you will agree that the world today simply does not have enough good people doing their very best every day to make the world a kinder, wiser, more responsible, and more loving place for all of us. The service, sacrifices and works of the Augustinians do just that. It is such a great pleasure to sponsor this inaugural Gala and to join with all of you in congratulating our three incredibly deserving honorees who all together have given well over 100 years of life in self-service to mankind.

Kathleen and I encourage everyone to keep the Augustinians in their prayers, and to keep the Augustinians in their prayers, and to support their great works and mission through contributions of time, talent and treasure. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Francis Rooney
United States Ambassador to the Vatican (Ret.)

Thank You to our Gala Sponsors!

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The Family of Michael J. O'Connor, O.S.A., *in Honor of Bishop John C. McNabb, O.S.A., Bishop Daniel T. Turley, O.S.A., and Most Rev. Robert F. Prevost, O.S.A.*
The Pat O'Connor Family, *in Honor of Fr. David Brecht, O.S.A., and the Tolentine Class of 1973, 40th Anniversary*
Bob Olson, *In Honor of Leo & Helen Hennessy*
St. Augustine High School Seminary Class of 1968, *in Honor of Fr. Charlie Bodden, O.S.A.*
St. Clare of Montefalco Parish, Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan, *in Honor of All the Augustinian Priests that Served at St. Clare, Grosse Pointe*
Mike and Sheila Sise, *in Memory of Fr. Tom Martin, O.S.A. and in Honor of Fr. Daniel Hartigan, O.S.A. and Fr. William Sullivan, O.S.A.*
Turk's Table, *in Honor of Rev. Ronald Turcich, O.S.A.*

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MORROPÓN, PERU: Rev. Isaías Jiménez, O.S.A. celebrates Mass at a small chapel within the parish boundaries of St. Isidore, an Augustinian mission parish

Image of St. Isidore the Laborer, Patron Saint of Farmers. The Augustinians founded the parish "Parroquia San Isidro" (St. Isidore Parish) when first beginning missionary work in Peru in the 1960s.

AUGUSTINIAN MISSIONS:

Celebrating Our Mother Mary and St. Isidore in Peru

By Rev. Wilder Vásquez, O.S.A., *Pastor of St. Isidore Parish, an Augustinian Mission in Northern Peru*

During the month of May, we have reflected on the phrase, "With Maria and St. Isidore, we celebrate life and live reconciliation!" To emphasize the beliefs of this phrase, I thought it would be best to write to my faithful parish community. Here is my letter to the parish, which I also now share to our benefactors in the United States and Canada:

In this month of May, I am joining the deep faith of our people in this small town, so that we can happily celebrate these festivities of the month that surrounds the images of our Virgin Mary: in our households, small meetings, and in our local communities. We find these festivities in the visits of our missionaries into our parishioners' homes, the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima, this Mother's Day, the Feast of our Parish's Patron St. Isidore the Laborer, the great Feast of Pentecost, and at the end of the month, the Feast of the Visitation of the Virgin Mary.

At this time, I invite all of you to join together to honor this great Saint of our Church with our brothers and sisters, many who are farmers, and all the people of Morropón, Peru. As we all know, St. Isidore was a laborer of the land. Without forgetting to tend to his daily farm chores, he attended Mass daily before his work. And thanks be to the marvelous work of God, the Lord sent two angels to plow the ground, while Isidore prayed at Church.

My dear brothers and sisters, we demonstrate our faith and our love for our Patron Saint, who intercedes to the Lord

A small community gathering organized by lay leaders to discuss the life of St. Isidore the Laborer

Celebrating 50 Years in Peru

on our behalf, and united, we mark this great celebration in his honor. Morropón is a fertile land for agriculture and a land of great men working as sustenance farmers to bring crops to their families and to other households. I ask God that this Feast bring us closer in dialogue, in reconciliation with God and our neighbor, and in respect, love, justice, and happiness for everyone. I ask that we make it a priority for our siblings, families, local businesses, and our whole society that we act as agents of reconciliation, and be able to realize our parish motto this month: "With Mary and St. Isidore, we celebrate life and live reconciliation!"

