



The building which will house pilgrims at San Gimignano, Italy

The St. Augustine Foundation Makes Generous Grants

God's great generosity to our Province in the providential sale of the Villa Nueva housing project has allowed us to establish The St. Augustine Foundation to help poor people in California as well as other parts of the world. The initial grants made last year were a trial run to test the grant-making process. This year's grants, announced the end of October, amount to over \$400,000 when the scholarship grants are counted in.

The largest single grant, for \$100,000 was endorsed by the Vicar General of the Order, Joe Farrell, for helping to build a 1.5 million new Augustinian primary and secondary school in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to serve the most poor and child laborers.

Kirk Davis, as the chair of our province Justice and Peace Commission, endorsed five projects, including the renovation of the San Gimignano building pictured above into quarters for pilgrims traveling on foot on the path to Rome. Currently pilgrims are housed within the Augustinian

house, which provides too many distractions to the community. He also endorsed a project for the mission in San Lucas Toliman, Guatemala, where St. Augustine High students help each January, as well as help for our Tijuana orphanage, Fr. Joe's Village, and St. Augustine High. Kevin Mullins endorsed St. Rita's Cafeteria for needy students in Paciapampa, Peru.

Gary Rye endorsed a Casa Cornelia Law Center project for legal services for those suffering from domestic violence and human trafficking issues. Harry Neely endorsed a project to rehab housing which the poor, old, and disabled are unable to repair in Taiwan. Tom Verber endorsed a project for Life Choices Pregnancy Clinic and Mike Bube endorsed a project to strengthen the school community at Villanova Prep.

In addition, the Foundation is providing scholarships to St. Augustine High, Villanova Prep and at St. Monica's in Rome for a student from a poor province of the Order. ♦



Fifteen people, teachers, administrators, staff and board members from our province high schools attended the Augustinian Values Institute held this year at Cascia Hall Preparatory School, Tulsa, Oklahoma, from October 7th to 9th, six of them from our Villanova Preparatory School, Ojai, and nine from St. Augustine High School, San Diego. The total group at the institute is pictured with the bishop of Tulsa.

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Above are the members of the San Diego community of Augustinian Volunteers, from left: Emily Persicketti, Jon Heisler, Sarah Glominger, and Rodrigo Rivera. (See story on page 2).



Number 187 Order of St. Augustine in the Western U.S. December 2016



Provincial Kevin Mullins, rear center, with parishioners of the Augustinian church of St. John of the Cross, Mararaba, Nigeria

Order Mid-Chapter Held in Nigeria

The first ever Order mid-chapter to be held on the African continent took place at a retreat center near Abuja, Nigeria, from September 18th to 30th.

Sixty one friars gathered from all over the world, from 22 provinces and 16 vicariates or suspended provinces. Our Provincial Kevin Mullins kept us informed of the events by regular and interesting internet postings.

Vocations and formation received a good deal of attention. The Chapter invites all Augustinians to promote youth activities and cooperate with vocation directors. They directed that a general plan of vocation promotion be developed and that courses for the education of formation personnel be developed.

Time was spent on the structures of the Order. India was raised from a delegation to a vicariate. The vicariate of Bolivia was removed from sponsorship by the Dutch Province and aligned with the Province of Chile. The Vicariate of West Papua was also moved from Dutch sponsorship to be under the Province of Cebu. The Chapter invited the Federation of the Provinces of Spain to assume responsibility for the Delegation of Cuba.

A plan was devised to discuss poverty and the communion of goods, beginning with house chapters and working up through the province level to the total Order. In world concerns, encouragement was given for a concrete commitment to the needs of refugees.

One of the highlights for Kevin Mullins was the Mass on Sunday, September 25th, at the Augustinian parish of St. John of the Cross, Mararaba. The large church was packed with over 3,000 parishioners for a three hour celebration. The Chapter members joined in a festive parish meal after the Mass. ♦



Fr. Joseph Farrell, O.S.A.

