



The Augustinian



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Message From The Provincial

In recent years, I have referred to Saints Augustine and Monica together in the list of saints of special relevance in the Eucharistic Prayer. The idea was not my own but emerged from listening to one who said wisely that by holding the memory of Monica and Augustine together, we have the complementarity of the feminine and masculine expression of the spirituality often labelled as Augustinian. Recently, during our Province Midchapter discussions on the ministry of education, one of the friars poignantly referred to Monican spirituality – the gift, through grace, of bringing forth Christ in another as Saint Monica did in the case of her son.

We are gifted that the two feasts of Saints Monica and Augustine are celebrated on two consecutive days. In the lives of both saints, the inner life, the communal life and the outer life of service of others are powerfully integrated not easily but over the course of years of graced healing, maturation and love. The mother and the son both teach us of the sacredness of each person, the depth within and the call to reach out to others.

In early July, our Province of Our Mother of Good Counsel, Australasia, gathered at Saint Augustine's College in Brookvale in Sydney for a Chapter of review (Midchapter) taking place halfway through this current Province term. In simple terms we took stock of where we are so as to better discern how we are called to move forward.

The themes of the Midchapter would be what is expected - the future of our Province, our life in common, our presence in Korea, Vietnam, Thailand (with outreach to people from Myanmar) as well as Australia, our overall presence in the Asia Pacific, the expression of the Augustinian

charism in our Colleges and implications for governance, renewal in our parish ministry, our collaboration and relationships with Augustinian laity, youth ministry, justice and peace, vocations and formation, safeguarding and finances.

The Chapter affirmed the good that is taking place and endorsed a series of directions for more committed attention.

If I were asked for a highlight of the Chapter, I would indicate the presence of others at the Midchapter beyond ourselves as Augustinian religious. Friends and colleagues who, at key points of the Chapter agenda, showed us paths where growth and renewed life could be found. The current focus of Pope Francis is precisely that of synodality - walking together. We do not go towards God alone. This resonates deeply with Saint Augustine's perspective in Church - God draws us together - Christ carries us in our carrying of one another.

On behalf of all the Augustinians of our Province, I wish each of you a blessed celebration of the Feast of Saint Monica and the Solemnity of Saint Augustine. You are in our prayers in these days.



Fr. Peter Jones OSA
Prior Provincial



Saint Augustine, The Lover

Augustinian Spirituality

Augustine was born in 345 (that's over 1,600 years ago) in present-day Algeria. His mother was a devout Christian, and she followed a common practice of the time in not baptizing her son but rather waiting for him to sow his wild oats first before baptism. Augustine obliged when, as a teenager, he went to Carthage to study. Carthage was the chief metropolis of North Africa which Augustine describes as a "seething cauldron of lust." Here, he led the wild life. "I had not yet fallen in love," he says, "but I was in love with the idea of it." But he soon settled down to serious study and took a de facto wife. Augustine did indeed love this woman whose name we do not even know. He was faithful to her for some 15 years, and she bore him a son when he was 18 whom he called Adeodatus, which means 'a gift from God'. According to Roman law, he could not legally marry his partner as she was of a lower social class, so eventually, she had to leave him so that he could marry within his own social class. He describes his heartbreak when they had to part in these words: "The woman with whom I had been living was torn from my side as an obstacle to my marriage, and this was a blow which crushed my heart to bleeding, because I loved her dearly. She went back to Africa, vowing never to give herself to any other man, and left with me the son whom she had borne me." Augustine loved this son, who must have reminded him of his partner. But once again, he knew the pain of loss as his son died at the young age of sixteen. He must have been some bright lad because Augustine himself marvelled at his intelligence. He even wrote a book of the conversations they had together.

Then there's Augustine's love of his mother, Monica, and her love for him which is legendary. When he was in his teens, however, he hurt her deeply by joining a pagan religion so that for a time she refused to allow him even into her house. Later he hurt her again by sneaking off to Rome by ship with his partner and child without her knowing. But his love for her was deep and having followed him to Milan, she lived to see him baptized, the answer to her years of tears and prayers.

Augustine was also a man who loved to be surrounded by friends. Before his conversion, the death of a young friend devastated him. He called this friend the "half of my soul." As a bishop, he insisted that his priests live with him as a community of friends so as to support one another. Augustine was someone who could never live alone like a hermit. "Whenever a person is without a friend, he once said, not a single thing in the world appears friendly to him."

