

Volume 11
Issue 1
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Augustinian Friends— Seeking God Together

AMICI

Co-Leaders' Message

Maureen Atkins & Ruth McGowan

Dear Friends,

With this edition we celebrate an important milestone in the life of Augustinian Friends. It marks 10 years since our first publication of Amici in March, 1999.

So much has developed since that time. We have had many dedicated leaders to guide us and write for Amici, including Anne Halloway & Peter Moriarty, (1999-2001), Paul Griffiths (2001-2004), Monica Meagher & Mary McCormick (2004-2007) with regular contributions from all groups throughout Australia. Our talented editors, in particular Sarah-Jane Greenaway, have pieced together all the articles and kept us all to the necessary timelines to pull it all together at each edition. We thank you.

Added to this we have held three very memorable and successful Augustinian Congresses for the Laity – in Echuca, 2001, Sydney - Brookvale 2004, and in South Yarra-Melbourne in 2007. We are currently preparing and looking forward to meeting again in Brisbane in June, 2010.

In 1999 a small group travelled to Rome for the 1st International Congress, whilst in 2006 nineteen Friends attended the 2nd Congress to participate and enjoy interaction with Lay people from all corners of our globe. Now we are anticipating the 3rd Congress in 2012.

Yet in the midst of the celebration about the publication of Amici and the development of Augustinian Friends, we have been very conscious of the suffering in our country over the last few weeks – floods in Queensland and bushfires in Victoria. The overwhelming response to the Bushfire Appeals has demonstrated the depth of feeling towards the loss of lives and homes for the many people in these areas. However our understanding of being brothers and sisters in Christ has been affirmed by people's generosity in Australia and overseas. The response of the volunteer organisations was swift, efficient and compassionate. Members of the CFA risked their lives to subdue the fires. Donations of goods and services, collections in workplaces and benefit concerts exemplified the responsibility people felt for each other.

As a nation, we acknowledged our generosity.

Now we are moving towards the time of resurrection; houses will rise again in bushfire areas, but there will be new designs that are more resistant to the furious flames of bushfires. Maybe we also need a transformation at an individual level to help us discern how to become more environmentally aware in the Australian climate.



Ruth McGowan & Maureen Atkins

In **Road to Resurrection**,

Mary O'Neil rsm challenges us to ponder about the significance of resurrection in every moment of our lives as we celebrate the great feast of Easter in the Christian Church.

*Nailed wood, cup and holy fire,
Believing there is Light
Already present in the darkness.
Cosmic evil, reluctant in defeat.
Your Resurrection
Never was a separate event,
You came to it, day by day,
Called to abandonment,
In and through Your life and death,
Not after it.*

May you all enjoy the celebration of Easter; we pray that your lives are enriched by your understanding of the Resurrection and you come to it 'day by day'.

In our groups of Augustinian Friends, we reflect upon our lives of faith. At this time of the 10th Anniversary of Amici, we give thanks for the vision of those who came together with the concept of sharing paths between Augustinians and the lay people of the Augustinian Parishes, and for those whose dedication made this concept a reality which has grown in strength over the last 10 years. As we move into the Easter season, their work provides an enriched opportunity for us to reflect on the experience of resurrection; the introduction of Augustinian Friends has brought new life to the laity. May we continue this mission to bring new life into our communities as we celebrate this Easter Season,

Ruth and Maureen

Friends Meet Mareeba

Contact: Jeanette Hartley

This past year of 2008 has been a quiet one for Augustinian Friends in Mareeba. With many of our members being away for extended periods of time during the year, just a very small group was left to carry on our works and studies.

In the Far North, life really slows down during the wet season, so the year began in a leisurely fashion. We made our annual trip to Cooktown a bit earlier than usual, since the Sisters of Mercy were going to be there to celebrate the 120th anniversary of the arrival of the first sisters from Ireland in June and we wanted to have the gravesite looking spick and span for them. They were delighted with the whole gravesite area and we were honoured to be invited to share a day in Cooktown with them. The Mass at the gravesite was concelebrated by Bishop James Foley, Bishop of Cairns and Father John McGlone O.S.A. After the Mass the sisters invited us to share a beautiful meal with them at a Cooktown restaurant.