By the end of this Month of Mary, which includes our Feast of St. Isidore the Laborer, I can proudly say that thanks to God, the Virgin Mary, and the intercession of St. Isidore, our parish will have achieved these goals:

- We managed to bring the image of the Virgin Mary and St. Isidore to all the areas of Morropón, and therefore, the vast majority of these Catholic families have done their part by doing the same, with the only difficulty that they did not physically hold in their hands the image of St. Isidore. I hope that next year, we will have his picture available for each zone.

- Most of these 75 zones of Morropón have gathered to celebrate in our community festivities, then meeting within their individual zones and families.

- There has been a very good turnout of parishioners this month, both in praying the rosaries, and in our missionary home visits, and we can say that it has increased the number of "small communities" [a mission program of highly-engaged lay leaders reaching the depths of a very large rural parish boundary]

I thank you for your prayers. May God and our Mother Mary continue to bless your homes, and we, as good Christians, learn the great example of faith and work that St. Isidore has shown us.

Translated from Spanish by Mr. Patrick T. Murphy,
Senior Advancement Associate for the
Province of Our Mother of Good Counsel

Social Outreach at St. Rita Parish in Chicago

An Interview with Rev. Anthony Pizzo, O.S.A.

St. Rita of Cascia Parish, located in Southwest Chicago, was the first foundation of the Augustinians in the Midwest Province, along with St. Rita High School. Since its establishment in 1905, the parish has seen great demographic changes in the neighborhood, as well as a number of very difficult challenges for the community. Rev. Tony Pizzo, O.S.A. is the current parish pastor and has served at St. Rita for seven years. In the midst of major concerns afflicting the neighborhood, Fr. Tony offers insights on the parish's history and some actions the community is taking to make the area a more peaceful place:

Fr. Tony Pizzo, O.S.A. is the pastor at St. Rita Parish in Chicago

Could you give our readers an insight into the brief history of the demographic changes at St. Rita Parish?

Rev. Tony Pizzo, O.S.A.: The parish and the school were founded at the same time. It was basically one entity with two sites where the Augustinians were serving. This area south of downtown was never really supposed to be part of the City [of Chicago]. It was industrial; the original makeup at the time was mixed – German, Irish, Polish, Slovaks, it was a kind of mixture. So for a long time, and still to this day, it went from white Anglo European to Hispanic little by little. At the time when the parish began addressing the Hispanic issue was when Fr. John Flynn, O.S.A., who at the time was pastor, said, "We have a lot of Spanish-speaking people. Something needs to be done." You don't realize it demographically until the parish and the commercial area begins to start addressing the [Spanish-speaking] issue you get this in flux. So Spanish Mass begins. Now you have requests for Baptisms, you have requests for Marriages, you have requests for other sacraments and before you know it you realize that you did not know how many people there were. It's been going on over 20 years from when they celebrated their first Spanish Mass here, so it's been going on for quite a while. Now about 97% of our congregation is Spanish-speaking.

St. Rita has been heavily involved with social activities in the past few years. How did that get started?

Pizzo: Fr. John Flynn, O.S.A. conceived of the idea of the Good Counsel Center, which has been the social help ministry of the parish. When it started, Fr. Lego began to address, little by little, the social issues that were going on. One of them, which we're still dealing with today, is the housing issue: vacant homes and foreclosures. It was at this point when we started supporting the idea of forming a local community organization which is now known as SWOP, or Southwest Organizing Project, which was formed specifically for the Catholic parishes but then expanded, mainly to schools, the hospital, as well as the Jewish and Muslim communities in this given area.

Map of foreclosed homes in the parish neighborhood in 2011
Photo Credit: © 2011 Southwest Organizing Project

What kind of problems is the neighborhood tackling?

