

The Augustinian



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THE PASSING TO ETERNAL LIFE OF FR. RALPH CAMERON O.S.A. (1925-2007)

After a brief illness, on Sunday afternoon, 21st October 2007, the death occurred of Fr Ralph Raymond Cameron O.S.A. of the Catholic Parish of North Harbour. He was eighty-two years old, and in his fifty-first year of priesthood. He has lived and served at Manly Vale almost continuously for the past twenty years, and was active in ministry there until six weeks before his death.

Born at Mount Morgan in central Queensland in 1925, he received his primary and secondary education in Cairns at St Monica's School and St Augustine's College respectively. He is one of eight past pupils of St Augustine's College in Cairns to serve for many years in the Augustinian Order. Joining the Royal Australian Air Force in 1941, he became a member the aircrew in the RAAF 100th Squadron of B-29 Liberator bombers. The squadron was awaiting assignment to the Pacific conflict when progress in the Second World War made this deployment unnecessary.

After his demobilisation from the RAAF he returned to his position in the court house at Cairns, and then in 1948 successfully applied to join the Order of Saint Augustine. He was then sent to the United States for university studies, Augustinian novitiate and the required studies for the Roman Catholic priesthood. He obtained a Master of Arts degree there, and was ordained a priest in Washington D.C. in 1956.

Upon his return to Australia in 1958, he was sent to Brookvale to teach at St Augustine's College, which was then only in its third year of existence. He soon won particular acclaim there as a teacher of mathematics.

A decade later, he was appointed as the third Rector (Principal) of the College, and held that post for seven years, beginning in 1968.

Following four years of teaching at Villanova College, Brisbane, Fr Cameron in 1978 was elected to the office of Provincial, to lead the Augustinians in Australia.



Of the six Australian-born Augustinians who have held the Office of Provincial to the present day, Fr Cameron is the first of them to die.

After returning to the staff of Villanova College from 1983 to 1986, he was appointed in 1987 for the first time to the staff of St Kieran's Parish in the Sydney metropolitan suburb of Manly Vale, which parish is now part of the Parish of North Harbour, centred on the former Manly Vale and Balgowlah parishes. Except for his time at Echuca, Victoria from 1993 to 1999, Fr Cameron has been based at St Kieran's Priory at Manly Vale since 1987.

Although officially retired in recent years, Fr Cameron nevertheless continued to preside at a number of church services, and remained as chaplain to some parish groups and to local nursing homes.

At St Kieran's Church in Manly Vale (Sydney), there was a vigil service for him on 25th October, and a Requiem Mass on the following morning. His burial took place in the Augustinian section of the nearby Frenchs Forest Lawn Cemetery.

AUGUSTINIAN GENERAL CHAPTER 2007

Every six years, the Order of Saint Augustine has a General Chapter. It involves a review of the Order's progress and initiatives, and begins with the election of a person to fill the office of Prior General, the international leader of the Order.



A General Chapter took place in Rome during September 2007. A Prior General can have a maximum of two consecutive terms of office. The present Prior General, Fr Robert Prevost O.S.A., (*see photo above*) on this occasion was re-elected.

Every major legislative region of the Order – which is usually called a Province, a vicariate or a region – sent one or more delegates to the General Chapter, depending on its number of members.

Fr Rommel Par O.S.A. was appointed to represent the needs of the Asia-Pacific region to the Prior General of the Order. He replaces Fr Eusebio Berdon O.S.A., who recently completed two terms (twelve years) in that position.

The Province of Australia (into which the Augustinian Region of Korea is presently incorporated) was represented by Fr Tony Banks O.S.A. (Provincial) and Bro. Barnabas Kim O.S.A. (the person immediately in charge in Korea).

An outcome of particular interest at the General Chapter was an approved proposal to make Asia and the Pacific a special focus of the Order's attention during the six-year term of office of the re-elected Prior General.

Within the Asia-Pacific area the Order has communities in Australia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, and the Philippines, and one Augustinian is working in Thailand. Photographs of Augustinian ministries in all of these nations can be seen on the Internet in the various photo galleries of the web site, <http://www.augnet.org>

WYD CROSS AT MAREEBA

Thursday 20 September was a truly special day in Mareeba as this was the long awaited day when the WYD Cross and Icon were in the Parish of St Thomas of Villanova. Arriving the evening before, the team was hosted by Augustinian priests Fr Joe Walsh and Fr Abel van der Veer at St Thomas's priory.



Visiting from Sydney to help with the celebrations was Michael Dela Cruz, who is the Augustinian Youth Encounter Organiser for the Australian Province. Parishioner Julie Mauro billeted three of the team with the others staying at the priory.

The WYD Cross and Icon spent Thursday in Mossman before starting the Mareeba celebrations at 5.30pm. About two hundred people, of all ages, attended the celebrations with the majority walking with the Cross and Icon from St Thomas's Church to St Stephen's Catholic College – a distance of six kilometres.

A shared liturgy was presided over by Fr Chris Ryan who spoke about the significance of the Cross for young people in the world today and how it had been presented to the youth 23 years ago by Pope John Paul II.

PARISH OF NORTH HARBOUR

North Harbour Parish is promoting an initiative for young people to join together on Sunday nights at St Kieran's Church in Manly Vale.

The parish priest, Fr Peter Wieneke OSA and Manly Vale's Youth Music Minister Ben Marshall have been speaking to students at St Augustine's College, which is situated at Brookvale within the North Harbour Parish.

Their purpose was to encourage the students to assist in the Sunday evening Parish Mass.

ST AUGUSTINE'S COLLEGE



L-R: Mr Tim Cleary (College Principal) congratulates Fr Peter Jones O.S.A. on his 20th anniversary of priesthood.

