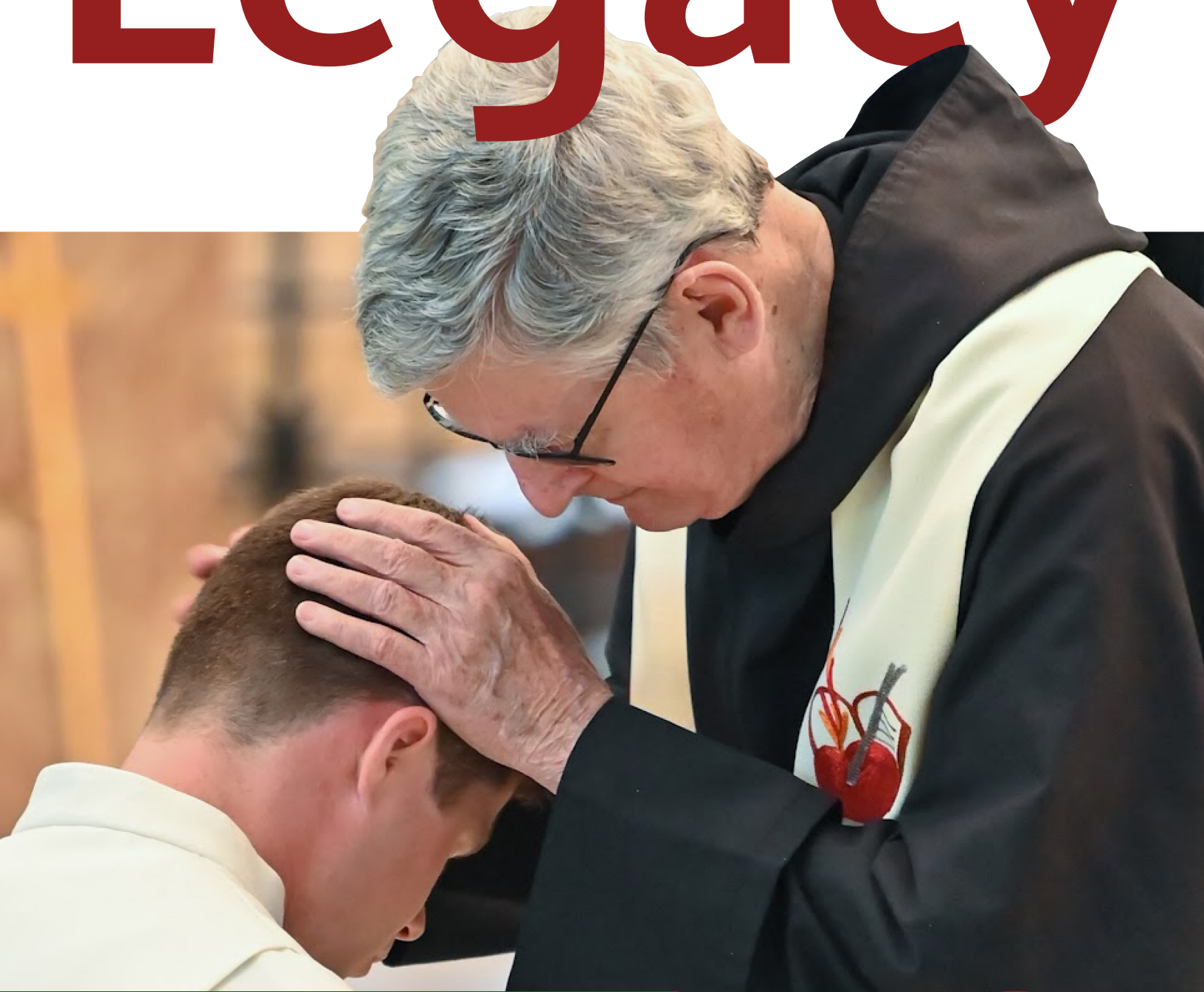


Midwest Augustinians | 2024 Capital Campaign | Case Statement

Legacy



The Next Generation

A future of faith,
hope, and service





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“Whenever you show greater concern for the common good than for your own, you may know that you are growing in charity.”

– The Rule of St. Augustine: V, 31.

