



IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF CHRIST'S *HUMILITAS* & FRANCIS' *MINORITAS*

The Committed Lesser Brother who traded the ladder of rank for the Kenosis of the Cross.

IN MEMORIAM: BR. AUGUSTINE PINTO OFM 10 NOV 1936 - 29 MAR 2026



“This is surely a holy and religious man by whom the church of God will be supported and upheld.”

(Legend of the Three Companions, 51) These words, originally spoken of St. Francis, find a true resonance in the life of Br. Augustine Pinto. Having gone before us in faith, we can say with conviction:

“Br. Augustine was a holy and religious man, who supported and upheld the Church through the quiet strength of his life and ministry.”

The life of Br. Augustine Pinto was not one of outward grandeur, but one of **quiet grace, deep prayer, and total surrender to the will of God.**

Today, as we gather in remembrance, we honor an **authentic Franciscan life** lived with simplicity, humility, and steadfast faith—a life that continues to **speak even in silence.** The words of St. Francis are made visible in the life of Br. Augustine: **“...my friars are called Minors so that they may not presume to become greater. Their vocation teaches them to remain in a humble place, and to follow in the footsteps of Christ's humility...”** (*Mirror of Perfection*, 43). He remained a “lesser brother” in the truest

sense, never seeking to be greater or to climb the ladder of ranks. He served in the most humble and remote places because his life was centred on **the Kenosis of the Cross**—the total self-emptying of Christ.

Early Life: Formed in Simplicity and Struggle

Br. Augustine Pinto was born on **10 November 1936**, in Ajmer, Rajasthan, into a large Goan family of seven siblings. Following the death of his father in February 1947, when Br. Augustine was only ten, the family faced major challenges. Despite these trials and a simple, sometimes harsh lifestyle, **his mother served as a pillar of strength**, maintaining a sense of joy and togetherness that made his early life deeply meaningful. As Br. Augustine entered his teens, he initially dismissed the priesthood, believing he lacked the health and intellect for such a calling. By 1951, his family's financial situation improved, bringing modern comforts like radios and magazines.



However, this newfound material ease left him unsettled; **he realized his inner joy was actually deeper during their earlier years of struggle.** This profound realization shifted his search from **comfort to meaning**, sparking a persistent call toward religious life.

A Call Answered: Choosing Christ Above All

From the ninth standard, Br. Augustine began **attending daily Mass** on his own initiative. His relationship with God deepened, and prayer became a central part of his life. When he expressed his desire to join a religious congregation, his family was hesitant. His mother and elder brother doubted whether he would persevere. Even his parish priest advised him to test his vocation locally. Thus, on 4 July 1955, he entered the Minor Seminary in Ajmer. A decisive moment came shortly after when he was called for a job interview arranged before entering the seminary.

Our faith would not automatically grow and become stronger unless we consciously, deliberately and seriously apply ourselves (work hard) at the task of nurturing our spiritual life and cultivating our faith.

Br Augustine Pinto - Viewpoint



It presented him with a choice—a stable future or a life dedicated to God. His response was clear and unwavering: **“I have opted for Christ... there is no turning back.”**

The Franciscan Atmosphere and the Role of Formators

Guided by a spiritual director to become a Franciscan, Br. Augustine was inspired by **St. Francis of Assisi’s radical break from worldly attachments.** He later reflected on the formative atmosphere of his early Franciscan life, noting that the environment conveyed a clear message: **“God has to be taken seriously; there is no substitute for Him.”** He observed that the Prayer of the Church, the Rosary, personal devotions to the Holy Spirit, Our Lady, St. Michael, meditation, and silence were never optional. He was deeply moved by his formators, who preached through their lives.

"We saw them live these values and practices," he wrote, noting that their genuine devotion proved that their spiritual life was not a **"slavish fulfillment of the letter of the law,"** but **a source of real fruit.**

Br. Augustine's formation years were marked by a deep love for prayer. He was especially **drawn to the Blessed Sacrament and spent long hours in silent communion.** He recalled the silence of the friary after supper as a **"nightly encounter with the Unseen One,"** where faith was allowed to grow **"just as a plant in good soil slowly and gradually grows in strength and produces fruit."** He fondly remembered seeing senior friars like **Br. Oswald Dijkstra** pacing the corridors with the Rosary—a silent message that time was not for "chatting," but for God.

He also emphasized **the necessity of spiritual reading,** which he called the **"fuel" for the heart.** He didn't read many books, but those he did, he **"literally chewed for months and sometimes for years."** He believed that while prayer rises from the heart, it must be supported by the "head"—by study and reading—to continue to rise.

