

The Augustinian



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YOUNG ADULT FAITH FESTIVAL 2006

An Augustinian Youth Festival is a gathering where young Catholics (18-30) from around Australia with connections to the Augustinians join to celebrate their faith, their God, their communities and themselves. They started in the 1980's when young Australians experienced coming together with other nationalities in Italy and asked if we could repeat this gathering at an Australian level.

The theme chosen is **WE ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST**. This theme incorporates the

ideas that each of us is called and gifted yet each of us knows the bitter and the sweet aspects of life. Out of our mutual care and concern and our common experiences we come to know the Lord and the love of the Lord. As we share with one another our lives and our faith we build up the Body of Christ.

Once we have details of numbers from each ministry we will ask that ministry to plan and run one of the key activities. Each activity fits into a daily theme as well as the overall theme and the planning group have created suggestions for all aspects of the program. The key concept is of young people ministering to each other and having you both receive from others and giving to others.

The Augustinian Youth Festival will run from the evening of Sunday January 15 to lunchtime on Friday January 20 at Camp Koonjewarre on the Gold Coast hinterland. The hinterland is generally cooler than the Gold Coast and you may need some warmer clothing at night. Accommodation is cabin style and shared. You are asked to bring a sleeping bag and pillow. We are still negotiating on prices but the campsite and meals themselves are over \$170 so the likely cost is between \$200-\$225.

For more information please contact Fr Tony Banks osa, The Augustinians, PO Box 679, Brookvale 2100. Telephone: 02 9905 3049. Email: tonybanks@augustinians.org.au.

St Augustine

O Word before all time, by whom time was made, born in time although you are eternal life, You call us who are bound by time and make us eternal.

(Commentary on Psalm 101)



Thailand Calling

In 1782, Rama I, the first king of the new Chakri Dynasty in Siam, established Bangkok as the new royal capital. The previous capital and dynasty were gone after an invasion by the Burmese forces. The official Thai title given to Bangkok is very long but begins with naming the capital as the “City of Angels”.

Los Angeles, it is not. Bangkok is hot and steamy, a huge city full of traffic and pollution. A statistic that speaks heaps of life here is that the set minimum wage is about \$6 a day. Amidst the chaos that is Bangkok, lie the friendliness and smiles of the people, as well as the stresses and pressures of an alive and thriving city. All sorts of people are attracted here – Thais from everywhere are attracted to the glamour and opportunity of the big city; then there are the tourists, the business people, the students, the NGOs, the people seeking refuge or a new start and so the list goes on.



Fr John Murray, OSA teaching class

Amongst all these people, I am here with a small group of people the Maryknoll Mission Team of Bangkok. For a small group, they are involved in a wide range of activities – prison visiting; teaching English to refugee monks and others at the temples; as well as teaching English to children in a rural village; working with Muslims in Bangkok; HIV/AIDS ministry in Lopburi; reaching out to poor people from a slum area in Bangkok. Then there is their ongoing push into Myanmar, which suffers so much under an oppressive military junta and is the major source of refugees coming into Thailand.

As for me, I am involved in teaching English to monks and others. I am also the Coordinator of the Maryknoll Volunteer Programme at the Bangkok end. As part of my introduction, I will go around and see the various works of the Maryknolls and next week I start Thai class. So apart from the challenges of aggressive tuk tuk drivers, everyday rain and the ever-present sales person, there is much more to take up my attention and time in this City of Angels.



Fr Pat Fahey, OSA, Provincial of the Augustinians in Australia.

St Augustine’s College, Brookvale—Lecceto Arts Centre opens on November 11th, 2005

Lianne Williams, Director of Development

On a perfect spring November morning over 1,000 students, parents, staff and Augustinian priests gathered in the Brimson Centre of St Augustine’s College, Sydney for the official opening of the new \$4.75m Lecceto Arts Centre. The day started with a Eucharistic celebration presided by His Eminence Cardinal Edward Clancy and concelebrated by Fr Pat Fahey, Prior Provincial of the Augustinian Order. The Mass was magnificent with some beautiful singing from the students and guests. Principal Tim Cleary thanked Cardinal Clancy for joining us at the Mass and blessing the Lecceto Arts Centre. He also thanked all donors who had supported the Capital Appeal for the Lecceto Arts Centre over the last two years. At precisely 11am Mr Cleary commemorated Remembrance Day with a minutes silence and the Last Post was trumpeted by Yr 8 Jack Tier.

Following the Mass all guests were invited on to the Lecceto Podium for morning tea and entertainment consisting of mime acts, musical performances and street theatre. The Centre is aptly named ‘Lecceto’ after a beautiful Augustinian monastery in Sienna, Italy. The monastery dates back to the decades before the formation of the Augustinian Order in the 13th century and is renowned for extensive art, music and impressive architecture. The state-of-the-art building will bring together students and staff in an ultimate learning environment.

Report from World Youth Day 2005

Augustinians and young adults from three Australian Augustinian parishes were part of the recent large international gathering for World Youth Day in Cologne, Germany.



Mareeba group with Fr Robert Greenup O.S.A (top: third from left, at St Monica's Rome. St Peter's Basilica is in the background.