Then, Augustine as a Bishop loved his people and served them for 34 years. Not only was he their Bishop but also their magistrate and settler of disputes. So, he knew his people and their weaknesses intimately. But he never saw himself as someone placed over them but as one of them, a fellow Christian. He did not desert them when their city was under siege by the Vandals who had swept into North Africa from Spain after the fall of Rome, but he stayed with them till his death at the age of 76.

Finally, Augustine was the passionate lover of God. He realized that while he may have deserted God at times, God never deserted him. God always remained within him, waiting for him to come back home like the prodigal son in Luke's gospel. Augustine came to believe that God's providence was working for his good in every twist and turn that his life might have taken. Even in his worst mistakes and errors, God was there teaching him something. As he looked back over his life in his famous autobiography, called the Confessions, he kept repeating, "You were there."



Augustinian Education



Left to Right: Caleb Conners, Jayden Kirby, Sam Crowley

St Augustine's College—Sydney's newly appointed 2024/2025 Student Leaders reflect on how the college's Augustinian values have shaped them as leaders.

Jayden Kirby, 2024/2025 College Captain

Growing up in an Augustinian community has been an incredible experience. The support, guidance and sense of community have led me to reach the best of my abilities, teaching me values that I live out in my daily life. The positivity of all my teachers and other individuals I have met has led me to gain a sense of understanding and become deeply connected to the Augustinian faith. As the St Augustine's College Captain for 2024/2025, I am proud to say that my experiences will assist me in all aspects of leadership, as I live out my college values of truth, love, and community, with the aim to inspire the younger generations at the College to always persevere.

Caleb Conners, 2024/2025 College Vice-Captain

Throughout my time at St Augustine's College – Sydney, I believe that I have not only embodied the values of community and interiority, but so have our student body. Our whole school has embraced the values important to the teachings of our patron, Saint Augustine. As community is one of our three school values, I have strived to foster an environment of inclusivity and collaboration for all, which can create a supportive and respectful environment. Whether it be through supporting others, joining in on new co-curricular opportunities or immersing myself into the full College experience, I have continued to try to embody this value. Furthermore, through ongoing self-reflection day-to-day, it has allowed me to strive to learn and grow as an individual throughout not only my education, but also as a young soon-to-be Augustinian graduate.

Sam Crowley, 2024/2025 Head Prefect

In my experience at St Augustine's College – Sydney, I have constantly been influenced by teachers, friends, and others around me through the powerful value of community. Saint Augustine's values are visible in every facet of school life. Whether it's on the sporting field, in the classroom, or watching from the audience, there is a collective commitment to the celebration of excellence and achievement; a shared understanding that no one succeeds alone. In my own experience, performing on stage, in the classroom, and just in general Saints life, community shows its undeniable value; bonding a collective mindset of persistence and strength that pushes boys to be role models; within and outside of school grounds. This intrinsic sense of collective identity allows the boys of St Augustine's College to embody the value of community. It is this that continues to motivate and inspire me as I travel through my final years at the College.

FORMING THE NEXT GENERATION OF

Augustinians

**PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY TO THE
AUGUSTINIAN FORMATION APPEAL**

Support the young men of the Australian Province in Augustinian formation houses in Sydney, Vietnam, Philippines, and Italy who are listening to and discerning God's call to religious life. This is only possible with your prayers, encouragement and financial support.

Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

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Exploring the Intersection of the 4th Industrial Revolution, Technology, and Catholic Augustinian Faith at the 2025 International Augustinian Educators Conference



The 2025 International Augustinian Educators Conference provided an invaluable opportunity for the Principals of our two Australian schools, Mr Jonathon Byrne and Mr Paul Begg to explore and reflect on the intersection between the 4th Industrial Revolution, the ongoing technological revolution, and our Catholic Augustinian faith. This gathering allowed educational and congregational leaders from around the globe to examine the potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in promoting and advancing our understanding of faith and evangelization. Additionally, it provided a platform to consider the moral and ethical implications of AI's application to global education actions and interactions.

By the end of the week, after much discussion and reflection, a central truth emerged: if AI can be used to highlight and encourage the beauty of humanity and creation, it has a place in faith development and evangelization. However, without careful discernment and firm ethical frameworks, AI has the potential to dehumanize our activities, damage our relationships, and disrupt our pathways to learning and love.

