



☑ Ordinary General Chapter 2025



Father Joseph Farrel, new Prior General of the Order of Saint Augustine ➡ Find out more details [here](#)

➡ Read his speech to the brothers [here](#)

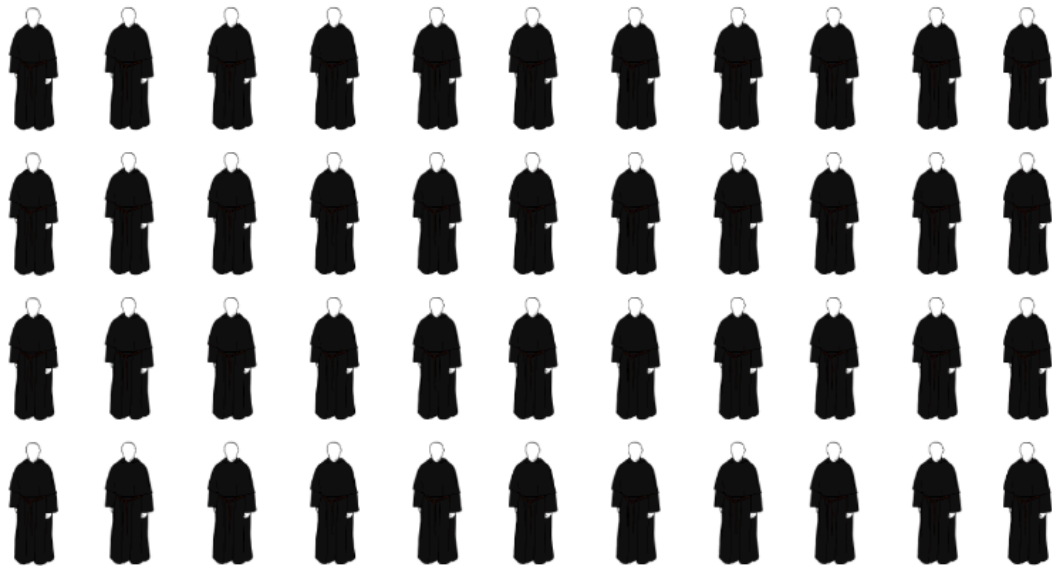
Special General Chapter 2025



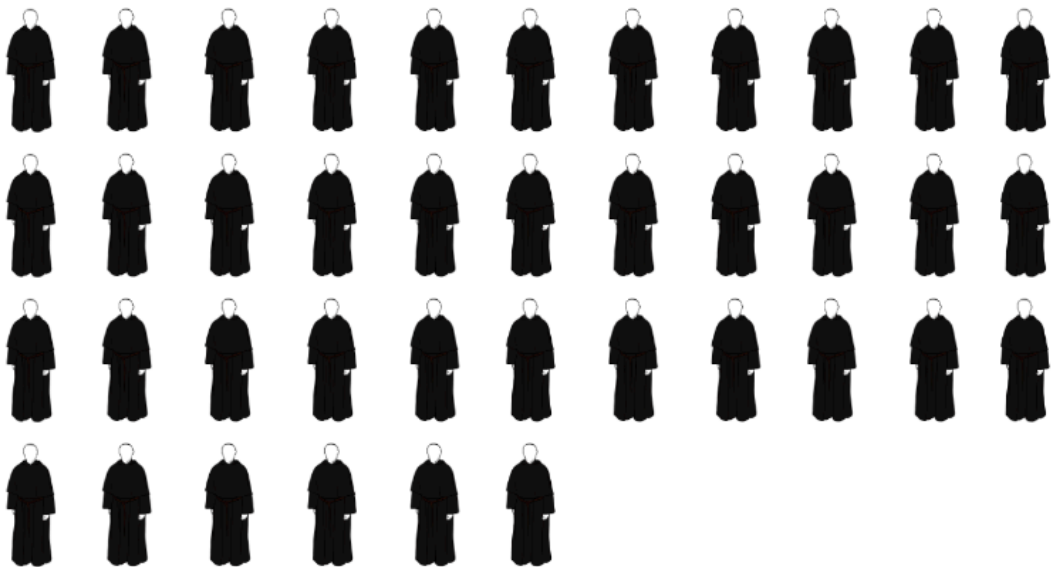
**Interview with
FR. JOSEPH L. FARRELL,**
new General Prior
of the Augustinian Order

