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Newly re-elected Prior Provincial Fr Peter Jones OSA with Anna (left) and Adrianna (right) who were both recently affiliated to the Order. *See story on page 12*



*Rejoicing in Christ's invitation
to be his friends,
we, Augustinians,
through our living of
community life
in oneness of mind and heart,
search for God and serve God
in humanity.*

MISSION STATEMENT

MESSAGE FROM THE PROVINCIAL

Dear Friends

In the liturgy of the Easter Vigil, the reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans clearly articulates the union of the mystery of Christ's passage of Life, death and resurrection with our transformation in Baptism. As Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life. (Romans 6:4).

This unity of Easter and baptism was evident in the practice of the Church in its early centuries. For Saint Augustine, the pastoral and liturgical praxis of the Easter Vigil (along with the Vigil of Pentecost) as the context in which Baptism was celebrated expressed in ritual and sacrament that newness of Life inherent in Paul's teaching. Augustine preached that the Lord's resurrection ... promised us an eternal day. (Sermon 169:3).

At times we can feel cynical in relation to the experience of new Life and the transformational effect of faith. I am conscious that in the past two years this Easter message has been written in a situation of global anxiety and concern due to the health challenges we have faced. I wish that we could enjoy this year's celebration in a tranquil and joyful spirit. However, the distress in the conflict in Ukraine as well as other wars and the recent suffering of so many in the Australian floods weigh on our spirits.

Easter faith is an affirmation of newness of life and of the promise of an eternal day. Gifted to us in Baptism, this newness of Life is called to grow, flourish and be celebrated. This newness of life is called to transform what is dark into light. The grace of the Risen Christ only goes in one direction – towards the Light, towards Life.

At this time, I ask you to pray for our Provincial Chapter which will take place at Brookvale, Sydney in late June. The members of the Province will gather to pray, discern and discuss how we are called to witness and serve in the spirit of our Augustinian charism. The matters we will consider are of importance so, on behalf of my brothers, I ask for your prayerful support.

The Augustinians wish each of you and your families a joyful celebration of Easter.

- Fr. Peter Jones OSA
Prior Provincial



Fr Peter Jones OSA was re-elected to the office of Prior Provincial for a second four-year term. Father Peter will complete his first term at the beginning of the Provincial Chapter, which will be held from 27th June to 1st July, 2022 at St. Augustine's College, Sydney. During the Chapter, he will be installed in the office of Prior Provincial and will officially begin his second term. We congratulate Fr Peter on his election and express our gratitude to him, conscious of the burden he has carried so generously through his first term of leadership. Please keep our Provincial elect and the Province in your prayers.

Augustinian Spirituality

Ongoing Hopes for Augustinian Parish Ministry

Being a part of North Harbour Parish in Sydney has been one of the greatest blessings of my life and I am grateful to have grown up in an Augustinian Parish. I am currently the CCD Coordinator for our Parish and have been involved in a few other ministries in our Parish over the years, such as Playgroup and Parish Pastoral Council.

The uncertainty over the last two years, where hope and disappointment have taken turns surprising us has been a little hard to take at times, to say the least. And yet, as we know, in times of adversity, we often see the Gospel being lived out.

As members of an Augustinian Parish, how do we respond post Covid and into the future? We can draw on our Augustinian Spirituality and let it guide us with the help of The Holy Spirit. Part of our Mission is to be able to ‘get a feel’ for current times and ‘change tack’ on current practices, if need be.

Digital Opportunities

Online masses and sermons, made available to us, with their comforting or challenging words from our clergy, helped to guide us through and expose what we may have been missing in the stress of the situation. In good and bad times, Christ is challenging us to be Christ to others, to be grateful for what we have at this moment in time and to actively seek out the beauty in Life. There was something particularly comforting about seeing our own Augustinian Priests on our screens with their humour and kindness coming through. Heading into the future, I can't help but think that this would be a continuing benefit for some that cannot physically be part of the worshipping community. Many have physical or mental health challenges, some may work on weekends or may not feel comfortable being with crowds and, so, cannot attend The Celebration of Eucharist. Physically meeting together for Mass is optimal but, in these times, perhaps there could be a way that this is continued to be offered? Moving forward into the future, a digital platform or “hub” may be a very useful tool for parishes to use for the benefit of all those in the community.