Ministry: A Quiet Servant in the Vineyard

Br. Augustine dedicated **his life to pastoral ministry, serving with devotion across several regions.** His journey began in **Goa** (1966–1968), followed by another significant tenure in Sion, **Mumbai** (1968–1974), before returning to **Goa** for much of the late seventies and eighties. He later served in Murdeshwar, **Karwar** (1989–1992), and moved to



Chhattisgarh, where he held the responsibility as Guardian and Parish Priest in **Basen** (1992–1997) and Raipur (1992–2005). In his later years, he served in Bannur, **Mangalore** (2009–2010) and as Guardian in Mysuru (2010–2013), eventually becoming a well-sought-after Confessor at St. Anthony's Friary Church, **Bengaluru** from 2013 until 2024.

Br. Augustine was a man who never sought recognition, characterizing his ministry by faithfulness over fame, service over status, and presence over power. As a dedicated shepherd and well sought-after confessor, he walked alongside his people—constantly listening, guiding, and supporting them throughout their journey of faith. **He was a man who sought faithfulness over fame, service over status, and presence over power.**

The "Living Hermitage"

Despite being deeply immersed in the busy demands of pastoral work, Br. Augustine possessed a **profound interior longing for the contemplative life.** What St. Francis advised his brother when he sent them out to ministry is what Br Augustine heard too, **"...in the morning, observe silence until after tierce by praying to God in your heart. Let there be no useless conversation, for although you are travelling, your conduct must be as upright as if you were in a hermitage or in your cell... Our brother body is our cell and our soul is the hermit living in that cell in order to pray to God and meditate."** (*Legend of Perugia*, 80) Br. Augustine therefore valued silence above all. At one point, he even expressed **a formal desire to live in a hermitage,** seeking a life dedicated entirely to silence and unceasing prayer.



While he never moved to a physical hermitage, this aspiration was not lost; instead, it found a unique and powerful fulfilment in his later years at St. Anthony's Friary.

In the quiet of the Friary chapel, **his long-held dream of a life of prayer merged with his ministry as a confessor.** There, **he became a "living hermitage" for the hundreds of people who flocked to him.** In the stillness of the confessional, he provided a space where God could be encountered through his listening and guidance. **His presence in the chapel was a testament to a heart that had finally found its sanctuary, not by withdrawing from people, but by bringing people into his own space of prayer.**

Br. Augustine left a rare and vital example for all by demonstrating that **prayer is never a matter of convenience or "spare time."** He was unfailingly present for every moment of community prayer, regardless of his health or schedule, and still **carved out additional hours for personal communion with God.** This consistency taught a lesson that no classroom or textbook could provide that a life of service is only sustainable when it is fed by a life of silence. **His later years became a masterclass in daily fidelity, proving that holiness is found in the steady, quiet commitment to being present for God so that one can be truly present for others.**

A Legacy of Faith

Br. Augustine Pinto passed away peacefully on 29 March 2026, at the Home of the Little Sisters of the Poor in Bengaluru, just one day after his arrival there. As he **journeyed Home on Palm Sunday**, mirroring Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, our **Brother Augustine entered the Heavenly Jerusalem.** Though he has left this world, his example continues to inspire us to trust God more deeply, pray more faithfully, and live more simply.





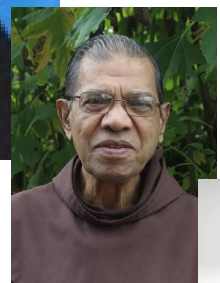
As we reflect on Br. Augustine's transition to eternal life, we recall the words of the *Sacrum Commercium* (66), which perfectly encapsulate his long journey: **“Let not the magnitude of the struggle deter you... Run through patience, which is extremely necessary for you... For He is able to bring a happy consummation by His grace to what you have undertaken beyond your powers.”**

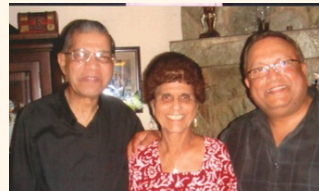
Br. Augustine did not waver in his life. He faced **the magnitude of the struggle** by leaning on God's power, not human strength. He **ran his race through the patience of sixty years of quiet service**. His final years at St. Anthony's Friary as a confessor were the **holy completion of his heart's longing**.



Br. Augustine Pinto was the Committed Lesser Brother who intentionally **traded the ladder of ranks** for the **Kenosis of the Cross**. By walking **faithfully in the footsteps of Christ's humilitas and Francis' minoritas**, he proved that the greatest **strength is found in self-emptying service**.

May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen. †





**BR. AUGUSTINE PINTO OFM
10 NOV 1936 - 29 MAR 2026**



BR. AUGUSTINE PINTO OFM
10 NOV 1936 - 29 MAR 2026