

August 2010



Dear Friends of the Augustinian Missions:

August 28th is a very special day for Augustinians throughout the world: it is the *Feast of our Holy Father St. Augustine*. It is a special day when Augustinians gather together to share Mass, prayer, a meal, or to simply spend time in community.

Augustine was born on November 13, 354 AD in Tagaste (in present day Algeria in North Africa) to a Christian mother, St. Monica, and a pagan father, Patricius. As was typical at the time, Augustine was not baptized as a child. Instead, he followed a journey of the spirit until he was in his early thirties when he was baptized in Milan by St. Ambrose. Augustine returned to North Africa in 388 AD and eventually wrote a Rule of Life used by both female and male monastic communities.

The Rule of St. Augustine became widely used in monasteries in Africa and on the European continent. In the Middle Ages, it was one of the few Rules of Life for religious communities recognized and approved for use by the Church. Even today many religious communities other than the Augustinians, such as the Dominicans and Norbertines, follow the Rule of St. Augustine as the basis of their religious life.

The center of the Rule of St. Augustine is the living of community life. He begins this Rule by saying, "Before all else, live together in harmony, being of one mind and one heart on the way to God." (Rule 2). This challenge of Augustine goes beyond the walls of our Augustinian communities to the apostolates and the people we serve. An Augustinian parish, school, or mission should be different because it is served by Augustinians. Community-building is the hallmark of any Augustinian apostolate.

We are truly blessed that this spirit of community is so evident in our missions, not just in the Augustinian communities in Japan, Peru and South Africa, but also among the people we serve. The spirit of the Rule of St. Augustine, written some 1,600 years ago, continues to be lived among Augustinians and those we serve throughout the world. By being our benefactors you enable this long Augustinian tradition to continue. On this Feast of St. Augustine, the friars thank you for enabling our Holy Father's spirit to continue throughout the world.

A Blessed Feast of St. Augustine,

Anthony P. Burrascano, O.S.A.  
Director, Mission Office

August 28<sup>th</sup>

The Feast of our

Holy Father

St. Augustine

Of Hippo

