

The Augustinian



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THE AUGUSTINIAN ORDER IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC

The Order of Saint Augustine has a total of seven jurisdictions based in Philippines (two), India, Japan, Korea, Indonesia and Australia.

The leaders of six of these Asia-Pacific jurisdictions met in Indonesia early in July in preparation for the General (international) Chapter of the Order, which they will attend in Rome during most of September 2007.

In compiling a regional presentation for the General Chapter, these Asia-Pacific leaders intend to call for a special focus of the Order upon this region for the next six years, just as the Order did previously with Africa during the six-year period now ending.

The Australian Prior Provincial, Fr Tony Banks O.S.A. (pictured above in West Papua), was a participant in the recent preparatory meeting in Indonesia. He has commented, "The European / Western influence is in decline in our region, but will the unique qualities of Asia clash with or nourish the Augustinian Order?"



Lord our God, make us blessed by you, because we shall not lose You.
When we remain true to You, we shall neither lose You nor be lost ourselves.

Sermon 113



HOLY SPIRIT PARISH, ST CLAIR

The parish at St Clair in western Sydney, Australia, was established twenty-five years ago, and has been administered by the Order of Saint Augustine for the past eleven years.



Nine months after the celebration of Parish Silver Jubilee, the jubilee gift to the parish – a new baby grand piano - has arrived (*see photo*). The old piano had originally

been purchased, second hand, by the founding Parish Priest, Fr Brian Rooney. It was only to be a 'make do' arrangement until something more substantial could be afforded.

Twenty-five years later, the much anticipated upgrade has been realised. The final service of the old piano when offered to parishioners in a silent auction was to realise \$1000:00 for parish funds.

The Holy Spirit website is located at <http://www.holyspiritstclair.com.au>

AFFILIATES' MEETINGS

With the 1967 revision of the *Constitutions* of the Order of Saint Augustine, the affiliation of laity to the Order was approved.

This has provided Provinces with the opportunity of taking the initiative of binding more closely to the Order those laity who have, over many years, identified with the ethos and ministries of the Augustinians in a significant way. Today, there are more than sixty laity affiliated to the Order in Australia since that time.

The need has been expressed for providing the affiliates with a deeper knowledge of Augustine, Augustinian Spirituality and of the Order itself. For this purpose the present Prior Provincial, Tony Banks, together with his Provincial Council, appointed Father Pat Fahey to be chaplain to the Affiliates of the Province.

ST THOMAS OF VILLANOVA PARISH, MAREEBA

On Sunday 13th May the Catholic Aborigines of Mareeba Parish invited everyone to join them in celebrating Mass at an ancient camping site of the Muluridji people, situated on the banks of the Barron River near to Biboohra. The sun was shining as people gathered to celebrate Mass under the shade of the gumtrees and beside the flowing water of the Barron River.

Fr Rob Greenup O.S.A. celebrated Mass with Lyn Harris leading the singing playing her guitar. After Mass we enjoyed billy tea and damper and some



special friendship and sharing. This is an annual event in the Mareeba parish and our wish, prayer and hope is that people everywhere could all live in harmony like this at all times.

Eight of the Augustinian Friends group of the Mareeba Parish, along with Augustinian parish priest Fr Rob Greenup (*see photo above*), took their annual trip to Cooktown with an overnight stay from Tuesday 22nd to Wednesday 23rd May 2007.

The main reason for the trip was to ensure that the grave sites of the two Augustinian bishops and seven Sisters of Mercy buried at Cooktown cemetery remain in good order.

Over the last three years the fence has been welded and painted, grave stones cleaned, weeds pulled out and gravel laid, during our annual pilgrimage. This year was more relaxed with the gravel being raked, the leaves gathered up, and the fence and graves brushed down

Relaxation was then the order of the day with the ladies browsing in the shops, the men resting at the presbytery and Fr Rob walking up Grassy Hill.

We celebrated Mass in the evening and returned to Mareeba the next day.

ST AUGUSTINE'S COLLEGE, BROOKVALE

During twenty days of the school vacation in April 2007, six staff members and twelve students from an Augustinian secondary school in Australia travelled to the Philippines to erect an infirmary (*see photo below*) in an orphanage for street children conducted by the Augustinian Sisters of Our Lady of Consolation.



The travellers were from St Augustine's College in Brookvale (Sydney, Australia), which the Order began in 1956. Sister Joan O.S.A., an Augustinian Sister of Our Lady of Consolation, is a member of the school's chaplaincy team.