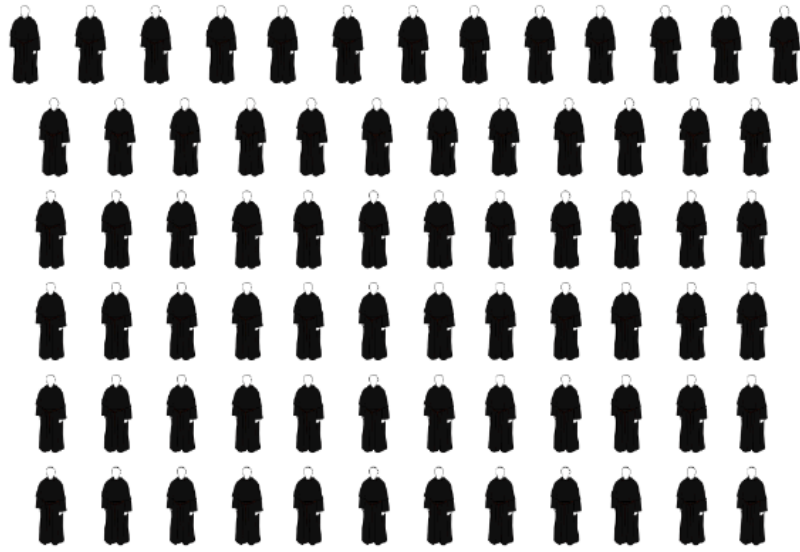


Special Ordinary General Chapter 2025 – Rome

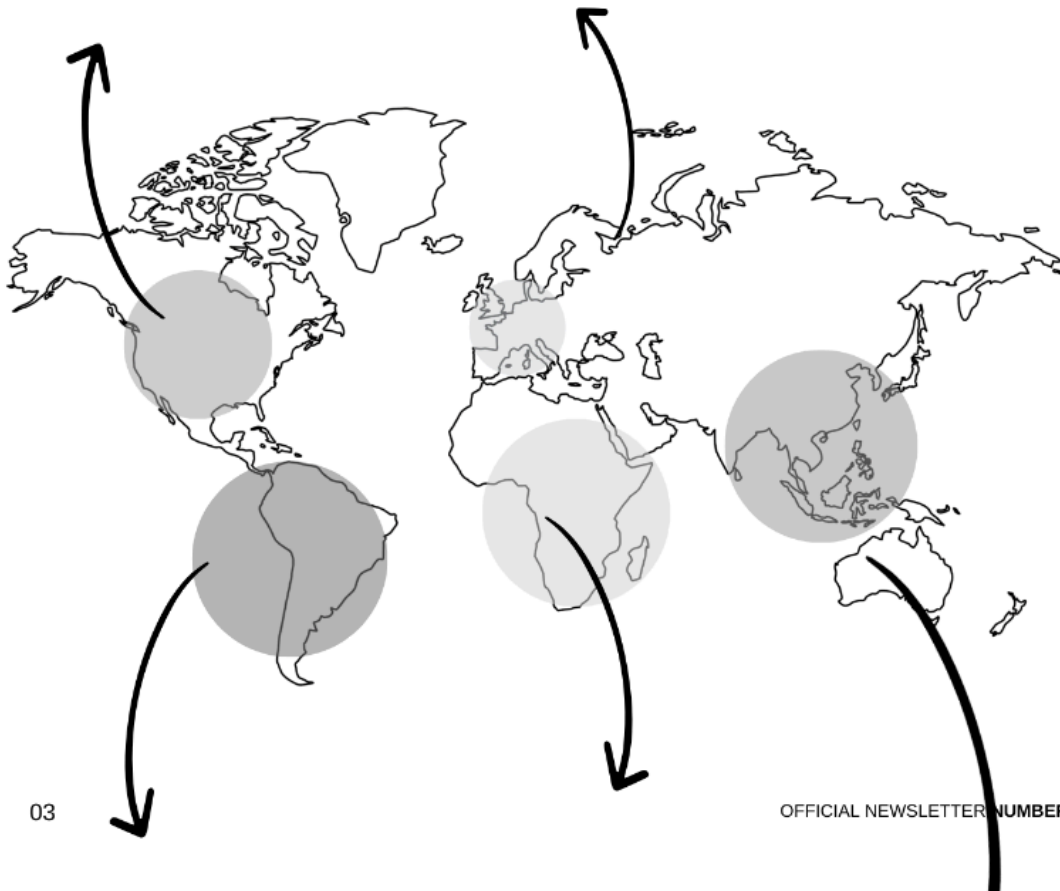


At the 188th General Chapter of
the Order of Saint Augustine,
83 brothers participated





Coming from 42 countries, **73 of the caputular brothers** had the right to vote.



