

It didn't take the couple very long after that to think seriously about getting married, and starting to prepare for it. Fr. Fernando officiated at their wedding.

Recently the couple invited Fr. Fernando out to lunch with them. "The husband was much more at peace with himself; even the child was less hyper," Fr. Fernando recalls. "They seemed very happy. It's wonderful to hear and share their experiences and to continue the friendship."

"This is a very rewarding ministry. The people have the experience of being helped, so they feel welcomed. They feel like they really belong to the community here in the parish."

A Minister and an Advocate

Born of immigrant parents, Fr. Michael McFadden, O.S.A. grew up in Philadelphia in a culture of immigrants, primarily from Ireland and Italy.

Throughout his priestly career, Fr. Michael, now pastor of St. Patrick's Parish in San Diego, has been a minister and an advocate for immigrants, refugees, the marginalized, society's most vulnerable.

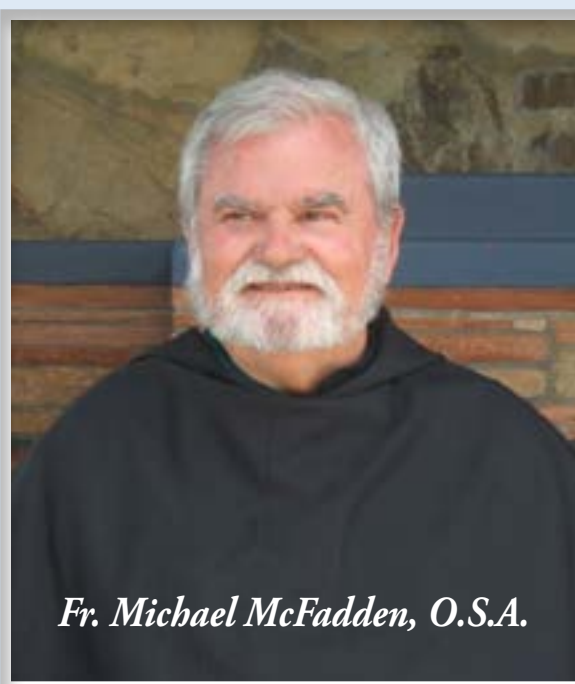
He spent ten years of his priesthood working in United Nations Refugee Camps in Central America, ministering to victims of war and many types of prejudices.

When he was working in Los Angeles with people who came up from Central America fleeing from three different wars, he worked to house them and find them jobs.

All the parishes in which he has served have significant Hispanic populations. In these assignments, he frequently has been called on to write letters of support to government agencies, attesting to parishioners' law-abiding presence and not being dependent on government support.

He has quite a few success stories to tell. "In one case," Fr. Michael recalls, "I was able to be a partner in helping a worker at the parish to get connected to a lawyer who enabled him to get a green card to work. He eventually enrolled his children in the parish school and finally was able to get a home as a first time buyer. In all of this journey, I was able to help and aided

financially in the cost of going through the grind of paperwork."



Fr. Michael McFadden, O.S.A.

In another parish, the wife of an American citizen had to go back to her native land and go through the process of applying to come back to the U.S. Fr. Michael found a lawyer who wrote to a congressman and was able

to have the wife finally return to her husband and family. The whole process took a year and a half. "The government had been in a 'go slow' mode, thinking she was in a false marriage only to get her green card," Fr. Michael recalls. "This was far from the truth, since I had married them in the parish and knew them well."

Just recently, Fr. Michael wrote a letter of reference on behalf of a wife from Mexico who was pregnant and ready to give birth. He was asking Immigration to allow her to stay in this country to complete her paperwork. "Obviously it would be a grave hardship for her to give birth and then leave the newborn with the father, a American citizen working full time." Fr. Michael and the family are currently waiting to hear what the government will allow.

"My heart has always been open to those who unduly suffer," says Fr. Michael. "All should be given a fair chance to earn a living and support their families. The Church has been clear and vocal that it is a basic human right to seek life and freedom."

