THE DIOCESE OF BOTSWANA
(ANGLICAN PROVINCE OF CENTRAL AFRICA)

TRAIN A PRIEST
TRAIN A LAY MINISTER

BE A FRIEND OF
ST. AUGUSTINE
THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL
1. Preamble:

The Anglican Diocese of Botswana is in dire need for well trained Priests and Lay Ministers to meet the needs of an ever growing church and expectations of people in the 21st century. After lengthy consultations within the Diocese and with our Partners in Mission outside, it was resolved that there is an urgent need to set up a House of Study, which can facilitate the training of Clergy and Lay Ministers locally without taking people away from their jobs. This brochure invites you, the people of God, to join us in this task of preparing people for church ministry so that they can be empowered to declare and proclaim the Word of God in our country.

2. The launch

On 26th February 2012 the Anglican Diocese of Botswana launched, for the first time in its history, a theological training programme under the name of one of the most famous Bishops and renowned theologians in the early Church in North Africa. His name was Aurelius Augustinus. The launching was done at a grand ceremony presided by the Rt. Rev. Dr. Trevor Musonda Mwamba, Bishop of Botswana, in the grand Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Gaborone. Rev. Prof. James N. Amanze represented the school as Canon Theologian. The launching was witnessed by a good number of the faithful who pledged wholeheartedly to support this noble venture to train men and women whose responsibility will be the sacred ministry of spreading the Good News of salvation throughout our land in obedience to the Great Commission as recorded in St. Matthew’s Gospel in the following words:

13. Where is the school located?

St. Augustine Theological School is located at Plot No. 5502, The Village, Gaborone, next to St. Francis Church. We are centrally located with proximity to the University of Botswana which has ample research facilities particularly the library. The school is also not far from Kgalagano College of Theological Education by Extension which has also an excellent library. For hands-on-experience, we are close to the Cathedral of Holy Cross, Princess Marina Hospital, Central Prison and several schools.

14. When can you register?

To be a Friend of St. Augustine Theological School, in order participate in a practical way in the training of Priests and Lay Ministers, you can register any time. Our advice is that you should register now.

Please complete the Declaration to be a Friend form to register and send to:

Canon Prof. James N. Amanze,
St. Augustine Theological School,
Diocese of Botswana,
P. O. Box 769, Gaborone,
(Botswana)

Email: theological_desk@anglicanbotswana.org.bw
Phone: 319-1615; Cell: 72 169 605
11. How to make financial contribution

Your financial contribution can be in the form of cash or cheque paid to the **Anglican Diocese of Botswana**. You can also make a Stop Order in favour of the diocese. The details are as follows:

**Bank**: Barclays Bank of Botswana Pty Ltd  
**Account name**: Anglican Church-Diocese of Botswana  
**Account no.**: 3154218  
**Branch**: Barclays House  
**Branch Code**: 002  
**Swift Code**: BARCBWGX  
**Sort Code**: 290267

Kindly Fax deposit slip to: (267) 395 2075

Or send scan to:  
**Email**: accounts@anglicanbotswana.org.bw

**Attention**: Bookkeeper  
**Phone**: (267) 395 3779  
P.O. Box 769, Gaborone  
(BOTSWANA)

12. What other donations can you make?

We accept any other donations apart from money in order to sustain the school. We need computers, printers, a photocopier, a projector, Internet services, theological reference books, paper for printing and writing and ink cartridges.

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (Mt. 28: 18-20).

According to the Anglican tradition, the responsibility to **go out** and make disciples of all nations lies upon the shoulders of all of us. The ministers of the Church are lay persons, bishops, priests and deacons (see *An Anglican Prayer Book*, 1989: 433). However, in order for us to function properly in accordance with God’s will, and achieve the Mission of God which has been entrusted to us, we need some form of theological training. This is precisely what St. Augustine Theological School is designed to do.

3. Who was St. Augustine under whom the School is named?

Aurelius Augustinus known in Church History simply as St. **Augustine of Hippo**, was one of the greatest theologians of Western Christianity whose tradition we share today. He was born on 13\textsuperscript{th} November 354 in North Africa in the town of Tagaste which was about 45 miles south of the Mediterranean sea in what is today Algeria and near the ancient city of Carthage in what is today modern Tunis. He was one of the most distinguished scholars that Africa has ever produced.

His mother was called Monica. She was a devout Christian. His father did not embrace Christianity but became a Christian before his death. Augustine attended a number of schools both in North Africa (Carthage) and Rome in Italy. During his student career he proved to be a brilliant student with a very strong intellectual curiosity.
While studying in Rome he developed the skills of rhetoric, that is, the art or ability of persuading large audiences by means of speech. Augustine was at the top of the field in this area of specialisation. As a result, he was appointed chief professor of rhetoric for the city of Milan which was at the time the capital city of the Roman Empire.

In Milan he came under the influence of Bishop Ambrose who had great impact on his life. Augustine also felt that God was calling him to be a Christian. He was converted to Christianity in 386. He was baptised by Bishop Ambrose at Easter in 387. After his baptism he returned to Africa to continue his normal life as a Christian.

St. Augustine never intended to become a priest let alone a bishop. However, one day he was visiting the town of Hippo and went to church on Sunday. As he was listening to the sermon attentively he heard the Bishop saying without a warning: “This congregation is in need of more priests, and I believe that the ordination of Augustine would be to the glory of God.”

A “coalition of the willing” dragged Augustine forward, and the bishop together with his council of priests laid hands on him and ordained him to the priesthood there and then! Augustine became a priest in 391. In 396 the Bishop of Hippo died and Augustine was chosen to succeed him.

St. Augustine was a prolific writer. As a theologian, he wrote a number of theological books such as *The Confessions of St Augustine* and *City of God* which made him very famous. The impact of his theology continues in our churches today.