Mareeba Parish youth coordinator Wendy van den Brink, accompanied by parishioner Ralph Madigan and parish priest Fr Rob Greenup O.S.A. led a group of young pilgrims to Cologne, Germany for this year's World Youth Day celebrations.

Wendy said highlights of their time in Cologne were the catechesis and the Mass and vigil with Pope Benedict XVI. The warmth and togetherness of all the different cultures who gathered there was also amazing. "It was a celebration but it was more than that."

Apart from the activities in Cologne the group also spent time in Rome, Holland and Paris.

Stephen Akiew (Mareeba) wrote of his experience, ""When I heard about World Youth Day I didn't know what to expect or how it could change my life. The five days in Cologne, Germany, were a real eye-opener for me. The first day of the celebrations was a meeting with the other Australian delegates. As I sat there with 2000 other Australians listening to how God has changed them and changed

their ways, it made me realise things about my life that I wanted to change too."

From the Sydney Augustinian parishes of St Clair and Manly Vale/Balgowlah Fr Tony Banks O.S.A., Fr Jun Belocura O.S.A., youth worker Kiliti Na'ati and from St Augustine's College, Brookvale, teacher Marianna Pallotta together with fifteen young adults also headed to Cologne. Beforehand they visited Augustinian communities in Incheon (Korea), Prague and Weiden (Germany), and afterwards the famous Augustinian sites in Pavia, Milan, San Gimignano and Rome.

As one of the Sydney participants wrote, "I think the most amazing thing so far has been the knowledge that completely different people from different cultures can share the same faith as me. Another amazing part of the pilgrimage was visiting all the sites of St. Augustine." Another one of them recorded, "This pilgrimage has been a fantastic experience, especially to see people from countries all over the world celebrate Jesus' life and sacrifices, particularly in the main World Youth Day celebrations in Marienfeld."



Pocholo Javier (St Clair) visiting the bones of St Augustine in Pavia.

Pilgrim Trina from St Clair has a message for us all, "Though I highly recommend travelling, I also experienced from WYD that God can be found in everyone around you and in everything you do. I would encourage everyone to try & experience World Youth Day when Sydney hosts it in 2008. Hope to see you there :)"

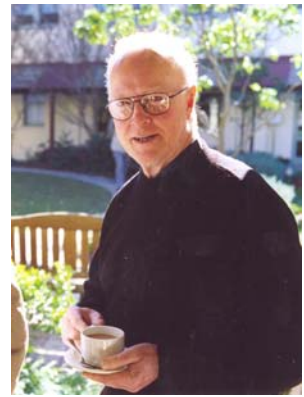
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John Barry O.S.A., Citizen of the Year

Fr John Barry O.S.A., parish priest in South Yarra and Prahran (Melbourne) has been named as Citizen of the Year for service to the local community. This award was presented to him on 6th October at the Stonnington Town Hall (formerly the Malvern Town Hall). The award recognises the valuable justice and outreach ministry of Fr Barry and of the two parish communities under his leadership and inspiration.



John has been parish priest of South Yarra since late in 1989 (and subsequently of the adjacent Parish of Prahran as well). Throughout his priestly life he has been associated with a number of organisations for what some would call ‘broken people’ and, in doing so, has generously accepted the many hours of service and personal involvement that this has required.

Farewell Sr Gavina and Welcome Sr Joan—Sisters of Our Lady of Consolation

Sister Joan (pronounced “Joanne”) has arrived in Brookvale from the Philippines to take over from Sister Gavina on the chaplaincy team of St Augustine’s College, Brookvale. After three years in this role, Sr Gavina has been transferred back to the Philippines. A Mass and luncheon were held at the convent in Brookvale on 17th September, to mark the feast of Our Lady of Consolation, to farewell Sister Gavina and to welcome Sister Joan. Sister Joan was accompanied to Australia by Sister Marie, a provincial councillor who then spent two weeks with the Sisters in Brookvale before returning to Manila. Sister Gavina returned to the Philippines on 18th October.



(L to R) Sisters Marie and Joan.

AFAS— Australian Filipino Augustinian Solidarity

Trish McGrath

In September 2005 seven students and two teachers from Villanova College in Brisbane travelled to the Philippines to continue the work of AFAS – Australian Filipino Augustinian Solidarity.

In the spirit of Augustinian hospitality we were made very welcome wherever we went. Our stay with the Fathers’ community at the Basilica was memorable as our students became aware of the deep faith of the Filipino people with a constant stream of people attending the many daily masses.

Our students particularly enjoyed the interaction with students at Divine Love High School in Talisay and at La Consolation schools in Bacolod and Murcia. Here they learnt something of the Filipino culture as they attempted the traditional dance with bamboo sticks – surprisingly no sore ankles.

A highlight of our visit was play time and lunch with the pre-schoolers from the College of St Agustin- outreach program in Bacolod. We all enjoyed a hamburger and cool drink for lunch as we helped one of the children to celebrate his birthday. We later visited the homes of the children and saw first hand what it is like to live in poverty. Similarly our visit to the dump where children live out their lives had a sobering effect on our group.

The Villa boys really enjoyed shopping for food, clothing, household items and toys for the children at the St Nino Orphanage in Sibonga. It was difficult to know who was having the most fun as our Australian boys played games with the toddlers from the orphanage. They also gained some insight into the impact of poverty as these children had been abandoned –some with serious deformities.