"Todos somos inmigrantes en este país..."

El Padre Ireneo Paredes, ministra a la comunidad hispana en Nuestra Madre del Buen Consejo, la parroquia Agustina ubicada en Los

Ángeles. Mientras estudia inglés, también sirve a la parroquia en general.

"Tengan en cuenta", reflexiona el padre Ireneo, "que todos somos inmigrantes en este país. Muchos de nosotros hemos pasado por situaciones difíciles y hemos lidiado con la discriminación, el racismo y las injusticias en nuestros trabajos, además de las largas horas de trabajo pesado y los salarios bajos. Esto ha sucedido en el pasado y todavía le está pasando a muchos inmigrantes, con o sin documentación".

Junto con sus compañeros Agustinos en la parroquia Nuestra Madre del Buen Consuelo, el sacerdocio que da el Padre Ireneo a los inmigrantes es de apoyar, ayudar y guiarlos moralmente, espiritualmente y psicológicamente. Esto incluye el apoyo frecuente en los hospitales locales, como Kaiser Permanente.

"En nuestra parroquia, trabajamos con nuestros grupos hispanos, además de instruirlos continuamente", dice el Padre Ireneo. "Por ejemplo, el estudio de la Biblia en español les da a los inmigrantes una mejor comprensión de la Palabra de Dios. Además, existe una escuela



El Padre Ireneo Paredes, O.S.A.

especial para los padres de familia cuyos hijos vienen a tomar clases de catecismo".

Además del Padre Ireneo, la comunidad Agustina de Nuestra Madre del Buen Consejo incluye al Padre James Mott, O.S.A., administrador de la parroquia; al Padre Tom Davis, O.S.A., Pastor Asociado; y al Padre Jim Retzner, OSA, Capellán en residencia en el Hospital de Niños de Los Angeles.

What AVs are saying...

"I was absolutely humbled by the children's ability and willingness to move forward in their lives with hope and courage. Their hearts are just overflowing with love..."

"I loved seeing people's faces light up when they learned that we could take care of their needs and lighten their load in some way..."

"As an AV, I have been blessed with the opportunity to share the Augustinian values of truth, unity and love with my students... I feel as though my kids have become more aware of the peace which can arise from putting these values in the forefront of one's life..."

"I have gained so much from my AV Community members, and am extremely grateful for their encouragement, support, kindness, honesty and friendship these past months..."

Yes! I would like to learn more about the Augustinians.

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Spiritu

Fall 2014

Published by the Augustinians of the West

Bringing Christ to the Most Vulnerable among Us

"In this time of so many strangers, needy and suffering people, let your hospitality and good works abound." — St. Augustine

Fr. Fernando Lopez, O.S.A. knows what it is to be a stranger in a strange land.

He remembers coming across the U.S. border from his native Mexico as an undocumented immigrant in 1978 at the age of 17. His father had just been murdered, and young Fernando was on a desperate quest to find work to support his widowed mother and younger siblings. Heartbroken at the loss of his father and facing fears, insecurities and a language barrier, young Fernando nevertheless succeeded.

Those life experiences enrich the empathy he feels as he ministers to immigrants today. "When they come to me, I automatically understand what they're going through," says Fr. Fernando. "So we connect. I welcome them and feel responsible for helping them."