The conference began with an exploration of the broad parameters of AI and its ethical usage, emphasizing the Holy Father's understanding of AI's opportunities while stressing the importance of its ethical and responsible use. In his opening address, Fr. Daniel Gonzalez, SOB, Vice President for Academics at Don Bosco Technical Institute, highlighted Pope Francis's four core values for the ethical and responsible use of AI:

1. AI use must respect, protect, and promote fundamental human rights.
2. AI must encourage all to live in peaceful, just, and interconnected communities.
3. AI application and integration must prioritize diversity and inclusiveness.
4. AI and its supporting mechanisms must be carefully considered to ensure the continued flourishing of the environment and ecosystems.

These values were placed alongside UNESCO's 10 principles for ethical AI use in education, which formed the lens through which our discussions moved forward:

1. Proportionality and do no harm
2. Right to privacy and data protection
3. Multi-stakeholder and adaptive governance and collaboration
4. Human oversight and determination
5. Sustainability
6. Safety and security
7. Responsibility and accountability
8. Transparency and explainability
9. Awareness and literacy
10. Fairness and non-discrimination

These principles provided the backdrop for our exploration of education and evangelization in Augustinian schools and universities worldwide. The conference featured a diverse range of speakers who balanced philosophical insights with practical applications. While there were many valuable

takeaways, I would like to highlight two particularly pertinent addresses relevant to the Australian educational context.

The first was delivered by Fr. Alessandro Picharelli from the University of Perugia. He presented a meticulously prepared lecture on advancing the gospel using AI. Fr. Picharelli challenged the Augustinian education community to ensure that the algorithms we engage with through AI are human-generated. He emphasized the importance of understanding how AI is built and operates, as it is our duty to responsibly utilize and interact with it. His premise was crucial: technology reflects human wisdom, and we must not allow it to dehumanize us. In all our relationships and interactions, we are called to apply the principles of Augustinian interiority and the restless search for truth in our use and application of AI.

Fr. Picharelli urged us to deeply understand our identity, position, and relationship with technology. This identity, whether as digital natives or immigrants, influences our ethical understanding and application of technology. As educators working with young people, the “digital natives,” our role is to enhance and encourage their humanity. Relational pedagogy and the building of strong relationships are the methods through which we can leverage learning, critical thought, and discernment for our young people.

Regarding the Gospel, the challenge of AI lies in creating and maintaining personal relationships. The digital environment presents challenges to personal interaction and empathy, making it difficult to convey feelings, compassion, and love. However, it is not impossible to foster strong bonds through digital platforms. Leaders must remain aware of

and consider the positive possibilities that digital evangelization offers. By focusing on humans, relationships, feelings, and emotions, we can uncover ways for these connections to thrive in digital spaces. The second address of significant impact was delivered by Fr. Mauricio Saavedra OSA on the topic of “The Interaction of Augustinian Pedagogy with Artificial Intelligence: An Anthropological and Theological Perspective.” Fr. Mauricio reminded the gathered community that human beings are created in the image and likeness of God, “Imago Dei.” We are not merely “homo faber,” or “man the maker,” but possess an integral anthropology inclined to seek Truth, Goodness, and Beauty.

Fr. Mauricio emphasized that we are not “stonecutters” who shape stones as we please but “gardeners” of an academic ecosystem, nurturing the best in each person within our educational conception. Each individual is an invaluable treasure with a unique and unrepeatable personality. This reinforced the message that, regardless of AI’s development, Augustinian educators must focus on Wisdom, Virtues, and Order—elements essential to a vibrant educational ecosystem and the formation of fine young people for the future.

Fr. Mauricio also highlighted the real dangers of AI, such as the dehumanization of learning, ethical control of content, and the fostering of superficiality in education. He reminded those present that Augustinian Catholic education must form human talent capable of interacting with AI ethically and effectively. We must cultivate wisdom, virtues, and order in our students, recognizing the richness of human intelligence and its differences from artificial intelligence. Only then can we fully harness the opportunities AI offers while remaining faithful to our Christian principles and values.

Fr. Mauricio’s insights were both encouraging and challenging as we face this new era with the students and staff in our schools.

