

PRESENZA AGOSTINIANA



DISCALCED AUGUSTINIANS IN THE DIGITAL ERA

COMMUNICATION BETWEEN CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS



digital edition
2023 - no. 4
July-August

OAD LAY

Intercapitular Assemblies
in the Philippines

MISSION

Inauguration of a church
in Paraguay

VEN. FR. GIOVANNI

Treatise on the
three vows

SUMMARY

DIGITAL EDITION



Presenza Agostiniana

Bimonthly magazine - Discalced Augustinians
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July - August 2023

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Fr. Diones Rafael Paganotto, oad

Cover

Some Vocals of the 80th General
Chapter (Fr. Nei Márcio Simon,
Fr. Airton Mainardi, Fr. Diones Rafael
Paganotto and Fr. Luiz Tirloni) visiting
the Novitiate Community in Merida -
Philippines



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EDITORIAL PAGE

DEVELOP COMMUNICATION



The main objective of a magazine is to communicate, and *Presenza Agostiniana* is approaching 50 years of communication! It has been a beautiful journey of half a century, offering spirituality and the most significant events of our religious family.

Communication allows us to establish and maintain relationships with others, and like any human activity, it is subject to improvements and changes that, in recent decades, have mainly manifested in the advent of the Internet and the predominance of the digital era.

Alongside traditional means of communication (mass media), there are new and modern ways of social interaction (social media) that allow for quick communication through the sharing of various content on the Internet, such as texts, images, audio, and video.

In order to stay updated and fulfill its primary objective of communicating the spirituality of the Discalced Augustinians, *Presenza Agostiniana* must make use of digital platforms, recognizing the advantages and limitations of this mode of communication.

This is the second completely digital issue of *Presenza Agostiniana*, whose goal is to offer our readers, scattered around the world, some reflections on the importance of the digital world for the Discalced Augustinians and for those who share our spirituality, along with significant events of the months of July and August.

Enjoy reading.



A HISTORICAL MAGAZINE

FIRST DIGITAL EDITION OF *PRESENZA AGOSTINIANA*



Fr. Carlo Moro, oad
@fcm.oad

Communication has always accompanied the history of humanity. It distinguishes human beings from all other living beings and allows for interaction with both neighbors and distant individuals.

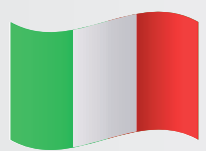
In **February 1974**, our Order published the first issue of *Presenza Agostiniana*, which was born as the communicative tool of the Vocational Center of the Discalced Augustinians in Genoa. Its purpose was to present the doctrine and spirituality of St. Augustine, the history of the Order, and to address topics related to religious and priestly life, informing friends and readers about "our things". Two years later, *Presenza Agostiniana* became the national (Italian) magazine of the Order, based in Rome.

Almost fifty years have passed, and both the General Curia and the 80th General Chapter have understood that it was

time to enter a new phase of the magazine: the digital phase. **July 15, 2023**, was a very important date, as it marked the first publication of a special edition of the magazine entirely in digital format.

An "experimental" publication in three languages (Italian, English, and Portuguese), dedicated to the 80th General Chapter, shared only online. The access link was sent to confreres, lays, friends, and family members, as well as to people who are connected to our religious communities.

After almost two months since its publication, we thought it appropriate to share some of the many comments that readers have sent us because the interaction with readers and their opinions are part of the "outcome" of this digital innovation that has reached various parts of the world.



Readers from Italy

Vi ringrazio per avermi inviato "la presenza agostiniana" digitale, è molto bello il vostro progetto che avete realizzato e le foto sono bellissime... che Dio vi benedica sempre!

Wow, che bello, grazie mille!
Mi sembra un'ottimo modo di condividere!

Interessante e bellissima idea di aver messo in versione digitale la rivista presenza agostiniana che ho letto con piacere.
Un abbraccio e grazie per la condivisione che farò altrettanto con altri simpatizzanti.

Complimenti.
Sintetica ed esaustiva.
buon lavoro

Ho letto la rivista digitale, è ottima!
Penso che si possa fare ancora meglio rendendo le dimensioni adatte per i cellulari, in modo che sia più facile leggerla sul telefonino.



Un ottimo lavoro le pagine si sfogliano bene, complimenti per l'allestimento.

Che bellissima sorpresa, complimenti... si legge benissimo!!



Readers from Brazil

Fantástica, a revista ficou muito boa, gostei de rever alguns freis e saber como foi o Capítulo.

Publicação digital é a grande tendência, grande amigo. Não adianta remar contra a maré.

Que bacana essa ideia de revista digital. Vai deixar-nos informados dos acontecimentos dos agostinianos descalços.

Ficou muito legal a revista online. Parabéns e ainda mais em 3 línguas

Ficou muito boa mesmo, bem ilustrada, textos ricos e objetivos.

Ficou incrível a Revista, Parabéns pela produção, Agradeço a Deus pela oportunidade de conhecer os Agostinianos E poder dessa forma tê-los em minha vida eu como leiga rezo por vocês e conto com suas orações!



Presenza Agostiniana has been uploaded to **heyzine.com**, an interactive portal for digital magazines that offers various resources to facilitate reading and sharing.

The portal also provides detailed statistics of the publication, which we now share with you, as you are an integral part of the digitalization process of our official magazine and have contributed to its reading and sharing.

