

The Augustinian



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Reflections from the Augustinian Youth Festival – Harrietville July 2001

“The Augustinian Youth Festival was a great weekend. The people that I met were fantastic and I found the sessions were extremely helpful. I enjoyed myself and cannot wait until the next one”

Lauren

The AYF was an overwhelming experience for me, not only because of meeting new friends, but, the activities such as the reflection and group sharing helped me to penetrate my intimate thoughts and feel at ease with myself, God and others.

Jan

It was a very comfortable environment that other youth from around the country could freely share their story, their gifts and express their faith with others their own age

Ben



The 7th Augustinian Youth Festival in Harrietville was enjoyed by everyone as a group. As the weather was freezing the heated pool was used a lot.

Wonderful trip. It was time and money well spent. The reflection activity bits made me think of things in a different way. Can't wait for the next AYF adventure coz it R-O-C-K-S!!!

Charmie

We shared meals and stories, fun and experience, faith and friendship. We experienced making choices, making decisions, making friends andmaking a lot of noise!

Lauren C

This year's AYF was a wonderful opportunity to reflect on our giftedness from God. It was a time to come together and share a common faith, to experience Christian fellowship with people from all around Australia and to have great fun in the process. Here's to an outstanding three days.

Samantha

St Augustine - the return:

Away I wandered, yet I remembered you.

I heard your voice behind me calling me back.

See now, I come back to you.

Let me not be my own life - evil was the life I lived of myself.



VILLANOVA COLLEGE: One Mind, One Heart:

During the last week of term one, forty-five staff from both Villanova and St Augustine's College Sydney spent time together studying the significance of our Augustinian and Christian heritage for the task of educating boys in both Augustinian schools.

Speakers included Fr Laurie Mooney o.s.a., Professor Pat Molone (Australian Catholic University) Mr Dennis Harvey (Brisbane

Topics dealt with included Leadership in Schools, Augustinian Education, Who and What we are as human beings and what all this implies for the ministry of teaching as well as what is taught and how Augustinian teachers should teach.

Voice – June 2001

From Villa



ST AUGUSTINE'S COLLEGE – BLOOD DONOR DAY

Barry Cardiff from St Augustine's College, Brookvale says the blood he donates each year to the Australian Red Cross must be a prized vintage by now.

Mr Cardiff is the coordinator of the school's annual Blood Donor Day and this year is his 12th year of service.

Each year, the Red Cross Blood Service parks a mobile unit outside the school and occupies a classroom for the whole day for senior students, parents, staff and even local business people to donate blood.

"We get more and more boys each year and over the years we've had about 1,600 donors to have gone through the school.

"It's great that even once the boys leave school they continue to donate blood regularly," he said.

Which is of course the aim of the program, says Australian Red Cross acting nursing unit manager Melissa Wright.

"Every donation helps three other people. The reason we come to schools like St Augustine's College is that we hope the boys continue to donate after they leave. As well, at this age, the students don't have as many fears to donate blood," she said.

"St Augustine's College has always been a great ambassador for the service."



Year 12 student Joseph Ioppolo awaits the

Report on Region of Korea

There is a subtle ambiguity operating in the mind when the summer season approaches. The weather induces lethargy and procrastination. The conscience however refuses to submit totally and conjures up all manner of unattended business and well-intended plans to disrupt the pondered hours of tranquility much the way the heat and humidity can irritate a sensitive complexion. Another Summer is upon us.

The major part of our community being young men, with energy, aspirations and summer vacation time to fill, the dreaded word "Program" is the unerring answer to the dilemma of how to occupy them in gainful employment. The novices have their Summer Program, the professed students have their Program, there is a Program for young Augustinian students in formation being offered in the Philippines. There is the Parish Pastoral Program. Come the end of August one feels the need of a short course of De-programming! (We used to call it a "retreat"). A quick reference to the yearly planner and calendar confirms that one is scheduled.

And there are other voices younger still, mouths to feed, vying for attention. Our social welfare venture called "You and I", a community home for boys with family difficulties. Their school teachers have sent them home to where their mothers should be. Now we have to devise places to send these six youngsters, to entertain them, amuse them, edify them. The answer, surely, yet another Program!

