

August 28, 2020

Happy Friday!

It's the end of the month so remember to bring your recycled house goodies to the church this weekend. The Knights of Columbus will be collecting after each Mass for their monthly sale next Saturday at the Jockey Lot!

1. Today's Readings: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/082820.cfm>

2. **The RE Corner with Jan Heithaus:** St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

A man living a dissolute life becomes a Christian at 33, a priest at 36, a bishop at 41. Today's saint has inspired many through the centuries by both his conversion and his book. *Confessions* is an autobiography of St. Augustine that was written and published around the year 397.

Formed.org (free subscription when you register through the parish) has several items about St. Augustine that may be of interest.

Adult videos include *Restless Heart* and *Augustine: A Voice for All Generations*  
Children's video ~ *Catholic Heroes: The Story of Saint Augustine*

If you are in the car and want something to listen to, Faith And Culture presents *The Confessions of St. Augustine with Dr. John Sehorn*, a discussion of the history of St. Augustine, his works and the impact of this great saint and doctor of the church. St. Augustine, *pray for us!*

"He was named a doctor because of the extraordinarily high value of his writings, which include major theological, philosophical, and spiritual works. Among his most famous works are:

The Confessions (his spiritual autobiography)

The City of God

On Christian Doctrine

Handbook on Faith, Hope, and Love

This is just a tiny selection of what he wrote though. The guy could not stop writing!" Source: [ncregister.com](http://ncregister.com) ~ Jimmy Akin

3. Quotes of the Day: Since he was a doctor of the church with many writings here are a few quotes from St. Augustine!

"O Holy Spirit, descend plentifully into my heart. Enlighten the dark corners of this neglected dwelling and scatter there Thy cheerful beams." *St. Augustine*

"Late have I loved you, O Beauty ever ancient, ever new, late have I loved you! You were within me, but I was outside, and it was there that I searched for you. In my

unloveliness I plunged into the lovely things which you created. You were with me, but I was not with you. Created things kept me from you; yet if they had not been in you they would not have been at all. You called, you shouted, and you broke through my deafness. You flashed, you shone, and you dispelled my blindness. You breathed your fragrance on me; I drew in breath and now I pant for you. I have tasted you, now I hunger and thirst for more. You touched me, and I burned for your peace.” *St. Augustine*

Spiritual renewal is not accomplished in one moment of conversion, in which our sins are forgiven. After all, it is one thing to recover from a fever, but quite another to regain one’s health after it. It is one thing to remove a spear from a wound, but quite another for the wound to heal completely. So, to begin the cure we remove the cause of the sickness, and this occurs through the forgiveness of our sins. Then there follows the process of healing: ‘our inner man is renewed from day to day’, as the Apostle said. To be thus renewed by daily progress in the knowledge, justice and holiness of God is to be converted from the temporal to the eternal and from the carnal to the spiritual. Our success in this depends entirely on God, for “without me you can do nothing’. *St. Augustine ~ on the Trinity, Chapter 17*

How can the infinite God of earth and heaven come into my small heart? And how can I invite to enter one who is already there, because he is present in all things? Yet even heaven and earth cannot contain you, any more than my heart can. It is not possible to limit one who fills everything. But to say you are everywhere, Lord, is not to say that everywhere has all of you. Though you fill all things, you do not of necessity give them all of yourself. So, I will pray that my heart, where you already have a foothold, may receive more and more of you, until one day the whole of me will be filled with the whole of you. *St. Augustine, Confessions*

Trust the past to God’s mercy, the present to God’s love and the future to God’s providence. *St. Augustine*

Take time to read these quotes independently and meditate. There is a lot to consume from St. Augustine's writings. I appreciate all of them. Remember St. Monica was able to bring her son back to the faith. So keep praying for your family members who have fallen away. Ask these two saints to help in your prayers. After reading about St. Augustine, what I took away from him is that there is definitely a journey in knowing God summed up best in the last quote ~ "Trust the past to God’s mercy, the present to God’s love and the future to God’s providence." Keep walking!

Blessings to all this Friday!

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Today, August 28, the Church honors St. Augustine. St. Augustine was born at the town of Thagaste (now Souk-Ahras in modern day Algeria) on November 13, 354 and grew to become one of the most significant and influential thinkers in the history of the Catholic Church. His teachings were the foundation of Christian doctrine for a millennium.

The story of his life, up until his conversion, is written in the autobiographical *Confessions*, the most intimate and well-known glimpse into an individual's soul ever written, as well as a fascinating philosophical, theological, mystical, poetic and literary work.

Augustine, though being brought up in early childhood as a Christian, lived a dissolute life of revelry and sin, and soon drifted away from the Church - thinking that he wasn't necessarily leaving Christ, of whose name he acknowledges "I kept it in the recesses of my heart; and all that presented itself to me without that Divine name, though it might be elegant, well written, and even replete with truth, did not altogether carry me away" (*Confessions*, I, iv).

He went to study in Carthage and became well-known in the city for his brilliant mind and rhetorical skills and sought a career as an orator or lawyer. But he also discovered and fell in love with philosophy at the age of 19, a love he pursued with great vehemence.

He was attracted to Manichaeism at this time, after its devotees had promised him that they had scientific answers to the mystery of nature, could disprove the Scriptures, and could explain the problem of evil. Augustine became a follower for nine years, learning all there was to learn in it before rejecting it as incoherent and fraudulent.

He went to Rome and then Milan in 386 where he met Saint Ambrose, the bishop and Doctor of the Church, whose sermons inspired him to look for the truth he had always sought in the faith he had rejected. He received baptism and soon after, his mother, Saint Monica, died with the knowledge that all she had hoped for in this world had been fulfilled.

He returned to Africa, to his hometown of Thagaste, "having now cast off from himself the cares of the world, he lived for God with those who accompanied him, in fasting, prayers, and good works, meditating on the law of the Lord by day and by night."

On a visit to Hippo he was proclaimed priest and then bishop against his will. He later accepted it as the will of God and spent the rest of his life as the pastor of the North African town, where he spent much time refuting the writings of heretics.

Augustine also wrote, *The City of God*, against the pagans who charged that the fall of the Roman empire, which was taking place at the hands of the Vandals, was due to the spread of Christianity.

On August 28, 430, as Hippo was under siege by the Vandals, Augustine died, at the age of 76. His legacy continues to deeply shape the face of the Church to this day.

Source: *catholicnewsagency.com*