The 2025 International Augustinian Educators Conference was an excellent platform for continuing to grow relationships and understanding across the Augustinian education sector, fostering friendship and fraternity.

Paul Begg

Principal, Villanova College

Jonathan Byrne

Principal, St Augustine’s College-Sydney





This Message stick was presented by Lorenz and Sylvia Herft at the Congress in appreciation for all the organizing and hospitality extended to us. It symbolizes the Holy Spirit bringing us all together.

WALKING TOGETHER IN COMMUNION, PARTICIPATION AND MISSION

The overarching feeling of being at the July International Congress of Lay Augustinians was the sensation of homecoming, of being in the right place, of finding family in Augustine.

As Fr. Edward Daleng O.S. A. said in his welcoming plenary address: *“This Congress is a celebration of our fraternity and oneness in Christ and in the Order of Saint Augustine... In our diversity as baptised Catholics, we consider ourselves members of the same Augustinian family because the Holy spirit has brought us together. We embrace one another and strive to grow in the unity of mind and heart intent upon God.”*

Our Augustinian network in Australia feels small, so it was an extraordinary experience to feel part of the massive Augustinian family that is found across our world. As well as the eight attendees from Australia (Friends, diocesan facilitators and educators), there were over 100 delegates from Australia, the Philippines, Spain, England, the Netherlands, Italy, Nigeria, Peru, Chile, Honduras, Venezuela, Colombia, Brazil, Mexico, United States and more. It was an extraordinary gift to be together with people from so many parts of the world, and to gain an understanding of how our Augustinian values are being lived out in their communities. So we were certainly walking together!

A full day of conference presentations and workshops was dedicated to each of the three theme topics: *Communion, Participation and Mission*. Unsurprisingly, there was an emphasis on synodality from Day One, with the Conference on *The basis for a synodal experience of the Church, the total Christ*, followed by three Workshops: *Empathic listening- putting synodality into practice*, *The method of spiritual conversation in the exercise of ministries* and finally *Our role as lay Augustinians: walking forward together, listening to the Holy Spirit and the Word of God in daily situations*.

Saturday brought a change of pace, with a pilgrimage to the Abruzzi mountains to visit the shrine of St. Nicholas of Tolentino, a site of significant devotion over the centuries. A highlight on Sunday was an opportunity to participate in the noontime Angelus with the Holy Father. Security was tight, the Piazza was crowded and all were most enthusiastic when Pope Francis appeared and gave his address, based on the day’s Gospel with the theme of Mission. In his acknowledgement of those attending he mentioned specifically the Augustinian Laity Congress attendees, so we felt truly welcomed.

The other two ‘working days’ of the Congress brought the opportunity for in-depth consideration of the topics of Participation and Mission. Much of our exploration was around listening and realising the depth good listening can bring about and how desperately needed it is in our world. We didn’t just talk about listening, we practised it with one another. The insights were profound for understanding both the joys and struggles that we share in common.

As well as the working sessions on Participation, there was active liturgical participation by the Australian contingent, particularly by Rachael Kama, whose beautiful voice guided us in singing, and also Lorenz Herft, who served at Mass in Tolentino as well as at the closing Mass with Robert Cardinal Prevost O.S.A.

As the Congress drew to a close and we returned home, we brought with us a commitment to continue to “*appreciate the beautiful gift of our belonging to the Augustinian family, which we love, and seek to grow in it, develop it, and spread its value as part of our witness to the gospel*” (Fr. Edward Daleng).

To conclude, some homecoming reflections from attendees:

- *We only need to watch one episode of the news to realise how much value there is being together; listening to the experience of others with openness, and having the opportunity to share honestly our own perspective. Our world needs this, our families need this, and it is a key skill that we need to be developing in our young people.*

Kate Garrone,
Villanova College, Coorparoo

- *The one aspect I’d like to reflect upon is the talk given by Joe Kelly [Augustinian leadership in a synodal Church] ... He spoke on the importance of listening during the synodal process... Listening is difficult. Listening, however, is essential for Communion, Participation and Mission to take place. To whom do we listen? Joe’s address was both knowledgeable and relatable to our daily lives.*

Peter Moriarty,
Friends of St. Augustine, Holy Spirit Parish, St. Clair

- *One of the many highlights of this Congress was participating in the Eucharistic celebrations through praise and prayers at St Monica’s Chapel. The acoustics were amazing. We were serving God in spirit-filled ways. We witnessed God’s love, joy and peace among all the participants during the Congress... It was a humbling experience serving in all the Eucharistic celebrations at the Chapel of St. Monica and the Church of St. Nicholas of Tolentino.*

Lorenz and Sylvia Herft,
Friends of St. Augustine, Holy Spirit Parish, St. Clair.

