

THE PASTOR'S CORNER

August 27th is the Feast of St. Monica, August 28th is the Feast of her son, St. Augustine.

Below is a selection from one of St. Augustine's homilies, and following are prayers to St. Monica, patron of all Christian mothers.

THE EUCHARIST REVEALS OUR GREATNESS

*from the Sermon Denis by St. Augustine, in **Drinking from the Hidden Fountain: A Patristic Breviary** by Thomas Spidlik (Cistercian Publications, Kalamazoo, Michigan, 1993, page 337.)*

The sacrifice you are looking at was instituted by Christ our Lord as the sacrifice of his own body and blood. His body was pierced by the spear and there flowed our water and blood, through the medium of which we have obtained the forgiveness of our sins.

Mindful of this gracious gift, approach with fear and trembling to take part in this feast, knowing that God himself is at work in you. Recognize in this bread the body that was hanged on the cross. Recognize in this cup of wine the blood that gushed out from his pierced side. Take and eat the body of Christ, since in the body of Christ you have become Christ's members. Take and drink the blood of Christ.

To counter your tendency to disunity, eat that body which is the bond of your unity. So as not to appear to be without value in your eyes, drink that blood which is the price that was paid for you.

When you eat this food and drink this wine, they will be transformed into your substance. Equally you will be transformed into the body of Christ, if you live in obedience and faithfulness.

The Apostle reminds us of the prediction in Scripture: 'Two will become one flesh.' (Eph. 5:31) And elsewhere, in reference to the Eucharist itself, he asserts: 'Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body.' [1 Cor. 10:17]

You, therefore, begin to receive what you already begin to be.



"St. Monica and St. Augustine"
Source: Wikimedia Commons.

Prayer of Petition to St. Monica

Dear St. Monica, once the sorrowing mother of a wayward son, be pleased to present our petitions to the Lord God of heaven and earth. Look down upon our anxieties and needs, and intercede for us as you did so fervently for Augustine, your firstborn.

We have confidence that your prayers will gain a favorable hearing in heaven. Mother of a sinner-turned-saint, obtain for us patience, perseverance, and a total trust in God's perfect timing. In His appointed hour, in His merciful way, may He respond to your prayers and ours which we offer through you. Amen.

Parents Prayer to St. Monica

St. Monica, patron of Christian mothers, we entrust to your protection the children whose names you can read in our hearts. Pray for them that they may be granted strength to combat weakness, victory over temptation, guidance to resolve their doubts, and success in all their undertakings. May they enjoy good health of mind and body, see beauty and worth in all created things, and serve the Lord with firm faith, joyful hope, and enduring love. Amen.