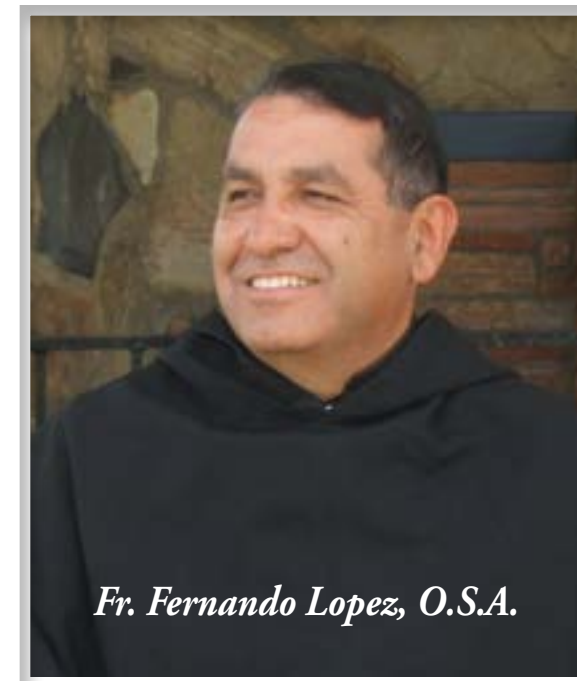
As Associate Pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas parish in Ojai, CA, he ministers to the entire parish — Latinos and Anglos, immigrants and non-immigrants, documented and undocumented. He also has been welcoming immigrants from outside the parish, particularly groups originally from Oaxaca, Mexico. As word spreads about Fr. Fernando, Oaxacans come from as far afield as Salinas.

The Oaxacans speak indio languages and most have minimal Spanish and little or no English. They are very communal and mutually supportive and tend to show up on Fr. Fernando's doorstep in groups. Young couples, many of them unmarried, come to get their children baptized.

While preparing for the baptism, Fr. Fernando urges them to start thinking about getting married, emphasizing the values of commitment, family stability and benefits for their youngsters. They listen and many follow through. Fr. Fernando has officiated at a number of their weddings.

When one such family came to him, Fr. Fernando noticed the couple appeared anxious, not at all at peace with themselves. Their four-year-old son was hyper, jumping all over. Some time after Fr. Fernando baptized their child, the family attended a wedding of a family member. When they were looking at photos of the wedding afterwards, the four-year-old asked his mother and father, "where are your wedding pictures?"

(continued back page)



Fr. Fernando Lopez, O.S.A.

Augustinian Bishop Reminisces about Long Friendship With Pope Francis

The attributes manifested by Pope Francis in his papacy — mercy, service and humility — were hallmarks of his character throughout his clerical career in Argentina, according to an Augustinian Bishop who has known him for 25 years.

Bishop Alberto Bochatey, O.S.A. Auxiliary Bishop of La Plata, Argentina, has known the Pope both as a religious superior and as a family friend.

Affable and down-to-earth, the Bishop reminisced fondly about the years of a warm friendship that continues today. Bishop Bochatey spoke to *Spiritu* in June at Villanova Preparatory School in Ojai, CA, where he was conducting a retreat for the West Coast Augustinians.

"I would say that he is truly a man of God," says the Bishop. "He was always thinking of how to show Jesus to everybody, how he can be closer to Jesus in his own life. When he became Pope, he didn't want to live in a palace or accept a big car. That's exactly what he did in Buenos Aires. Even as a cardinal leading the church in the country, he was a very simple religious man. He never owned a car. He always took the subways and buses. He cleaned his own room and made his own bed."

But Francis' innate kindness is most impressive to the Bishop. Years ago Fr. Jorge Bergoglio, S.J. (the

(continued inside)



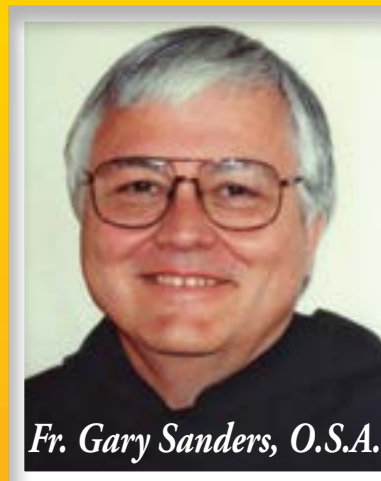
Bishop Alberto Bochatey, O.S.A. at his episcopal consecration in 2013.