Visitors



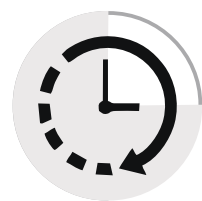
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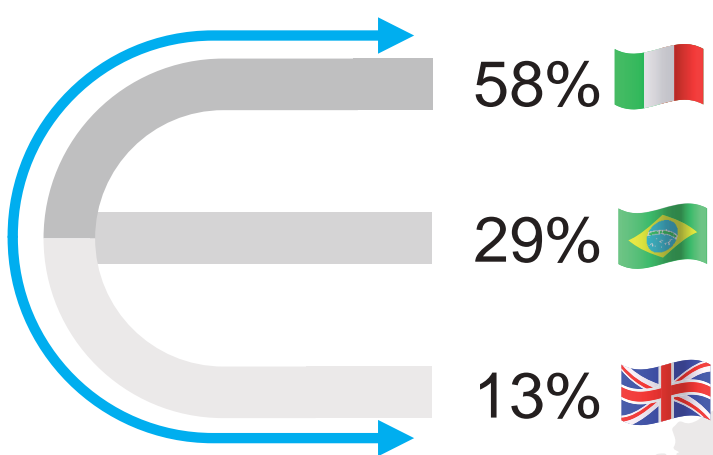
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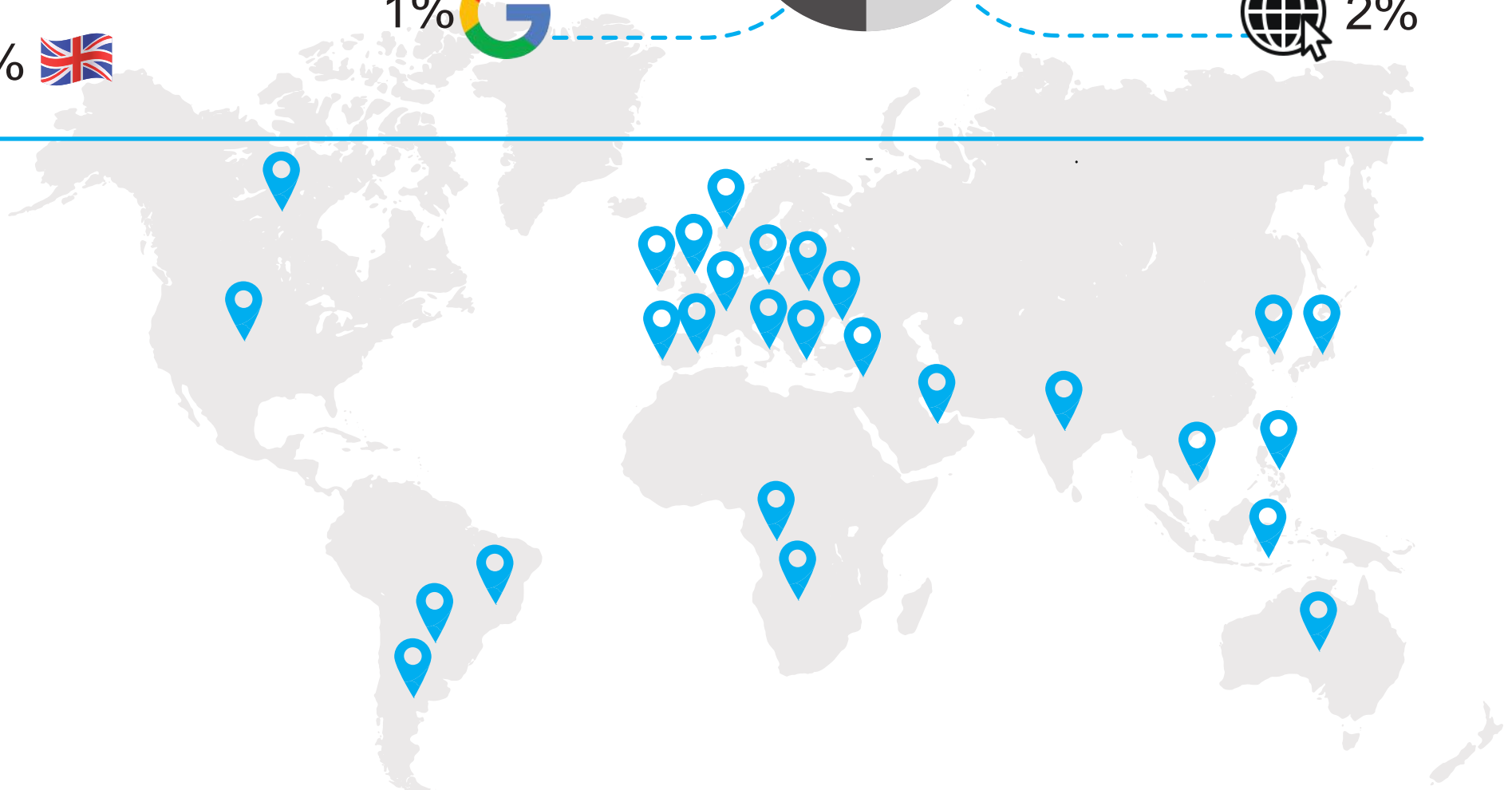


Access link



Countries

- 982 Italy
- 515 Brazil
- 185 Philippines
- 44 India
- 40 Indonesia
- 20 Vietnam
- 145 Others





RELIGIOUS IN THE DIGITAL ERA

DISCALCED AUGUSTINIANS AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Fr. Diones Rafael Paganotto, oad
@freidiones

The transformation of *Presenza Agostiniana* magazine into a fully digital format is a communicative evolution that is part of the "signs of the times" and the implementation of a decision of the last General Chapter.