GENERAL COUNCIL

of the Augustinian Order

2025 - 2031



Alexander Lam
Vicar General



Kevin DePrinzio
Assistant General



Martin Davakan
Assistant General



Frederick Comendador
Assistant General



James Wambugu
Assistant General



Benjamin G. Franco
Assistant General



Javier P. Barba
General Secretary



Pasquale di Lernia
Procurator General



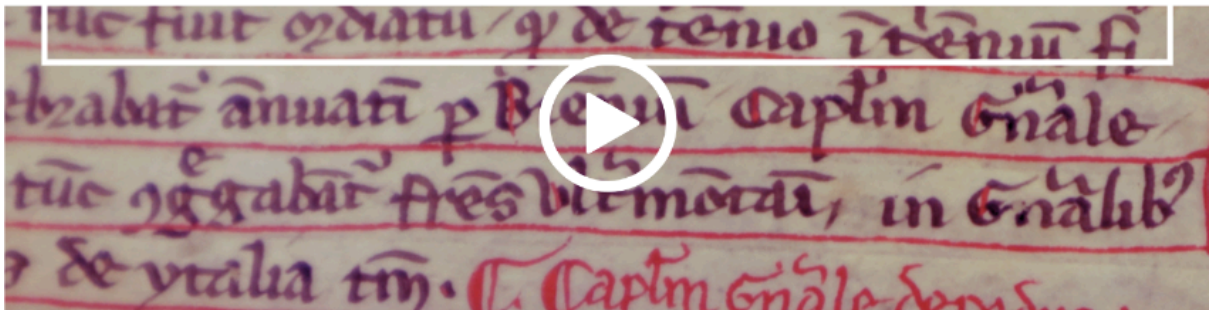
Jose M. Herranz
Treasurer General



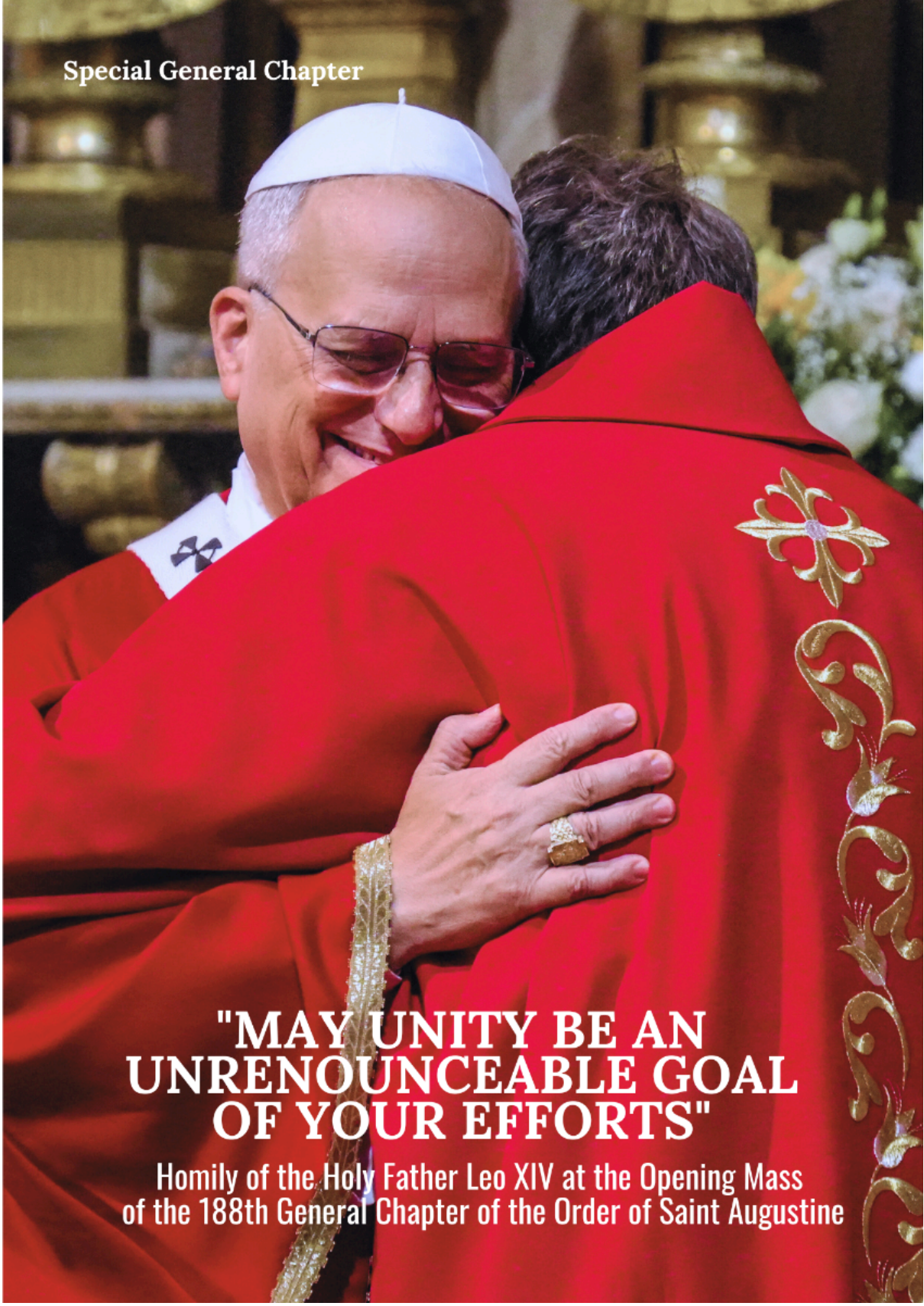