Province Mid-Chapter

On October 23rd, Provincial Kevin Mullins sent out a letter to each province member con-voking the Province Mid-Chapter to be held in San Diego from January 24th to 27th. President of the chapter will be Fr. Joseph Farrell, Vicar General of the Order who recently authored a chapter on "Prayer in the Augustinian Tradition" for a new book titled *Prayer in the Catholic Tradition*, published by Franciscan Media.

Each of the province commissions has been asked to submit two proposals for consideration by the chapter. ♦



The Ventura community of Augustinian Volunteers, from left: Erica Papkee, Bernadette Jordan, Anna Piccirilli, and Brendan Delaney

Augustinian Volunteers Help In Ministries

It is an extravagantly generous gesture to donate a year of your life to helping others as a volunteer when your contemporaries are energetically starting out on the career ladder. Eight generous young women and men are making that gesture in helping our California Province as Augustinian Volunteers for this school year in two communities: Ventura and San Diego.

In the Ventura community are Erica Papkee, an Applied Psychology and Human Development graduate of Boston College who is a campus ministry assistant at our Villanova Prep School in Ojai. Working also in Ojai is Bernie (Bernadette) Jordan, a Notre Dame graduate whose parents were Holy Cross and Maryknoll Lay Missioners. She has already been 5 times to Haiti on mission trips with a non-profit started by her parents. Bernie works with homeless and poor people with HELP of Ojai.

Brendan Delaney, a Villanova University graduate, is a campus ministry assistant at St. Bonaventure High School, Ventura. Besides liking the beach, he

finds his community living experience invigorating. Anna Piccirilli, a Villanova grad, is a teacher-aide and assistant religion coordinator at Our Lady of the Assumption School, Ventura.

The San Diego community includes Sarah Gloninger, a University of Pittsburgh psychology graduate who is a paraprofessional and extended care coordinator at our St. Patrick's Elementary School. In high school in Philadelphia she volunteered each Saturday serving lunch to poor and homeless people. A Secondary Education and History major from Mount St. Mary's University, Jon Heisler is a Campus Ministry Assistant at St. Augustine High.

Emily Persicketti, also from Villanova, is serving as a registered nurse at St. Vincent de Paul Village clinic, caring for the homeless. Rodrigo Rivera, a Villanova grad in Science and Theology, is a PE/Computer Assistant at our St. Patrick's Elementary School. He finds the volunteer community experience convivial. ♦



Ground was broken on October 30th of last year for the new Student Activities Center at St. Augustine High, San Diego, which includes a gym/multi purpose space, offices, weight and other rooms. This October 7th picture shows the progress after one year. They project a move-in date of February 16, 2017, with dedication later in the spring.

Ear to the Grindstone

Please remember in prayer Augustinian Affiliate Kathleen Courtney, who died Monday, September 26th, and Richard Grant, half-brother of Fr. Jerry Van Overbeek of the Cole Street house in San Francisco, who died November 1st.

Please also pray for our infirm: Jerry Bevilacqua and Tom Behan and Paul Quante.

On October 14th, acting on a suggestion from the formation/vocation commission, the Provincial Council established a Commission for Communications, with initial members being Nicholas Porter and Dominic Smith. Additional members will be named.

Kevin Mullins conferred the Ministry of Acolyte upon Barney Johns and the Ministry of Lector upon Maxime Villeneuve at the St. Augustine High school Mass on October 4th.

Tom Whelan attended a five day convocation of the National Religious Vocation Conference in Overland Park, Kansas, October 26th-31st, where he updated on a number of "best practices" in vocation ministry. Before the convocation he was able to visit the novices in Racine and the professed students in Chicago.

Margie Benzie, daily Mass goer at St. Augustine's chapel and supporter of our Tijuana orphanage, has generously donated a car for the use of our seminarians for travel to school.

Bob Gavotto and Alvin Paligutan have been appointed to the planning committee for the convocation of American Augustinians to be held at Villanova University the week of June 11th, 2017.

The annual gathering of all Augustinian students in formation will be held in San Diego August 3rd-5th, based at the University of San Diego. Our California province students are

Carlos Medina and Maxime Villeneuve conducted the October 7th-9th vocation discernment weekend with help from many of the brothers. Pictured from left are Juan Larios, Max Villeneuve, Justin Kasawagi, and Aries Escudero. A new feature of the weekend was a game of miniature golf.



busy planning the days, which will conclude with the First Profession of Vows by the novices at Founder's Chapel at the University of San Diego, 10:30, Saturday, August 5th.