1. Internet and digital era

The digital era goes hand in hand with the advent of the Internet, a global network for data transmission theorized in the 1950s and widely spread worldwide since the 1990s.

The great advantage of the Internet is that it is now the most comprehensive and fastest means of communication, offering the possibility to transmit and receive content in real time. People connect virtually thanks to the widespread use of computers and smartphones and are accustomed to having almost everything at their fingertips!

It has become the "new normal" for children, youth, adults, and the elderly to use the Internet for several hours a week, to the point that some studies indicate an average that exceeds forty hours! The Internet is crucial for the functioning of contemporary society, and the digital era is advancing in increasingly sophisticated ways, without ever reaching a conclusion.



2. Digital era and new communication

The digital era has profoundly transformed social communication, which is now much faster and reaches a large number of people scattered around the world.

Digital communication allows for easy sharing of experiences, ideas, opinions, and facilitates dialogue, knowledge, and the dissemination of information. Traditional **mass media** such as newspapers, magazines, cinema, radio, and television have had to adapt to the digital world but have lost ground to **social media**, which are websites and applications based on communication, interaction, sharing, and collaboration among people connected through the Internet.

The digital era does not represent a break with the past but it is an innovation that concerns the future of communication, as a new way of being and thinking. The digital era is now an integral part of everyday life, to the point that the Church and, in particular, our religious Order cannot do without it to evangelize, inform, educate, and guide both the faithful and the confreres.



3. Social media between challenges and prospects

Social media are defined as services that offer people the ability to share content on the Internet, such as texts, images, audio, and video. The list of current social media platforms is long, just to name a few: Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, YouTube, WhatsApp, Messenger... In truth, it was not necessary to mention them by name, as their logos alone would have been easily recognized!

Social media platforms are characterized by the sharing of fast, gratifying, and visually appealing content. However, the content is often superficial as it seeks to capture attention so that individuals spend as much time as possible glued to the screens of their smartphones or tablets, generating data and algorithms that are then sold to advertisers.

Spending several hours on social media can generate anxiety, difficulty in concentration, and even phobias, as people become accustomed to consuming immediate and passive material that does not require critical and active reflection.

In many cases, social media have replaced "in-person" human interaction with "virtual" interaction. In this sense, there is a risk that people may become less empathetic and more prone to exaggeration or experience cognitive impoverishment due to weakened memory caused by excessive consumption of videos, images, or superficial information.

4. Discalced Augustinians and social media

Religious life is not separate from the world but constantly seeks to update itself in order to better respond to the divine call in the light of contemporary society. We, the Discalced Augustinians, have as our charism the service to the Most High in spirit of humility, so we must consider everything that society offers us in a positive way to fully live our consecration.

Today, it is practically unthinkable for a religious not to be in some way "connected" to the internet or not to make use of mass media, which are an "environment" in which to interact with people, share ideas, and present how we live our religious vocation. However, using social media does not mean agreeing with everything that is shared