Pizzo: [Concerns had] been going on for a while, and the parish up to that point was not doing a lot to address the issues. It was doing fine with addressing the sacramental needs of the people, but there was little to no activity to address the issues that were affecting them: immigration; safety—either because they are renting and homeowners and they have children or it's their own children that are brought up in gangs; the housing piece—being first-time homeowners and finding out that their variable interest rates mean that they go way up and they lose their home; and of course, education, being that Hispanics still have a high dropout rate for high school.

Continued on Page 16

A Long-lasting Gift:

A Matter of Love and Gratitude

When you consider all that the Augustinians have meant to you and to your loved ones, and also consider the tremendous impact they have had on your life, a planned gift is a really nice and long-lasting way to say "thank you."

It is not a matter of where you were served. It could have been through a parish, a school, in seminary, on a retreat, or in a hospital. It is not simply a matter of charity. It is a matter of love and of gratitude for the Augustinians who together have contributed so many years of service in the Province of Our Mother of Good Counsel.

There are many ways to make a planned gift. A few ideas include –

- A simple bequest of cash or a percentage of an estate,
- Name the Province as a beneficiary in your insurance policy, annuity or retirement plans,
- Donate a home or other property

The Restless Hearts Society Donor Wall in Chicago, Illinois

Please give this gift some thought and prayer. When you are ready, you can ask questions or ask for information from Province Chief Advancement Officer Michael Gerrity at michael@midwestaugustinians.org or at 773-595-4035.

The legal name for bequests and other planned gifts is *Province of Our Mother of Good Counsel-The Augustinians*. Your gift includes enrollment in the Province's Restless Hearts Society. Society members are recognized in the Province's headquarters *(see photo)*.

We would like to acknowledge and thank the following supporters for including the Augustinians in their wills or estate plans:

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THE SOUTHWEST ORGANIZING PROJECT
SWOP
EL PROYECTO ORGANIZADOR DEL SUROESTE

How does Southwest Organizing Project, or SWOP, work with the parish to help?

Pizzo: Ideally, SWOP is like the hub in addressing our social issues and then out of that come people from institutions like St. Rita to keep us informed and ready to mobilize. And then out of that come people with potential to be good leaders. And that's the whole point of a community organization is that you identify people in the area, you train them for leadership, and they basically wind up taking over. Feed a guy a fish, you feed him for a day; teach him how to fish, he feeds himself for a lifetime. And what better place than a local church? Because if the Church is not involved in its own reality, the Church is out of touch.

What are some specific examples of social outreach at St. Rita in the recent past?

Pizzo: Since we've been collaborating with SWOP and other agencies, we've saved about 500 families from losing their homes. Now that's a small percentage of the amount of foreclosures in the area, but still its 500 families. We've become even more aggressive: we had a big rally last year when Attorney General Madigan was here as well as some of our City Aldermen, with this whole effort toward getting funds to get the neighborhood to re-invest. We've had a rise in violence, so once a month we have a peace walk with other religious clergy of other faiths in the 8th District. We're committed to walking once a month. This is our people, our neighborhood, we have to step up to the plate. We did a survey, and a number of people said they can come here and feel at peace. I love it. This is exactly what we want to create: an atmosphere of peace, so that people can feel that they can come here and feel at peace.

Why is it the role of the Church to address these social issues?

Pizzo: There are different types of ministry: some guys prefer to just do sacramental ministry, and that's fine, that's always an option. First and foremost, that's why we exist. However, you also have the social message of the Gospel and that has to be incarnated in the parish. This social outreach to the people is so close to being absolutely essential because these are the people that are coming to church and praying who want stability in their lives. If the local parish, and the Church overall of course, doesn't get involved with the lives of its people, it's not going to have a relationship with its people.

The Augustinians have served at St. Rita Parish since 1905

Is there anything further you want our readers to know about the work being done at St. Rita?

Pizzo: In the midst of all this, there's a lot of good going on. We have a number of really good guys at the high schools and parishes [across the Province], and I want our readers to know that St. Rita Parish is stabilized. The Augustinians are doing good work and service, we care about the people here at St. Rita enough to want to be involved in their issues. It'd be much easier for us just to provide sacramental ministry, but that's not what the Gospel is about. St. Augustine himself was not only a bishop in his diocese, he was a civil magistrate. He would end up mediating civic issues, so that's what we have to do.