Cover Photo: Fr. Bill Sullivan, O.S.A., laying hands on Fr. Sam Joutras, O.S.A., at his Ordination

Very Rev. Anthony B. Pizzo, O.S.A.
on behalf of the Augustinian Advancement Council



Welcome Letter

The term “legacy” can be described as creating, leaving, or passing forward a tradition and history of behaviors worth emulating. People want to leave a legacy that tells of their goodness, generosity, and positive impact they have made on others. The Augustinians have had such a legacy for almost eight centuries. During those centuries and continuing today, we have dedicated our lives to promoting the virtues and teachings of Christ in the tradition of St. Augustine. It is no exaggeration to say that since 1244 A.D., the year of our founding, countless numbers of souls have been served by that legacy.

In 1905 the Augustinians came to the Midwest United States to expand and continue the Augustinian tradition. Over time our numbers have ebbed and flowed and so have our pastoral assignments in our various ministries. Our mission and corresponding values have remained the same. Ultimately, our goal each day is to contribute to a world that is more peaceful and more just. I believe that the world needs us more today than ever.

Currently, we face challenging decisions for our future. It is a time for us to pause, pray, consult and reflect with our supporters. Our Mission statement (on page 5) presents our goals, hopes, and plans resulting from our many prayers and deliberations. It is our path forward. I ask you to join us to continue our legacy. With your support, **our legacy becomes your legacy**: a ministry of service worked in the name of Jesus Christ and our spiritual father, St. Augustine.

In gratitude for your prayerful and generous assistance,

Very Rev. Anthony B. Pizzo, O.S.A. | 14th Prior Provincial

The Augustinian Advancement Council

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New Evangelization

Proclaiming the Good News

“Thou hast formed us for Thyself, and our hearts are restless till they find rest in Thee.”

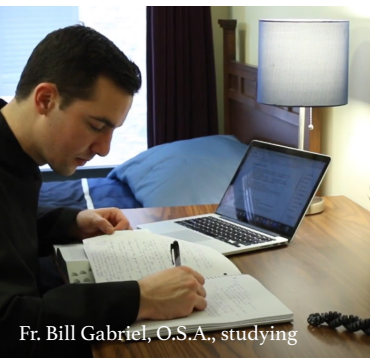
St. Augustine - Confessions

The Second Vatican Council as well as Popes Paul VI and John Paul II, Benedict and Francis have called for a New Evangelization. To the often “bad news” of our era – a time plagued by many evils – Jesus’s Good News must be proclaimed: **The Reign of God is at hand!**

The Lord’s words of God’s love for and presence in the world, of the goodness and beauty of creation, of the dignity of human life and the great value of human accomplishment, of the meaningfulness of suffering and of our final destiny beyond physical death are the heart of the Gospel proclamation. While Jesus’s words teach a new vision of life, his deeds teach and model a new ethical ideal rooted in love of God and neighbor.

For nearly 17 centuries, St. Augustine and his followers in the Augustinian Tradition have proclaimed Jesus’s Good News. With the Eternal Word, the Holy Spirit and committed laymen and women, Augustinians have worked in the “human city” to build the City of God.

Since 1905 Augustinians of the Villanova Province and from 1941 to today, Augustinians of the Province of Our Mother of Good Counsel – themselves disciples of Jesus and Augustine – have witnessed to the Gospel in the Midwest, building communities of Catholic faith and hope, preaching, teaching, celebrating liturgies, counseling, consoling, and healing.



Fr. Bill Gabriel, O.S.A., studying

“...and He sent them out to preach the Reign of God and to heal... and they went through the villages, preaching the Gospel and healing everywhere.”

Luke 9:2,6



Fr. Jack Tierney, O.S.A., and Fr. Elizandro Contreras, O.S.A., distributing food



Fr. Jack Tierney, O.S.A. with SRHS Students



Fr. Tony Pizzo, O.S.A. celebrates Mass



Augustinians in Peru

Who We Are

Mission Statement

“The main reason for your coming together is to be of one mind and one heart on the way to God.”

The Rule of St. Augustine

We, the Augustinians of the Province of Our Mother of Good Counsel, are members of the worldwide Order of Saint Augustine in the Roman Catholic Church.

Centered in the Eucharist and prayer, we search for God in community by sharing our lives, goods and spiritual journey with each other and the people of God.

In harmony of mind and heart on our journey toward God, our experience of common life flows into and shapes our ministries.

We continue to serve the Church in schools, parishes and missions as we seek to discern new paths of service to which God calls us.



The Midwest Augustinians



Campaign Introduction

A Legacy of Centuries

As in the time of St. Augustine (354-430), we live in a world challenged by problems, both material and spiritual. We often find ourselves in the grip of faulty visions of human wellbeing, hopelessness, and with many people morally adrift. In such a time, Augustinians see a world and a Church that needs the Grace of God and the vision of Augustine more than ever.