In comparison to the Cooktown event, the rest of the year was rather low-key.

Our gatherings were small, but productive, much use being made of the book, "Our Journey Back to God." This book has some excellent content. Father Paul Maloney's CD is on the menu for some of the 2009 gatherings.

We celebrated, as we always do, the feasts of St. Monica, St Augustine and St. Thomas of Villanova at the appropriate times with Masses and social gatherings. For the feast of St Thomas, we received some insights about the saint from the children of St. Thomas's school.

In 2009, the school will celebrate its centenary, an event to which we look forward with great anticipation. We, as Augustinian friends, have offered our services to the school, to help them in any way at all with the weekend of celebrations in October.

Our 2009 year began with a meeting on one of the wettest nights of our excellent wet season, with the result that only five members were able to attend as well as Father Rob.

Despite this, much planning for the year was arranged, with dates set for the Cooktown trip as well as four evenings set aside for spiritual development during the year. These will take place in April, June, Sept and Nov. Two will be in Kuranda and

two in Mareeba.

We will have a social gathering for the feast of St. Augustine and as mentioned previously, we've offered our services to the school for its celebrations.

We plan to have our end-of-year gathering at Kuranda on the 11th December

Late in 2008, we welcomed a new member to our group, Annie Zazzi. Annie is a teacher. Very soon she will be presented with her Augustinian Friend's badge.

During the coming months the whole parish of Mareeba will be able to attend a retreat conducted by the Redemptorist fathers. Augustinian Friends have been encouraged to attend the retreat to enrich our spiritual lives.

All of us here are waiting with anticipation for the ordination to the diaconate of our fellow friend, Ralph Madigan. The candidacy Mass has been held, so now the date for the ordination rests with the Bishop of Cairns. We pray constantly for this event and hope that all the friends wherever you are would do the same.

I close with many best wishes from us here in Mareeba to all of our friends, with special prayers being offered by us for the people of Victoria. We, with our deluge of rain, cannot imagine how difficult and heartbreaking it must be for all those affected. We keep you in our prayers daily.

Newcastle

Contact: Kathleen Smith

Throughout the year we have met regularly for meditation. We visited Greystanes in February and had a lovely, enjoyable, inspiring day. It's always special for us to share the wonderful hospitality of Father Paul and to listen to new aspects of Augustinian spirituality.

We were excited and very much looked forward to participating in 'One Week with Augustine'. We spent several weeks as we studied the readings and looked at the reflections. We had lots of thoughts and insights to share on the theme of 'Friendship'.

Another highlight of the year was a very special day spent with Father Laurie and Father Paul. We were celebrating 20 years since they had lived in Newcastle – so many friends gathered and a fantastic time was spent catching up with people not seen for ages, chatting and recounting stories of previous times spent together. Hearts were touched when the beautiful words of St. Augustine on prayer were

heard.

This year we hope to continue to hear more thoughts of St. Augustine as we listen to "An Augustinian Approach to Contemplation" a series of talks given by Father Paul.

We also look forward to spending a day at Greystanes when we will again be privileged to experience Augustinian hospitality, love and friendship.

2010 Congress June 24 – 27

Brisbane Friends and Co-leaders are gathering excitement and making wonderful plans for the next :-

National Congress for the Laity
which will be held at
Villanova College
Brisbane

Friday June 24 - Sunday June 27
2010.

Speakers are being sought both from outside and within Australia. Kyabram artist Maria Radenov has completed the Logo and the various local groups are at present making known their acceptance of this design. The Logo will be featured and the theme and focus of the Congress will be announced in the next edition of Amici.

Brisbane Friends have commissioned a Patchwork Quilt which will become the Raffle to be run in conjunction with the Congress.