Perhaps this is an opportunity to up-scale the way we



Ursula Halloway

search for God together? Our Facebook pages are a wonderful way for us to connect. Maybe a National Augustinian Remote Hub could be created where resources could be shared with each other? The official website of The Augustinians of the Province of Australasia is a treasure trove of resources and reading material and allows us to glimpse into other parishes around Australia. Maybe we could use this to share online masses, sermons, courses, prayer and meditation sessions. In fact, all parts of Parish life could potentially be uploaded into a central resource for all those in the Augustinian community and beyond. Exercise classes that take place in Parish Centres could be livestreamed along with Prayer/Meditation sessions etc. In a post Covid world, this may be a necessary step forward so that all are included on the journey forward. It is also a way for communities to reconnect with the richness of the Augustinian Life where The Augustinians have withdrawn.

“I’m not Religious but I am Spiritual”

Many of my friends who grew up Catholic often say this to me. They are wanting a Spiritual Dimension to their lives but formal religion has lost its’ value in their eyes. Prayer sessions and meditation opportunities can be found in parishes which allows us to experience the Interiority that Augustine speaks of. Due to the hustle and bustle of Life coming to a standstill at times over the last two years, we may have been given opportunities to sit in quietness and tune into the greater lessons of this time. As Augustinians, Interiority gives us the opportunity to try to make

sense of what is happening in our world. Augustine tells us that we must develop the eyes and ears of our heart so as to see and hear what Christ wishes to communicate with us. Extending the invitation to all for both religious and spiritual experiences will only continue to enhance our intimate relationship with Christ.

Our First Nations people hold many similar beliefs to Augustine. Mirium Rose-Ungunmerr talks of the importance of Dadirri. “It is inner, deep listening and quiet, still awareness. Dadirri recognises the deep spring that is inside us. We call on it and it calls to us...It is something like what you call ‘contemplation’.” Taken from Inner Deep Listening and Quiet, Still Awareness. Augustine refers to it as “The teacher within.” Perhaps moving forward



Fr Michael Belonio OSA with parishioners of Holy Spirit Parish, St Clair

we can take opportunities to learn from Indigenous Australians (and other faith groups) to work together in inviting those wanting to develop spiritually into our parishes. It may appeal to a broader group and provide a gateway to being part of a community who yearns for depth in their lives.

Identifying gifts and using them for the benefit of the whole community

Parish Pastoral Councils have the wonderful opportunity of gauging, with the help of the Holy Spirit, the need for various ministries in Parish life. Heading into the future, new ministries will surely emerge as Life after Covid moves forward. A great starting point for Parish Pastoral Councils has been to throw the net out into parishes and ask parishioners to identify new areas of need. Volunteers are asked to ‘sign up’ for these ministries.

A second tier of action may be that members of the community are lead through a process to identify their particular area of talent/interest/passion. It can be a difficult process to identify our strengths and even our interests depending on what stage in Life we are at. I have had many discussions with mothers who spend years looking after others to discover that they have forgotten who they used to be. A key part to building The Body of Christ is to know which parts of the body we are! Hopefully, this would lead to personal fulfillment as members of the community identify who they are at different stages in their Life and take on ministries that they are passionate about accordingly. Ministries will have a better chance of thriving and being sustained with willing and excited people at the helm. Parish Pastoral Councils could form links with Diocesan Pastoral Councils and potentially, National Pastoral Councils where leadership opportunities could arise. Youth representation is essential as they offer a particular perspective unlike any other.

Community/Augustinian Family

The Rule of Augustine endures today as we continue to search for God together as community while trying to live out the Gospel. Augustine’s words are so relatable. “Authentic love for a human being is at the same time love for God.” We come together, sharing our faith and supporting each other and, as a result, we are then able to look outward in service of others.

The existing ministries in our parishes fill a page when listed: Youth Ministry, Ministers of the Eucharist, Hospitality, Sacramental Programs, Catechist Ministry, Catenians to name a few. There are opportunities to be God’s loving hands in so many ways.