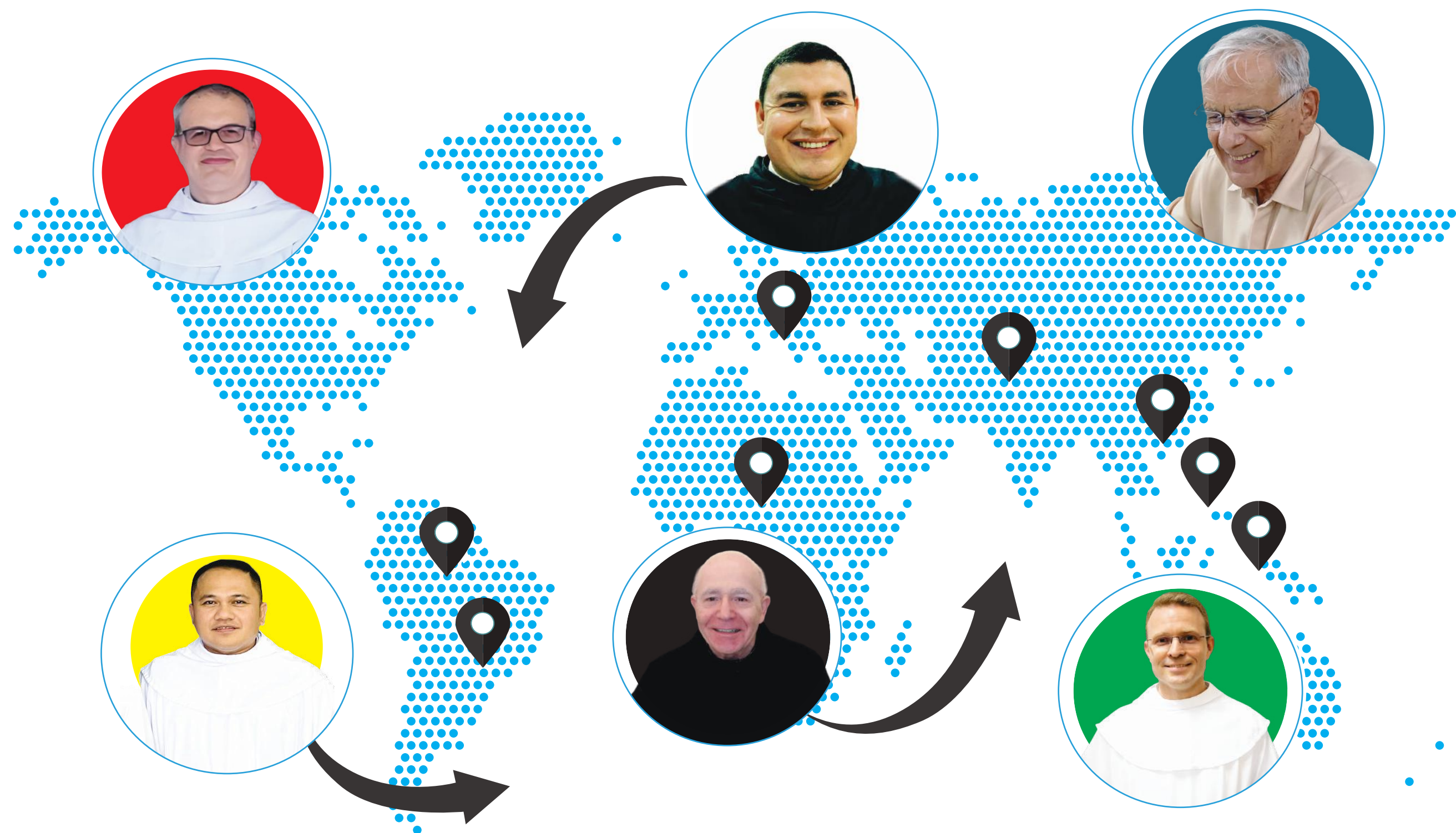
on them, so it is important for us as religious to ask ourselves how to use this rich and fascinating communication tool.

Reflecting about it... one first element to have in mind is to remember three basic guidelines that some of **the sources of our spirituality** (*Constitutions* and *Directory*) offer regarding the use of media, starting from a General level and reaching indications that apply to individual confreres:

- a) The **General Director for Communications** promotes and coordinates the official communication of the entire Order (Dir. 172).
- b) **Prudence** and poverty in the use of social communication for the purpose of evangelization (Const. 60, §1; Dir. 26).
- c) **Wisdom** and discretion in the use of communication, in order not to harm one's consecrated vocation (Const. 34, §2).

The second element can be to apply **our charism** in our own social media profiles and in those of a religious community or Province. Transmitting the joy of serving the Most High is one of the best messages that every Discalced Augustinian can share through videos, audio, images, or texts... the virtual environment is also a vast and fruitful pastoral field.

Social media are now part of people's lives, so in using these platforms, every religious face a beautiful challenge... to be wise and prudent, to consider their own spirituality and charism, to engage in interactions that go beyond superficiality, to develop pastoral activities, and to recognize that individuals are "consumers of content" and "desired commodities" that provide data and information to be commercialized.



5. Conclusion

In light of these challenges and perspectives, it is interesting to reformulate and summarize in a few points what has been said previously:

- * Maintain the right balance between contemplative and active life, as the Discalced Augustinians are a religious order of mixed life.
- * Improve ongoing formation to overcome the prevailing dependence on "likes" and develop a critical sense regarding social media.
- * Share the charism and spirituality through a distinct style that highlights community life.
- * Integrate, as much as possible, individual activities and publications with those of the Order, demonstrating belonging to a religious family.

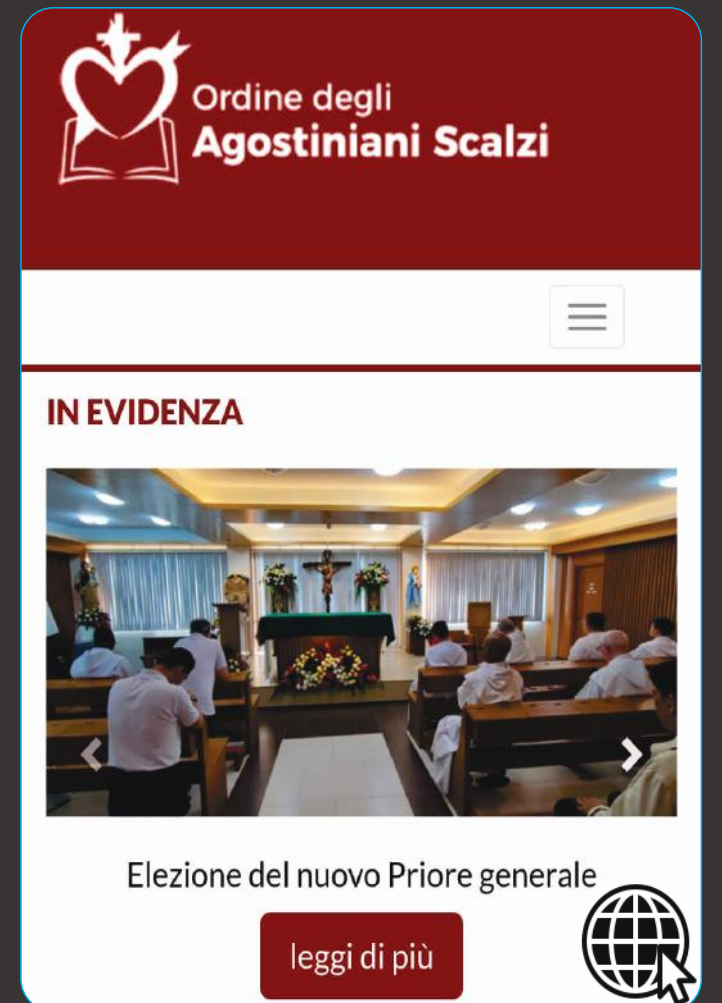
The religious is not separate from the cultural context and the "signs of the times"; therefore, he is invited to use all means of communication at his disposal to bear witness to consecrated life, just as the author of the *First Letter of Peter* indicated almost two thousand years ago:

Always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience.

(1 Pet. 3:15-16)



Examples of mass media and social media of aspirants, confreres and communities in many countries... Challenges and prospects in the digital era





Fr. Dennis Ruiz, oad
@dennisdueneruiz

OAD LAY

INTERCAPITULAR ASSEMBLIES IN THE PHILIPPINES

We, the Discalced Augustinians, have many things to be grateful for to the Lord, and one of them is the gift of lays who, in many different ways, have followed and embraced our spirituality with wholeheartedness.

Pope Francis, in his speech to the Augustinian Recollects on March 17, 2022, urged them to educate the lays to carry on their work and spirituality, considering the sharp decline in vocations to religious life.

In recent years, we have sought to form lays who wanted to live our Discalced Augustinian spirituality, teaching and encouraging them to collaborate with our religious communities and local churches through their ministries.



Directory no. 66 - Secular Fraternities.

§1. It is to be constituted in the General Curia the General Direction of the Secular Fraternities Order with the task of stimulating, coordinating and promoting its renewal, updating of Statutes and initiatives. Therefore, a religious in charge of this Direction should be appointed.

§2. The Superiors and all religious should procure the increase of the Secular Fraternities, favoring its canonical erection and operation in our Houses under the guidance of a religious, designated by the Local Prior.

§3. The experiment of youth groups to start young people in the life of the Secular Fraternities is also encouraged.

§4. The groups that are members of the Secular Fraternities are bound by their own regulations and are vitally inserted in the Local Church.



Intercapitular Assembly of Luzon

Currently in our Order there are two associations of lays approved by the Prior General with their respective *Statutes*: the Third Order OAD and the Lay Disalced Augustinians (OAD Lay). These associations are present in Italy, the Philippines, and Cameroon.

In July 2023, three important **Intercapitular Assemblies** were held in the Philippines: from July 14 to 16 for the Luzon Communities (north), from July 23 to 25 for the Visayas Communities (center), and from July 28 to 30 for the Mindanao Communities (south). During these Assemblies, many lays received the habit, others made Simple consecration, and still others made Solemn consecration, including Brother General Reymond Tolentino. The Assemblies were attended by the Director General for Secular Fraternities, Fr. Dennis Ruiz, the Prior Provincial, Fr. Crisologo Suan, and the Provincial In-charge for Secular Fraternities, Fr. Marlon Apat.



Intercapitular Assembly of Visayas



Intercapitular Assembly of Mindanao

Prior General's message to OAD Lay

Dear OAD Lay,

with great joy that I address the participants of the Assemblies of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao that are taking place throughout the month of July 2023.

From the verse of Psalm 143 chosen as the theme for the reflections, I highlight the expression: "let me know the way forward".

It is essential for every Christian, and even more so for OAD Lay, to know the way. It is always a great challenge to arrive at certainty about the details of the path to follow, but by putting into practice the Word of God, in harmony with the community of brothers and faithfully following the guidelines proposed by the educators, you will continue on the right path. Even when there are "obstacles" due to community life, it is preferable to be "less perfect" in unity than to be "perfect" alone.

I congratulate each new aspirant, novice and consecrated lay OAD. I assure you of my prayers and, entrusting you to the protection of the Saints of the Augustinian family, I bless you.

Valverde, July 12, 2023.



Liturgical celebrations



Rites of consecration

CHURCH IN PARAGUAY

INAUGURATION AT VILLA ELISA



Fr. Cléber Rosendo da Silva, oad
@cleberrosendo1

The psalmist thanks the Lord saying:



**Enter His gates with thanksgiving, His courts with praise.
Give thanks to him, bless his name; good indeed is the Lord,
His mercy endures forever,
his faithfulness lasts through every generation.**

(Psalm 100:4-5)

As the Parish Priest, I can say that this is the feeling that accompanied the solemn Mass of blessing and inauguration of the new mother church of the Santos Arcángeles Parish in the city of Villa Elisa, Paraguay.

After several months of intense work and enormous collaboration from the parish community, at 7:00 p.m. on July 14, 2023, the Archbishop Emeritus of Asunción, Msgr. Edmundo Valenzuela, presided over the Mass of inauguration of the church.

In 2017, our Order arrived in Villa Elisa, one of the neighboring cities of Asunción, the national capital of Paraguay, and encountered a vibrant and active community, open to collaboration and rich in gifts. Currently, our confreres bear witness to the charism of the Discalced Augustinians in the pastoral activities of the Parish and in the administration of a school.