You are reminded of the generous offer from Mareeba Friends to host an Augustinian Pilgrimage to North Queensland for those interested in the early history of the Order in this area. This Pilgrimage would mean a flight north after the actual Congress with accommodation provided by the



local Friends.

Note these dates in your diary!

Start planning for

June 24—27, 2010

10 Years On - A Great Story

Ten years ago, after lengthy reflection and consultation between Augustinians and laity, a new lay movement was launched in Australia – Augustinian Friends. The original concept envisioned a 'people-friendly' group where members could participate in a variety of ways as they sought a closer relationship with the Augustinians and a deeper knowledge of Augustinian spirituality. For many years, this story has been told throughout the Order, through the establishment of Augustinian Seculars in several countries, and more recently with the emergence of various other lay groups, all interested in the spirituality of St Augustine and in 'walking together' with the Augustinians.

When then Prior General Fr Miguel Angel Orcasitas visited Australia in 1998, he showed a keen interest in the concept we were proposing. Augustinians and lay people in Australia are blessed with a long history of cooperation, support and sharing in ministry, and Augustinian Friends has helped expand the possibilities of friendship that already existed in our ministries and other dedicated lay groups in the Province. Our three, successful, lay congresses attest to this reality.

Such is the priority of this close relationship between Augustinians and laity, that one of the Order's key commissions is the International Commission for the Laity. Until recently, Fr Paul Maloney was part of this group and now I have the privilege of being a member, along with two Italians, two Spaniards, an American, a Dutchman and a Filipino – all Augustinians. In February this year, I participated in Commission meetings at the Augustinian Curia in Rome.

The Order is committed to promoting a close spiritual and working relationship between Augustinians and laity as a way of realising the vision of the Second Vatican Council for a renewed Church. This was the backdrop to our commission work in Rome. The experience of shared vision and enthusiasm for strong lay groups such as Augustinian Friends made for very productive meetings and the Commission resolved to pursue consultation with lay representatives in preparation for the next Augustinian International Lay Congress in 2012.

In challenging times for the Church we all love, Augustinian lay movements are leading the way and we can all feel immensely proud of what has been achieved over the years.

Dave Austin OSA

From the Archives



Amici: 1999 March Co-Leaders' Message

Dear Friends

This past year has been eventful in regard to the formation of Augustinian Friends.

We began in March 1998 however, most of our ideas at that stage were abstract. With extensive input from Dave Austin OSA and Edmond Maher, and through the combined efforts of Margaret Burke, Badan Keating and Margaret Moriarty we now feel confident to go forward.

We believe that together we can develop our association for the enjoyment and enrichment of all. Already many people share a strong sense of Augustinian spirituality and we believe it is the role of Friends to broaden out that experience and to invite others from the wider church community to share with us.

We are excited by the opportunities that Augustinian Friends offers us- prayer support, adult education, publication of a quarterly newsletter and participation in the forthcoming Augustinian "Congress for the Laity" in Rome (July 16-21).

Our sincere thanks to Fr. Dave for his guidance and support for our beginnings; we wish him well in his new assignment to Northern Victoria. Paul Maloney OSA now takes on the role of chaplain and we welcome his support in developing our Augustinian spirituality.

We are currently preparing initiation ceremonies and Masses of welcome for both St. Clair and St. Kieran's parishes. Other local groups are encouraged to do the same and should contact our chaplain Fr. Paul at (02 9631 0340).

Special thanks to all who have assisted us throughout the year, in particular to the Augustinians for their generosity in helping us become established.

Peter Moriarty and Anne Halloway

Co-Leaders of Augustinian Friends

1999—2001

Remembering & Reflecting

**Peter & Margaret Moriarty
take time to reflect:**

Congratulations to the Augustinian Friends on reaching such a major milestone as the 10th anniversary. Margaret and I have been fortunate enough to be involved with the Friends from its beginnings and treasure our connection with the Augustinians through Augustinian Friends Association.

