

St. Rita's Centre

Augustinian Recollect Spirituality Centre

St. Rita's Centre Reg. Charity 232501

Ottery Moor Lane, Honiton EX14 1AP
01404 42635 (office) 01404 42601 (friary)

stritascentre@outlook.com

www.stritascentre.org

Dear Friends, sometimes we forget that when we celebrate Christmas we are celebrating a birthday. This year I'm celebrating my four hundredth birthday, no, I'm not Dr Who, but I do belong to the Augustinian Recollect Province of Saint Nicholas of Tolentine that this year celebrates four hundred years of existence.

Fr. Miguel Miro, Prior General of our Order, opened the celebrations of the 400th anniversary of the creation of our Province, in the parish of St Rita in Madrid. At the Solemn Eucharist on the feast of its patron saint he reminded us of the history of four centuries of the missionary Province of St. Nicholas of Tolentine. How the province since its beginnings in the 17th century established missions in the Philippines. He not only reminded us of the past, but also the present of the religious who form the Order. Those Augustinian Recollects who volunteered to travel from Spain to the missions, still have the same charism and the same feeling as those of today and how our simple daily life is part of our history. He invited us to remember with gratitude "how the Lord has blessed the Order in the history of the Province".



May this Christmas day be a peaceful and holy celebration and may you receive the gifts of happiness, joy and peace for you and your families. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the support you have shown to our Order and its many and varied projects both here at St Rita's Centre and abroad in our missions. We do hope you can join us in our novena this year to the Holy Child. As usual, on Christmas day the Eucharist will be celebrated for your intentions. On behalf of all the Augustinian Recollects I wish you a happy, holy and peaceful Christmas

Fr. Gerald Wilson OAR



THE AUGUSTINIAN RECOLLECTS CELEBRATE 400 YEARS OF MISSION

ORIGINS AND CHARISM

In 1588, some religious of the Augustinian Order, felt called to live the consecrated life that St. Augustine (354-430) founded in the early Church. They were joined by their brothers in Colombia to live a more recollected way of life and so began the Augustinian Recollects. After more than three centuries of history, in 1912, they were recognized by the Church as an autonomous religious order.



Today's Novices

They lived in common following Christ in chastity, poverty and obedience. They followed the Rule of St. Augustine which is summarized in the unconditional love of God, which unites souls and hearts in community of life among brothers. They greatly embrace, contemplative love, community love and apostolic love. The Order is made up of priests, brothers, nuns and sisters; all of them live their vocation by living a fraternal life in community and sharing a mission to fulfil.



The priest on the river

EVANGELIZATION IN NINE MISSION TERRITORIES

The Order of Augustinian Recollects is missionary since its birth. Currently, she is responsible for evangelization in 8 mission territories, located in seven different countries: Brazil, Colombia, China, Cuba, Peru, Panama, Taiwan, Sierra Leone and here in England.



The arrival of the priest

PARISHES

The parish communities of the Augustinian Recollects carry out pastoral work in harmony with the Church, with the aim of making known the good news of the Gospel and the Augustinian Recollect charisma

EDUCATION

Education is for the Order of the Augustinian Recollects one of the pillars of its apostolate in the world. For more than 400 years, education was always at the forefront of our missions. It was in 1940 when it was decided firmly to open primary and secondary schools.

Currently the Order of Augustinian Recollects works in the educational apostolate with 50 educational institutions (universities, colleges, schools, nursery schools and socio educational centres) around the world.

SOCIAL ACTION – MOVING HEARTS.

The Augustinian recollects do social work in 20 different countries. The signs of the times demand that the Order is committed to the real problems of society at all times, with a positive option for the poor. They commit themselves to works that promote social justice, solidarity, peace and the care of creation.



Sierra Leone



China



The classroom



Feeding the poor

AUGUSTINIAN RECOLLECTS WORKING IN ENGLAND.

For nearly ninety years the Recollects have been working in England. In parishes, retreat centres, schools and more recently with the Latin American Chaplaincy. Fr. Denis Cadle always said a photograph says a thousand words and with this in mind let me show you some pictures of the work we are currently involved in. May we continue to serve you for another ninety years.



London



Community



Cheniston



Holy Family (Honiton)



St. Rita's Centre



Latin American Chaplaincy during COVID