Province Major Multi-Million Dollar Campaign Looks to the Future

Focus on Retired and Infirm Augustinians and Vocations

During its May meeting the Provincial Council reviewed a proposal for a multi-million dollar capital campaign to build up the two Trusts dedicated to supporting retired and infirm Augustinians and men in formation/vocations outreach. These are respectively, the **Journey of a Lifetime Trust** and the **Fr. Ray Ryan, O.S.A. Trust**. A recent professional study involving in-person, phone, and online surveys with 105 individuals confirmed that there is strong support for a major multi-million dollar campaign for these two important areas of need. Before the meeting of the Provincial Council, some of the Province's most experienced and knowledgeable lay volunteers and donors unanimously endorsed a major campaign. Their recommendation was endorsed by the Provincial Council.

Preparations are underway and more information will be forthcoming. This campaign will be the largest fundraising endeavor in our history for the Province. To learn more or to volunteer, please contact Prior Provincial Fr. Bernie Scianna, O.S.A., at 773-595-4033, or Province Chief Advancement Officer Michael Gerrity at 773-595-4035. Please pray for the success of this special campaign. If successful, it will be a huge step toward securing the financial needs of the Augustinians.

Thank You to Mater Ecclasiae!

Bernard Cissell, one of our Augustinian novices professing first vows this August, received a very generous grant from the Mater Ecclasiae Fund for Vocations. With the assistance of our Province Advancement Office, Bernard applied for a grant to assist repaying his remaining $22,000 in student loan debt. Beginning at first vows, they will begin paying his student loans, and then if he professes solemn vows, the fund will take on the obligation of all his student loans.

We are very grateful for the support of Mater Ecclasiae's Fund for Vocations, which:

> "...is privileged to assist men and women to follow God's call to service in the Church through a life of consecration." We operate the St. Joseph Student Debt Relief Grant Program for religious life and the St. John Vianney Student Debt Relief Grant Program for the parish priesthood. These grants eliminate the delay many young people encounter as they struggle to pay off their student debts before they can enter religious life. A grant pays candidates' student loan payments while they are in formation for either religious life or the priesthood."

Thank you!

Read "Stewardship: Every Friar's Responsibility" by Bernard Cissell online to learn more about this great gift from Mater Ecclasiae. Visit www.midwestaugustinians.org/news/cissell-me

CHICAGO, IL: Fr. Tom Griffin, O.S.A. installed as Pastor at St. Gabriel Parish

Rev. Thomas Griffin, O.S.A. Installed as Pastor

The Augustinians, at the request of the Cardinal of Chicago, assumed responsibility for St. Gabriel Parish in Chicago in the Autumn of 2012. Rev. Thomas Griffin, O.S.A. was then named as the Administrator and has been joined in community by Brother Lawrence Sparacino, O.S.A. and Rev. Gerald J. Van Overbeek, O.S.A. The Augustinians' return to St. Gabe's is particularly special, as the first Prior General from the United States, Rev. Joseph Hickey, O.S.A., came from the parish many decades ago. Many Augustinians have since served at the parish over the years.

On April 28, 2013, Fr. Tom was officially installed as Pastor of the Parish by the Most Reverend Alberto Rojas, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Chicago. The parish community has been warm and very welcoming to the Augustinians. The event was also particularly special, as the Knights of Columbus from Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan (where the Augustinians had previously served for decades) attended the installation. Thank you to all who make our presence at St. Gabe's possible and so rewarding!