Letter From the Editor

**Very Reverend Gary Sanders, OSA
Prior Provincial St. Augustine
Province**

In his Sermon # 125.8, St. Augustine cries out:

"Lord, you frighten me! You demand from me what you gave me. You gave me my talents because you want to profit from them. You don't want them hidden away in some secret place. You don't want to get back only what you gave me. You want more. You want back your money, every coin that bears your image – i.e., every human soul that ever existed."



Fr. Gary Sanders, O.S.A.

In this issue of *Spiritu*, we read of a number of talented people who by their good works bear the image of God to others. Whether it be an Augustinian bishop who takes his pride in his friendship with a popular Bishop of Rome, or an Augustinian priest from Mexico working with the immigrants in Los Angeles, or a friar who is fifty-years ordained but still expressing himself through the world of art, the Augustinian life is attractive to those who don't want their talents "hidden away in some secret place."

And in discovering "the human soul" of each Augustinian, others are touched by their lives and want to give back to God in similar ways: be it young men and women doing post-collegiate work while living in community, or perhaps it was this interaction that gave a young Korean-American man the desire to profess vows as an Augustinian, or another man with designs to embrace the business world, seeking to explore our way of life on a deeper level. There is something that they have seen that wants them to explore more.

But *Spiritu* is more than a story about one's vocation. It is meant to be a series of engraved coins that say who we Augustinians are and what we are about. With this issue of *Spiritu*, I invite you to explore some of the ways in which God's image is embossed in the "human souls" of the friars and our colleagues.

Fr. Gary

'Go forth to a land that I will show you...'

After graduating from UC Irvine, Philip Yang was always busy — working, tutoring and studying for graduate school admission. But Philip also found time for the Catholic Bible Study movement. He meditated intensively on the Book of Genesis.

"My heart began to tug," he recalls, "when I read the story of Abraham: 'Go forth to a land that I will show you.' I began to ask God, 'Where?' And so began my quest for my vocation."

In 2008, he entered the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, initially excited about the prospect of becoming a missionary. But he eventually realized that not everyone is called to that ministry.

After reading St. Augustine's *Confessions* and spending some time on the Augustinians' website, he sensed he was being called to community living, interiority and the search for truth in his life. That was reinforced when he got to know the Augustinians in Chicago at Catholic Theological Union.

"Every Augustinian I've met has answered all my questions impeccably... Although each response was slightly different, the answers were all in a range where I can say, 'This is for me!'"

"Community is everything for me," he reflects. "I'm amazed at how much the Augustinian friars really care for each other, whether you're liberal or conservative, white or



Philip Yang

Asian. For Augustinians, community means living together in harmony."

Born in Los Angeles 34 years ago, Philip lived most of his life in Orange County, CA, where he grew up speaking Korean at home and English in school. Before he went on to UC Irvine and an eventual degree in history, he graduated from Servite High School in Anaheim.

Since his high school days, Philip has always tutored Asian, Caucasian and Latino students from elementary through high school in English and math. Most of his students were Asian-Americans, seeking language training.

In college, he worked at the Inter-Library Loans at the university, and toward the end of his college career, worked as an intern for an engineering firm. While studying for grad school, he worked at Isuzu Motor Company as a parts analyst, making sure that dealers were receiving the exact parts they needed from Japan.

Now a professed member of the Augustinians, Philip recently began his formation as a second year theology student at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. He is completing courses in liturgy, doctrine and

ministry.

As he looks forward to his future as an Augustinian, He anticipates putting his language capabilities to work in ministry. "I do want to learn Korean more academically, so I can preach in the language. I'm also working on my Spanish because of the large Latino population. My goal is to learn and master Korean and Spanish, and learn Hebrew and Cantonese on the side. And maybe later, I'll even work on my English," he says with a laugh.



Pope Francis

THE POPE & THE BISHOP (continued from front page)

future Pope Francis) had been a teacher of one of Bishop Bochatey's brothers-in-law. The young man later died at age 32, leaving his 28-year-old wife, Gloria, with five children.

