

WHY WE JOINED

Those entering into Augustinian formation in North America can apply to join the Eastern, Midwest, or California Provinces. Your choice of Province will depend upon either geographical location or type of ministry that interests you. As you begin to discern your vocation, consider the testimonies of these three men currently in formation on why they chose to join the Augustinian Order.



Br. Elizandro Contreras, O.S.A.
Eastern Province

"I joined the Augustinians because of their very human charism, which is living in community, brotherhood, and friendship on the way to God. I could not find a better example of real and warm community, with such a wonderful sense of living in friendship. The best friends that I have found in my life are Augustinians, and a good part of who I am is because of their love and care. Anytime I have needed their support, they have been there."



Br. Samuel Joutras, O.S.A.
Midwest Province

"My interest in the priesthood began at an early age as I went to Sunday Mass with my family. As a college student, I strongly felt that God was leading me to the priesthood. I associated this vocation with the Augustinian friars who staffed my parish and high school, Providence Catholic. As I visited with Augustinian communities, I found an authentic, friendly group of religious men among whom I felt at home."



Br. Emmanuel Isaac, O.S.A.
California Province

"I joined the Augustinians because of their charism, which is to live in community to witness and share the love of Christ with the people of God. My interaction with the Augustinians has shown me that I am not alone on this journey, but a community of restless hearts is with me, striving to live harmoniously in one mind and heart intent upon God. The spiritual friendship and intrinsic love to serve the people of God, experienced through Augustinian fraternity, has helped me recognize that I am surrounded by wonderful people."

RESTLESS?



CONTACT



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THE
AUGUSTINIANS

"ONE MIND, ONE HEART ON THE WAY TO GOD"



WHO WE ARE

The Augustinian Friars of North America are religious priests and brothers following in the footsteps of Christ and Saint Augustine since 1796. We are "Active Contemplatives." We sponsor Villanova University, Merrimack College, several high schools, and many parishes. We have a variety of ministries, including inner-city apostolates in the United States, preaching apostolates and missions in Japan and Peru.

We take our lead from Saint Augustine of Hippo, the 4th/5th century monk and bishop in North Africa. What was essential to Augustine when he gathered the original members of his community was capturing the spirit of the first Christians found in the Acts of the Apostles: a community that came together and shared all things in common, all the while ministering to God's People.

Our common life is built on mutual acceptance and respect, kindness and concern, as well as a willingness to listen to others and to open oneself to them.

HISTORY OF THE AUGUSTINIANS

397 St. Augustine writes his Rule for monastic life

1244 Pope Innocent IV unites hermit communities into one "Order of St. Augustine"

1256 "The Grand Union" with further consolidation promoted by Pope Alexander IV

1796 Augustinians begin ministering in North America, with first foundation in Philadelphia

FORMATION

The friars who are preparing to make solemn profession are often referred to as **Men Of Heart**. This is largely because, throughout our formation process, we form both the mind and the heart. We do this not only through studying the works of Augustine, theology, and prayer, but also by living together in community. This process generally takes 6-8 years and includes these Steps:

- 1 Discernment:** A man interested in life within the Augustinian Order will meet with a vocation director to discuss a potential call to religious life.
- 2 Associate Program:** Interested men who are not ready for a live-in experience will enter into regular contact with an Augustinian Friar to deepen their understanding of our charism and spirituality.
- 3 Pre-Novitiate:** The candidate lives for a year in an Augustinian community and initial formation begins. The candidate is introduced to the Augustinian Rule and the Order's Constitutions.
- 4 Novitiate:** The candidate receives the white habit of the Order and enters into a year of prayer and study of our spirituality and history at the novitiate house in Pennsylvania, in order to continue his individual discernment.
- 5 Temporary Vows:** Novices profess their first vows of chastity, obedience, and poverty to the Order at the end of their novitiate year. These vows are renewed each year until solemn profession is made. After first profession, friars will begin their studies at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago.
- 6 Pastoral Year:** After two years of study, friars will spend a year (sometimes two) in active service for one of the North American ministries.
- 7 Solemn Vows:** Solemn or perpetual vows of chastity, obedience, and poverty are made in the fourth or fifth year of theologate studies. If a friar is called to brotherhood, he is ready for active, permanent ministry.
- 8 Diaconate Ordination:** Friars called to priesthood will then be ordained as transitional deacons.
- 9 Priesthood Ordination:** The Prior Provincial will present friars to the bishop for ordination to the priesthood. At this point, initial formation has concluded, and they will enter active ministry.

SPIRITUALITY

"You have made us for Yourself,
O Lord, and our hearts are
restless until they rest in You."

Augustinian spirituality is a unique lens through which one can discover God. Stemming from Saint Augustine's own life, his writings, and his teachings, Augustinian spirituality can largely be summed up as the act of journeying together in search of the Truth that is God.

This journey, as Augustine's own life gives example, was not solely an internal journey toward God, but also a communal and outward journey. Augustine took scripture as a guide for truth, and specifically followed the example of the first Christian community described in the Acts of the Apostles. As such, he and the communities in which he lived followed Christ's outward model of love through service to others. Augustinian life is thus one of action and contemplation.