A Tribute and Thank You to St. Peter Parish

DOUGLAS, MI: Rev. Tim Cuny, O.S.A. with members of the St. Peter community

The Augustinians have served St. Peter Parish for over 60 years

The Very Rev. Bernard C. Scianna, O.S.A., Ph.D., Prior Provincial, and the Most Rev. Paul Bradley, Bishop of the Diocese of Kalamazoo, announced that the Augustinians will no longer be serving at St. Peter Parish in Douglas, Michigan as of July 1, 2013. The Province came about this difficult decision given the limited personnel of the Province's Augustinian priests. Rev. Tim Cuny, O.S.A., the current Pastor, will live with Rev. David Brecht, O.S.A. in the Archdiocese of Detroit, while he tends to his health needs. Rev. Jim Sheridan, O.S.A., also in residence at St. Peter, will remain at the parish for the near future to assist the transition and welcome a diocesan pastor.

We would like to thank the community of St. Peter Parish and the Diocese of Kalamazoo for allowing us to serve them for so many years, since Fr. John Flynn, O.S.A. first accepted the role of administrator in 1986. We are honored to have celebrated the sacraments with you and your families for the past 60 years (the Augustinians from St. Augustine High School Seminary in Holland, Michigan had assisted there before assuming the parish).

We would also like to thank the following Augustinians that have served as Pastors and Administrators at St. Peter Parish:

- **Rev. David Klotz, O.S.A.** *(1986, temporary administrator)*
- **Rev. John Flynn, O.S.A.** *(1986-1987 as administrator, 1991-1995 as pastor)*
- **Rev. Frederick Taggart, O.S.A.** *(1987-1989)*
- **Rev. Edward Andrews, O.S.A.** *(1989-1991)*
- **Rev. Edward Hamel, O.S.A.** *(1995-1998)*
- **Rev. Ronald Turich, O.S.A.** *(1998-2008)*
- **Rev. Timothy Cuny, O.S.A.** *(2008-2013)*

Calling Our Augustinian Seminary Alumni!

Over the past few months, the Augustinians have been reconnecting with many of the men who went through one of our seminary programs. These men have found new vocations in life and thank their Augustinian restless heart for helping them along their spiritual journey. If you, or another "seminary alum" you know, would like to reconnect with this group, we would like to hear from you!

Please contact Michael Gerrity at 773-595-4035 or michael@midwestaugustinians.org for more information. You can also take an online survey by visiting www.midwestaugustinians.org/asac-survey to let us know how involved you would like to be in starting an alumni association. Thank you!

Announcing Two Augustinian Novices and Four Pre-Novices

As this past year's novices will be professing their First Vows to the Order this August, we will also be welcoming two men into the Novitiate at St. Rita Parish in Racine, Wisconsin next year: Nick Mullarkey from West Des Moines, Iowa and Joe Siegel from Urbana, Illinois. They will join a class of potentially nine other novices from the East and West Coast Provinces, and the Provinces of England and Poland. Please pray for them as they enter this next stage of formation.

CHICAGO, IL: A snapshot of some of our Augustinian men in formation and discernment, at the Feast of St. Rita this May

Nick Mullarkey

Joe Siegel

We are also happy to welcome four men into the Pre-Novitiate at Bellesini Friary in Ardmore, Pennsylvania for the Midwest Province:

Bobby Carroll graduated from St. Rita of Cascia High School *(Chicago, IL)* in 2011 and completed two years of college at St. Joseph Seminary at Loyola University Chicago.

Jeff Raths has been a parishioner at our Augustinian parish: St. Matthew Church in Flint, Michigan. He has completed two years at Mott Junior College. Both he and Bobby Carroll will complete their Bachelor's Degrees at Villanova University over the next two years.

Carlos Rodriguez is from Puerto Rico, where he met the Augustinians and studied Philosophy. He is a friend of Rev. David Vargas, O.S.A., Associate Pastor at St. Rita of Cascia Parish in Chicago, who invited him to consider joining the Midwest Province.

Jack Tierney hails from Wisconsin. He recently graduated from the University of Minnesota.

Please pray for all of these men as they begin their first year of living in Augustinian community. If you, or anyone you know, is discerning a vocation, please contact the Director of Vocations, Rev. Thomas R. McCarthy, O.S.A. at vocations@midwestaugustinians.org or Director of Hispanic Vocations Rev. Jorge Cleto, O.S.A. at vocaciones@losagustinos.org.