Our house on the Island of Kang-hwa, normally the residence of our theological students during the school term, becomes a jungle of weeds, besieged by rampaging hords of flies and insects, waiting to be tamed and pacified – it's called farming. At least we are delivered from the dreaded word 'program' by the Korean Department of Agriculture's reluctance (as yet) to employ that word overtly for the task of measuring out furrows, the daily grind of watering through unseasonal drought, and weeding once the torrential rains pass. And all this for the sake of a few miserable vegetables that are cheaper to buy anyway (because everyone else has planted the same varieties), which we are obliged to produce in order to satisfy the demands of bylaws regarding the maximization of arable pastures. Fortunately this too can be tactfully rationalized as a Course in Environmental Theology as a part of the novitiate 'program' to prevent our charges succumbing to the incessant soporific effects of cicadas and warm moist vapours.

If this all seems remote from the notion of foreign mission and the saving of souls, it's consoling at least to feel that there are some universal experiencing that transcend nation and race,

language and culture. What a relief it will be to see the next academic semester arrive just after the Feast of Saint Augustine heralding the end of another long hot summer in Korea

APAC EXECUTIVE MEETING - MAY

The Executive of APAC met in Manila on 13th May at the Convent of the Augustinian Consolation Sisters at San Juan. Tony Banks and Pat Fahey were present at the meeting, Tony as the Chairman of the Apostolate Commission, and Pat as the Vice-President. Following the reports from the heads of the various commissions and the President, projected plans for the next year of the Conference were suggested, and these were finalised at subsequent meetings of the Commissions. The Apostolate Commission is holding a Conference next year, and the Youth Commission an APAC Youth Festival. The Formation Commission is planning a joint formation experience for candidates of the various Orders and Congregations, similar to what was held approximately three and a half years ago at Novaliches, outside Manila. The triennial meeting of the full APAC Conference is to be held in Cebu at the Retreat House of the Recollect Friars in September, 2002. The theme of the Conference was decided: **Leadership for the City of God in the Contemporary World**. The Discalced Augustinians have been invited to the 2002 triennial meeting.

In addition to attending the APAC Executive meeting, Pat Fahey also addressed about 120 Sisters of various Augustinian Congregations on **Religious Life and the Place of Augustinian Life in the Church Today**, and gave two days of seminar on liturgy to the theology faculty of the University San Augustin, Iloilo. John Murray was also present at the meeting of the Commission for Justice and Peace, and took the opportunity of visiting various social justice ministries undertaken by the Cebu Province.



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With Our Gifts to Set the Course

Arriving in twilight darkness,
Winter was it cold.
New faces at meal, in warmth we sat,
Excited of a time we all did hold.

We spoke of God in our lives,
And choices we had made.
Then engraved on river stones
we pledged,
Our burdens, our weights, our pains.

And then from our bodies not aware
To spirit, to soul, in Gods love we
all did share,
A blessing to each other,
A higher moment, a gift, a prayer.

And now from here we all inspired
With our gifts to set the course,
Step forward in an eye crossed world;
In God we find recourse.

James Banks – Augustinian
Youth Festival participant

A Spiritual Site

"The broad picture of each of our lives is much the same. At birth we are dropped into time. At burial we are lowered into eternity. In the meantime we make our mark on history, singing our own particular note in the song of the universe. Each person intones a different note but each is faced with the same challenge: to live this life in such a way that it can become part of the eternal song chanted by God through his creatures." - Donald Burt O.S.A.

These thoughts from Fr Donald Burt O.S.A. can be found on his Web site www41.homepage.villanova.edu/donald.burt/

Fr Burt is a professor of philosophy at Villanova University, Pennsylvania, USA. His Web site contains a variety of his reflections, inspired by major themes in the writings of St Augustine. The Web site also invites readers to share their own thoughts.

IRISH PROVINCE NEWS

The Augustinians came to Ireland from England in the third quarter of the thirteenth century. Having survived the years of persecution, they developed a missionary endeavour to share their Faith and spirit with others. The last decade of the eighteenth century saw them found the Order in the United States of America and provide men to work there. In the nineteenth century they re-established it in England and founded it in Australia. Since then Irish Augustinians have worked in both of those countries. In the twentieth century the Irish Province established the Church in the northern region of Nigeria, and at one time had almost 60 men working there. Their work brought about the formation of two dioceses, staffed today by Nigerian diocesan priests, who were trained in a seminary established by the Augustinians for the local bishops.

The foundation of the Order itself in Nigeria began in the 1970's. Progress has been wonderful. At the General Chapter in September this year Nigeria will become an independent Province of the Order, with almost 40 Nigerian priests and over 80 students for the Order.

Pat Codd osa