Now, more than ever, a Parish needs to be a “soft place to land” for its community members. Many have experienced distress, financial hardship, loneliness and isolation, anxiety and mental health struggles throughout the Pandemic. Some of our elderly have not been able to continue in their ministries as usual leaving them at a loss. Looking into the future, it might be worth considering opportunities to provide companionship in new ways: setting up Parish Cafe’s for morning tea,

using Parish Resource rooms/Libraries as places where short stories are read aloud, Concerts on big screen televisions in Parish Centres and the like. Augustine describes his early communities as vibrant and thriving places where people gave and received the fruit of each other's gifts for the good of all. A place where Augustinian Spirituality is present and thriving. Those interested in music may relish the opportunity to share their favourite concerts with others, those who love to bake may provide morning tea for others, those who have a love of live Theatre, may organise script readings for entertainment. The possibilities are as varied as parishioners' interests.

Outreach was identified as high on the list. Groups such as Augustinian Volunteers Australia have been doing an amazing job working with refugees and our First Nations People. The joy of outreach is that it is a 'two way street' with both parties benefitting by being Christ and finding Christ, in turn.



Fr Peter Hayes OSA with Jacob (left), an Augustinian Volunteer who has been involved in various Social Justice works of the Province with his wife, Mary.



Fr Jepser Bermudez OSA with friends from Holy Spirit Parish, St Clair NSW

In all of the areas mentioned above, the opportunities for Laity and Clergy to work together are many. Our Augustinian Priests could foster Lay Leadership whilst working alongside us and laity could take on Educational opportunities to be further equipped to go out into the word and respond to our Baptismal call. Children/teenagers come alive when we discuss helping the marginalised and reaching out for Social Justice. They feel like they are being included in adult business! Children and teenagers could be called upon to form Social Justice Groups under adult leadership. A focus on living out Gospel Values in an Augustinian context could be the aim for these Youth Groups.

Going forward, Ministry has strong foundations in current Augustinian Parishes. Each Parish's specific character and needs has formed a unique set of tasks to be undertaken to serve the people of their particular community. Let us open our hearts and see where the Holy Spirit wants to take us next! Let us also open our hearts and allow God to show us the many versions of ourselves so that we may use them to do His work for the benefit of all.

-Ursula Halloway
Catechist Coordinator
Parish of the Catholic Community of North Harbour, NSW

Outreach/Social Justice

Augustine said, "When you give to the poor, it is Christ's hand which accepts" (Sermon 86, 3, 3). What beautiful words. When we actively go out into the world to seek God, with faith in our hearts, we will find Him in abundance. We find Christ in reading scripture, in prayer, in sharing The Eucharist together and immersing ourselves in Life and community. We must strive to know our community well. Australian Catholics are being given the opportunity, through the current Plenary Council, to have their say regarding what God is asking of us at this particular time.

Restorative practices in an Augustinian Catholic School

“Being an adult in a school is a profound moral challenge.” (Weissbourd, 2003)¹

All work which involves caring for people is moral work. This is true whether that work occurs in the classroom of a school, or in the pulpit or the church hall of a parish. The work of teachers can have profound consequences for the students in their charge, and these consequences extend far beyond the mere academic or intellectual realms. In schools, how teachers work with students is, arguably, even more important than what they objectively plan to teach them – the influence of teachers extends much further than the intended classroom lesson.

One of the major influences on students’ emotional, social, psychological and moral development is how the school and its teachers recognise, deal with and work from their fundamental interrelatedness and interdependence as human beings. Increasingly, educators are understanding that the informal lessons learned in school about how we should form and nurture relationships, how we should treat one another and how conflict and wrongdoing should be dealt with, have life-long consequences for their students. Getting this relational basis right in schools is therefore a moral imperative especially, one may argue, in a faith community such as a Catholic school. Restorative practices offers a way of embedding the values and principles of our Catholic faith tradition and Augustinian charism in the very lived experience of the teachers, students and parents of a school on a day-to-day basis.

