

# NEW PAINTINGS FOR THE ORDER

Brother David Conejo is from Costa Rica, in Central America. He has been training to be an Augustinian Recollect priest for about seven years. He is currently studying theology in our monastery near Madrid and will be ordained next year. Just a few years ago he took up painting. Like the Monks who painted icons, Bro David sees painting as a prayerful activity. Each painting takes him on a spiritual journey. No formal training just a love for what he does. In recognition of his talent, the Order has insisted that he begin formal training at an art school in Madrid.

The four paintings here show the work of Bro. David. (Also, Our lady of Consolation on the front page.) The painting of St Rita is his latest. He was invited by St Rita's Promotions to paint a new and original of our patron. It is just finished; the paint is still wet. Later this year Brother David will come to St Rita's in Honiton when we will bless his official painting of St. Rita.



*St. Augustine of Hippo*



*St. Madeline of Nagasaki*



*Our Lady of the Way*



*St. Rita of Cascia*

*A letter to our Friends Lady of Consolation, 2019*



## THE AUGUSTINIAN RECOLLECT FRIARS

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Dear Friends,

three weeks ago I sat in the emergency ward of a hospital. I had been called by a friend of mine who told me that his younger sister had taken a drug overdose. I drove through the hectic Friday evening traffic and, after two hours, I arrived at the hospital. As a priest, I was allowed in to see my friend's sister. The news was hopeful but she was still in a state of coma. The nurses suggested I might encourage her to wake up by talking to her. I sat for three hours beside this young woman and it gave me time to think about several things but mainly, why would a young intelligent woman consider taking her own life?

I reflected long and hard on how this could happen. As I sat there I began to realise that mental pain is less dramatic than physical pain, but it is much more common and also harder to bear. More than one in ten people suffer depression at some stage in their lives; often they try to hide their mental suffering which increases their burden. It is easier to say, "My tooth is aching" than to say "My heart is broken". I have heard that having anxiety and depression is like being scared and tired at the same time: it's the fear of failure, but no desire to be industrious; it's wanting friends, but hating to socialise; it's wanting to be alone, but not wanting to be lonely; it's feeling everything at once then feeling just numb. Depression is a treatable illness and in our pressurised world sadly, it is on the increase.

As I sat thinking the young woman opened her eyes for just a moment, I called the nurse, but she fell into a deep sleep again. Just as I was leaving, she opened her eyes again and smiled – a smile which was a great consolation for me. I gave thanks to Our lady of Consolation. The young woman is now back at home.

May Our Lady of Consolation shine on you, brighten up lives and bring hope to those who are in despair. May she enlighten all those people we know and love who suffer from depression. The Community in Honiton will remember all of you in the Mass on Our Lady of Consolation's feast day, 4th September.

All the Recollects Friars would like to thank you for your generosity and continued support of our Order and its many and varied projects at St Rita's Centre and abroad in our missions. We do hope you can join us in our novena this year, especially those in most need of consolation.

*In Gerald Wilson O.A.R.*



*Our Lady of Consolation 1497*

# A NEW GROWTH IN O.A.R. CENTRES OF SPIRITUALITY

There has been a growth in Augustinian Spirituality in recent years. People recognise in St. Augustine a great and good man but flawed in that he came to the faith late in life and many people can identify with this. Recently Pope Francis, invited religious orders: "To create a society capable of recognizing each person's dignity and sharing the gift that each one is to the other."

In response to this papal plea the Augustinian Recollect Order has set up Centres of Augustinian Spirituality (CEAR) the aim being, to share the Augustinian charism: of community experience, to follow Christ, chaste, searching for truth and in the service of the Church. Our centres are throughout the world and they try to share spiritual friendship, personal interiority while recognising the frailties of the human being. How is this to be achieved?



St. Augustine of Hippo



London CEAR



Spain CEAR



Costa Rica CEAR

## THE MEANS BY WHICH WE SPREAD AUGUSTINIAN RECOLLECT SPIRITUALITY

### HUMAN GROWTH

By means of courses and workshops that facilitate the knowledge of self, through the example of Saint Augustine. Walk the way of Jesus the man to reach Christ God.

### ACCOMPANIMENT

Of what used to be "spiritual direction" is now "integral accompaniment" with a more delicate treatment to the person. We are pilgrims.

### SOCIAL ACTION

To address the urgent needs of where they are and strive to transform their environment.

The measure of love is love without measure.

### AUGUSTINIAN EXPERIENCES

Through silent retreats, spiritual exercises and prayer workshops sharing our lives in the style of St. Augustine. Unification of the heart.

### TRAINING

Forming people in Augustinian philosophy which has the Gospel at its heart and to lead people to become agents of change in the world.



Costa Rica CEAR



Spain CEAR



Mexico