CHICAGO, IL: Rev. Thomas McCarthy, O.S.A. at the Augustinian Inaugural Gala with three young men discerning a vocation with the Augustinians: Joe Roccasalva (left), Joe Ward (left-center), and Bobby Carroll (right-center)

CHICAGO, IL: Rev. Thomas McCarthy, O.S.A. at the Novena to St. Rita of Cascia with two of next year's Augustinian Prev-Novices: Jack Tierney (left) and Jeff Raths (right)

Fr. Tom McCarthy, O.S.A.

Fr. Jorge Cleto, O.S.A.

For more information and resources regarding Augustinian vocations, please visit the renovated website, www.augustinianvocations.org

ADVANCEMENT PROGRESS REPORT

For the love of God and all His children…

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Mr. Mike Zunica

What Does Mendicant Mean?

Annual Fund Nears $850,000 Goal

By Michael Gerrity, *Chief Advancement Officer*

The Augustinians are one of the original true Mendicant Orders of the Church. Mendicant, drawn from the Latin term, *mendicans*, literally means a "beggar." Simply put, this means that the Augustinians, in order to meet basic living needs, must rely a great deal on the charity of those they serve and have served. One way we do this is through an annual fund drive to help underwrite a portion of our regular living expenses. We have no regular steady income from Rome, dioceses, foundations, or businesses. We do receive a small share from the annual national collection for retired religious; it covers less than 6% of our men's retirement needs.

The Province's annual fund is a very important source of regular donations to help us survive and thrive. Annual fund gifts go to support our retired and infirm men, our young men in formation and our vocations program, and the missionary work in our Vicariate in Northern Peru.

Each year the drive runs from July 1 through June 30. Our goal for the Annual Fund 2012-2013 which ends June 30, 2013, is $850,000. As of May 31, we are at $740,285 or 87% of this goal. If you have made a gift, thank you. If you can make a gift now and move us closer to our goal, that would be most wonderful and most appreciated. By the way, any gifts of appreciated stock can have some nice tax advantages, too (income and capital gains). Thank you again for supporting the annual fund for the Augustinians of the Midwest. Please call me, Michael Gerrity, at 773-595-4035 with any questions.

Join the conversation online!

Like us! facebook.com/midwestaugustinians *Follow us!* @mwaugustinians

PROVINCE OF OUR MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL
ORDER OF SAINT AUGUSTINE

Join us on Facebook and Twitter for up-to-date news, inspiration, photos, videos, and to join in conversation with us. Be with us at live events and share your thoughts interactively!

Please also visit our renovated website today for information on our ministries, history of the Augustinians in the Midwest, information about Augustinian Saints, Blesseds, Feast Days, and more!

www.midwestaugustinians.org **Go!**

Thank you to our Newest Donors

The Augustinians' mission is to continue to serve the Church in schools, parishes and missions, while discerning new paths of service to which God calls. We search for God in community by sharing our lives, goods and spiritual journey with each other and with the people of God. As a mendicant Order of the Church, we must depend on the generosity of our donors, now over 1,550 actively engaged and giving. Ninety of them have just given their first gift to our Province between March 8 and June 10, and we ask that you join in thanking, and praying for, all of them. *Thank you!*

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If your contributions are not properly reflected in this report or if you see errors, we apologize and ask you to please contact the Advancement Office at advancement@midwestaugustinians.org or 773-595-4008.

Save the Date

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2013
8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Augustinian Retreat: *Daily Living with the Values and Teachings of St. Augustine*

Map data ©2013 Google

St. Jude Parish
241 West 2nd Avenue
New Lenox, Illinois
60451-1724

Rev. Terry Deffenbaugh, O.S.A. will lead a half-day retreat to discuss living Augustinian values in our daily lives of work, family, and community. All friends of the Augustinians are welcome to attend with their families and friends. Breakfast, lunch, and parking provided. For reservations, please contact Ms. Becky Schmitt at advancement@midwestaugustinians.org or 773-595-4008.