The "Augustine Orphanage Project" has involved the entire school community. Sufficient funds were raised to buy all the necessary building materials in Australia, so that many students could pre-fabricate the building in Brookvale before shipping it to the Philippines for assembly.

The orphanage is *Tahanan Mapagkalinga ni Madre Rita* (TMMR). It is located in Bulacan, about 56 kms from the central Manila.

The college's web site is <http://www.saintaug.nsw.edu.au>

Fr Tony Banks O.S.A., Australian Provincial, visited the TMMR orphanage at Bulacan during the construction phase.

VILLANOVA COLLEGE, COORPAROO

Villanova College has a proud academic tradition throughout the fifty-nine years of its history. Certainly the beginnings of that tradition were cemented in place by the impressive line-up of Augustinian staff sent from Ireland to open the College in Brisbane in 1948.



In recent times, Old Boy (past pupil: *at right in photo*) Greg Wildermuth, returned to Villanova to offer the archives the prize he received from Villanova's founding Rector, Fr Ben O'Donnell O.S.A., for being the very first "Dux of School" in 1948.

Greg also presented another prize he received for Classics. (Classics, especially Latin, was taught by the illustrious Fr John Louis Hanrahan O.S.A., who was known even then among the boys by the sobriquet of "George".)

Both prizes were novels written by Charles Dickens. The books, suitably inscribed by Fr O'Donnell at the time, have now found their own very special place in College archives.

So began the tradition of encouraging students in the pursuit of academic excellence – a proud tradition that has continued to the present day.

In recent years, nine Villanova students were placed in an annual list of Australia's top 500 students.

The Augustinians

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We are on the web
www.augustinians.org.au

Augustinian Ministry Websites 2007

St Augustine's College – Brookvale
NSW Australia Website:
www.saintaug.nsw.edu.au

St James' Parish – Coorparoo Qld
Australia Website: [http://
www.stjames-coorparoo.org.au/](http://www.stjames-coorparoo.org.au/)

Villanova College – Coorparoo Qld
Australia Website:
www.vnc.qld.edu.au

Parish of North Harbour – Manly
Vale & Balgowlah, NSW Australia
Website: [http://
www.northharbour.catholicau.com](http://www.northharbour.catholicau.com)

St Joseph's Parish – South Yarra
Vic Australia Website:
www.ozemail.com.au/~osasthyarra

Holy Spirit Parish – St Clair NSW
Australia Website:
www.holyspiritstclair.com.au

Augustinians in Korea Website:
<http://www.osakorea.or.kr>

APAC Cross-cultural Immersion Program, November 2007

APAC is the Asia and Pacific Augustinian Conference. APAC is offering for the first time a six-day Cross-cultural Immersion Program. This will take place near Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental, Philippines on 11th-19th November 2007.

It is expected that participants will be both APAC religious and educators involved with social justice.

The program is being prepared by the APAC Commission on Justice and Peace, and will be centred at the Mother Rita Homes II at Candau-ay, Dumaguete City. Two of a number of addresses during the program will be given by Sr Carmeli Ma. Catan of the Augustinian Sisters of Our Lady of Consolation (Commission Chair) and Fr Tony Banks O.S.A. of Australia (Commission Vice-Chair).

Three full days of the program are devoted exclusively to a direct immersion experience.

Persons in Australia interested in further information or enrolment procedures for the program, contact the Order's Justice and Peace Co-ordinator in Sydney at the following email web address:
holyspiritparish@holyspiritstclair.com.au



Augnet, a comprehensive web site on Saint Augustine and the Order of Saint Augustine, was fully redesigned and renovated in May 2006.

It now carries over 1,280 pages of text, which also contain over 1,720 illustrations. The Augnet web site was officially "launched" at a ceremony in Sydney in August 2002, with the Augustinian Prior General from Rome as the guest of honour.

On 12th October 2006 Augnet received 1,000 visits within one 24-hour period for the first time. On 9th June 2007 there was a new daily record of 2,314 visits attained.

Visit this web site at <http://www.augnet.org>

AUGUSTINIAN FORMATION ASSOCIATION (AFA)

The AFA prays for and raises funds for the formation of future Augustinians. Based in Sydney, its office bearers for 2007 are Trudi McFadden (president, *pictured*), Eddie Robinson (treasurer), Lesley Sing (assistant treasurer) and Yvonne Clark (secretary). Along with two new members, they form the AFA Executive.

For more details about these events, or about the Augustinian Formation Association generally, contact Fr Laurence Mooney O.S.A. (AFA chaplain) or the staff of the Provincial Office on (w) 02 9905 3049.