St Augustine's College is an Augustinian day school for approximately 1,000 male pupils in the upper primary and secondary years of education. It is located at Brookvale (Sydney), Australia.

The college community recently celebrated with Fr Peter Jones O.S.A. his 20th anniversary of priesthood. A special ceremony was hosted by Mr Tim Cleary (Principal) and a presentation marked the event.

Until December 2006, Fr Jones was a daily presence at the College. He taught and ministered to the community of St Augustine's College from 1990-1992, 1994-1996 and 1999-2006.

His many years of direct association with the Brookvale campus also included his long involvement with the Old Boys (past pupils) Association.

In congratulating Fr Jones, the College described him as "a gentle and reflective man, who is loved and respected by the students and staff of St Augustine's College. His continuing friendship is truly valued by all of the Augustinian community."

Currently, Fr Peter is the Director of the Centre for Augustinian Spirituality at Greystanes, NSW. Replacing Fr Jones as College Chaplain at Brookvale is Fr Peter Tangey O.S.A., who also had taught there for many years previously. He lives at St Augustine's Priory, Brookvale.

The College web site is <http://www.saintaug.nsw.edu.au>.

VILLANOVA COLLEGE



Villanova is an Augustinian day school for approximately 1,000 male students in the upper primary and secondary years of education. It began at a smaller location in Whinstanes (Brisbane, Queensland, Australia) on 25th January 1948, and moved to its present site at Coorparoo (Brisbane) in 1954.

Pictured above is a poster of colour images of Villanova's opening ceremony at Whinstanes, in which can be seen the late James Duhig D.D., who was Archbishop of Brisbane, 1917 to 1965. These images have been copied from one small spool of silent 16 mm colour movie film that was used on the day.

At the opening ceremony, Father Denis Kieran O'Shea O.S.A., one of the founding Augustinians of Villanova, was handed the movie camera and told to film the ceremony. One of the large black-and-white photographs of the event appearing in *The Villanovan* yearbook of 1956 clearly shows Fr O'Shea standing beside a palm tree, with the movie camera to his eye. The Villanova College's web site is located at <http://www.vnc.qld.edu.au>

The Augustinians

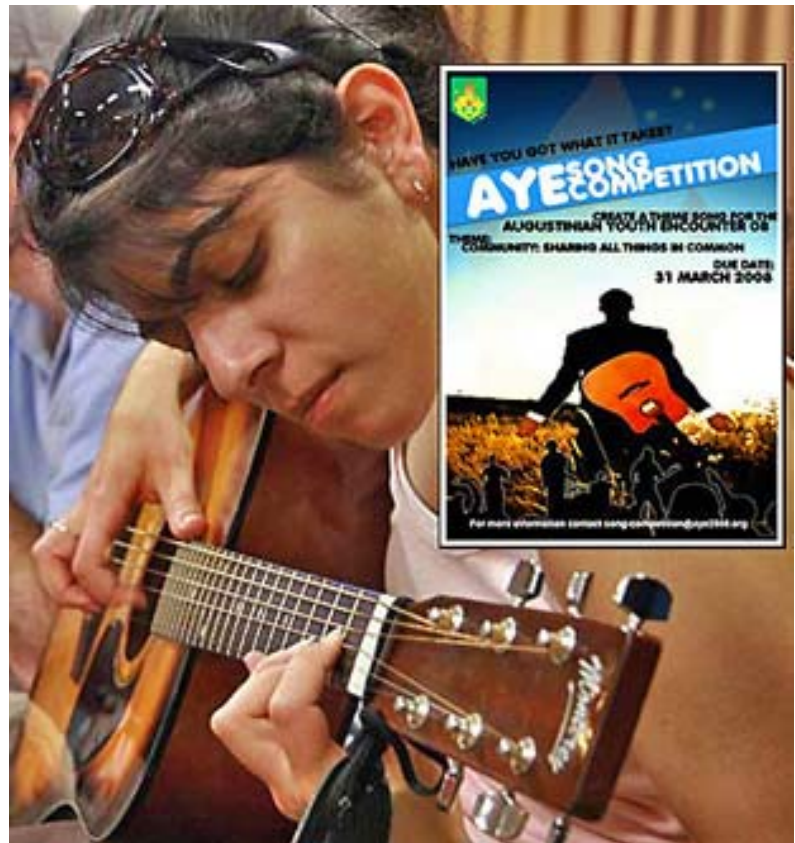
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We are on the web
www.augustinians.org.au

Memorial cards of the late Fr Cameron will be mailed by the Provincial Office upon request.

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SONG CONTEST



A competition has been announced to compose and select a theme song for the ninth Augustinian International Encounter for Young Adults that will take place in Sydney, Australia on 21st-27th July 2008. Entries are to be submitted before 31st March 2008.

Details of the competition appear on the Encounter web site <http://www.aye2008.org> The winning song will have to be centred on the Scriptural verse that is the theme of the Encounter, "And all those who believed shared all things in common" (Acts of the Apostles 2:44). It will need to reinforce the ideas of community, diversity, prayer, and of the People of God as being the Body of Christ.

As well, the lyrics and music of the song will need to be able to stir and enthuse young adults at the Encounter in 2008.

Since the competition was announced last month, it has attracted considerable interest in Australia, and already one overseas entry has been received from the Philippines.

Michael Dela Cruz, who attended the meeting of Augustinian Youth Animators in Rome in July 2007, is employed by the Australian Province as the full-time projects officer for World Youth Day (15th – 20th July 2008) and the International Augustinian Encounter (21st-26th July 2008). He has said that the winning song will be prominently used in the 2008 Augustinian Encounter.

A number of Augustinian nations, including India and Indonesia will be represented at the Encounter for the first time.

The Encounter web site is <http://www.aye2008.org> and Michael's e-mail is mi-chael.delacruz@augustinians.org.au