

Volume 4  
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Augustinian Friends— Seeking God Together

# Amici

## Provincial's Easter Message

Fr Pat Fahey OSA

**T**o our Sisters and Brothers of the Augustinian Friends,

You know, there is the feast of Easter, and then there is the Great Easter.

Now, you may think this is a bit of trivia, but it's a lot more than that. The feast of Easter is that of the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday, when we celebrate the actual event of the Lord's resurrection during the night when, as the Scriptures tell us, he rose from the dead (Mt 28:1-8; Mk 16:1-9; Lk 24:1-8). The Great Easter is the continual celebration of that event during the fifty days leading up to Pentecost Sunday. The Great Easter culminates in the sending of the Holy Spirit on the early believers on the day of the Jewish celebration of Pentecost or "Tents". The two events are linked. As John tells us:

When the Advocate comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who issues from the Father, he will be my witness. (Jn 15:26)

The Spirit would not come until Jesus had ascended to the Father. Jesus could not ascend until he had risen from the dead.

Every time we celebrate the Mass and the sacraments, we celebrate the death, resurrection and ascension of the Lord. We

celebrate not only the Lord himself who died, rose and ascended for us, but we celebrate the way in which we, ourselves, are invited to become more deeply involved in that great act of God's love.

Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. (Jn 3:16)

That you might deepen yourselves in an Augustinian way in that death, resurrection and ascension of the Lord Jesus, the Committee of the Augustinian Friends have organised the First National Congress of the Laity to be held at Echuca on 27–29 April 2001. It will be a remarkable event of friendship and sharing, with the renowned author and ex-Prior General of the Augustinians, Fr Ted Tack, OSA, as the principal speaker.

Please come, and pray that we may all open ourselves to the Spirit who comes to us at the end of the Great Easter, warming our hearts by the flame of his love, filling our minds with thoughts of God.

May you have a blessed Easter and Great Easter.

Fr Pat

## Co-Leader's New Year's Message

Anne Halloway and  
Peter Moriarty

A warm welcome to Sarah-Jane Greenaway who has joined the team as Editor of Amici, she comes with great experience and enthusiasm. Please help us keep Amici a vibrant link between all members and regularly send Sarah-Jane items of interest for publication.

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### Augustinian OnLine

Stay in touch with the latest news from the Augustinian community through the Province's web-site: <<http://www.augustinians.org.au>> Details of upcoming events in Augustinian spirituality and in parishes and schools around the country can be found on this easy to use site. Links to local lay Augustinian associations and the international community can also be found on this site.

In these last stages of Congress planning our committee wish to acknowledge the invaluable assistance we have had from our friends in Echuca and Kyabram, Fathers John Murray and Dave Austin OSA, and the committee led by Theresa Jacobs. Fathers Paul Maloney, Laurie Mooney and John McCall have helped tremendously. Together we have worked towards what promises to be a really great experience and we extend an invitation to all those interested in lay spirituality.

Australian Provincial, Fr Pat Fahey OSA will speak at the Congress Dinner. Interest is mounting, already over forty have confirmed from Sydney. Those from Melbourne and local areas may wish to take the option of One Session, One Day Attendance or Congress Dinner. For catering purposes the total payment of those options is required by 30th March. A \$50.00 deposit on full Congress attendance is now due.

Keynote speaker, Father Ted Tack OSA has shown great interest and is eagerly looking forward to the Congress. His recent books will be available for purchase. We can share encouraging words from his last letter:

Let us continue to pray for one another and for the great success of this venture, which certainly has as its final goal to help others draw closer to Christ and God.

God bless!

Finally, a reminder about your annual subscription. If you do not receive a RECEIPT with this issue, then we have not received your \$20 annual subscription (which was due in December 2000). Members are encouraged to attend to this as we depend on subscriptions for the production and postage of Amici.

Peter Moriarty  
Anne Halloway

PS: Registration forms for the Congress are available at your local parish or from one of the Committee Members (contact details on back cover).

## Letter from the Editor

Sarah-Jane Greenaway

This is not an editorial. Rather, it is just a note to introduce myself as the new Editor of Amici. I have taken over from Ed Maher, who has done such a wonderful job in the past. It will be difficult, following in his footsteps. However, I hope that you will enjoy the new look News just as much as previously.

Part of my wish list for 2001 is to utilise the talents of all Augustinian Friends by publishing contributions of all sorts in Amici; to make it a space where Augustinian Friends can share their spirituality and encourage it in others.

To do this, we need to receive input from all our Friends. The contribution can be in the form of a prayer, a book review, a letter to the editor, an academic paper, a story of a faith journey, a summary of a news item, a reflection on a favourite bible reading. It need not be long; it need not be short; it need not be specifically religious. All you need to have is something to say. The only restrictions are that it be in good taste and not be defamatory. Otherwise, everything I receive for publication will be considered for inclusion in Amici.

I would prefer it if submissions could be e-mailed directly to me at [sjgreenaway@bigpond.com](mailto:sjgreenaway@bigpond.com), but I will accept them in any form! My mailing address is 20 Crane Street, Springwood, NSW, 2777.

I look forward to being inundated!