"He was close to my sister, always very nice, giving her spiritual support," the Bishop recalls. "Every time my sister wrote to him, he would always answer. I remember on the tenth anniversary of my brother-in-law's death, my sister put an ad in the paper, calling friends to a memorial Mass. She didn't say anything to him because he was already a bishop. Five minutes before Mass, Bishop Bergoglio arrived in the sacristy. He made it clear he was not there to preside as a bishop, but rather to simply concelebrate the Mass as a fellow priest. 'I'm just here as a friend,' he said."

After he became Pope, Gloria sent Francis a letter with a family photo that included her grown children and grandchildren. Bishop Bochatey had the opportunity to hand-deliver it. "In response, Pope Francis sent a beautiful, very touching letter to my sister recalling the date of my brother-in-law's death. He was really very pastoral," Bishop Bochatey recalls.

The Bishop can tell a lot of stories about the personal touch that Francis manifests, including phone calls to friends, religious as well as lay people, in Argentina. "Sometimes we don't have time to make a phone call to a friend, yet the Pope himself takes time to make a phone call. It's amazing."

Bishop Bochatey recalls the nearly ten years when he worked closely with Cardinal Bergoglio. Fr. Bochatey was director of the Institute of Bioethics of the Faculty of Medicine at the Pontifical Catholic University of Argentina, and the Cardinal was his superior as Archbishop of Buenos Aires.

Fr. Bochatey was impressed with the Cardinal's willingness to work hard; to think of the best ways to meet evangelical goals; his habit of listening closely to others but handling agenda items decisively in an economy of words.

"He's very serious and doesn't play games," says the Bishop. "He's truthful, and open. What he thinks, he says. I always felt he trusted me and was supporting me. When meetings were over, he usually walked with me to the elevator to say goodbye. And maybe at the last minute would say something like 'I appreciate so much what we are doing...' a few words of kindness and support."

Pope Francis has worked closely with Augustinians for years. "He knows us quite well and I guess he appreciates our work and way of life," the Bishop says.

As one of the last bishops appointed by Pope Benedict XVI before he resigned, Bishop Bochatey was ordained a bishop during the few days when there was no pope, before Cardinal Bergoglio was elected.

"During the conclave," recalls the Bishop, "I was praying, 'Lord, I'm a new bishop with no pope. Please, let me feel close to any new pope that is elected and let me serve him well.' Two days later, Bergoglio, my friend, was elected pope. Apparently, I didn't ask the Lord for too much," he says with a chuckle.

What They're Doing Now

There is plenty of room for individuality in the common life of Augustinian priests and bothers. Look at the friars of the Western Province, who are men of many talents and varied interests, all using their own gifts in their own way to help build the Kingdom.

Three Province members are now serving on International Augustinian Commissions: **Fr. Gary Sanders, O.S.A.**, Prior Provincial, Commission on the Laity; **Fr. Mark Menegatti, O.S.A.**, Director of Retreats and Ministry at St. Augustine's High School, Commission on Youth; and **Fr. Alvin Paligutan, O.S.A.**, religion teacher at Villanova Preparatory School, Commission on Spirituality.

Fr. Greg Heidenblut, O.S.A., Pastor of Our Lady of Grace Parish in Castro Valley, CA, is serving as an adjunct professor at St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park for the Archdiocese of San Francisco. He is teaching a bible class.

Fr. Bob Gavotto, O.S.A., Chaplain at St. Augustine's High School, San Diego, is continuing his admired avocation as an artist. He produces at least one painting each summer, often in conjunction with art classes he has taken in Hawaii, Italy and the Caribbean.