The History of the General Chapters: Origins, Challenges, Adversities and More

BY MANUEL GONZÁLEZ, ELENA M. JIMÉNEZ Y RICARDO MORALES



Read the newsletter in magazine format and enjoy the text and images even more!

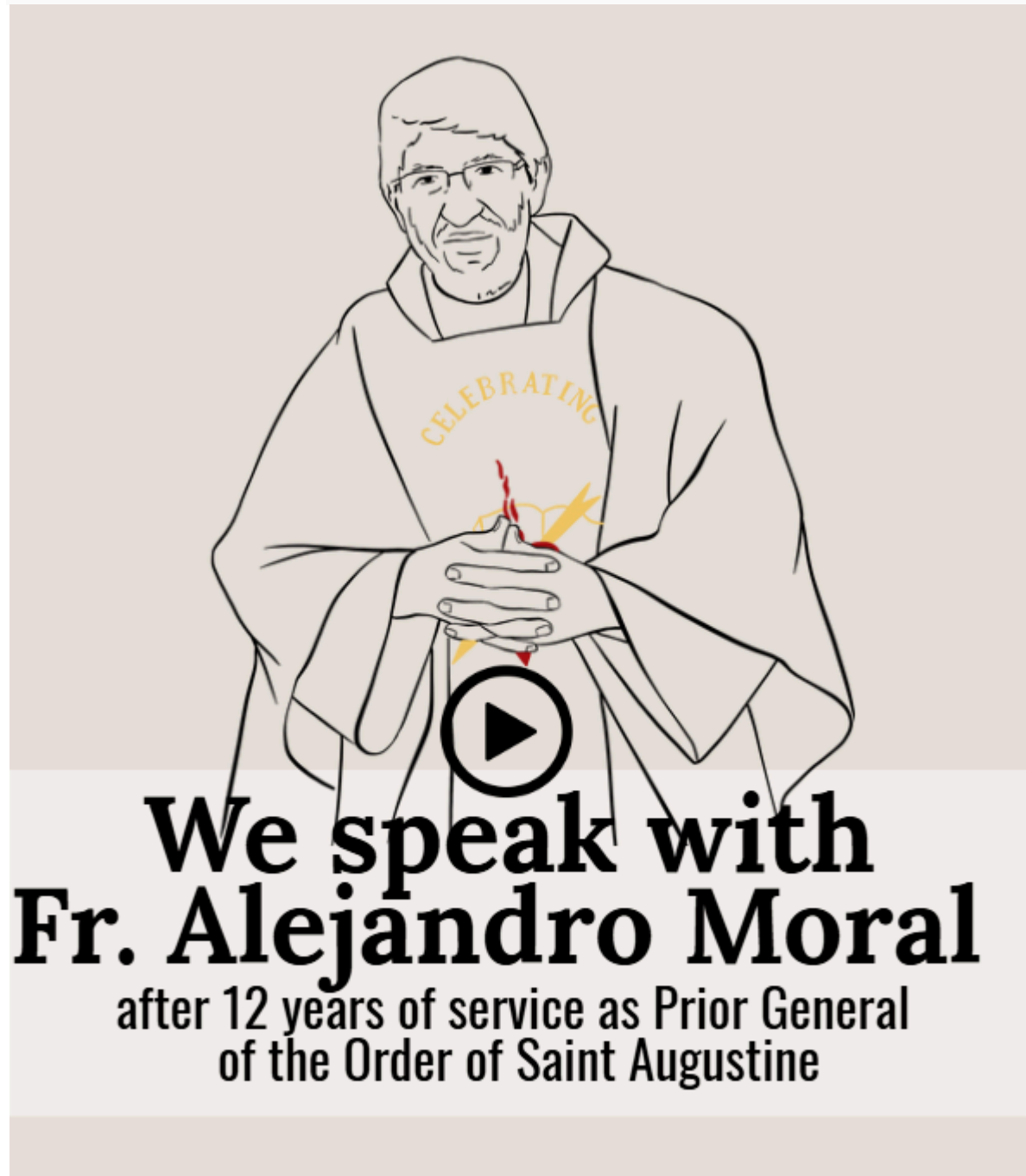


Special General Chapter

**"MAY UNITY BE AN
UNRENOUNCEABLE GOAL
OF YOUR EFFORTS"**

Homily of the Holy Father Leo XIV at the Opening Mass
of the 188th General Chapter of the Order of Saint Augustine

