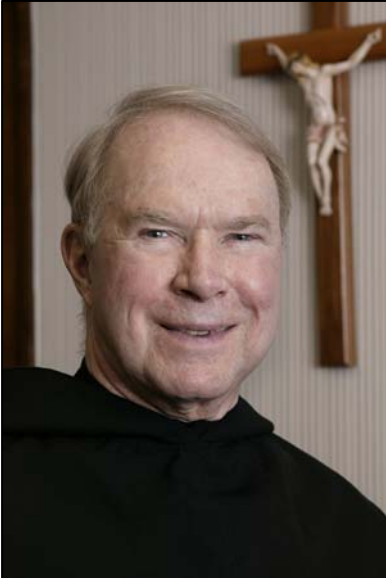


Austin Catholic Alumnus Is First Headmaster of New Austin Catholic Academy



Fr. David Brecht, O.S.A., a 1956 graduate of Detroit's Austin Catholic High School, will serve as the first headmaster of the new Austin Catholic Academy when it greets its first class of freshmen expected in September 2009.

A Detroit native and long-time educator in the Augustinian Order, Fr. Brecht comes to Austin Catholic Academy from St. Clare of Montefalco Parish in Grosse Pointe (MI), where he has served as pastor since August 2006. Previously, Fr. Brecht served for 12 years as administrator of the Midwest-Province of Our Mother of Good Counsel and traveled extensively, including 40 trips to Peru for missionary work.

Fr. Brecht was received into the Augustinian Novitiate, Oconomowoc (WI), in 1956. He earned a B.A. in Philosophy from Villanova University in 1961 and was ordained a priest in February 1965. Fr. Brecht earned an M.A. in Classical Languages from Villanova in 1966 and holds a M. Ed. and Ph.D. in Educational Administration from Loyola University, Chicago.

Named an "Outstanding Educator of America" in 1972, Fr. Brecht was cited for his contributions to the advancement of higher education and service to the community. He was inducted into the Four Chaplains Legion of Honor in 1980 "in recognition of service to all people regardless of race or faith."

Fr. Brecht explains his philosophy of education as he assumes his new post:

"We *must* invest in the education and future of our children. History has shown that the Catholic school system has prepared great minds to do great things. The effectiveness of a Catholic education and its positive contributions to society are well documented.

"The Augustinian Fathers and Brothers have educational traditions that foster self-discipline, goal setting and goal attainment. We work at preparing young people for college and life-long learning that will aid them in living in harmony with all people and ultimately enjoying union with God.

"The Augustinian tradition is alive at St. Clare of Montefalco Parish. It was fostered for 22 years at Austin Catholic High School, and it will continue at Austin Catholic Academy."

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This document and a picture of Fr. Brecht can be found online at www.AODonline.org.