



Newsletter

AUGUSTINIAN FORMATION ASSOCIATION
(AFA)
Australia

No. 1/06
March 2006

Supporting the training of brothers and priests for the Augustinian Order

Dear Friends and Members,

It seems just like yesterday when I was writing the newsletter for the beginning of 2005 and here we are in 2006. The years just seem to be flying past. Welcome everyone to a fun-filled year with AFA. We had our AGM on the first Tuesday in March where the new office bearers were elected. No real surprises.

Those elected were as follows:

President:	Trudi McFadden
Secretary:	Yvonne Clarke
Treasurer:	Eddie Robinson
Assistant Treasurer:	Lesley Sing
Committee:	Sue Colwell

At this point I would like to thank all those members who resigned for personal reasons but have been an integral part of the association for many years. Lyn and Carl Martin and Margaret van Ommen for their support and hard work. They will be missed. To Father Pat Fahey, many, many thanks for your leadership over the past years and may you continue to have a wonderful life as you step down in your role as Provincial of the Augustinian Order. To Father Tony Banks, congratulations as Provincial-Elect and we hope we will have many good times and may you also be an inspiration to us all in AFA. Now on to the calendar for 2006. We have just had our annual membership drive and this was on all accounts very successful. We have also organised a bus trip in September to the Mt Tomah Botanical Gardens where we will enjoy each others company. The Annual Mass and BBQ will be held in August with a Dutch Auction. Then of course to end of the year when we will have our Xmas Dinner at the Master Builders Club at Dee Why in late November. Dates for these events are on page 4 of this newsletter and further details will be in the next newsletter but try to keep these 3 dates free. To Tan we wish him well as he continues the path to priesthood. To Father Peter Jones our Formation Director we ask God to continue to bless and inspire him and to all our members past and present we ask God to also bless them and our call to help others. I look forward to working and meeting you through our good work.

God Bless.

Trudi McFadden, President
Tel: 9972 4326

The Inner Teacher

There is a Master within Who teaches us. Christ is our Master, and His inspiration teaches us. Where His inspiration and His anointing are lacking, it is in vain that words resound in our ears. As Paul the Apostle said: "I planted the seed and Apollos watered it, but God made it grow."

Therefore, whether we plant or whether we water by our words, we are nothing. It is God Who gives the increase; His anointing teaches you all things.

St Augustine. Sermon on 1 John 3, 13

N *Fr Peter Jones writes*

Recently Fr Tony Banks (Vocations Director), Tan Hoang and I visited Vietnam as part of the Order's efforts to learn more about the Church in that country. While there we met with several young men who were interested to find out more about Augustinian religious life. The Order is presently reflecting on the meaning of such interest and how we respond. In terms of personal reactions to our experience there the three of us were greatly encouraged to see such interest in our way of life from a younger generation. We could imagine great possibilities for the birth of Augustinian life among today's Vietnamese youth. It may be that Australia will have a role to play in assisting the Augustinian formation of the first group of Vietnamese Augustinians that will minister in their land. The experience also kept the question percolating – how do we engender such enthusiastic and energetic interest in Augustinian religious life among the young people of our own country? Yes - there are great historical, cultural and ecclesial differences between those places which are experiencing a flourishing interest in religious life and those where such interest has waned. Yet if we believe that religious life has something valuable to contribute to a Church actively engaged with the aspirations and challenges experienced by the broader human family then the invitation to consider a religious vocation must continue to be offered with hope and conviction. With this first newsletter I look forward to this year's activities of AFA by which those who have accepted the invita-



Fr Tony Banks OSA, Provincial Elect

tion to consider religious life are supported.



Fr Pat Fahey OSA, Provincial

Earlier this month **Fr Tony Banks** was elected as the new Provincial of the Augustinians in Australia. With AFA I congratulate Fr Tony on his election.



L-R: Fr Peter Jones osa, Br Minh-Tan Hoang osa (Tan) and Fr Tony Banks osa outside Tan's grandparents house in Vietnam.

The transition of leadership of the Augustinians from **Fr Pat Fahey** to Fr Tony takes place at the

Brother Tan is Romeward Bound !



Minh-Tan Hoang osa

In July Br Tan Hoang will travel to Rome where he will complete his theological studies. He will reside in the Order's International student community at St Monica's College and study at the Augustinianum.

As he meets Augustinians from other parts of the world and has the experience of living in Rome this next stage of Tan's preparation for life in the Order and priesthood will be greatly enriching.

Tan will be away from Australia for 2 years.

We look forward to Tan's "notes from Rome" in the future AFA newsletters and to his return in 2008.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS
NEEDED**

Please contact:
Trudi McFadden
on
9972 4326

You will be warmly welcomed

The Augustinian Formation Association (AFA) raises funds to support the training of Augustinian brothers and priests in the Australian Province. Other purposes of the group are to support the Augustinians in prayer, and to strengthen the bonds of friendship among supporters of the Order.

It was originally called the Augustinian Student Guild, and was established by a parent group at St Augustine's College, Brookvale, Sydney, Australia around 1970. The association now has members throughout the Province.



Two committee members at the Christmas Party

**Augustinian
Formation Association
AFA**

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Committee 2006

President:	Trudi McFadden
Treasurer:	Eddie Robinson
Secretary:	Yvonne Clarke
Social Committee:	Sue Colwell Lesley Sing



Dates for Your Diary

Sun 20th August—Annual Mass and BBQ

Sunday 17th September—Bus trip to Mt Tomah Botanical Gardens

Saturday 25th November—Christmas Dinner



Prayers for those not enjoying good health

**Dorothy Brennan, Peter Keogh, Veronica Muller, Pat Stephenson and
Yvonne McLoughlin.**

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: peterjonesosa@augustinians.org.au



REST IN PEACE

Babs Binstead

Bede Borger

Cecilia Endicott (mother of Fr Michael Endicott osa)

Pat Hanson

Mr J McDonald

