

## Meet our Peruvian Augustinian Friars

After over 40 years of service in Peru, our Order has been blessed with young Peruvian men hearing and responding to the call from God to the Augustinian life. It has only been with the support of you, our benefactors, that we have been able to prepare these young men for service to God and the Church in the Order. We invite you to come to know some of the young friars you have supported.

Br. Rogelio Adrianzen Viera, OSA comes from our desert mission of San Isidro in Morropon, Peru. He came to know the Augustinians through American friars John Tyma, OSA and Steve Ochoa, OSA. Br. Viera is finishing his theological studies at our Formation House in Peru.



Can You Help? We all need to invest in our future. In Peru the future are native friars. Can you continue to financially support Br. Viera and other young Peruvian friars? Does your company offer a "Matching Gift" for donations?

## Malvern in Peru (continued)

On the road leading in and out of Chulucanas, there is a sign that reads "Chulucanas esta cambiando; cambia tu tambien!" ("Chulucanas is changing; change yourself too!") In this same sentiment, a Malvern student who visited Chulucanas for his service trip two years ago had remarked, "I went to change Peru, but Peru ended up changing me." I will never forget the kindness of the people of Cruz de Campanas. In us, they saw the generosity of a people who thought enough of them to leave their families in order to pay them a visit. In the people of Cruz de Campanas, with their joy, their simple and sincere faith, their sense of community, I saw a richness of life and a purity of spirit that material wealth and our insatiable need for more- more things, more experiences, more money-often obscures. The mutual ability to see Christ in each other across all of the lines we construct as humans to delineate difference, is to recognize the essence of our humanity. It is why this service trip was, indeed, a life-changing experience.

Nikki Cirone - Malvern Prep Faculty

4. Thank you for the stamps over the years. Regrettably we are no longer able to process them.

# The Augustinian Friars

Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova

Summer 2009



Dear Friends of the Augustinian Missions:

There are many activities in the missions which give us hope and joy. During the month of May, we celebrated such an experience in both Peru and South Africa as the friars shared their ministry with students from our American schools. Student nurses from Villanova University served in our South African missions. Senior students from Malvern Prep assisted our friars in both Peru and South Africa. The students participated in many wonderful projects, but I think the most valuable experience was the exchange between young people of different cultures. In this edition you will read and see the activity of the students as they experience a new culture in a world dramatically different from their own.

We feel very fortunate that as a world wide Order, the Augustinians can facilitate the coming together and exchange of hearts among various cultures. We are blessed to have the opportunity to expand the lives of our students beyond the blackboard of the classroom.

In Augustine,



*Coming soon...*

**NEW WEBSITE** with updated events, photos, media, blogs, and reflections from the Missions  
[www.augustinian.org/missions](http://www.augustinian.org/missions)

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## The Augustinians Share Ministry in Peru - South Africa - US

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### Reflection on Malvern Prep in South Africa



My Christian Service trip to South Africa was life changing. The experiences I had will be with me forever. I am truly convinced that I will go back at some point in the near future. This revelation became obvious when we went to St. Leo's to spend the day with the kids in the classroom and then outside. The students were the happiest kids I've ever met. Some kids walk for three hours to school, and then back home, every day, yet there is nothing but a smile on each of their faces.

Their laughter as we threw them up in the air and then caught them was contagious, and the way their eyes lit up when they saw us pull into the school is forever ingrained in my mind.

My faith was reaffirmed on so many levels. Before going to South Africa, I was content with my faith and it wasn't really advancing, but after returning home I've grown so much closer to God because of the people I encountered. We went to a traditional Zulu Mass one Sunday, and the enthusiasm I saw in each parishioner cannot be mimicked by anyone in the United States. The way these Zulu men and women sang was with true meaning. Their faith is so important to them because while the material items of their lives may be little, their faith increases tenfold every day. As I said before, I want to go back as soon as possible. This trip had such a tremendous impact on my life, and I cannot imagine going through life without interacting with the many people I fell in love with in South Africa.

Jimmy White - Malvern Prep Senior

### ~ Mass Cards ~

The Augustinian Mission Office offers Mass Cards for deceased friends and loved ones. If you would like to receive Mass Cards please contact the Mission Office at: 610-527-3330 extension 278.

2. <http://www.augustinian.org>



## The Augustinians Share Ministry in Peru - South Africa - US

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### Reflection on Malvern Prep in Peru

In May, I had the honor of accompanying 12 seniors from Malvern Prep on their senior service trip to Chulucanas, Peru as a faculty advisor. I feel as though a part of me is still in Chulucanas with the people and the place I fell in love with.



On the later part of our trip, we visited a small village called Cruz de Campanas. Despite their obvious poverty and simplicity of life, the people were so happy to welcome us and enthusiastic to show us around.

To celebrate, they took us to the biggest house in the village and fed us a snack that they prepared for us and carefully presented on the table. The women served us chicha morada, which is a drink made from corn. The Malvern guys thought it tasted a lot like a cross between flat coke and kool-aid, but many of them went back for seconds! The people also continued the welcoming program, which was mostly kids singing and dancing. The mayor asked me to dance a traditional dance with him, and even though I had never danced it before, I did my best to follow along. The guys played with and talked to the kids and took lots of photos. When we all left, the people asked us when we would see each other again and invited us to come back anytime- they said that their hearts were open to us, and that even though they are a humble people, their hearts are full of joy and happiness. (continued on back)

### Villanova University Student Nurses in South Africa

In the middle of May, student nurses from Villanova University traveled to our mission in South Africa as part of a field study course. They taught health courses and did physicals at St. Leo's School and St. Theresa's Boys' Home. The nurses also spent time at the Hillcrest AIDS Center and the Thousand Hill Helpers Community, assisting in home visits to people afflicted with HIV/AIDS. In these efforts, they contributed to the health and well being of the Zulu children in our school, orphanage, and local community. In return they received nursing experience not available in the US, and the love, gratitude, and joy of the people they encountered on the other side of the world.

3. <http://www.augustinian.org>