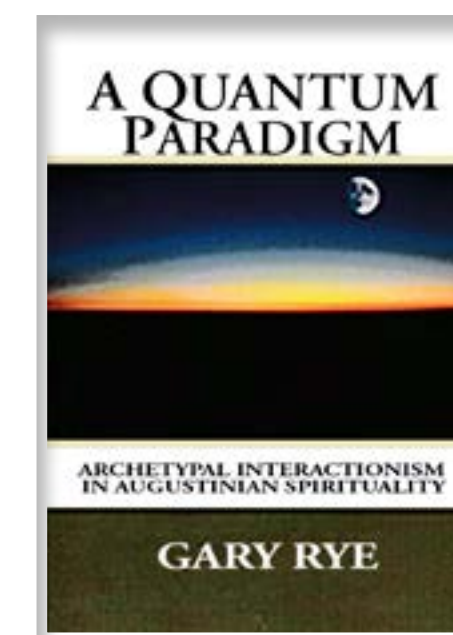
Currently based in San Diego where he celebrates liturgies in Spanish at Our Lady of Angels parish, **Fr. Gary Rye, O.S.A. Ph.D.** has just finished working on translations of his new book, *A Quantum Paradigm: Archetypal Interactionism in Augustinian Spirituality*. Available through Amazon.com, the book will soon be out in Spanish, French, Italian, Portuguese and Russian editions.

In a recently published booklet titled *The Third Way*, Augustinian Novice **Maxime Villeneuve** addresses same-sex marriage in a way that differs from the standard liberal vs. conservative divide, proposing a solution which he says protects the rights of all, especially persons of faith. The publication is available at Amazon.com.

Fr. Mark Menegatti, O.S.A. has been an innovator in youth ministry since his own teenage days as a lay parishioner. One of the ways he communicates the Good News to young people is via Hip Hop music with a Christian message. The name of his continuing music ministry is Ephrem Hip Hop, named after St. Ephrem of Syria, a Doctor of the Church, who would transpire his theological works exclusively into poetry. Fr. Mark's latest album is titled *Along Babylon's Streets* — currently available in digital format at ephremhiphop.bandcamp.com.



MorningStar beach, St. Thomas by Fr. Bob Gavotto, O.S.A.



Quantum Paradigm by Fr. Gary Rye, O.S.A., Ph.D.



The Third Way by Maxime Villeneuve



Along Babylon's Streets by Fr. Mark Menegatti, O.S.A.

'Nothing Could Possibly Make Me Happier'

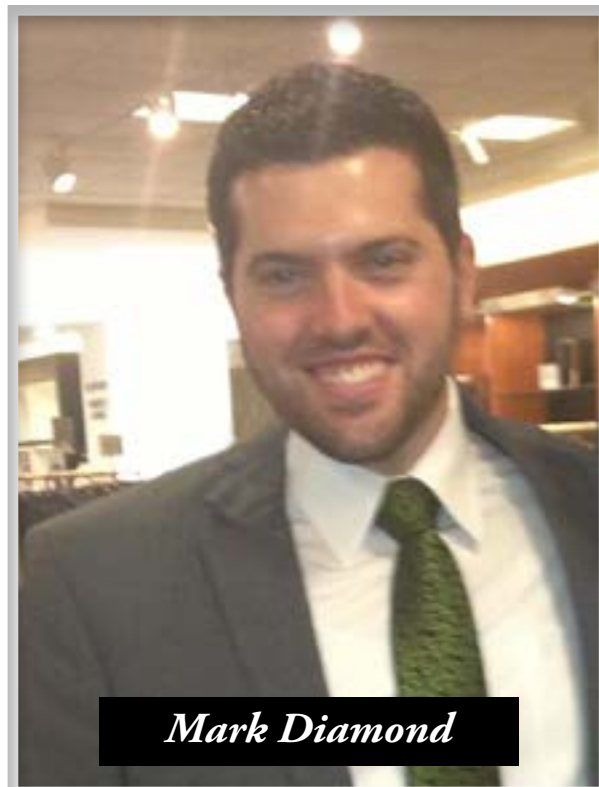
Mark Diamond met the Augustinians in a way he'll never forget.