We have many fond memories of people and events such as the Congresses at Echuca, Manly Vale and South Yarra and the pilgrimages overseas

We remember driving over to Brookvale for evening meetings with Anne and Michael Halloway, Sue and Gerald Mackay, Margaret Burke and many others. Discussing upcoming events and organising different things.

Where has the time gone???

We remember the Leaders' weekends at Greystanes hosted by Chaplain Paul Maloney OSA with Paul Griffiths, Mary McCormick and Monica Meagher and more recently Maureen Atkins and Ruth McGowan.

We remember the wonderful trips to Echuca and South Yarra Congresses and being greeted and welcomed in a truly warm and hospitable way; and the buzz on the opening morning at Echuca in 2001.

We remember the gatherings at St Clair with Esther Rose and parishioners especially for the Feast of St Augustine where everyone loves to identify with the great Saint. The Friends is an association of Australian Catholics who have a deep connection with Augustinian Spirituality and Tradition. As such it helps sustain us and our faith in this often confusing world and the hubbub of modern day living. Congratulations and Thanks.



Margaret and Peter Moriarty

Peter was Co-leader 1999—2001

Paul Griffiths remembers:

I remember the first discussion about the concept of an Australian Augustinian Lay Association at Greystanes in 1997 - Ed Maher (seeded the idea), Dave Austin, Peter Jones and myself. And then the response with several hundred members signed up in the first few years through the enthusiasm of the first Leaders (Anne & Peter) and Paul Maloney. With such a response, we knew we had touched on a deep need and the Holy Spirit was guiding us!

Even though I am now very busy with 3 young children and my own business, I still enjoy each Amici Newsletter and find it is a wonderful vehicle for news and spiritual development. On this front, we have seen continual improvement each year in the format, which is a credit to our dedicated editors and contributors.

My heart tells me this is only the beginning and this small seed will develop into a great tree of many branches providing support and nourishment for Amici and the broader Augustinian family. This feeling is confirmed by the wonderful feedback over the years from guest speakers at conferences, Bishops and Augustinian Prior/s-General.

Alongside our growth, we are also seeing growth in the global Augustinian lay community and base of resource materials for groups. I hope to see this continue and that we as an Australian community can contribute to this growth. I firmly believe we have the gifts within our community to make such a contribution. Most of all, I give thanks to God for the gift of Augustinian Community and ask the Holy Spirit to continue inspiring our efforts!

Paul Griffiths - past National Leader
2001-2004



Paul Griffiths with wife Susan and children Lauren, James and baby Lily.



Monica Meagher, Co-leader
2004-2007

Monica Meagher reflects:

It seems only yesterday since the Augustinians from the Australian Province invited the laity as Augustinian Friends to journey with them in order to seek a fuller participation in Augustinian Spirituality based on community and friendship, prayer and gospel centred life.

Congratulations to all who have been part of this amazing journey. May the Holy Spirit enable us to "keep making progress" and guide us in all that we do in the years ahead.

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From the Treasurer

Greg Keogh

Finance "snapshot" February 2009.

Bank Balance in February 2008 was \$511. Since then we have received \$3465 in subscriptions and donations. We also received \$500 from the Provincial Office to help cover the cost of mailing to overseas Houses of the Order. As usual the main costs for the year were the postage and stationery required for Amici. This amount was \$1765. Costs for the Leaders' weekend in November \$1170. This was 50% of the airfare for the interstate leaders and I would like to thank them all for contributing the balance of their travel costs out of their own pockets.

The Bank Balance at 28 February, 2009 is \$1541. With a Congress coming up I expect that there will be extra costs in planning, preparing and publicising that event. Thank you all very much for sending your subscriptions and donations. Once again I apologise if the delay in presenting your Cheques to the bank has caused any problems.

Augustinians On-Line

www.augustinians.org.au

Stay in touch with the latest news from the Augustinian community through the Province's website. 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.

www.augnet.org

Augnet is a website containing a total of 1,800 pages about Augustine's life and work, and about history and activities of the Order of Saint Augustine. It contains pages on Augustinian Friends in Australia and England.

Amici

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