The Holy Father Leo XIV at the Opening Mass of the 188th General Chapter of the Order: "Let unity be an indispensable goal of your efforts" ➡ Read more [here](#)



➡ Read his farewell address to the capitular brothers and the entire Order at the [following link](#)





➔ Check out the interview with the contemplative nuns who were at the CGO in Rome [here](#)



A chat with our lays

during the Ordinary General Chapter 2025

BY MANUEL GONZÁLEZ AND RICARDO MORALES



His Holiness Leo XIV to the plenary Assembly of the Chapter: "The religious vocation is above all and adventure of love with God"





➔ Learn more about Pope Leo XIV's presence at the General Chapter [here](#)





Read the newsletter [in magazine format](#) and enjoy the [text and images even more!](#)





We speak with our friars at the end of the Ordinary General Chapter: One heart and one soul toward God

➔ Read more [here](#)







General Curia

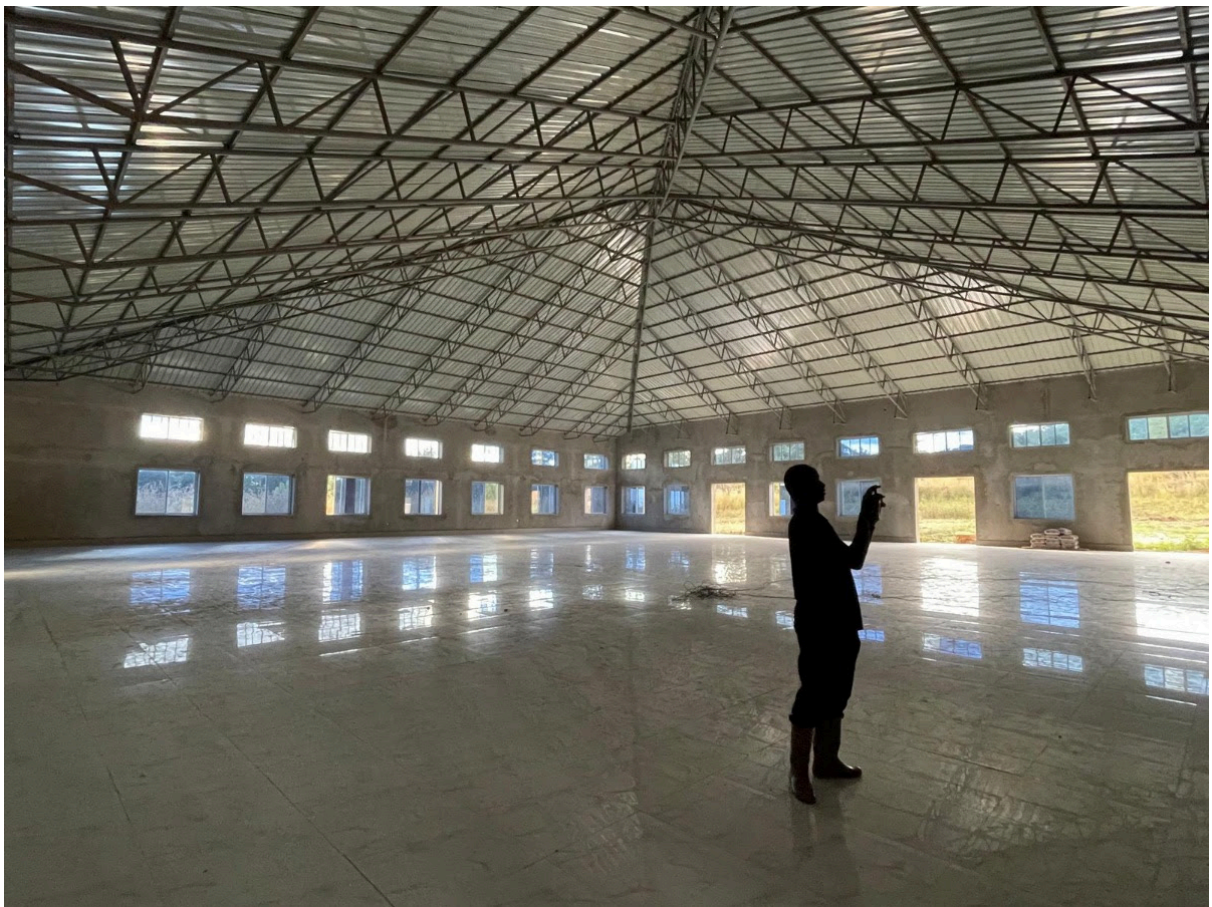


Father padre Alejandro Moral presides over his last chapter as Prior General in the Province of Brazil

