



St. Thomas Church: established July 1, 1285 by King Vaclav II



August 27<sup>th</sup> and August 28<sup>th</sup>  
2016

Solemnity of Saint  
Augustine – Year C

# St. Thomas Church

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## **THE SOLEMNITY OF SAINT AUGUSTINE,**

*Church Father, the Patron and Founder of the  
Augustinian Way of Life and Co-Patron of our  
Parish Community.*

As an Augustinian parochial community we have reason to celebrate this feast of our father founder and Parish co-patron. Augustine wrote a deceptively brief *Rule* consisting of some eight chapters on ten printed pages. Composed for a community of brothers he was leaving upon his appointment as bishop of Hippo Regius (mod. Annaba, Algeria) in 395 he stressed basic biblical principles drawn largely from the *Acts of the Apostles* and the *Gospels*. It is this same blueprint of life that the Augustinian community strives to live *one in heart and mind intent on God*. Augustine was born on 13 November 356 in the north African town of Tagaste (mod. Souk Ahras, Algeria) to a family of mixed race and religion. His mother, Monica, of aboriginal Berber and Phoenician (mod. Lebanese) stock, was Catholic and his father, Patrick, a hot-tempered Roman colonial official, was pagan. Raised in this mixed religious atmosphere, Augustine soon lost any scruples and took up with his girlfriend who bore him a son Adeodatus. Since Roman law did not recognize such unions he could not marry her but he did remain faithful. Later moved by the words and example of Ambrose, the bishop of Milan, he converted and was baptized in 387. Returning to his native Africa after his mother's death he lived in a monastic community and was pressed on to ordination and the bishopric of Hippo Regius (mod. Annaba, Algeria) in 395. From that time on he became the leading light of the Church torn by dissension. His surviving writings fill something like 35 closely printed tomes touching a myriad of topics. Yet, there is another side to this intellectual: his warm hospitality, fraternal concern and strong affections coupled with a thirst for truth reveals a vibrant sensitive human being. One of his most famous aphorisms *Our hearts are restless until they rest in God* still touches many.

## **Saint Augustine, said...**

You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you.

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Increase my faith, Lord, increase my hope, and increase my love! How wonderful and unmatched is your goodness!

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Let us leave a little room for reflection, room too for silence. Enter into yourself, and leave behind all noise and confusion. Look within yourself.

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You were with me, but I was not with you. They kept me far from you, those fair things which, if they were not in you, would not exist at all!

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Instruct me, Lord, and command what you will. But first heal me and open my ears that I may hear your words.

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For you first loved me, so that I might love you. By loving you, I love myself, and thus I am wisely able also to love my neighbor as myself.

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Once and for all, a short rule is laid down for you: Love, and do what you will. If you keep silence, do it out of love. If you cry out, do it out of love. If you refrain from punishing, do it out of love.

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Beg God for the gift to love one another. Love all people, even your enemies, not because they are your brothers and sisters but that they may become such.

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Please contact, Fr. William Faix if you want to add announcements to the bulletin at "[wfaix@yahoo.com](mailto:wfaix@yahoo.com)" or contact Fr. Juan at "[juan@augustiniani.cz](mailto:juan@augustiniani.cz)" Please send at latest by the Friday of the week as it has to be added to the bulletin

## **Saint Augustine of Hippo-August 28**

Augustine of Hippo (354-430) envisioned a form of religious community life in which the members would "live in harmony, being united in mind and heart on the way God." He wrote, or inspired the writing of, a Rule outlining the basic principles of this sort of life. Today Augustinians and many other religious orders and congregations still use this Rule as their guide.

A Bishop in Hippo (near modern-day Annaba, Algeria), Augustine was an influential leader in the African Church. As Christians were growing in their knowledge of God and Christ, Augustine helped to shape Christian theological teachings, particularly those about the role of Divine Grace and the nature of the Holy Trinity. In the process, he combatted many theological errors.

The son of Monica, a holy Christian, and Patricius, a pagan, Augustine was born in 354 in Tagaste (now known as Souk Ahras, Algeria). He was educated in the best secular schools of his day. As a young man, he led a distinctly non-Christian and immoral life. He lived with a young woman without the benefit of marriage. Together they had a son, Adeodatus.

Augustine became a teacher. He first taught Grammar in Tagaste. He then taught Rhetoric in Carthage, and later in Rome and Milan.

The young Augustine was continually searching with a restless heart for meaning in life. Each time that he would be attracted to a particular philosophy or group, he would become disillusioned the more familiar he became with its thought.

Finally, he found Jesus Christ, and at last was satisfied. "You have made us for yourself, Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you," Augustine would later reflect on his earlier searching. --Confessions, Chapter 1 (see also the Conversion of St. Augustine)

Shortly after his baptism as a Christian in 387, Augustine returned to Tagaste. There he gathered several of his friends together to share a common life of mutual support on their spiritual journey.

At the insistence of the Christians of Hippo, Augustine was ordained a Priest in 391, and Bishop of Hippo in 395. Unwilling to give up his community life, he called the clergy of Hippo to form a community with him.

As Bishop, Augustine ministered to the spiritual and material needs of his people. He wrote extensively. We have today a vast collection of his writing--113 books, 207 letters and more than 500 sermons. His most famous works are The Confessions, City of God and The Trinity. He contributed magnificently to the development of sound theology and was influential in combatting theological errors.

Although he is rightly famous for his roles in settling the theological controversies of his time, Augustine's priorities were the pastoral care of the people of his Church and spiritual growth. He developed a deep spirituality in which love is central. He was particularly concerned with the needs of the poor, and saw to it that the Church welcomed and helped them.

Augustine died August 28, 430, just as the Roman Empire in Africa was dying, too, during the Vandal invasions.

## **Ongoing Activities**

❖ We **welcome** all our new parishioners to St. Thomas Church. Please introduce yourselves, if you wish, at refreshments after the 11:00 am Mass on Sundays or just call us or visit at your convenience.

❖ If you would like to receive a copy of the bulletin by email, please contact [osaprag@augustiniani.cz](mailto:osaprag@augustiniani.cz)

❖ **Back to School Supply Drive** starting in September! We're collecting new school supplies such as notebooks, pens & pencils, crayons, etc. as well as gently used backpacks, kids' clothing and shoes for kids in need in and around Prague. Thank you for your generosity!

❖ It's time to register your kids (4years and up) for Religious Education classes! Please see Mary Beth after Mass or contact her at [redirector@augustiniani.cz](mailto:redirector@augustiniani.cz) for details! Classes start Sept 11th at 9:45.

❖ **WONDERING HOW YOU CAN GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY?** St. Thomas provides free English classes as part of their community outreach activities. Classes will be beginning 19 of September. And we are in need of native English speakers who can give of their time to teach classes. If you are interested or want more information, please contact Fr. Juan at [juan@augustiniani.cz](mailto:juan@augustiniani.cz)

❖ Parish Counsel meeting will be on Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> after 11:00am Mass

## **Year of Mercy: "Merciful like the Father"**

**Let us rediscover these corporal works of mercy:**

1. to feed the hungry,
2. give drink to the thirsty,
3. clothe the naked,
4. welcome the stranger,
5. heal the sick,
6. visit the imprisoned,
7. bury the dead.

**And let us not forget the spiritual works of mercy:**

1. to counsel the doubtful,
2. instruct the ignorant,
3. admonish sinners,
4. comfort the afflicted,
5. forgive offences,
6. bear patiently those who do us ill
7. pray for the living and the dead."