A new track has been completed at Villanova Prep, Ojai, through part of the grant to the school by The St. Augustine Foundation.

Formation Director Gary Sanders attended a FANA formation commission meeting in Racine, Wisconsin November 4th, and was able to visit with our novices and professed while in the mid-west.

Dominic Smith gave the annual appeal for the Augustinian Guild at St. Thomas Church, Ojai, in October.

Saturday, December 10th, the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe and the 40th anniversary of our ministry at Casa Hogar "La Gloria" in Tijuana, will be celebrated with Mass, food, and treats for the children.

Laurie Mooney of the Australian Province visited his classmates in our province, Jim Mott, Gary Rye and Bill Ryan, in September.

The annual gathering of our province seminarians (except for the novices) will be held on Thursday, December 15th, at St. Augustine Monastery, San Diego. In the days following the students from Pakistan will tour California, visiting our communities and spending Christmas at the St. Rita House, San Francisco.

The St. Monica Chapter of Augustinian Seculars has been hosting our Oregon brothers. On October 22nd they took Bill Ryan to brunch and November 6th they took Jim Clifford to supper to celebrate his change in ministry at Providence Hospital. They will gather for a holiday meal between Thanksgiving and Christmas. ♦



The nine men 40 years old and under at St. Augustine Monastery, San Diego, outnumber the seven men in the house over 50. From left: Maxime Villeneuve, Dominic Smith, Emmanuel Isaac, Carlos Medina, Nicholas Porter, Mark Menegatti and Barnaby Johns. Not pictured: Ronnie Custorio and Danish George.

Our Province's Young Faces: How They Impact Us

Forty five percent of our Province membership have made first vows within the past 16 years. The sixteen men who have made profession since the year 2000 have had a big impact on us spiritually, ministerially, psychologically and demographically. While almost all religious communities of men in the United States have grown older during these years, with an average age over 70, our average age has gone down from 63 in 1999 to 59 today.

While the largest group of newer members is at St. Augustine Monastery in San Diego, each community has been vitalized by at least one newer member. In the Bay Area community, Greg Heidenblut is teaching at St. Patrick's Seminary and taking care of finances at St. Rita House. In Ojai, Alvin Paligutan teaches religion at Villanova Prep and is secretary of the Province; and Fernando Lopez is the associate at St. Thomas parish. In Hollywood, Tom Davis is associate at Our Mother of Good Counsel parish.

In bringing the zeal of new members to San Diego, Kirk Davis is in the Austin House community and is chaplain at St. Augustine High. At St. Augustine Monastery, Mark Menegatti heads campus ministry at St. Augustine High and does youth ministry outreach to parish and diocesan events; Barney Johns teaches religion at St. Augustine and is earning an M.A. in Catholic School leadership;

Ronnie Custorio helps in local parish ministry and in emergency assignments within and beyond the province; Carlos Medina is associate pastor at St. Patrick's parish; Nick Porter is helping students in tech at John Paul the Great University; Max Villeneuve is teaching religion at St. Augustine's; Dominic Smith and Danish George are pursuing philosophy studies at John Paul the Great University and Emmanuel Isaac will begin theology in January.

In Chicago, Phil Yang is completing his theology at C.T.U., Robert Barocco is finishing his first year there, and Sarfraz Alam and Adnan Ghani, although they have degrees in theology from Christ the King Seminary in Karachi, are doing extra courses in preaching and scripture.

In Racine, Arturo Renteria and Mauricio Morales are experiencing life in the novitiate. The newer members of the Province reflect the diversity of the population of California, 40% of the population being born out of state and with people of European ancestry being in the minority. ♦



Above, from left: province novices Arturo Renteria and Mauricio Morales



Left, our province theology students at C.T.U. in Chicago. From left: brothers Sarfraz Alam, Philip Yang, Robert Baiocco, and Adnan Ghani.