➡ Read more [here](#)



Father Alejandro presides over the general assembly of the Federation of Vicariates of Peru: changes in the houses of formation and a path toward possible unification ➡ Read more [here](#)





Canonical visit to Tanzania: the Maasai, Kilimanjaro, and the profound impact of 50 years of Augustinian presence in East Africa ➔ Continue reading [here](#)

🔍 **In depth**



In depth

The family:

backbone of the Church and a pastoral ministry priority

BY AMPARO LATRE

Chesterton once observed with characteristic wit—as though speaking directly to our twenty-first century—that the true adventure of modern man does not consist in crossing oceans, but in marrying and raising a family. Our pastoral objectives seem to interpret “adventure” in a similar sense when they speak of the need to proclaim Christ, in hope, at all times and in every circumstance, in a manner “joyful and free of prejudice,” with particular attention given to the family, the “primary challenge of evangelization.”

There the Pope emphasized the family's importance as the leaven of society and the seed of unity, speaking with particular tenderness of grandparents, who in so many personal histories are the first heralds of the faith.

At the close of the Jubilee, families returned to their daily struggles—struggles which in recent years have revealed an urgent need for formation and accompaniment. In this context, and under the breath of the Holy Spirit, an extraordinary variety of pastoral responses is taking shape, with diverse emphases across dioceses, movements, orders, and religious congregations.

It may sound grandiloquent, but it is a truth easily verified: there is no future without the family. This is why the Order of Saint Augustine seeks to commit itself wholeheartedly to family ministry—a concrete way of incarnating itself in history:

in the concrete history, with names and faces, of each household. There, so often, faith is forged, hope is nurtured, and charity is learned. Within the walls of the home, the future of humanity is shaped, as the Second Vatican Council affirmed.

Today, more than ever, the Church is called to accompany families with both tenderness and firmness, with clarity and compassion, as they journey amid light and shadow. They are families—pilgrims of hope—who know well the weariness of daily life, and who therefore all the more need their hearts to remain restless until they find rest in God.



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Foto: CORTES

➡ **Read Amparo Latre's article** [at the following link](#)

In depth

Sisters Ines Maria and Sonia of the Monastery of Conversion share their thoughts on the Observatory of the Invisible at El Escorial

“O LIVING FLAME OF LOVE”



BY RICARDO MORALES



Sister Sofia, how did you experience this OI?

This year was different for me. I had the opportunity to take part in last year's OI, held at the Monastery of Santa Espina in Valladolid. I did not experience it so much in the light of novelty, as I did then, but rather as an opportunity to reconnect with many who had already been "observers." Our participation at the Observatory is essentially this: presence. It was a week of simply being there among all the participants, as witnesses of consecrated life, but also as young women. I would say that for us the Observatory is a great space to see how God becomes visible in so many restless hearts who seek Him through beauty.

And Sister Inés María, in what way did the OI speak to you? What has resonated most deeply and what do you carry back to the monastery?

(Sister Inés María) What struck me most was how close the participants were to each other, the simplicity with which they approached us, their curiosity about consecrated life, and the joy with which they welcomed us. All of this was accompanied by His presence in the daily Eucharist, in the polyphonic prayer of the afternoons, in the blessing of meals together, and in countless other simple gestures that made God palpable among us.

(Sister Sofia) Personally, I was especially moved by meeting Miguel Coronado, the artist who guided our painting workshop—

➡ Learn more about the Art and Spirituality course that took place at the Royal Monastery of El Escorial [here](#)

Read the newsletter [in magazine format](#) and enjoy the [text and images even more!](#)

† Great figures of the Order

Great Figures of the Order

SAINT AUGUSTINE

TRAITS OF A CONTEMPORARY FIGURE



From time to time, one revisits the life and legacy of a historical figure, attempting to discern how their traits and achievements might be brought into our own age. The question, however, lies in whether this effort is merely a way of rendering their memory more approachable, or whether, on the contrary, we encounter what Erasmus of Rotterdam once said of Thomas More: *vir omnium horarum*—"a man for all seasons." Erasmus's phrase,

translated into English as such, later served as the title of Robert Bolt's celebrated play, which the playwright himself helped adapt for the screen under Fred Zinnemann's direction. In this case, More, by responding fully to the challenges of his own time, has ultimately transcended it.