We find ourselves at a watershed moment in our long history. It is not the first time - nor will it be the last - that will be the case. What truly is at stake is a longstanding **LEGACY** of service to the world and our Province based on the teaching of Christ as promoted through the teaching of St. Augustine.

All of us present today stand on the legacy of hundreds of men and women who came before us. They have since passed on, but not before handing this great legacy to us. This is our time and our opportunity to push that legacy forward, and to make it stronger and lasting for those who one day will inherit this legacy.

The most needed and productive endeavors for us now are to focus on raising awareness and funds for vocation and formation work and for evangelization.

Focusing on these two closely-related efforts for the next five years will help to ensure that we have the Augustinians and the supporters necessary to carry us through these times to an even brighter future of service in the name of St. Augustine.

Thanks to the efforts of prior campaigns (between 2012 and 2018), we have raised sufficient funds to take care of any future obligations for our retired and infirm men, and can handle our ongoing obligations to our missions in Northern Peru - where we have served for close to sixty years.

Despite facing challenges, we know that staying rooted in the timeless tradition of fraternity and community intended by St. Augustine will enable us to continue to serve and impact generations of men, women, young people, and dozens of communities.

“If we receive the Eucharist worthily, we become what we receive.”

- St. Augustine, Easter Sermon 227



Fr. Stephen Isley, O.S.A. at his Ordination

Our Work & Our Goal

\$2.0 Million for Augustinian Ministry

In our two previous successful campaigns (2013 and 2018) we raised \$5.2 million to support our retired and infirm men, and to a lesser extent, our vocations. In this **Legacy Campaign** our emphasis is to raise **\$2.0 million** or more for two priorities:

Evangelization – Spreading Augustine’s teachings and values to the broadest possible audience across the Midwest, and

Vocations Program and Formation – To make every effort possible to advance calls for Augustinian vocations and to support the living and education needs of the men studying to become Augustinians.

Though these are our two top priorities for the next five years, we will always accept and be very grateful for those who wish to direct their gifts to support our retired and infirm men and our missions in Peru.

We, the Midwest Augustinians, in collaboration with thousands of faithful lay people, have served the Catholic Church in the midwestern United States, Canada, Peru and Japan since 1905.

Our mission is lived out in a variety of ministries that serve the People of God in schools, parishes, chaplaincies, the foreign missions, parish missions, and in other ways and venues.

Centered in Augustinian tradition and in the legacy of service entrusted to us, we foresee flourishing spiritual work and joyful growth yet-to-come, enabled by this Legacy Campaign.



Developing the Legacy

Goal: Vocation & Formation

A future of **faith, hope, and service** starts in the present, with all of us today.

The following are our goals and how we expect to achieve them as we enhance our ministry.

Your advocacy, sponsorship, donations, and commitments are essential to achieving and exceeding our goals over the next three to five years.

Goal: Vocation & Formation



Use our in-person and virtual platforms to welcome young people as they discern their calling to religious life.

In all of our present ministries, we will continue to actively promote vocations for our Order and the Church. Additionally, we must and will continue to develop our internet presence, attend youth gatherings, and develop relationships with individual candidates.

Young Augustinians in our formation programs will continue to pursue personal, spiritual, pastoral, and academic excellence. Though costly (almost \$50k per student per year for up to seven years), study in a variety of graduate programs and educational venues will continue to be a part of Augustinian formation.

We will continue to invest in and enhance our vocation outreach efforts.

By participating in youth gatherings, visiting colleges, high schools and parishes, and continuing to use social media, we will seek and form men who wish to live the Rule of Augustine with joy, hope, and a heart for service in Augustinian communities.

Vocation Programs

Program Use of Funds

Working with, supporting, and ministering to discerners is a very deliberate process that takes years of effort, concentration, and prayer. We share our attractive Augustinian tradition and our common life with young people.

All religious orders are constantly seeking vocations.

Under the leadership of Fr. Tom McCarthy, O.S.A., and Fr. Jack Tierney, O.S.A., and with the support of the Prior Provincial and all the Augustinians, this program for Vocations will include the elements detailed below:

Functional Necessities

House, feed, clothe, educate, and form the men who decide to pursue a vocation as a priest or brother - a seven-year commitment - that costs approximately \$50,000 per man, per year.

Parish Vocation Talks

Conduct vocation promotion talks at our own parishes, and at other community parishes.

Augustinian Vocation Days

Hold vocation promotion events in our schools and parishes to increase awareness.

