

# PRAYER IN THE AUGUSTINIAN TRADITION



When you pray, ponder  
in your heart the words  
that come from your lips.

— the *Rule* of St. Augustine



Prayer to

## Our Mother *of* Good Counsel

We turn to you, our Mother of Good Counsel,  
as we seek to imitate your faith-filled life.

May we be led by the same Wisdom,  
which God sent forth from Heaven  
to guide you along unfamiliar paths and  
through challenging decisions.

Keep us united in mind and heart, as we go  
forward in joyful hope toward the grace-filled  
freedom that Saint Augustine recommends.

O Virgin Mother of Good Counsel, hear our  
prayer, as we look to you for guidance.  
Pray for us to our loving and merciful Father,  
to your Son, Our Lord Jesus the Christ,  
and to the Holy Spirit, giver of all Wisdom,  
one God for ever and ever. Amen.



## Prayer for Augustinian Vocations

Let us pray to the Lord of the harvest,  
who calls men and women to loving service:

*pause for silent prayer*

All glory and praise are yours, God of truth,  
light of our hearts, for you guide your  
people in the ways of holiness.

Help those who follow in the footsteps of Augustine  
to seek you through mutual love and worship  
and to be servants of your Church  
as examples that others may follow.

Enlighten men and women to see the beauty  
of common life in the spirit of Saint Augustine  
and strengthen them in your service, so that the  
work you have begun in them may be brought  
to fulfillment. We ask this through Christ,  
our Lord. Amen.

# Prayer of Discernment

Come Holy Spirit, Gift of God.

May your love inspire me to know you,  
so that I may love my neighbor with the love that  
comes from you and may serve others with the  
gifts that you have given me.

Come Holy Spirit, Love outpoured.

Inspire in me and in those whose paths cross mine  
a dedication to all that is true and beautiful in the  
world you made for us, so that we may challenge  
the world in ways that give life.

Come Holy Spirit, Bond of unity.

Strengthen me each day so that, without fear,  
I may have the courage that is needed to face  
the divisions in this world in the spirit of Saint  
Augustine, always reaching for the unity of  
mind and heart celebrated by God's Word.

I make this prayer through the same Word of  
God, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*~Fr. Allan Fitzgerald, O.S.A.*



Prayer to

## St. Rita *of* Cascia

O glorious Saint Rita, during your entire life on earth, you found your happiness by following the will of our heavenly Father. Help me this day to trust God's designs for me and to give myself to God, as you did, without fear and without counting the cost. May I be generous in serving the needs of others, patient in difficulty, and forgiving those who offend me.

Be with me, so that I may accept the mystery of the cross of Jesus and may come to experience its power to heal and to save.  
Amen.

## Prayer for Understanding

Let me know you, O you who know me; then shall I know even as I am known. You are the strength of my soul; make your way in and shape it to yourself, that it may be yours to have and to hold, free from stain or wrinkle... You love the truth because anyone who 'does truth' comes to the light.

*~St. Augustine Confessions X, 1, 1*

## Prayer of St. Thomas of Villanova

I will love you Lord in every way and without setting limits to my love.

You set no limits to what you have done for me; you have not measured out your gifts.

I will not measure out my love.

I will love you, Lord, with all my strength, with all my powers, as much as I am able.

*~From a Sermon on the Feast of St. Mary Magdalene*

# Prayer of Thanksgiving

O God, *How magnificent are your works!...  
in wisdom you have made them all* (Ps 104:24).

They are yours, you have made them all.

Thanks be to you!

But you have made us over all of them.

Thanks be to you!

For we are your image and likeness.

Thanks be to you!

We have sinned, we have been sought.

Thanks be to you!

We have been negligent, we have not been neglected.

Thanks be to you!

When we despised you, we were not despised;  
in case we should have forgotten your divinity  
and should lose you, you even took upon yourself  
our humanity.

Thanks be to you!

~St. Augustine Sermon 16A, 6

## Prayer of Contrition

Have mercy on me, according to your great mercy for the sake of your name.

Do not, I entreat you, do not abandon your unfinished work, but bring to perfection all that is wanting in me...

I confess not only before you in secret exultation tinged with fear and secret sorrow infused with hope, but also in the ears of believing men and women, the companions of my joy and sharers in my mortality, my fellow citizens still on pilgrimage with me, those who have gone before and those who will follow, and all who bear me company in my life.

*~St. Augustine Confessions X, 4, 5-6*