CELEBRATING OUR PARTNERSHIP – WHAT WE DO TOGETHER!

Dear Friends,

This issue of *The Augustinian* brings news of people and events in the Province and the joys, hopes and challenges that we face at this time as an Order and a Church. St Augustine himself spoke of the challenge this way:

> Who am I?  What are you?  You and I are nothing but the Church...  it is by love that we belong to the Church.  And we must persevere to stay with the Church if we wish to show the love we have. (Sermon on 1 John 6, 6)

Partnership in life and ministry has long been part of the ‘Augustinian Way’, especially here in Australia where Augustinians and laity have shared pioneering work for over 176 years in our parishes in country and city, our schools and other ministries – and now in a variety of lay groups as well. Even as Bishop, Augustine himself believed in this inclusive partnership:

> Where I’m terrified by what I am for you, I am given comfort by what I am with you. For you I am a bishop, with you, after all, I am a Christian… I take my rest in the marvellous benefit conferred on all of us in common. (Sermon 340)

At this time, our Province faces a massive challenge. While many of us are in the older age bracket, we have ordained 2 young men in the last few years – Fr Minh-Tan Hoang and Fr Jepser Bermudez. In the Formation Program at Brookvale, there are 12 students from 5 countries and 8 more in South Korea. Many of them will serve the Church in Australia while the others will return to serve in their country of birth and upbringing.

Each year, our Province spends over $260,000 on our students but we do not earn enough money to meet this level of expenses. We are reluctant to sell assets to pay our bills but we will have little choice in the next couple of years.

At this time, we seek your financial support, particularly through donations to the Augustinian Seminary Trust Fund. We have registered DGR (Deductible Gift Recipient) status and issue tax deductible receipts. Please check details in this newsletter about how to contribute.

Please give generously to the 2014 Augustinian Appeal. Thank you to all who have already given generously this year. Our call is to be the Church that the Lord wants us to be, so let us together reach out to show to those around us and to our struggling world the face of a joyful Church.

May each of you be richly blessed!

Fr Dave Austin OSA – Prior Provincial
ORDER and PROVINCE NEWS

Provincial Chapter
The Australasian Province of the Order of St Augustine held its Provincial Chapter in Sydney on 21st-25th July 2014. The Chapter brought together members of the Australasian Province from Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland and overseas, representatives from the Delegation of Korea (who are within the jurisdiction of the Australasian Province), Augustinians on loan to Australia from India and the Philippines, and young men in initial Augustinian formation who are resident in Sydney. In all, over forty Augustinians attended.

Guest speakers included Mr Daniel Ang (Pastoral Planning Coordinator, Diocese of Parramatta), Jacky Worthington (North Harbour Catholic Community), local GP Dr Michael Armstrong, and College Principals Messrs Dennis Harvey (Villanova College) and Tim Cleary (St Augustine’s College).

Fr Joseph Farrell OSA (left of photo), the Vicar General of the Order, confirmed Fr Dave Austin OSA (at right) as the incoming Prior Provincial after he took the oath of office. Fr Dave has been serving for a number of years as Moderator of Holy Spirit Parish at St Clair in western Sydney and also in recent months as the Vicar Provincial.

The Chapter reviewed the present ministries of the Province in Australia and Korea, and proposed additional initiatives based on the Gospel values of discipleship, evangelization and community.

The Chapter process was similar to the one that the Order of St Augustine has adopted since the middle of the thirteenth century. A document called the Acts of the Chapter, signed by all voting members present, then becomes a guide to the administration of the Province for the next four years, and progress is officially reviewed at a Provincial Mid-Chapter two years hence in 2016.

Fr Peter McHugh
The Province has lost one of its longest-serving members. Fr Peter McHugh OSA died on 2nd July at the age of 82 years while in his 52nd year of priestly ministry. Born and raised in Far North Queensland, he served most of his life in his home state in the parishes of Mareeba, Coorparoo and Goodna, as a staff lecturer at Banyo Seminary and a hospital chaplain at the Princess Alexandria Hospital in Brisbane. He ministered also at Manly Vale in Sydney.