If we turn to Saint Augustine, we encounter a similar *vir omnium horarum*. From the vantage point of the twenty-first century, the parallels between his life and ours are striking. On the one hand, both epochs reveal profound religious transformation: the fourth and fifth centuries witnessed the definitive transition from paganism to Christianity in ancient European societies. Today, the trajectory seems reversed. Yet in both then

and now, Christianity has been held accountable for contemporary ills. In Augustine's time, those loyal to Rome's ancestral religion claimed that the Empire's decline and the barbarian invasions were divine retribution for abandoning the ancient cults in favor of the apostles' faith. Today, though the argument has shifted, it continues to cast Christianity as a source of backwardness, ignorance, and

fanaticism—whether in debates on the defense of life, sexual morality, stem-cell research, or the struggle against poverty.

Augustine, like several figures of antiquity—particularly Christian ones—is not remembered by the city of his birth but rather by another place decisive for his life's course: Semónides of Amorgos, Apollonius of Rhodes, Clement of Alexandria, Irenaeus of Lyon, Paulinus of Nola, Nicholas of Bari... or Jesus of Nazareth. This is

hardly foreign to us in an age of mobility, when the environment in which one grows often matters more than the town that first cradled one's infancy. Between the extremes of cosmopolitanism and globalism, on the one hand, and the yearning for rootedness or the threats of nationalism and xenophobia, on the other, Augustine's biography—as well as that of many of his contemporaries—can prove instructive. For in Augustine's life we perceive the personal quest to discern his true roots. He was African and Roman, Christian yet also heir to a pagan tradition he reconsidered time and again.

The debate Augustine waged between the "old man" and the "new man" manifests itself on many levels. His

contemporaries—Paulinus of Nola (like Augustine, acclaimed by the community into ecclesial ministry), Jerome (entrusted by Pope Damasus with a revised and rigorous edition of the Latin Bible), or Ausonius—also wrestled with the degree to which becoming Christian should mean forgetting or integrating the cultural inheritance of a world forged under different religious conceptions. It is no accident that

IN THESE TIMES OF
SELFIES AND OFTEN
OF OBSCENITY IN THE
WAY OF SHOWING
ONESELF, THE TONE
AND MEANING OF THE
CONFESSIONS, OF HIS
LETTERS, AND OF
MUCH OF HIS WORK,
ARE A COUNTERPOINT
TO THE MISGUIDED
AND NARCISSISTIC
STYLE INTO WHICH
OUR CULTURE
SOMETIMES FALLS.





🌐 **Augustinians around the world**





Our young Augustinian lay people with Pope Leo XIV at the Jubilee in Rome: "Love one another"

➔ More information [at the following link](#)



The Latin American Augustinian Youth Meeting brings together 200 young people from 13 countries in Belo Horizonte: prayer, pilgrimage, friendship, and St. Augustine ➡ Continue reading about this topic [here](#)







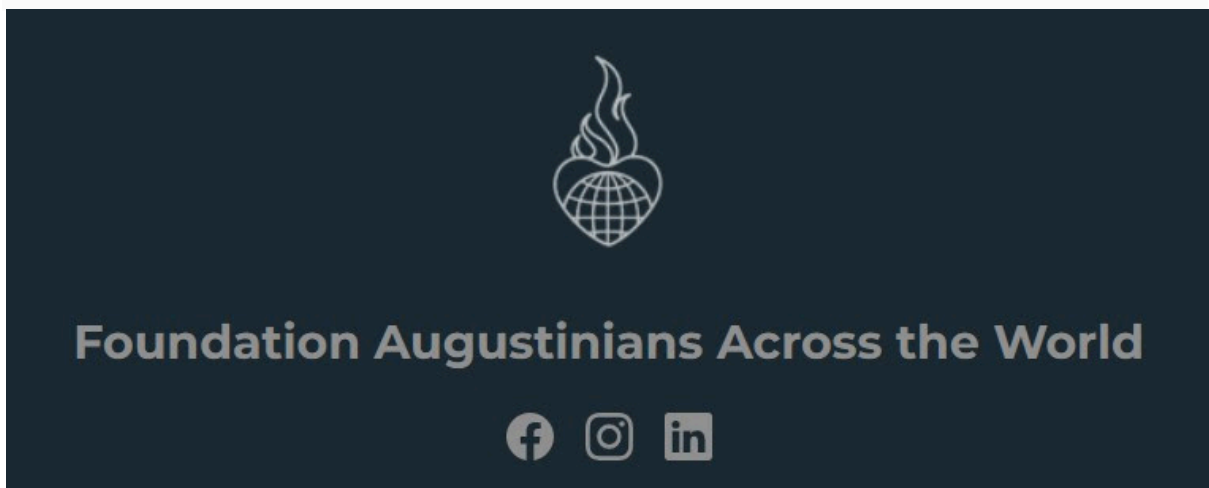
Pilgrims from all corners of the world come to Pavia to encounter Saint Augustine, the "icon of conversion" → Read more about this topic [here](#)