College Campus Outreach

Visit campus ministry offices and Catholic centers to be an in-person resource for students.

Vocation Discernment Weekends

Host in-person discernment weekends with interested young men twice per year. Over the past five years, thirty young men have participated, even with two years lost due to COVID restrictions.

Digital Media Program

Continue a digital vocation outreach program through our vocation website (beafriar.org) and social media channels to reach young men wherever they may be. Over the past year, our work has reached over 300,000 individuals, and learned of over 130 interested candidates across all three Augustinian provinces.

Vocation Content Creation

Continue to invest in video, photo, and other storytelling assets that communicate our mission.



Fr. Tom McCarthy, O.S.A.



Fr. Jack Tierney, O.S.A.



Developing the Legacy

Goal: New Evangelization

“Let us leave a little room for reflection, room too for silence. Enter into yourself and leave behind all noise and confusion. Look within yourself.”

- Saint Augustine (Sermon 52, 22)

New Evangelization



Evangelize with talks, seminars, and retreats - enhanced by additional staff, the creative deployment of our Friars, trained lay volunteers, digital media, and other resources.

We will continue ministry at high schools (Cascia Hall Preparatory School, St. Rita High School, and Providence Catholic High School) and in local parish communities (St. Rita Parish, St. Jude Parish, St. Bernard Parish, and St. Turibius Parish). We also plan to expand support to Austin Catholic High School (Detroit) and Villanova College (King City, Canada).

Using our available resources, we will preach the Good News and amplify our Augustinian Mission and Identity beyond our traditional sites of ministry and service.

With the help of additional provincial staff, including a Director of Augustinian Lay Engagement, we will initiate a new evangelization program using a broad array of in-person and online digital platforms to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ according to the vision of St. Augustine, continuing our Legacy of centuries.

New Evangelization Programs

Program Use of Funds

We believe that the Order and our mission will benefit from proactive outreach efforts to share the story, virtues, and charism of what it means to be like St. Augustine and increase the number of solemnly professed men.

This work is core to our Augustinian Mission & Identity as we share the Good News of the Gospel with our communities.

Under the leadership of our Midwest Province and with the support of our Augustinians and staff, our view of a comprehensive “new evangelization” program will include the elements detailed below:

St. Augustine-Focused Programming

Programs and events about Augustine’s teaching and values to be presented in schools, parishes, Newman Centers, and at local, regional, and national Catholic gatherings.

Ecumenical Gatherings

Present and be involved at ecumenical gatherings (Augustine is the most-quoted saint in Christianity).

Annual Gatherings

Create annual events and gatherings for those interested in learning about St. Augustine.

Augustinian Values Institute

Extend the current Augustinian Values Institute (AVI) to all who want to be part of the larger, worldwide Augustinian family and community.

New Evangelization Demographic Focus

Focus our outreach towards adults age 21 to 60 who are not currently in an Augustinian community (school or parish) in an effort to expand the Faith and to share our Augustinian values.

Director of Augustinian Lay Engagement

Hire a full-time staff member to work with Augustinian priests and brothers to develop outreach programs in parishes, schools, and dioceses. Programming will focus on the teachings, virtues, and charism of St. Augustine and the Augustinian Order.

Digital Media

Use modern evangelization tools and methods to spread the Good News and Augustinian way of life to new communities online.

Young Adult Event Participation

Actively participate, attend, and support the International Augustinian Youth Encounter (AYE) and World Youth Day to engage with young Catholics from around the globe.



Learn More

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Do we have enough Friars to support this vision for the next three to five years?

We do have the men to fulfill the vision described above. Through a vigorous, sustained vocation program, we hope and expect that the Holy Spirit will inspire more good young men to enter our community and walk with us.

Currently, (October 1, 2023) there are sixty-four (64) members of the Province of Our Mother of Good Counsel. Many of them -- thirty (30) to be precise -- are over seventy-five (75) years old.

We have ordained six (6) men in the past five (5) years. Presently, there are four (4) men in simple vows, one (1) novice, and two (2) men in the pre-novitiate as of Fall, 2023. We also have fifteen (15) young men discerning the path for their lives with Fr. Tom McCarthy, O.S.A., Fr. Jack Tierney, O.S.A. and with other Augustinians.

2. What is happening in the vocation / recruitment program?

Our best recruiting is done in person by Augustinians. Additionally, many young people today first meet the Order on social media. Since November of 2022, we have learned of interest from over 130 men to join the Augustinians in North America and have reached an audience of nearly 300,000 with our messages online and in person.

