



# Augustinian Defenders of the Rights of the Poor

Augustinian Province of St. Thomas of Villanova

October 1, 2018

Dear Friends,

It is my extreme pleasure to present you with this Annual Report noting a successful year at A.D.R.O.P. and to introduce myself as the newest member of the staff. My name is Lacie Michaelson and I am the new Executive Director of Augustinian Defenders of the Rights of the Poor.

My first days here I realized that I needed some direction and focus for my work. The charism and values of the Augustinians seemed an appropriate place to start so I wrote down a simplified version of the Augustinian values as I understand them: “contemplation, love of neighbor and the constant pursuit of faith.” Seemingly simplistic, this phrase defines a calling towards community and pilgrimage that is complex and difficult but the only cure for a restless heart.

With this phrase in mind, I have spent much of my time evaluating our ministries and listening to our neighbors to see what other needs exist. I am excited to inform you that our newest focus will be in the Spanish speaking community at Annunciation parish, an Augustinian parish here in South Philadelphia. We look forward to walking with our brothers and sisters there by providing and supporting needed services such as English as a Second Language, exploring needs in health care, and potentially legal aid for immigration cases. Thanks to my time as an Augustinian Volunteer, when I spent a year of service in Chulucanas, Peru, I was able to learn much about Augustinian spirituality and to heighten my understanding of the Spanish language. I plan to utilize both of these skills to grow this ministry.

Excited to respond to this vocational call, I am thrilled to join this organization where a restless heart is not only a “good thing,” but required! In our contemplative moments, may we cultivate this discontent for oppressive systems where human dignity is not honored. May this discontent be born from a deep love of neighbor. May we participate in this life long pilgrimage, this constant pursuit of faith, by recognizing God’s presence in the poor and vulnerable. Thank you for your support of us in this mission and we look forward to restlessly moving forward together as one community.

Peace,

2130 S. 21<sup>st</sup> Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Philadelphia PA 19145 ☎ 215.925.3566 🌐 [RightsofthePoor.org](http://RightsofthePoor.org)