



NEWSLETTER

AUGUSTINIAN FORMATION ASSOCIATION (AFA)

Supporting the training of brothers and priests for the Augustinian Order

Post Office Box 679
Brookvale 2100

No. 1/04
March 2004



Dear Friends

It is that time again and the holiday season has finished and we have just had our Annual General meeting. Thanks to all existing members and welcome to the new ones.

The new office bearers for 2004 are:

President:	Trudi McFadden
Vice President	Lyn Martin
Treasurer	Eddie Robinson
Secretary	Yvonne Clark
Assistant Secretary	Betty Epps
Social Secretary	Sue Colwell
Assistant Social Secretary	Margaret van Ommen

This year is shaping to be a busy one as usual with some exciting new ideas. The first being our annual Mass and brunch at Manly Vale. This is a little different than previous years as we will join in with the **9.30 am Sunday Mass on 28th March** and have invited members and the parish community to join us at brunch, this will include bacon, eggs and sausages, orange juice and tea and coffee and a small power point presentation of the jubilee and life of the Augustinians. A donation to cover costs will be appreciated.

Some of the other functions for this year will be our annual charity or Mother's Day stall in the Corso, Manly which will be held on the 24th April. We will be having a

Trivia Night sometime in August/September but the date has yet to be confirmed. As like last year we will again be having a bus trip which was thoroughly enjoyed by those who came. We will be going to the Benedictine Nuns at Jamberoo and stopping for lunch after having celebrated Mass. So if you are interested don't hesitate to ring either myself or some other committee member as first in best dressed. Numbers will be limited to 45.

And last but not least the Annual Christmas dinner. This year we have decided at maybe looking at a different venue to look at increasing the numbers and attracting some of the young people. But nothing has yet been confirmed. We are still honouring our commitment at \$750 a quarter. I would like on behalf of AFA to ask God's blessings on all the members who have died in recent times and to ask God to care for the families left behind. I hope that as President for 2004, I will be able to lead you all with sincerity and strength and ask God to give me the graces to succeed. May God Bless you all and here's to a successful 2004.

Trudi McFadden
President
Tel: 9972 4326

Where do our Vocation enquiries come from?

These days they come from all around the world! Our website www.augustinians.org.au generally gets a response twice a week from Nigeria, America and elsewhere. Have you checked out the website for Australia? With it also come the links to the Augustinian websites around the world. We refer the international "hits" back to the local Augustinian province. We get some calls from Australia with the largest number at the moment coming from men with an Asian background. At present we have three men considering a vocation with us.



Our work with youth, which we hope will lead to future vocations, includes the youth encounters and festivals. We are planning an Australian Youth Festival in January 2005, participation in World Youth Day in Cologne and a pre-conference gathering with Augustinian youth from around the world in Weiden, Germany in August 2005. These events, plus the possibility of an Asia-Pacific regional gathering, all foreshadow the next Augustinian International Youth Encounter, possibly in Central America in 2006.

From Fr Peter Jones OSA

I wish a good year for all members of the Augustinian Formation Association and your families as I write for this first issue of the Newsletter for 2004.

I thought it helpful to set out in this regular piece some of the elements of the formation programme by which a person is prepared for life as an Augustinian religious.

A strong emphasis in the Augustinian charism is life in community. St Augustine in his own life as a Christian was strongly influenced by the description of the early Church as portrayed in the Acts of the Apostles - "the believers were of one heart and one mind"(Acts of the Apostles 4:32). As a Christian layman, priest and bishop Augustine lived in community. This was not just for social purposes but was an integral part of his faith- to love one's neighbour is the way in which our love of God becomes concrete. Augustine paid attention not just to the concept of people living under the same roof but to the quality of the human relationships within the community.

Following from Augustine's way of living the Gospel, Augustinian religious life values the communion that should exist among those living this way. For those being welcomed into and prepared for life as an Augustinian being part of an Augustinian community is an essential dimension of their formation. Through the ups and downs of life in common the candidate is encouraged to grow in their openness to others, a sense of belonging, acceptance, trust, support, sensitivity, capacity to seek and accept forgiveness and being present to others.(cf. *Plan on Augustinian Formation*, Rome, 1993, n. 17). For of all us this growth is a life-long journey so a patient love for oneself and others is at the heart of the endeavour of Augustinian religious life.

As you read this you will rightly observe that what is said here about attention to the quality of our relationships applies to all of us in our various vocations. It has been noted that Augustine's perspective of religious life is nothing other than a conscious, focussed effort to live the Christian life well in a particular way. Just as Augustinians are called to articulate in word and deed the values underlying our way of life, we are continually formed in them by experiencing among the people we serve your commitment to living your family relationships and friendships. To use an Augustinian image we carry one another on our common journey towards God.

Fr Peter Jones OSA
Formation Director

Congratulations

Fr Abel van der Veer OSA
- 40th anniversary of
ordination - 22 February.

**Frs David Austin OSA &
Peter Wieneke OSA** - 40th
anniversary of religious
profession - 27 March

Prayers for deceased

Doug Drake
Robert Halloway (father of
former AFA President, Michael
Halloway.)

Prayers for those not enjoying good health

Fr David Brimson OSA
Dorothy Brennan
Joan Keating
Peter Kehoe
Veronica Muller
Ethel O'Connell
Pat Stephenson

If you know of AFA members who are not
enjoying good health and wish to be included
in this newsletter's prayer list please contact Fr
Peter Jones OSA
C/- PO Box 679, Brookvale. NSW.2100.
Ph. 9938-3782;
Email: peterjones_osa@bigpond.com.

Visit www.augustinians.org.au

Each month on this website of the Australian Augustinians there is new Current News. The Association also has a section on the site.

***Reminder
Charity Stall on 24th April at Manly Corso***

***Donations of items suitable for Mothers Day would be
appreciated. Please call either Trudi on 9972 4326 or Sue on
9948 1294.***

Many Thanks.