Restorative Practices is a coherent, but counter-cultural, philosophy which views conflict and wrongdoing through the lens of our fundamental relatedness with one another, which is perhaps the key starting point of our Augustinian charism - community. A restorative approach recognises that the central issue with conflict and wrongdoing is not that rules have been broken, but rather that harm has been caused to people and relationships, and that there is an obligation on all concerned to attempt to repair this harm. In addition to repairing harm and seeking healing in the wake of wrongdoing or conflict, a restorative approach also aims to build and strengthen the relationships that exist within

the community in order to help prevent or at least minimise the potential for such wrongdoing in the future. It provides one practical means by which we can strive to ‘live together... one in mind and one in heart, and honour God in each other’ (Rule, 1.8). It is an educative approach which is in-keeping with our Catholic and Augustinian tradition.

Working restoratively enables the better living out of the Gospel message, and enables expression of the richness of our scriptural and sacramental heritage. Restorative practices is congruent with the body of Catholic Social Teaching and reflects St Augustine’s teachings on justice and discipline. It encourages the living out of the particular set of values that are central to the Augustinian tradition.

1. Weissbourd, R, 2003. ‘Moral Teachers, Moral Students’, *Educational Leadership*, pp. Vol 60, No 6
Adapted from the introduction to the article “Right Relationships: Restorative Practices in an Augustinian Catholic School” which explores working restoratively within the Catholic scriptural, sacramental and social tradition, as well as describing the restorative nature of Augustine’s view of justice and the application of our shared Augustinian values to working together more relationally in schools. The article is available at:

http://www.rpforschools.net/Right%20Relationships_RP%20in%20an%20Augustinian%20Catholic%20School.pdf

A recording of a 2016 presentation to Villanova staff entitled “Because we are Teachers – RP in an Augustinian Catholic School” is available on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q3QLM4gytkI>

Further resources are available at the RPforSchools website at: <http://www.rpforschools.net/index.html>

Graeme George
Faculty
Villanova College-Brisbane



Augustinian Parishes

Two parishioners of Augustinian parishes in Sydney and Melbourne share what they value most in an Augustinian parish community.



Maju with her family.

As an immigrant in Australia, I lacked a sense of belonging, I attended Masses in different parishes, but none of them felt like home. When we found the Augustinian Parish in South Yarra in Melbourne, we received a warm welcome and a smile from the very first day, so much so that we never left.

I really appreciate the sense of community and responsibility for one another. We look after each other and prioritise the common good, especially during a pandemic when we all face some hardships. Seeing everyone come together to keep our Parish and faith alive was really moving.

The Augustinian values of humility, generosity and love definitely permeate the practices of the Parish, having its people as the main focus, living the Gospel together in mutual support. By being in an Augustinian parish, one can truly embody the truth of the teachings of Christ, living in harmony and having the love of God and love of neighbour as the centre of our Christian Life.

Maju Arauju
*Young Adults Ministry and Choir Member
Parish of South Yarra, Melbourne VIC*

Being in an Augustinian parish for the past 26 years has brought many things of value to the Holy Spirit community in St Clair and Erskine Park.

One of the things that I value about the Augustinian leadership is their ‘down to earth’ approach, borne out in the way the Scriptures are broken open for us in the homilies. The stories and events are put into context of the times in which they were written and what we can take from them today that will impact our lives. There have been many speakers arranged to come and talk on various topics, both scriptural and current social justice issues, over the years. All have been nourishing and insightful, including the talks on Mary held at the beginning of the Marian Fiesta in October each year.

Over the years, there has been much collaboration between the Augustinians and our parish community. There has always been a sense that we are doing this together, building friendships and leadership within the community. I call to mind the quote from St Augustine that we are doing this with ‘One mind and one heart on the way to God.’

I also value the many opportunities for consultation, being introduced to discernment through prayer, reflection and discussion so that the right actions, directions and decisions are made for our community.

Carol Vella
*Acolyte, Lector and an SRE Catechist
Holy Spirit Parish, St Clair NSW*



Carol with Fr Paul Maloney OSA >

Augustinian Education

What makes our school so special is that we offer wonderful opportunities for our students to learn and grow in a variety of areas – the arts, academic Life, sports, co-curricular endeavours, serving others, wellbeing capacities and leadership opportunities. The same can also be said for the spiritual and faith developments of the young men at St Augustine’s College.