Judith Duncan
*on behalf of Friends of St. Augustinian, St Joseph’s, South Yarra,
with additional contributions from Fr Edward Daleng OSA, Kate Garrone, Lorenz and Sylvia Herft and Peter Moriarty.*



From left: Margaret and Peter Moriarty, Judith Duncan, Seaview Kama, Prior General Most Rev Alejandro Moral OSA, Sylvia and Lorenz Herft, Rachael Kama, Kate Garrone.

Augustinian Formation Association (AFA)

The AFA Sue Colwell Fun Walk fundraiser was held on Sunday, 28 April 2024. It was a beautiful sunny day with around 32 walkers who enjoyed the morning and catching up with each other. A total of \$4,810 was raised and AFA thanks everyone for their kind donations, support and generosity.



Congratulations to Brother Joseph Van Tu Nguyen osa who was Ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacons on Friday, 5th July 2024 at St Kieran's Church at Manly Vale.

It was a beautiful ceremony presided by Most Rev. Anthony Randazzo, DD, JCL, Bishop of Broken Bay followed by a wonderful celebration in the parish centre. Our blessings and prayers to Deacon Tu as he continues his journey to Priesthood.



AFA held its annual Christmas in July Dinner on Saturday, 13 July 2024 which was a successful and fun night raising \$4,893 for the Augustinian Seminarians.

AFA would like to thank everyone who attended and made it a wonderful night. Also, many thanks to those who were not able to attend but gave donations or purchased a ticket for an Augustinian. Special thanks goes to Kevin Mascarenhas who provided the music on the night and to Cathy Martin and her wonderful team from North Manly Gourmet Food for the yummy Christmas Banquet and great service on the night.

Congratulations to all the raffle and lucky door prize winners.

AFA's Annual Membership Fee of \$30 is now due and payment can be made either in cash (left at the parish office at Manly Vale) or by direct deposit into the AFA account – BSB No. 032 190, Account No. 105386 AFA's next function will be the end of year dinner at the Wakehurst Golf Club on Saturday, 23 November 2024 and everyone is welcome. I hope to see many of you at this next function.

Down memory lane: a journey of over 40 years

Feature Stories



As a young man at boarding school, I was interested in joining the Marist Brothers but one look at their juniorate was enough to convince me to look elsewhere! Mum and Dad provided a strong background of Catholic family life, even if we kids resisted nightly rosaries. I had a full

catholic primary and secondary catholic education. After completing my university degree in commerce and a few years working, including at a merchant bank, I was still looking for what I really wanted to be and do.

As acting chair of the South Yarra Pastoral Council, I was a key person in welcoming the Augustinians when they took over the running of the parish in 1976. The differences from the diocesan priests were quite stark in my mind. The youngest and least clerical of the three members of the community was the parish priest. Their common life was open to parishioners and Sunday lunches were a treat. There was a sense of camaraderie, friendship and prayer. This continued when newly ordained Augustinian deacons joined the community and the life that was within the community blossomed within the parish community.

Merchant banking was quite an experience, both in terms of the diversity of challenges and the expectations of success and profits. Also evident was the dark side of career-induced divorces and reliance on alcohol and drugs. I took 10 days off to go on retreat with the Cistercians along with Ray Mitchell, then Parish Priest of South Yarra, and decided I had the

opportunity to discern religious life. I could always go back to banking, was my thought at the time, as I had developed a reputation.

My first days in formation came after an Asian adventure with family, during which time I needed to buy a white shirt, black pants and a Jerusalem Bible. The Japanese pants were too short and the Bible was in a different sequence to any other Bible I have ever seen. Nine days later I had become a novice and spent most of the year waiting to be told that I was not suitable – a year of quiet, prayer, service and arguments with the novice master!

The rest of my studies were with the Columbans at Turramurra and then the experience with twenty plus Augustinians in Washington DC. The experiences in America were extraordinary and confirmed to me that my choices were good. The common life, discipleship and care for others, aligned with a love of learning, would hold me in good stead for the next 40+ years.