In the past, the mother church was a small chapel dedicated to San Miguel, but after the creation of the Santos Arcángeles Parish on February 2, 2019, by Msgr. Edmundo, it became too small to accommodate the faithful and host the religious activities that take place daily at the Parish.





PARAGUAY

Official languages: Spanish and Guaraní

Currency: Guaraní

Population: 7,400,000 inhabitants

Catholicism: 89%, with one Archdiocese, eleven Dioceses, two Apostolic Vicariates, and the Military Ordinariate

Typical gastronomy: sopa, bejú, chipa, tereré, and asado

Together with the religious community and the parish administration, it was decided to transform the parish hall into a new and spacious church, while the old chapel was demolished to make room for the new parish hall in the future.

A few months ago, the new church was just a project, but now it has become a beautiful reality. During the inauguration, the joy on the faces of all those who participated in this significant moment of the community was clearly evident.

The inauguration was a milestone and, at the same time, a new beginning that, with the grace of God, will bear much fruit in a community that has welcomed our confreres from the beginning and has always been willing to live their faith in the light of Discalced Augustinian spirituality.

We express our deep gratitude to God and to all who have collaborated with prayer and financial resources for the reconstruction of the church.



Confreres and concelebrating Priests



Parish Priest and faithful



Lays at the inauguration Mass



Fr. Gabriele Ferlisi, oad

TREATISE ON THE THREE VOWS

VEN. FR. GIOVANNI NICOLUCCI AND THE OBEDIENCE

Among the writings of Venerable Fr. Giovanni Nicolucci of San Guglielmo (photo), after the *Exposition on the Rule of St. Augustine*, there is a brief ***Treatise on the three religious vows*** of obedience, chastity, and poverty. Its content reflects the spirituality of the time and the Augustinian eremitic soul; certainly, it does not have the depth of doctrine and the spiritual inspiration of the booklet *The ladder of the XV degrees*.

1. Priority of the vow of obedience

As was customary in the past, the Venerable places obedience as the first vow, followed by chastity and poverty. Today, however, both Church documents and *Constitutions* propose a different order: chastity, poverty, obedience. Nevertheless, the different order does not diminish the fundamental importance that obedience has always had and continues to have within consecrated life.

The Venerable writes: "Obedience, to begin with, is that virtue generated by the union of hearts, which rightly holds the first place as the first vow of religious life, and the foundational principle and substance of religious life, as stated by the Council of Trent. Nothing pleases God in a Religious person as much as obedience (says our Father St. Augustine in a sermon), since it alone is more precious than all other virtues."

2. Obedience includes all virtues

The Venerable sees the importance and preciousness of obedience in the fact that it "includes within itself the acts of all virtues. It includes faith, because the obedient person believes that what the Prelate commands is commanded by God... It includes



hope, because it confidently trusts that the work of God commanded by the Prelate will succeed better than what one thinks and imagines... It includes charity, because it is then seen if a soul loves God when it puts into action the entire divine will, and by faith we know that the will of obedience is the will of God... It includes prudence, because there is no greater virtue in the intellect than to know how to restrain it for the love of God and remove its own reasoning, placing it in what cannot be false, which is obedience, for even if the Prelate is mistaken in commanding, you will not be mistaken in meriting by obeying. It encompasses justice, because since I made a vow of my will to the superior, every time I go against it, I commit injustice. It encompasses fortitude, because in nothing does the

servant of God show strength more than in surrendering oneself, and what is more difficult to renounce than free will. It encompasses temperance, because if you mortify your own love and your own opinion, it would be easy for you to mortify the rest of the desires that arise from it."

3. Four ways to observe obedience

According to the Venerable, "obedience can be observed in four ways:

Firstly, with only external actions, but not with the will [...].

Secondly, with only the will [...].

Thirdly, with the will, actions, and desires, but not with the intellect [...].

Fourthly, with actions, will, desires, and intellect [...]."

"This obedience of actions, will, desires, and intellect," the Venerable affirms, "is the most perfect and meritorious of all."



4. Examples of obedience

The Venerable places great emphasis on examples of obedience practiced to the point of annihilation of one's own intelligence and will: "One, through obedience, caused a withered staff to sprout and bear fruit by watering it; another made water from a well rise up to his mouth; another tamed a ferocious lioness... another raised the dead. St. Paul, a simple disciple of St. Anthony, remained silent for many days to obey his Abbot. Another time, he remained in prayer for a whole day and night without moving from the door of his cell, in obedience... Another, to obey his Abbot, entered a burning oven, and the flame immediately yielded to him... St. Mauro, a disciple of St. Benedict, when called by him, ran across the water without realizing it, and this miracle, attributed by St. Gregory to obedience rather than his own merits. Another one of our religious, when commanded by the Prior to stand under a leaking roof during a heavy rain, promptly obeyed until he was called back..."

The list of examples continues, and in the end, the Venerable concludes with a heartfelt recommendation: "Walk in the footsteps of this virtue, for obedience is the salvation of all the faithful and the mother of virtues. It opens the heavens, lifts up men, dwells with the angels, and nourishes all the saints. Therefore, considering the great value of holy obedience, let every religious reflect that whoever makes an error, not seeking security but rather despising what is commanded to him in virtue of the Holy Spirit and holy obedience, is worse than a demon who obeys the obedient man."



