

COMMISSION ON LAY AND AFFILIATES

Underlying Principles

Our charism as Augustinians is to live together in harmony, being of one mind and one heart on the way to God (Rule I, 2; Const. 59). This ideal, however, shall not be limited to the friars of the Order of Saint Augustine. It shall also be shared to the lay and affiliates under our care (Cf. Const. 149). Basically, the laity derives the right and duty to the apostolate from their union with Christ the head: incorporated into Christ's Mystical body through Baptism and strengthened by the power of the Holy Spirit through Confirmation, they are assigned to the apostolate by the Lord Himself (Apostolicam Actuositatem 3). Henceforth, the specific traits of Augustinian spirituality must be sought in the figure of St. Augustine himself and in his experience as a human being and a believer (On the Way with St. Augustine 2001, 8). They too shall promote our ideals and spirituality.

It is expected, therefore, that the friars should care for those groups and promote them in their apostolic activities, in the churches of the Order, in parishes and educational institutions for the young, instructing and strengthening them in Augustinian spirituality (Const. 49).

Situational Analysis

It has been a practice that the affiliates have zonal Christmas gatherings together with friars in their respective regions. In fact, some communities have integrated in this activity talks on Augustinian spirituality to further enhance their knowledge on the Augustinian way of life.

However, lay collaborators who are non-affiliates but actively supporting our apostolates are not invited on this activity. It is also observed that the Province has no existing updated directory of the affiliates.

Action Plans

1. To declare the month of July as the month of lay and affiliates, as way to acknowledge their contribution to the life and apostolate of the Augustinians. (decree)
2. To come up with a directory of the laity and affiliates under the Province of Sto. Niño de Cebu-Philippines.
3. To invite Augustinian lay collaborators who are non-affiliates of the Order in attending zonal Christmas gathering with the affiliates.
4. To organize zonal and national conference.

Plans of Actions discussed and deliberated by the Commission on Sept. 2012

1. The plans and actions of the Commission, as stipulated in the Quadrennial Program of the Province were made.
2. The Commission decided to continue to make a “Manual of Directory of the Affiliates” which features the role of the Affiliates in the Province and in the Order and the Affiliate’s Profiles (Bio-data, birth, death, date of affiliation, pictures, etc.). This manual will be distributed to all friars and affiliates in the Province.
3. As approved by the Chapter that the month of July is the month of the Augustinian Lay and Affiliates, the Commission agreed to hold a three-day gathering called “AGILA” (Augustinian Gathering and Integration for the Laity and Affiliates). The purpose of this gathering are as follows:
 - a. to gather the lay and lay affiliates, especially for those who are actively involved in the parishes, schools and formation houses of the Province;
 - b. To establish camaraderie and friendship among the active Augustinian Lay and Lay Affiliates; and
 - c. to give talks about Augustinian Spirituality, Community Life, etc.
4. To continue holding the Annual Augustinian Christmas Gathering by Zone (Luzon, Western Visayas, and Central Visayas and Mindanao) with the Lay Affiliates.