

LENT 2010

Dear Friends of the Augustinian Missions:

We see our lives as a journey from birth until death, filled with challenges, sorrows and joys. As Christians we also journey in growing and deepening our faith. Lent is a time to reflect on how we live the gift of human and Christian life. In the Lenten Gospel, we hear of the journey of Jesus into the desert, the place where he encountered most powerfully his God and himself. He emerged from that desert renewed and strengthened. That is the challenge for us as people of faith, to enter into our own desert, to reflect on our human life and our life of faith. The Lenten journey, as so many journeys, is not an easy or comfortable one, but is necessary in order to deepen our call to be followers of Jesus Christ. The goal of this journey is the new life given through Easter. Our Lenten journey has no real meaning unless we see it guiding us to the new life of the resurrected Christ.

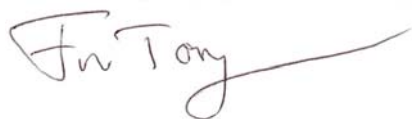
In recent weeks we have seen the incredibly difficult journey of the people of Haiti as they struggle to just survive. If they gave way to despair it would be understandable, but we hear more and more of the great courage of the people of that nation as they begin their life again. We hear of them attributing their strength and courage to their faith in God. How inspiring for us! Their situation reflects the image of the Lenten journey to Easter, their journey from a type of “death to new life”.

The people in our Augustinian missions experience their life journey of faith unique to their culture and situation. The Augustinian friars who serve them in Japan, Peru and South Africa share their life journey with its challenges, sorrows and joys, and they share in a very special way the people’s journey of faith, coming to a deeper experience of God in their everyday life. One thing we are all so strongly aware of – this journey in our missions would not be possible without the gift of YOU! We are only able to share in the journey of these people with your love, prayers and support. Thank you for supporting the friars as they walk with the faithful in these far and distant lands.

May God bless you in your Lenten journey as you enter into your desert of faith to emerge to the New Life of Easter!

May you have a spirit filled Lent and joyous Easter!

In St. Augustine,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fr. Tony". The signature is written in black ink and has a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

Anthony P. Burrascano, OSA
Director, Mission Office