The beginning of each year provides excellent examples of this. We launched our yearly mission theme – Ongoing Conversion - and explained that this uniquely Augustinian quality should be constantly highlighted and emphasised throughout the year. This year we encourage our community to face Life’s journey with humility and accept the questioning nature of our search for meaning. At each stage of our lives, we are encouraged to recognise the gift of Life and the love of God.



Peter Nolan

In addition, this year we introduced a new online course called **Catholic Augustinian Values (CAV)** that our senior boys (Year 11, 2022) will need to complete. The course aims to deepen understanding in Catholic and Augustinian spirituality. Each student will complete eight modules at their own pace and have opportunities to write and reflect on their learnings. They will also be required to upload evidence of 8 hours of service to the community. **The Modules will cover God and Spirituality; Christian Spirituality; Unique Features of our Catholic Faith; St Augustine – the Man; Augustinian Spirituality; Dignity of the Human Person; Serving Others; and Ethics and the Gift of Life.**

We feel the course strikes a good balance between allowing choice in HSC subject selections and ensuring our Catholic, Augustinian faith continues to be nourished.

The first module of the CAV course asks the boys to explore and reflect on the concept of God and their own personal journey. The below extract is evidence that our boys have a strong sense of wonder and awe and possess the depth to allow God be in their hearts and minds – just as Augustine did as a young man in search for truth.

When I was younger, I was introduced into Christianity, but I never really thought much of it. However, as I got older, I began to turn to God more often during times of crisis and whenever I felt lost. Praying to God, alone in my room, acted as a coping mechanism. It calmed me down. It reminded me of how lucky I was to have access to the facilities around me and made me reflect on some of the decisions I had made throughout the year.

My family and school have shaped my morals and values during my formative years by reinforcing fundamental qualities. For example, from a young age, my family instilled respect, honesty, patience and empathy into me in hope that I would grow up to be a better person. Both my Primary School and St Augustine’s College have influenced and moulded me into the person I am today.

Peter Nolan
Deputy Principal – Mission and Wellbeing
St Augustine’s College, Sydney

In Ourselves, The Future Lies.

The proper function of man is to live. Not to just exist. It is to become what we are not yet, to embrace the changes and challenges life throws at us, and to acknowledge that in such times, we have two choices; the choice to grow, improve and fulfill, or the choice to remain complacent.

Every new year brings new opportunities, new changes and we find ourselves at times relentlessly making the decision between the two choices. To remain closed in with what we have always done, or step outside our comfort zone...a choice to grow. To lack effort, or plan and persist... a choice to improve. To only watch others or be brave and step forward, a choice to fulfill. We have a community who backs us tirelessly to reach our fulfillment. We have teachers who strive for our improvement and our failures and successes are personal for them. We have families that nurture our growth. We have all this, but it is in ourselves, that the future lies. Decisions and choices to grow, improve and fulfil, or a decision and choice for complacency. Like you, I too have faced this decision many times. If I am to be honest, there have been times when if it were solely up to me, the wrong choice would've been made, that's the thing about hindsight and that's the thing about Villanova. ***You're not alone. We have a shared responsibility to make the right choice.***

Embracing the College's theme for 2022, which is ongoing conversion, the Student Leadership Team decided that the senior class of 2022's motto will be **'In ourselves, the future lies'**. These same words were coined back in 1963, by a 16-year-old named James Nelson Jr's senior class at Ullman High

School in Alabama. Nelson Jr at the time had just entered an exciting new relationship with a young girl called Cynthia. But, for African Americans living in America during the 1960s, Life was not easy. On one fatal Sunday morning, a group of racists killed four young girls, and two boys: including Cynthia. Nelson Jr described the pain and anger he felt, frustrated they could take such a beautiful young life solely because of their skin colour. Throughout the year, a heartbroken James Nelson Jr, his family, and



friends continued to experience relentless racism and abuse. Yet through it all, he maintained a ray of hope. And so aptly, the graduating class of 1963's motto was 'In ourselves, our future lies', as Nelson Jr believed that perfectly describes what he and many others learnt that year – that some unforeseeable things are out of our control, so we must control the one thing that we are able to – ourselves.