5. Remarks

What can be said about these reflections of the Venerable? They must be understood well, as they are expressed in the language and categories of the culture and spirituality of his time. If the Venerable were living today, perhaps he would say the same things, but with different words and concepts that are more accessible to our sensibility, or perhaps he would modify them to be in harmony, as every truly obedient Christian and religious must do, with the developments of theology and magisterium.

Specifically, a first observation that arises spontaneously is that in a topic recognized as so important, even in the brevity of its treatment, it would have been appropriate, indeed necessary, to make at least a reference to the obedience of Jesus.

Indeed, He is the only true model of an obedient Son, who came into the world to do

the will of the Father; who lived by nourishing himself with the food of the Father's will; who died on the cross in obedience, in an act of total self-giving as a sacrificial victim of salvation to the Father.

Similarly, a reference to Augustine's concept of obedience as an intelligent act of the rational creature would have

“ Obedience is the virtue generated by the union of hearts, which rightly holds the first place as the first vow of religious life.

been necessary. Obedience, writes St. Augustine, is "a great virtue of the rational creature ordered under the Creator and Lord" (*City of God* 13.20); it "has been placed in existence precisely with the intention that it is beneficial for it to be submissive and harmful to fulfill its own will and not that of the Creator" (*City of God* 14.12).

True obedience requires the inner adherence of the intellect and the will; without this adherence, there is only execution, and mere execution is not obedience. This is why animals, lacking the inner adherence of the intellect and the will, only "carry out" orders, they "do not obey." Without intelligence, there is no true obedience. Therefore, far from annihilation of intelligence! Man is invited to activate it to the fullest. He must obey precisely because he is intelligent.

And also the Church today, in its official documents, speaks of "active and responsible obedience", that is, intelligent obedience, not rational: they are two different things. The intelligent act of obedience, in fact, to those who are constituted in authority is always an act of obedience to God, and it is always an act of faith, of love, and of joyful free surrender of one's life to God.

As a reflection, the task of superiors is clearly not to give strange orders to test the virtue of religious, but it is to act with responsibility, aware that they have the mandate to act in the name of God, as fathers of children to be guided and not as robots to be built. The superiors, as the conciliar document says, "exercise their authority out of a spirit of service to the brethren... govern these as sons of God, respecting their human dignity. In this way they make it easier for them to subordinate their wills... be brought to the point where they will cooperate with an active and responsible obedience in undertaking new tasks and in carrying those already undertaken" (*Perfectae caritatis* 14).

In this regard, what is written by the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life in the document *Fraternal Life in Community*, 1994, is also very important. In paragraph 50, it describes the profile of the truly obedient religious and the truly wise superior: he commands well because, among other things, he does not impose but "... elicits the obedience of the religious, respecting the human person". However, beyond all reflection, what really matters is always referring to the one true model: Jesus, the obedient one. And imitate him!



Ven. Fr. Giovanni Nicolucci of San Guglielmo

(July 15, 1552 – August 14, 1621)

1570: He is welcomed by the Augustinians in the convent of San Marco in Monte-cassiano (Macerata) and stands out for his preaching and lifestyle.

1615: He writes and publishes the pamphlet *The ladder of the XV degrees* and at the hermitage of San Guglielmo in Maremma (Tuscany) he deeply lives humility.

1621: He becomes a member of the Discalced Augustinians and lives in the monastery of Santa Lucia di Batignano.

1770: Pope Clement XIV promulgates the decree on the heroic virtues, declaring him Venerable.

FABRA CONVENTION

BRAZILIAN AUGUSTINIAN FEDERATION



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The participation in the XV National Augustinian Convention, organized by the Brazilian Augustinian Federation (FABRA), was a wonderful experience that allowed to meet different Augustinian communities living the same spirituality. The days of the Convention were a great opportunity to share experiences in an environment of healthy and fraternal coexistence between religious and lay people linked to the spirituality of St. Augustine.

In this edition, the underlying reflection was on the theme "**Church and Prophecy in the light of Augustine**", with the motto "called to be prophets today".

The reflections were conducted by experts in St. Augustine, who provided the participants with a deep understanding of the proposed topic.

The common moments facilitated the understanding of the theme, so that each branch of the Augustinian family could apply the acquired knowledge to the current needs of evangelization, according to their own charism in the Church.



XV CONGRESSO NACIONAL AGOSTINIANO

FABRA 2023

Igreja e profetismo à luz de Agostinho
Chamados a ser profetas hoje

24 a 28 de julho

Mosteiro de Itaici - Indaiatuba/SP



The Convention invited participants to reconsider concepts, to contemplate the deepest essence of the human being, to deepen their knowledge of ecclesial and social realities, to seek Christ with greater intensity following in the footsteps of St. Augustine, so that, like him, everyone could be a prophet in the present time.

Another important element was the invitation to look at different realities and to embark on a prophetic journey, presenting examples of people who have transformed their lives into true prophetic signs, being prophets and dedicating themselves entirely to Christ. Among these prophetic signs was our esteemed confrere Fr. Angelo Possidio Carù, whose beatification process is underway.

I had the opportunity to participate in the workshop dedicated to youth, where, through the sharing of experiences, the importance of strong work with young people was highlighted, focused on the proclamation of Christ and accompanied by a deep understanding of the current realities in which young people find themselves in our Augustinian communities.