Sarah-Jane

## A Potted Guide to Echuca

Echuca is situated on the Murray River, just over the Victorian border. It is a town famous for its sense of history, its fully restored buildings and for its paddle steamers chugging up and down the Murray. The town is equally famous for its food and wine, with cuisine to suit every taste and budget. Finally, the area boasts

some wonderful bushland and wildlife experiences. For more information on Echuca see Echuca Tourism web site at <<http://www.echucamoama.com>> or phone the Echuca Information Centre on : (03) 5480 7555

Planes, trains and automobiles

If you wish to travel to Echuca on the XPT from Sydney, the cost of a return ticket is \$99 economy and \$131 first class.

Where to stay

There are any number of places to stay in this part of Victoria. Accommodation ranges from caravan parks to B&Bs. The following are some of the options available:

Rich River Caravan Park

Contact Person: Carla, Nigel, Neil & Leonie  
Crescent St, ECHUCA

Ph: (03) 5482 3658 Fax: (03) 5480 2214  
Email: [info@richriver.net](mailto:info@richriver.net)

Riverlander Caravan Park

Contact Person: Alan & Diane Brown  
48 Pianta Rd, ECHUCA

Ph: (03) 5482 2558 Fax: (03) 5482 2558  
Yarraby on the Murray River

Contact Person: Bob Martin  
75 River Ave, ECHUCA

Ph: (03) 5482 1533 Fax: (03) 5482 5809  
Email: [yarrabypark@ozemail.com.au](mailto:yarrabypark@ozemail.com.au)

Echuca Caravan Park

Contact Person: Hugh Diedrich  
Crofton St, ECHUCA

Ph: (03) 5482 2157 Fax: (03) 5480 1551  
Email: [hughd@mcmedia.com.au](mailto:hughd@mcmedia.com.au)

Caledonain Motel

Contact Person: Gary Neville  
Cnr. Hare & Darling Sts, ECHUCA

Ph: (03) 5482 2100 Fax: (03) 5482 2764  
Nirebo Motel

Contact Person: Coral Oberin  
251 Hare St, ECHUCA

Ph: (03) 5482 2033 Fax: (03) 5482 5322  
Reservations: 1800 033 189

Email: [nireechu@fc-hotels.com.au](mailto:nireechu@fc-hotels.com.au)

Settlement Motor Inn

Contact Person: Terry and Kim Werner  
405-409 High St, ECHUCA

Ph: (03) 5482 4777 Fax: (03) 5482 4780  
Email: [bw90790@bestwestern.com.au](mailto:bw90790@bestwestern.com.au)

River Gallery Inn (B&B)

Contact Person: Monica, Pat & John  
578 High St, ECHUCA

Ph: (03) 5480 6902 Fax: (03) 5480 6902  
Email: [inn@echuca.net.au](mailto:inn@echuca.net.au)

# Augustinian Friends

## First National Congress for the Laity in Australia



- Who:** All interested in lay spirituality and friendship
- When:** Friday 27th April —  
to Sunday 29th April, 2001
- Where:** St Mary's Parish, Centre  
Echuca, Victoria
- Why:** To deepen your understanding of Augustine
- How:** Registration forms available by calling  
(02) 9949 1758, e-mail: [halloway@intercoast.com.au](mailto:halloway@intercoast.com.au) or by mail from The Secretary, Augustinian  
Friends, PO Box 679, Brookvale NSW 2100



### FRIENDSHIP

*I cast myself without reservation on the love of those who are especially close to me, particularly when worn out by the upsets of the world. In their love I rest without the slightest worry because I perceive that God is present there... For when I see that a person is aflame with Christian love and has therefore become a faithful friend to me, I know that whatever thoughts I entrust to him, I entrust not to another human being, but to God in whom that person dwells, and by whom he is who he is.*

*Letter 73:3*

## Message from Mareeba

Ruth Parker

Dear Friends

We had a northern gathering of Augustinian Friends on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December attended by the Mareeba and Kuranda Friends including two teenage children.

Originally it was intended to share the day with Innisfail Friends but being so close to Christmas they sent apologies. However we enjoyed the time together discussing future plans and enjoying a pizza lunch prepared by our hosts Teresa and Gennaro Marinelli

At the present moment it does not seem possible for any of us to attend the First Lay Augustinian Congress in April but this could change and maybe one of us can make the journey and share the experience with you.

We wish you every success with the Congress and trust it leads you even closer to St. Augustine, and each other.

God bless you all,

Ruth Parker

## Amici

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### Korn Korner

Jesus and Satan were sitting around in the world between, having an argument over who was the better programmer. They discussed this for several hours until they agreed to hold a contest, with God as the judge. Sitting at their computers, they began typing furiously, lines of code filling up the screens, for almost three hours. Seconds before the contest was to end, a bolt of lightning took out the electricity. A few moments later, power was restored, and God announced that the contest was over. He asked Satan to show him his programming. Visibly upset, Satan said: "I have nothing! I lost it all when the power went out."

"Let's see if Jesus has fared any better," God said. Jesus pulled up his screen and showed God a vivid display as the voices of an angelic choir resounded from the speakers. Satan was shocked. "But how?" he cried. "I lost everything, but Jesus' programme is intact? How did he do it?"

God laughed. "Everyone knows...Jesus saves."

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com

## Upcoming Events

Augustinian Friends, First National Congress for the Laity, 27-29 April 2001, St Mary's Parish Centre, Echuca, Victoria. For registration forms, contact Anne Halloway, (02) 9949 1758 or halloway@intercoast.com.au or The Secretary, Augustinian Friends, PO Box 679, Brookvale NSW 2100.