Fr Anthony Banks OSA

*celebrated the 40th anniversary of his ordination to the
priesthood on 9th August '24*

First year of ministry in Australia

Serving as the assistant parish priest at St. James Parish, Coorparoo, since October 2023 has been a deeply rewarding experience. The welcoming and supportive environment here made the transition from India to Brisbane easier. I am particularly grateful for the guidance and encouragement from Fr. Francis and Fr. John, who have been instrumental in helping me adapt to my new responsibilities and the parish community. The sense of community at St. James Parish is truly special. Parishioners are more than just members of the congregation; they are like family, warm and affable, and always ready to help. One of the highlights has been the coffee gatherings after Mass, where we come together to celebrate love, friendship, and faith, strengthening our communal bonds. Additionally, starting our meetings with nibbles has proven to be a fantastic way to connect with one another and create a friendly, welcoming atmosphere.



Fr Anson (second from right) with Frs Francis, Marydas and Saju

Our parish places great importance on acknowledging and honouring the First Nation people in everything we do. This commitment to respect and inclusivity has deepened my appreciation for the diversity within our church.

The Bible study sessions with young adults have been particularly inspiring. Their passion for Scripture has reignited my own desire to delve deeper into the Bible. The Alpha program, which was new to me, has also been an eye-opening experience, offering fresh perspectives on ministry and evangelization. I am fortunate to have the unwavering support of Trish, our dedicated parish secretary, and Helen, the business manager. Their professionalism and commitment to the parish's mission have been invaluable, ensuring that everything runs smoothly and efficiently.

I also want to express my appreciation to the Villanova community for their support, which has been instrumental in helping me serve effectively.

The various ministries within the parish are the backbone of our community. They are fully involved in every aspect of church life and play a vital role in keeping the parish dynamic and thriving, whether through service, outreach, or spiritual enrichment.

In summary, my experience at St. James Parish has been one of joy, learning, and spiritual growth. The love and support I have received from Fr. Francis, Fr. John, Trish, Helen, and the entire parish community have made this journey deeply fulfilling, and I look forward to continuing to serve this thriving and faith-filled community.

Fr Joseph Anson Kalathiparambil Antony OSA
arrived in Australia on 23rd August 2023.

A Journey with the Augustinians

Looking back on my journey to a vocation with the Augustinians, I am struck by how profoundly transformative it has been. The teachings and charism of St. Augustine have always resonated deeply within me. His emphasis on community life, fraternity, hospitality, interiority, and service spoke directly to my spiritual inclinations. I remember the moment I first felt inspired by St. Augustine's life and his commitment to living a life of shared faith and mutual support within a community. It was as if a light had been switched on, illuminating a path that I was meant to follow. The Augustinian way of life offered a space where I can grow spiritually and contribute meaningfully to the Church and society.

There are numerous joys in being an Augustinian, and they are deeply intertwined with the sense of fraternity and support within our community. Living and working alongside brothers who share a common mission and vision creates strong and supportive bonds. These relationships have been a source of immense strength and encouragement. Engaging in different ministries has brought a sense of fulfilment I had only dreamed of. Whether it's pastoral work, teaching, or community outreach, the opportunity to live out the Augustinian values and witness the positive impact on others' lives has been deeply rewarding. Every day, I am reminded of the beauty and grace that come from a life dedicated to these principles.

During my preparation for the Diaconate Ordination, my heart was a whirlwind of emotions. There was profound joy and anticipation at stepping into a new phase of my vocation, but also a deep sense of humility and responsibility. I was acutely aware of the significance of the role I was about to undertake and felt immense gratitude for the support and guidance from my community and mentors. Amidst the nervousness about the challenges and responsibilities ahead, I found comfort and strength in my faith and trust in God's guidance. This period of anticipation was not just a time of waiting but of deep reflection and preparation, aligning my spirit with the sacred duties I was about to assume.