We plan to hire a Director of Augustinian Lay Engagement who will help to coordinate in-person evangelization and vocation programs with Catholic youth at universities, high schools, and parishes. We have been working with a digital media specialist who has helped us re-design our website and is working to grow our social media presence. As we continue to measure what works and grow our in-person and online vocation programs, we hope to continue to refine how we are attracting the next generation of men to the Augustinian Order.

Our best efforts do not always produce the results we desire. Our task is to remain faithful to our calling, listen to the Holy Spirit, pray, invite and challenge good men to consider Augustinian life.

3. How are Augustinians formed, educated, and trained?

The Church's Code of Canon Law, the Order's Ratio Studiorum, and the United States Bishops' Program of Priestly Formation govern formation. In some cases, additional years of formation and education may be required before a man professes solemn (final) vows and is ordained deacon and priest.

The normal process is a year as a pre-novice, a year as a novice, and five years studying theology and ministry. Included in the five years is a year-long internship in an Augustinian apostolic community. A Brother's formation is more individualized.

By the end of one's time in formation, a young Augustinian has at least one Master's degree in theology and ministry. It is not unusual for our professed to have earned professional certification or a second Master's degree in a field of the Friar's interest.

Learn More

Frequently Asked Questions

4. How is the province funded?

A good question.

The province receives no funding from Rome, any diocese, Catholic Charities, or from any major foundation. The number of Friars under seventy-five (75) years of age and able to bring in income has fallen to twenty-nine (29). Consequently, we rely more on charitable offerings to sustain us and move us through the next phase of growth. Over the past twelve (12) years, charitable gifts have assumed an increasingly vital role in sustaining our men and our ministry. There are currently over one hundred (100) members in our Restless Hearts Society for planned giving.

The primary means of funding are threefold: 1) earnings by Friars working in schools, parishes, special assignments and from various pensions, 2) advancement (charitable donations, estate gifts, direct mail, the gala, and a few grants), and 3) drawdowns from the limited, independent trust funds that have been donated by benefactors in the past to benefit the province.

5. Can the province fund this vision from its regular annual budget?

The simple answer is “No.”

We are a “mendicant” Order. We are dependent on the charity and generosity of others for our funding. The Midwest Augustinians have never built huge reserves to create the income to sustain our current men and mission. In fact, until very recently, Augustinians working in province-sponsored high schools donated “contributed services” to finance the school, keeping tuition as low as possible.

Why? Jesus sent his disciples on their missionary, evangelizing work “... without purse or bag or sandals” (Luke 10:4). Following the example of Jesus’s first disciples and in the tradition of the mendicant Friars from which the Order of St. Augustine emerged, our partners and benefactors have provided for the monetary and physical needs of the Augustinian mission.

6. What Were the Results of the Province’s 2013 and 2018 Campaigns?

Thanks to your generous support across these two campaigns we raised \$5.2 million in pledges and cash gifts, and collected 97% of all pledges. We used these funds to support formation programs and vocation outreach for over five years as well as securing funding for our retired and infirm men for the foreseeable future.

7. Why a special campaign at this time?

There is no doubt in our minds that this is a seminal moment in our history and our future as a community of people serving the Church in the name of St. Augustine.

If you decide to make a vitally important decision to join in this campaign, over the next five years, your gift will help extend the message and virtues of St. Augustine to thousands of new people, and help to plant the seeds of new vocations in the hearts of hundreds of young men across the Midwest and the United States.

8. What can you do to help?

Pray for this campaign’s success. Pray for vocations. Pray for our volunteers and supporters without whom we could not sustain ourselves or any fundraising efforts.

Consider making a generous, sacrificial gift or pledge (over one to five years). Make a deferred gift in your will or estate plan for the Augustinians.



Our Request

Help Support Our Future

We need your support. Our ability to continue to fulfill and grow our Augustinian Mission relies on the generosity of our supporters' time, talent, and treasure.

With your help, we hope to raise a total of **\$2.0 Million** in cash gifts and pledges and estate and will gifts to support Vocations & Formation and New Evangelization.

Every dollar counts as we secure a future in which the next generation has access to Augustinian education, pastoral care and an opportunity to discern religious life.

Help us continue to form the minds and hearts, the vision and values of our Augustinian community.

Yesterday. Today. Tomorrow.



Contact Us

Get Involved

To get involved, to make a contribution, or to request more information, please reach out to:



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Visit the Legacy Campaign website at
augustinianlegacy.org





PROVINCE OF OUR MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL

LEGACY

ORDER OF SAINT AUGUSTINE