Follow the retreat live on Twitter!
@mwaugustinians #osaretreat

Addendum:

In the Augustinian Inaugural Gala Program Book, we misspelled one Silver Listing:

PFC James V. Lawlor
Mendel Class of '66
Posthumously awarded
Purple Heart & Silver Star
June 30, 1967

A Mass was offered for James during the Novena to St. Rita of Cascia in Chicago on Saturday, May 18. He was the son of Richard and Maybelle Lawlor, and the brother to Patricia, Margaret, Pamela, and Richard (Rick). We extend our apologies and gratitude to the Lawlor family and to Roger Leggero for bringing this to our attention.

"God bless you Jimmy, God bless our family and God bless the United States of America"

– The Lawlor Family

Especially for

FOOTBALL FANS

The Augustinians of the Midwest Province are offering their vacation and retreat house on Baldwin Lake near Notre Dame to groups for Notre Dame's home game weekends *(and other big campus events)* in 2013-2014. The house is in Union, Michigan, about 20 miles from Notre Dame's stadium. With eight bedrooms and four full baths, the house can sleep 13 in twin beds and bunk beds. An offering to the Order of $800-$1,000 is suggested for the weekend. Groups with some association with the Augustinians will receive priority in reservations. To make a reservation or to get more information and photos of the house, contact Fr. Joe McCormick, O.S.A., pastor of Our Lady of the Lake Parish in nearby Edwardsburg, Michigan: mccormickje2002@yahoo.com or 269-699-5870, Ext. 24.

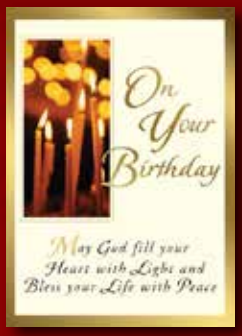
The Midwest Augustinian

Province of Our Mother of Good Counsel
5401 South Cornell Avenue
Chicago, IL 60615-6200

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

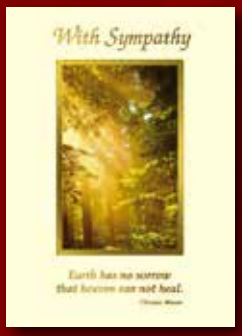
Mark those Special Moments in life with an
Augustinian Prayer Intention Card

To place a request for a Prayer Intention Card, please call Becky Schmitt at (773) 595-4008 or email her at
advancement @midwestaugustinians.org



Birthday
4 ½ x 6 ⅛ • $15.00*

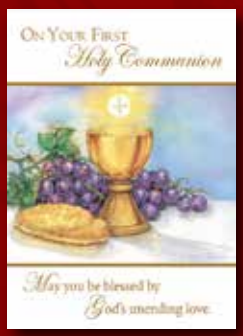
Confirmation
4 ⅞ x 6 ¾ • $15.00*



Sympathy
4 ⅞ x 6 ¾ • $15.00*

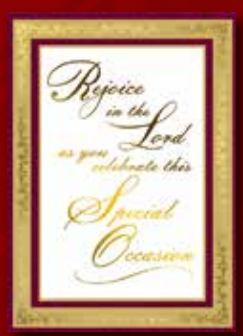
Healing
6 ¾ x 4 ⅞ • $15.00*

**Suggested contribution*



First Communion
4 ⅞ x 6 ¾ • $15.00*

Special Intention
4 x 5 ½ • $15.00*



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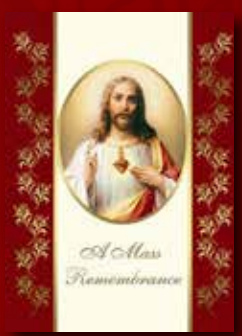

In Memory
4 ⅞ x 6 ¾ • $15.00*

Your voluntary contribution will support the Augustinian men in formation, retired and infirm Augustinians, and our Missions in Peru