Additional roles that he undertook included his involvement in Catholic charismatic movement and the Teams of Our Lady, as a representative of the Church on Brisbane radio and television, in an honorary police chaplaincy, and a preacher of retreats in eastern Australia, New Guinea and the Pacific.

He was the sixteenth Augustinian buried in Far North Queensland in the past 117 years, but the first Australian-born one interred there.
NEW INITIATIVES IN THE PROVINCE

Fr Tony Banks

In September 2013 Fr Tony Banks was appointed to Rome as an Assistant General within the Augustinian International leadership team. Previously he was Australian Provincial of the Order for seven and a half years.

Fr Tony visited Australia during July, when he attended the Augustinian Provincial Chapter in Sydney. As an Assistant General he has a liaison role between the Augustinian Curia in Rome and the Augustinians in the Asia-Pacific, plus general oversight of various specialties such as Augustinian social justice, economic affairs and the permanent Augustinian delegation at the United Nations.

In coming months Fr Tony will represent the Curia at Augustinian gatherings in the Asia-Pacific and South America, and next expects to visit Australia in February 2015.

Villanova’s new Principal

Villanova College in Brisbane will welcome a new Principal in January 2015, the College’s second lay principal, Mr Mark Stower, currently the Principal of Mount Maria College in the Brisbane suburb of Mitchelton since 2005. His previous principalship was at Cathedral College in Rockhampton for seven years.

Prior to this he had twelve years in senior leadership at St Joseph’s Gregory Terrace, including the role of College Dean (deputy principal).

Continuing our OSA tradition

Twelve young men from five Asia-Pacific nations are undertaking initial Augustinian formation at Brookvale in Sydney. They form part of the Augustinian community at Brookvale, where their diversity and youthfulness add great energy.

The most recent candidate to arrive is now enrolled in English language courses at Macquarie University, while the others are studying philosophy and theology in the Catholic Institute of Sydney at Strathfield. As well as study they are involved in Augustinian community life and a number additionally in liturgical ministry and social justice activities. Three are presently undertaking their formal novitiate year.

Their presence is a visible and powerful witness to the Australian Province’s focus on the growth of Augustinian discipleship, evangelisation and community in Australia and its Asia-Pacific neighbours, and inspires great hope of further Augustinian expansion of the Order within the Asia-Pacific. Augustinians have ministered continuously in the Asia-Pacific since 1565, when the Order came to the Philippines.

These young men are joining an Augustinian tradition of continuous service in Australia since 1838 throughout the length of the continent — from the early penal settlement at Port Arthur, in Ballarat at the Eureka Stockade, in the life and death of Ned Kelly, in Adelaide with St Mary MacKillop, in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and in the pioneering Vicariate of Cooktown on Far North Queensland.

Within Australia the Order has pastoral responsibility for parishes at South Yarra (Melbourne), North Harbour (Balgowlah/Manly Vale in Sydney), St Clair (Parramatta Diocese), Coorparoo (Brisbane) and Mareeba (Diocese of Cairns), and for St Augustine’s College Sydney and Villanova College at Coorparoo in Brisbane. It also conducts a Spirituality Centre at Greystanes (Diocese of Parramatta), and assists with the staffing of the Aboriginal ministry of the Cairns Diocese.
DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS

There are various ways you can contribute to the Order and receive a tax deduction:

**Augustinian Seminary Trust Fund** – This Appeal is our main focus at this time. Funds are used exclusively for the ongoing provision for our seminarians. Envelopes are available in our parishes and you can make a donation by cash, credit card or direct deposit. For further information please contact the Province Office on (02) 9938 0200 or Anna Heath at anna.heath@augustinians.org.au. Cheques made out to these Funds can be mailed to the Province Office, Order of St Augustine, PO Box 7278 Warringah Mall, Brookvale NSW 2100; to receive a receipt by return mail, please include your full name and postal address.

Other ways you can support the Province’s ministries are by donations to:

- **Augustinian Volunteers Program** through Fair Go Australia;
- **Augustinian Seminary Building Fund**;
- **Bequests**.

For more details, please contact the Province Bursar Fr John McCall, Anna Heath or the Province Office.

Thank you for your generous support!