Life sometimes is not easy, but in ourselves, the future lies. Whilst our challenges may pale in comparison to Nelson Jr's, they are challenges nonetheless that we own. Our senior class is not viewing these words as a sentiment, we are embodying these words as a mentality. With the world continuing to throw challenges and, at times, continue to take things away from us, we can't focus on those things that are out of our control, but we can focus on ourselves, because in ourselves, the future lies.

Let's make the most of every moment that we are given and create a unique and fulfilling legacy ... for in ourselves, the future lies.

Riley Richards
2022 College Captain 2022
Villanova College-Brisbane
(speech delivered during the commissioning of student leadership)

Justice & Peace

As with all Papal encyclicals, *Laudato Si'* on Care for our Common Home is a gift to the Church and the wider people of God. *Laudato Si'* responds to the problems of the world with a radical call for personal and collective responsibility which seeks to repair our relationship with the earth, “ruptured by sin” (LS66). *Laudato Si'* challenges the faithful to live out a culture of ecology, to not be distracted by elitism, instead with our eyes set firmly on the poor, filling our hearts with the love of God so as to enjoy the fruits of sustained accompaniment with the person of Jesus Christ.

Early in his encyclical, Francis proposes what might be described as almost a trinitarian nature of our relationship with “God, with our neighbour and with the earth itself” (LS66), offering a theory that the rupture of our relationship with the earth has stemmed from a distortion of the mandate in Genesis to “have dominion” over the earth (Gen 1:28) as well as the instruction to “till it and keep it” (Gen 2:15). In doing so, Francis is echoing Pope John Paul II, who in his address for the celebration of the World Day of Peace spoke of a “harmonious universe [whose] order must be respected” (1990), in turn reflecting on the “marvellous order [that] predominates in the world of living beings and in the forces of nature” examined by Pope John XXIII in *Pacem in Terris* (1963).

Woven through Francis’ encyclical is a reinforcing of the gospel message of God’s love for all. Francis emphasises that God “loves all things that exist” (LS77), that “we were made for love” (LS58),



Members of the Student Representative Council (SRC) at St Augustine's College, Sydney leading the way in container recycling.

Reflections on *Laudato Si'*



“created out of love” (LS65), to live in a universe that “speaks of God’s love” (LS84). *Laudato Si'* draws us to respond with “gratitude that we have been invited to be at least a small part of an immense cosmic journey” (Haught, 2007), correcting a “wrong understanding of the relationship between human beings and the world” (LS116). For example, Francis makes a specific point of questioning the logic behind abortion, drawing on the wisdom of Pope Benedict who questions “If personal and social sensitivity towards the acceptance of the new life is lost, then other forms of acceptance that are valuable for society also wither away” (CIV28). Francis insists that “underlying the principle of the common good is respect for the human person as such, endowed with basic and inalienable rights ordered to his or her integral development” (LS157).

It is important then to understand that *Laudato Si'* is not simply a call for collective responsibility, but rather a reflection on the beauty of all God’s creation, drawn into being through a love greater than we can imagine, the love of God. Indeed “God’s plan is that all of creation - and not only human beings - be redeemed and reconciled to God” (Lannan, 2000).

Laudato Si' is an excellent document for the purposes of evangelisation and ecological conversion, reaching the hearts and minds of an unusually large demographic. For example, Francis uses the word ‘Christian’ 35 times throughout the document as compared to the word ‘Catholic’, which appears 19 times, mostly in the context of ‘Catholic Church’, appearing to intend to build an ecumenical bridge with our Protestant brothers and sisters, for whom the ecological challenge is just as relevant.

Here at St Augustine's, we are striving to live out the call of Francis to examine how we are best serving Mother Earth, of course amidst the challenges and realities of College life. The College recently installed a large array of Solar Panels on top of our Brimson Centre, as well an initiative of the Student Representative Council for students to collect bottles and cans for 'Return and Earn' deposits, of which the funds can be used for student initiatives. Still, the playground is flooded with plastics and food waste after each and every recess and lunch break, and may God bless the College cleaning team who serve us each and every day. There is much to do in

the education of practical changes we can make as a College community to the way we serve God and his Creation.