Laity and Friars of the Most Holy Name of Jesus Province in Mexico on pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Help ➡ Read the text [here](#)



The Augustinian Contemplative Sisters of the Spanish Federation participate in a program of ongoing formation in Cascia ➔ Read the full new [here](#)



Read the newsletter [in magazine format](#) and enjoy the [text and images even more!](#)

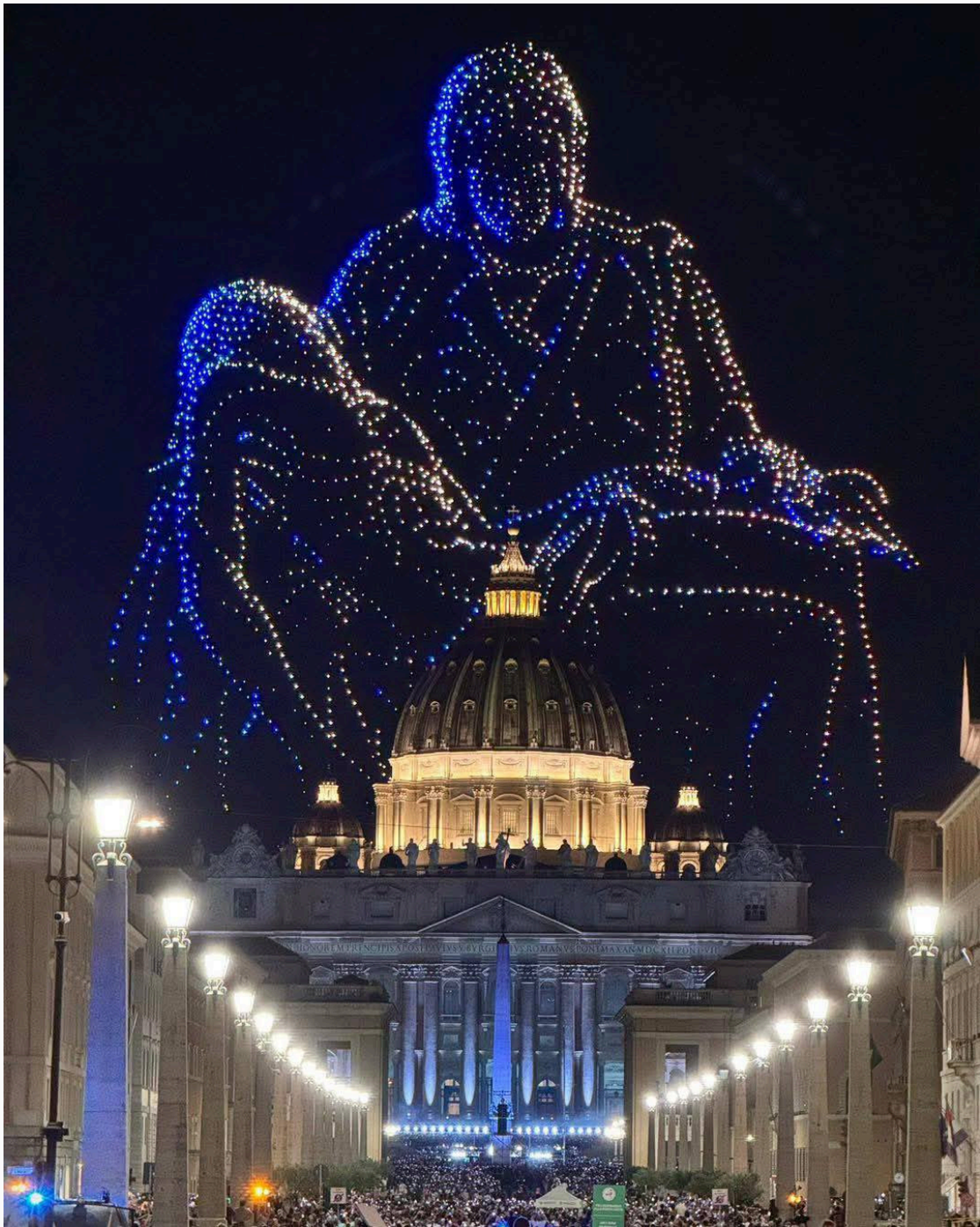
† Vos estis lux mundi



Consult the Ordinations, Professions, and Deaths in the Order of Saint Augustine

➔ All information at the end of the [magazine](#)





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