A few years ago, he was with his parents at a Sunday Mass celebrated by Rev. Michael Sullivan, O.S.A. During his homily, Fr. Sullivan called him out, had him stand up in front of the congregation and asked, "Why aren't you an Augustinian priest?"

"I don't recall my response," says Mark, "but the Holy Spirit gave me a respectful one-liner to deflect the question."

Mark is no longer deflecting the question. As a pre-novice at the St. Rita Cole Street house in San Francisco earlier this year, he found fulfillment and joy. With great anticipation, he went off to the Augustinian Novitiate in Racine, WI this fall.

Born 30 years ago in Stratford, NJ, Mark was reared in Voorhees, NJ, in the suburbs of Philadelphia. In high school, he served an internship with the Trump Organization that exposed students to the casino business. After graduating with a degree in business from Temple University, he took a job with Harrah's Entertainment in marketing, moving initially to Las Vegas and later living and working in San Marcos, CA, Atlantic City, Philadelphia, Clementon NJ and San Diego. He loved the



Mark Diamond

experience of meeting so many different people.

In the pre-novitiate, the trial period of living in religious community life, Mark's biggest challenge — and blessing — has been slowing down. "The pre-novitiate is much slower and much more relaxed than the high-octane, fast-paced nature of the casino business."

Mark says Fr. Tom Whelan, O.S.A., who as Director of Vocations for the Augustinian Western Province leads the pre-novices, has been a role model and inspiration for him.

Mark had felt a tug toward a religious vocation since the fourth grade, and it became more intense with a resurgence in his faith after college graduation. He began to explore several different orders as well as diocesan paths, and chose the Augustinians.

For Mark, the Augustinian emphasis on community has been most compelling. "The community

has been essential for my own spiritual growth and for helping me with my continued discernment of a call to religious life," he says.

"What I find most rewarding about being a member of the Augustinian community is to know I am fulfilling God's will for my life. Nothing could possibly make me happier."

Augustinian Volunteers: Living Good Lives, Changing the Times

St. Augustine's exhortation to "live good lives and you will change the times" rings out loud and clear among the energetic Augustinian Volunteers (AVs), who are bringing Christ's love to those they serve in schools, social service organizations and clinics. The AVs are young Catholic men and women college graduates working in partnership with Augustinians and others in venues around the nation and abroad. Living in small communities with their peers, the AVs in domestic ministries commit to 10 months of service. Each year, ten AVs are assigned to the Augustinian Western Province, six in San Diego and four in Ventura County.

2014-2015 Augustinian Volunteers in San Diego are:

- Danielle Callahan, St. Patrick's Parish School
- Marissa D'Ambrosio, St. Patrick's Parish School
- Brendan Dillon, St. Augustine's High School
- Will Rattigan, Via International
- Maureen Lynch, St. Vincent de Paul Village
- Julia McGrath, St. Vincent de Paul Village

2014-2015 Augustinian Volunteers in Ventura County:

- Sarah Dunbar, Villanova Prep
- Emma Lindberg, Santa Clara High School
- Mike McCormick, HELP of Ojai
- Mike Bucaria, St. Bonaventure High School

2013-2014 AVs (who completed their service in June) serving in San Diego were:

- Kathryn Crawford, St. Patrick's Parish School
- Caroline Kemp, R.N., St. Vincent de Paul Village Family Health Ctr.
- Dan McKiernan, Holy Family School
- Molly Mescall, St. Patrick's and Holy Family Schools
- Angela Monaco, Hogar Infantil la Gloria and Hogar Infantil, Inc.
- Daniel Vasquez, St. Augustine's High School

2013-2014 AVs serving in Ventura County were:

- Bridget Lemke, HELP of Ojai
- Vincent Reyes, Santa Clara High School
- Paul Ryan, St. Bonaventure High School
- Emily Thompson, Villanova Prep

(See "What the AVs Are Saying" on the back cover)