Haight, J. F. (2007). *Christianity and science: toward a theology of nature*. Orbis Books.

Pope Francis. (n.d.). *Laudato Si on Care for Our Common Home*. Retrieved from https://www.vatican.va/content/dam/francesco/pdf/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si_en.pdf

- **Michael Paton**
Leader of Liturgy and Retreat
St Augustine's College, Sydney

Augustinian News

Augustinian Provincial Chapter

From 27th June to 1st July 2022, the Augustinians of the Province of our Mother of Good Counsel –Australasia will hold its Ordinary Provincial Chapter, held every four years. As significant decisions will be made during the Chapter concerning existing ministries of the Augustinians in Australia, Korea, Vietnam and Thailand, we therefore humbly commend to your prayers the success of our gathering. We continue to entrust our discernment, deliberations and decisions to the wisdom of the Holy Spirit and the Providence of God.

St James' Parish, Coorparoo celebrates 70th Anniversary of Augustinian Presence

St. James Parish Coorparoo acknowledged 70 years of Augustinian Pastoral Ministry (22nd March 1952- 22nd March 2022). In this acknowledgement every parish priest who ministered during these 70 years, was mentioned. In honour of this special occasion, a celebratory Mass took place on Sunday 27th. March at 9.00 AM, strongly supported by parishioners. Fr. John Sullivan was the celebrant; concelebrants were, Fr. Peter Wieneke, Fr. Brian Fitzpatrick and Fr. Saldie Resolado. There was friendship, happiness and joy in abundance at the reception which followed, under the famous St. James mango tree.

Sylvia Philips
Parishioner, St James Parish, Coorparoo

Affiliations of the Faithful to the Order

Several of the laity closely associated with the Augustinians in Australia were affiliated to the Order of St Augustine by the Prior General Alejandro Moral Anton OSA on 7th March, 2022. The new affiliates are: **Adriana and Michael Bowyer** (*Adriana has served as President of the Augustinian Formation Association for several years*); **Lenore Girard, Karleen and Elizabeth O'Reilly** (*Lenore, Karleen and Elizabeth are benefactors of the Order and have strong associations with Friends of Saint Augustine in Brisbane*); **Anna and Ian Heath** (*Anna has rendered exemplary service to the Order as former Finance Officer for the Province*); **Joan Donoghue** (*Joan has been extraordinary in her advice and support to community in relation to members of the community in aged care*); and **Judith Duncan** (*Judith has always shown strong commitment to Friends of Saint Augustine in Melbourne*).

By reason of their affiliation, they belong to the Augustinian Family and share in all the spiritual benefits of the Order.



Fr Peter Jones OSA with Anna and Ian (left) and Adriana and Michael (right)



Parishioners of St James' Parish at the celebration

Augustinian Formation Association



Shelly Beach Manly, halfway point of the AFA Fun Walk



Congratulations Lucia Siciliano

On 16 February 2022, the Augustinian Formation Association (AFA) in Sydney held its Annual General Meeting, where a new committee was elected for 2022. I am very happy and honoured to be re-elected as President this year. Many thanks to Honorine Jarkey who was re-elected as Secretary. We have a new Treasurer, Anna Heath who we welcome to our committee. Many thanks to Maryanne Guy for her time and hard work as Treasurer for the past few years. Maryanne will remain on as a committee member. I would like to thank all the other AFA committee members joining us again for 2022 for their continued support, friendship and time. This year we sadly farewell from the AFA Committee Rosemary McEwan and Sue Colwell and thank them both so much for their support and dedication over the many years with AFA.

AFA held its first function of the year, the Annual Fun Walk Fundraiser which took place on Sunday, 10 April 2022. It was a 5km return walk from Queensland Lagoon to Shelly Beach. We had 26 people registered to walk and 21 of them joined us for a great morning blessed with beautiful weather and great company.