The first few weeks of serving as a Deacon have been a blend of challenges and profound fulfilment. Transitioning into this new role required me to adapt quickly to new responsibilities and pastoral duties. Yet, every challenge has been a learning opportunity, deepening my understanding of servant leadership. I have been deeply moved by the chance to serve the community in a more direct and impactful way, particularly through preaching, assisting at the Eucharist, and engaging in acts of charity. Each day brings new experiences that reinforce my commitment to this vocation and offer new insights into the spiritual richness of our ministry. Reflecting on my time at North Harbour parish, what stands out most is the strong sense of community and active engagement of its members. The parishioners' incredible warmth and support have created an environment that feels like an extended family. The vibrant liturgical celebrations, coupled with various ministries and outreach programs, have fostered a palpable sense of faith and devotion. Being part of such a dynamic and caring community has been a source of great joy and inspiration. Every interaction, every shared prayer, and every act of service has enriched my experience and deepened my appreciation for this extraordinary community.

As I continue my journey with the Augustinians, I eagerly anticipate my ordination to the priesthood. This forthcoming milestone fills me with a profound sense of joy and responsibility. The thought of celebrating



the Eucharist and administering the sacraments fills me with deep reverence and excitement. The Eucharist, as the source and summit of Christian life, is central to my vocation. Being able to bring Christ to the faithful in this intimate way will be a profound privilege and honour. The priesthood represents a new depth of service and a greater capacity to embody the love and mercy of God, and I am committed to embracing this sacred calling with my whole heart.



As I look ahead, I am filled with gratitude and anticipation. I do not know where the future will lead me, but I am certain that wherever I am, I will look forward to continuing this journey, be grateful for the grace and guidance that have brought me to this point, and eagerly anticipate the sacred responsibilities and joys of the priesthood.

Deacon Joseph Van Tu Nguyen OSA
*was ordained to the Diaconate on 5th July 2024
by Most Rev Anthony Randazzo, DD,
Bishop of Broken Bay. Reverend Tu is currently
serving at the Catholic Community of
North Harbour Parish, Sydney*

Mid-Chapter 2024 - 'When Augustinians Gather...'

In July this year, Augustinians gathered at St Augustine's College, Brookvale, for the Province Mid-Chapter, to review policy directions decided at the Provincial Chapter in 2022 and assess progress made since then. A striking aspect of this year's gathering was the increasing, cultural diversity among members attending in person and online, not only from

Australia but also from Korea, Vietnam, Thailand, India, the Philippines and Rome. Many ministries here in Australia reflect this diverse multiculturalism. The Order is now firmly established in South Korea, showing signs of strong growth in Vietnam, and providing specialist ministry in Thailand through Fr John Murray's work with migrants and refugees.



The Mid-Chapter fostered an atmosphere of collaboration and cooperation with a focus on our shared identity as Augustinians, followers of St Augustine and vowed members of the Order. Together, we reviewed our ministries and reflected on our future directions and life together in community, the setting which forms and energises us for our work in the Church as religious and priests.

Assistant General Fr Tony Banks presided on behalf of the Prior-General and shared an informative and challenging address on the state of the Order in over 40 countries - where it is growing and where it is declining - and our need to promote the Augustinian charism of community in the context of the universal call to evangelization, mission, a synodal approach to life in the Church, and collaboration with laity, some of whom provided input during the Chapter.

While there is a dearth of vocations here in Australia, our Province has been very blessed with vocations from neighbouring Asian countries and the ministry of Augustinians from the Philippines, Korea and India in our local pastoral ministries. The Order's strong presence in Asia creates a platform for future planning that takes account of the wider international scene.

Chapter members were conscious of the need for greater cooperation among Augustinians, not only from the countries mentioned but Japan and West Papua as well. Already, novices from the Asia-Pacific Region are formed at the International Novitiate in Cebu. We hope that existing Augustinian groups such as OSAAP (Order of St Augustine in the Asia-Pacific) and APAC (Asia-Pacific Augustinian Conference) will play important roles in the future of religious life and ministry of Augustinian men and women and our lay partners.

The Ordination to the Diaconate of Joseph Van Tu Nguyen OSA by Bishop Anthony Randazzo, Bishop of Broken Bay brought our Mid-Chapter week to a fitting close. For the gift of the Augustinian Way and the opportunity to share such a rich charism, we offer grateful thanks!

Fr Dave Austin OSA



THE AUGUSTINIANS



Is God calling you?

Ever thought about becoming an Augustinian brother or priest?

Contact Fr. Saldie Resolado OSA on 0407 686 069
or email saldie.resolado@osa.org.au

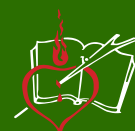


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