Apart from merely being a friend of St. Augustine Theological School, you can also help the school in a practical way. In the first instance, you can help the school through your daily prayers and in public worship. However, one of its immediate needs is funds in order to enable it to achieve its objectives of teaching and learning. With only P50-00 or more per month, you can help the school acquire services or buy materials that can help it to offer formal lectures, organise seminars and workshops and expose people to hands-on-learning experience in different ways for the greater glory of God.

By supporting the activities of St. Augustine Theological School, you will be contributing in a practical way towards the expansion and development of the Anglican Church in Botswana. The Holy Scriptures are clear regarding the blessings we receive every day, as a result of giving for the work of God. In *Malachi 3:10* we read: “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this, says the Lord Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessings that you will not have room enough for it”.

Let’s turn our Faith into Action and be blessed.

We thank you in advance for your generosity.

http://www.satucket.com/lectionary / 20/2/2012
The final step in the process is that aspirants are invited to attend an interview before a Selection Board set up by the Bishop. This board recommends to the Bishop those whom it finds suitable for training to priesthood.

This process will not apply to Lay Ministers or those merely wanting to do theology for general knowledge. Such people will be advised to contact the Canon Theologian directly and will be accepted on the basis of their academic merits. In the case of Lay Ministers, the Canon Theologian will seek advice from incumbents regarding the suitability of such persons to be trained as Lay Ministers in a particular congregation, parish or Diocese.

10. How can you help to train a Priest or a Lay Minister in the Diocese of Botswana?

You can help by being a Friend of St. Augustine Theological School. By being a friend of the school, you will, essentially, be walking in the footsteps of a great saint in Christian history and spirituality something that should be considered as a great honour and privilege. From a spiritual perspective, it is something one would not wish to miss. By being part of the Augustinian tradition and spirituality, you will be part of the Church that has stood the test of times a Church built on a rock which even “the gates of Hades will not overcome it” (Mt. 16: 18) because of its solid and unshakable foundation on the Trinitarian God –Father, Son and Holy Spirit. You will also be assured of the good things to come when the faithful will be present in the Messianic Banquet in God’s Eternal Kingdom.

4. Aim and objectives of St. Augustine Theological School

St. Augustine Theological School is essentially the Theological Desk of the Diocese of Botswana. Its primary aim and objective is to equip people with skills, competencies and knowledge in Biblical studies, Christian ethics, systematic theology, preaching, Church history, pastoral care of the sick and the bereaved, ministration of Word and Sacraments, Church worship, Women’s ministry, Youth Ministry, Sunday School, evangelism, revivals, Anglican spirituality and traditions, ecumenical relations, church planting and any other expertise necessary for expanding the ministry of the Church in Botswana. From time to time other small, specialised programmes will be introduced such as finance, administration, records keeping and others.

5. Activities

The primary task of St. Augustine Theological School is to train priests locally for the Anglican Church in Botswana. But apart from training people to the ordained ministry, the school is also designed to train Lay Ministers in order to equip them with the necessary knowledge pertaining to their calling. Lay Ministers are also required to have good knowledge of the Bible, doctrines of the Church, Ethics, pastoral work, preaching, church history, counselling, Anglicanism, sacraments of the Church, pastoral care and other duties assigned to them from time to time by the Bishop when they are licensed.
St. Augustine Theological School is also designed to provide general Christian Education to people in the Diocese on matters of Christian faith, Spirituality, church practice, worship, church administration, ecumenical relations and the like. The school will work in cooperation with religious groups in the Diocese such as the Mothers’ Union, Anglican Men’s Fellowship, Anglican Women’s Fellowship, Guilds, Youth and Sunday School in terms of the production of teaching material, workshops and seminars.

The school will also develop a Clinic for pastoral counselling on a wide range of issues. Students training for the priesthood and lay ministry will use the clinic for their internship to develop skills and competencies on pastoral counselling.

It should be noted that St. Augustine Theological School is also open to people belonging to other denominations who may want to deepen and widen their theological knowledge. The philosophy of the school is guided by the spirit of ecumenism based on the Lord’s Great Prayer “that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me” (John 17:21).

6. Programmes

For the ordained ministry the School intends to offer programmes at two levels namely; Diploma in Theology and Certificate in Theology. Normal entrance requirements for the Diploma in Theology will be a minimum of a Third Division in the Cambridge Overseas School Certificate or its equivalent while the normal entrance requirement for the Certificate in Theology will be a minimum of Junior Certificate. Other entrance requirements will be determined by the Academic Board for the Diploma and Certificate programmes on their own merit. Practical experience in church ministry as a Lay Minister may be considered as a viable qualification for entrance into any of the programmes noted above.

7. The nature of the Programmes

Both the Diploma and Certificate in Theology programmes are part-time because they are tailored for people who are already working and cannot attend full time classes. The Diploma program will extend for a period of three years while the Certificate programme will extend for a period of two years.

8. Progression from year to year

In order for a candidate to progress from one year to another he or she must pass all courses. A failed course will be supplemented in order to achieve a 50% pass.

9. How to apply?

Those aspiring for training to the ordained ministry, the process starts in the parish in which they belong and worship. There must be evidence of active participation in the activities of the congregation such as evangelism, fundraising activities, Sunday School teaching, active involvement in church during Sunday worship and any other occasion in which the congregation is engaged in spiritual and social activities.

The most important part is that the aspirant should feel called by God to serve Him as an ordained minister. If such a feeling is strong, it is advisable to discuss the matter with the incumbent in the parish and ask advice as to how to proceed. Once this has been done, the aspirant should submit an application to the Canon Theologian in the Diocese indicating his/her intention to undergo theological training for the ordained ministry.