Many thanks to all the Augustinians who walked with us which included Fr Peter Jones, Fr Jepsen, Fr Percival and Brs Huy & Tu and all the parishioners who came down to walk with us. It was so nice to see some new faces join us this year. A very special mention goes to Lucia Siciliano who led the group coming in first place after her 5km walk. Well done, Lucia! Your energy and enthusiasm are so inspiring.

Also, I would like to thank everyone who obtained their own sponsors, those who sponsored an Augustinian and to everyone else those who donated money 2 weeks prior to the walk and on the day. Your



Queenscliff Lagoon Park, the start of the AFA Fun Walk Fundraiser on Sunday, 10 April 2022

generosity and support are greatly appreciated and so far, we have raised \$4,688.50 which is fantastic.

If you haven't had a chance to donate yet it's not too late as you can still support either by dropping cash into the parish office or going online and depositing your donation into the AFA Account:

BSB: 032190
Account No: 105386
Ref: AFA Walk

What's next for AFA? We hope that our Sydney members and friends will join us and support the Augustinian community with the following functions for the remainder of the year:

+ **Saturday, 9 July** – Christmas in July Dinner at the North Harbour Parish Centre, Manly Vale

+ **Saturday, 19 November** – End of year Dinner at the Wakehurst Golf Club, Seaforth

Best wishes to all for the Easter season. May it bring peace and joy everywhere in the world!

Adriana Bowyer
AFA President

VOCATION

“Why do I still believe in religious vocation and in particular in the Augustinian vocation?”

Now at the age of 89 years and having recently celebrated 60 years as an Augustinian priest, I have the opportunity to reflect on my life, and reflect on what started me on this journey.



Fr. John OSA (left) and Fr. Jepsen Bermudez OSA

As a young state schoolteacher of 21 I looked at my life with all its hopes and opportunities ahead of me. Looking into the future I saw my life, not only as this life, but also extending into all eternity. I knew I wanted to, and needed to, love and be loved deeply. Loving was critical to my hopes and future happiness. I thought if I stayed with the image of the whole of my life, extending into eternity, then the infinite love of my loving God would be the better choice, very much aware that I had an infinite capacity to receive love. I have never heard of anyone being filled up completely with love in this human life. Keenly aware that this means giving up the wonderful love of a wife and a family, was not going to be an easy choice.

St Augustine’s very familiar quote : ‘You have made us and drawn us to yourself O Lord and our hearts are restless till they rest in you’, spoke to me as he too connects this life with the next. Also, St Augustine’s spirituality of love, symbolised with the image of the heart, and his humanness, spoke of a spirituality that was real, and within reach and challenging.



Fr John McCall OSA speaking to the members of the Formation Community during their recollection

I knew that this difficult choice would only be made possible and could only succeed if the call to Augustinian priesthood was God’s call, and hence his supporting grace. I have experienced this supporting grace all my life and never had doubts about my choice. And it was always a free choice and I saw it as an invitation of our Lord to take up my cross and follow Him. After joining the Augustinians, I knew there would be years of preparation where I could reflect on my choice before I made my final commitment.

Now in the twilight of my life I look back with gratitude and thankfulness for my accepting our loving Lord’s invitation. There is a deep sense of love and joy in me now, and a sense of having taken on a very difficult life journey, with its many highs and lows, and a real sense that it has all been very worthwhile. I am so grateful for the invitation of our loving Lord in my youth. I now look forward to the future with hope and joy and love.

Fathers Tuan Anh Le OSA
and Abel van de Veer OSA



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WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATION

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PRAYER OF DISCERNMENT

Come Holy Spirit, Gift of God.

May your love inspire me to know you, so that I may love my neighbour with the love that comes from you and may serve others with the gifts that you have given me.

Come Holy Spirit, Love outpoured.

Inspire in me and in those whose paths cross mine a dedication to all that is true and beautiful in the world you made for us, so that we may challenge the world in ways that give life.

Come Holy Spirit, Bond of unity.

Strengthen me each day so that, without fear, I may have the courage that is needed to face the divisions in this world in the spirit of Saint Augustine, always reaching for the unity of mind and heart celebrated by God's Word. I make this prayer through the same Word of God, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Fr. Allan Fitzgerald, O.S.A.