Fra Jean Paulo Petteon

It is worth mentioning the various workshops, where everyone was able to "get their hands dirty," exploring concrete situations and sharing experiences based on the different themes chosen by the participants: youth, pastoral/parish, education, sustainability, and the body.

Participating in an Augustinian Convention was a great opportunity to experience the importance of synodality in the current reality of the Church. Seeking to walk together has always been the desire of religious life and an expression of Augustinian spirituality, which has a synodal perspective in serving the Church and contemporary society.

The Convention offered the opportunity to deepen the synodal characteristic so present in St. Augustine, together with many brothers and sisters, consecrated and laics, who follow in the footsteps of the Bishop of Hippo, while witnessing their own charism, seeking to be prophets in our time.

Ultimately, the Convention was a precious opportunity to experience joy, sharing, and fraternal coexistence, reaffirming the commitment to walk side by side as prophets in the Church.



OAD participants





SOME PICTURES

SHARING A LITTLE OF OUR LIFE

July 12, 2023

Ho Chi Minh - Vietnam

Fra Pham Thanh Vu, a theology student and member of the International College Fra Luigi Chmel in Rome, renewed his Simple Vows while he was in Vietnam



July 12, 2023

Colíder - Brazil

Fr. Antônio Maria, a well-known priest in Brazil for his songs, performed a musical show at the Papa João XXIII Parish

July 27, 2023

Grosseto - Italy

Fr. Carlo Moro participated in the presentation of the internet portal *camminopadregiovanni.it*, which presents a 160 km itinerary with the places visited by Venerable Fr. Giovanni Nicolucci

July 27, 2023

Rome - Italy

Fra Etien Mendi and Fra Remy Nforbi arrived in Rome from Cameroon to continue their religious formation in the International College Community and begin their theological studies





July 24-28, 2023

Indaiatuba - Brazil

The FABRA (Brazilian Augustinian Federation) organized the XV National Convention, with the participation of about 200 people from various Augustinian families in Brazil; our group had 16 participants



August 1-6, 2023

Lisbon - Portugal

Fr. Gelson Lazarin participated in the World Youth Day, with the theme "*Mary arose and went with haste*", emphasizing to the young people the importance of embarking on a journey



August 2, 2023

Cebu City - Philippines

The postulants Nagelli, Kalaparathi, and Kulandaiyesu, along with the aspirant Paul, arrived in Cebu City from India to continue their formation in the Philippines



August 3-7, 2023

Marsala - Italy

Our religious community in Marsala welcomed brothers and young people from the Augustinian Youth who came from Valverde for moments of reflection, leisure, and tourism in the western region of Sicily



August 8-10, 2023

Nova Londrina - Brazil

The local Priors of all the Communities of the Province Santa Rita de Cássia of Brazil gathered for moments of prayer, sharing, and study of the *Programmatic Document of the 80th General Chapter*, guided by the Prior Provincial, Fr. Getulio Freire Pereira

August 14, 2023

Cebu City - Philippines

The administration, professors, staff, and students participated in the solemn ceremony that marked the beginning of activities for both Tabor Hill College (THC) and St. Monica Institute of Religious Studies (SMIRS)



August 15, 2023

Merida - Philippines

Fra James Gulle, Fra Ronald Balela, Fra Dinh Tien Thong, Fra Nguyen Van Thong, Fra Kalaparathi Kumar, Fra Kulandaiyesu Anthonysamy, and Fra Nagelli Ravi received the religious habit and began their Year of Novitiate....



In the same celebration Fra Rodolfo Manares Jr., Fra Nguyen Thanh Tam, Fra Nguyen Van Hung, Fra Nguyen Van Luc, and Fra Nguyen Van Duc made their Simple Profession for four years, continuing their formation and preparing to begin their theological studies

August 6-30, 2023 - Italy

Fr. Jairo dos Santos, Fr. Indiomar Maieski, and Fra Alex Sandro Rodrigues, members of the Brazilian Province, visited the confreres and Communities of the General Curia and the Province while they were in Italy on vacation



27 agosto 2023

Valverde - Italy

The Prior General, Fr. Nei Márcio Simon, has been granted honorary citizenship in recognition of his strong connection with the municipality of Valverde since 2016 when he assumed the office of Parish Priest of the Madonna di Valverde Shrine

SOLEMNITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE

PRIOR GENERAL'S MESSAGE



Fr. Nei Márcio Simon, oad
@freineisimon

Dear Confreres, Lays, and Friends,

as I recall the birth to heaven of our Holy Father Augustine a childhood memory surfaces in my heart, when with my father I attended a wedding in the church of the small town where we lived.

The details of the celebration amazed me and, at the same time, made me trepidatious, and I asked my father, “How will I respond well to all the questions that the Priest will do on my wedding day?” And my father very wisely – inspired by the Holy Spirit – said, “Don't worry! When you are an adult, you will be able to answer the questions calmly...” and he added, “But it is possible that God will give you another call, perhaps to the priesthood or consecrated life...”

This memory makes me think of the many questions that have inhabited the soul of Saint Augustine and especially of the answers that, with the grace of God, he gave, putting himself at the service of the Truth and sharing his experiences with humanity through his precious writings.

Celebrate our Holy Father Augustine by responding authoritatively to God's call to holiness!

This is my wish for all of you, sons of St. Augustine.

Rome, August 26, 2023.



