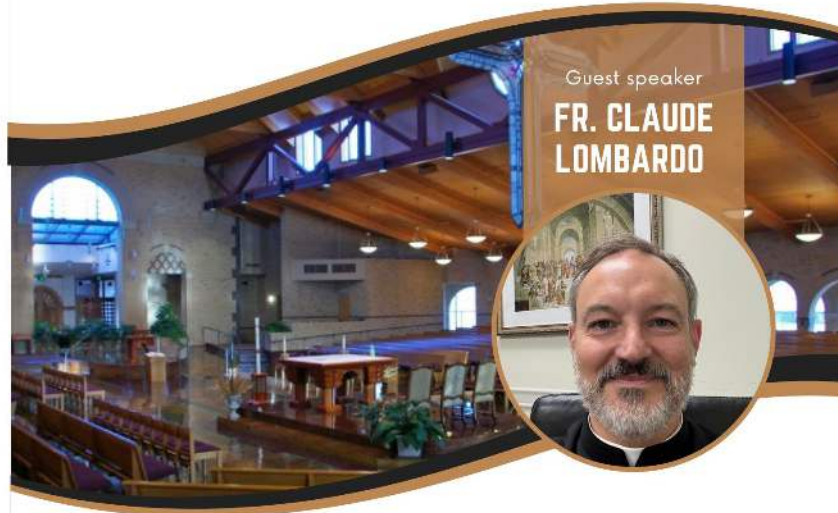




November 6, 2025

Parish Mission

November 17-19 10:00am & 6:30PM



Introduction to Ignatian Spirituality

Join us for an inspiring talk on our universal call to holiness, discovering our unique mission, growing through prayer, virtue, and service, and learning to discern God's will in our daily lives through the wisdom of St. Ignatius of Loyola.

WEIRD **C**ATHOLIC
STUFF **▼** YOU
SHOULD **◀** NOW
WINE AND APPETIZER PARTY

November 20, 2025
7:00 to 8:30 pm

The Nowak's Home
8182 Routt St., Arvada

Please bring appetizer or
dessert to share





OCTA RETREAT

Saturday,
November 22, 2025
9:00 AM- 3:00 PM
Spirit of Christ

Lunch Included

Please RSVP

God, the Father almighty, creator of Heaven and Earth

CCC 329–336



What does it mean to call God “Father almighty”?



- God is Father primarily because He is the eternal Father of the Son.
- The mystery of the **Most Holy Trinity**—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—is the central truth of the Christian faith.
- The three divine Persons are distinct yet one in nature, equal in majesty, and united in will and omnipotence.



What are the Sources (Scripture, Tradition, Magisterium) of the Dogma of the Trinity?

- Scriptural witnesses:
 - Mt 28:19: “in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit”
 - Jn 1:1: “In the beginning* was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God”
 - Jn 10:30: “The Father and I are one”

What are the Sources (Scripture, Tradition, Magisterium) of the Dogma of the Trinity?



- Patristic and conciliar proclamations:
 - Councils of Nicaea (325).
 - Constantinople (381): homoousios.
- Why is the doctrine dogmatically required?
 - Because denial undermines the Christian faith in revealed God.

How is God's Fatherhood revealed?

God's fatherhood is expressed through both creation and covenant: He is the origin of all things and the loving protector of His children.

The name "Father" is not a projection of human experience onto God, but a divine truth revealed by Christ.

Jesus reveals the Father fully: "He who has seen me has seen the Father" (Jn 14:9).





How Is God's Power Shown in Creation and Salvation?

- God is **Almighty** not by domination but by love.
- His omnipotence is revealed in:
 - The act of creation,
 - The forgiveness of sin,
 - The Incarnation and Resurrection,
 - The gift of divine adoption.
- God's power is ordered to mercy; He shows strength by forgiving and restoring His creatures.

What is the meaning of Creation?



- “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Gen 1:1) affirms that all things come from God.
- Creation reveals divine wisdom, order, and goodness.
- Faith and reason agree that the universe is not eternal or self-caused but depends on God.
- Creation’s purpose is the glory of God and the sharing of divine love.

How does the Trinity act in Creation?

- Creation is the work of the **Triune God**:
 - The **Father** is the source and origin.
 - The **Son** is the Word through whom all things are made (Jn 1:3).
 - The **Holy Spirit** is the breath of life and order within creation.





Why did God create the world?

- God created freely, not out of necessity or boredom, but to communicate His goodness.
- He created *ex nihilo* (out of nothing) and sustains all things in being.
- Every creature is willed by God and reflects a facet of His perfection.
- The variety and interdependence of creatures reveal divine wisdom.

How does God govern the world?

Divine **Providence** is God's loving plan guiding all creation toward its ultimate purpose: The glory of God and the salvation of souls.

Secondary causes (natural laws, human freedom) are part of this plan.

God permits physical and moral evil only to bring forth a greater good—supremely shown in the Cross of Christ.

Providence calls for human cooperation through faith, work, and prayer.



How should knowledge and belief in Creation shape our lives?



- Believing in creation inspires **humility**—for we depend entirely on God.
- It calls for **gratitude** and **stewardship**—since creation is entrusted to our care.
- It nurtures **hope**, because the Creator sustains His work and leads it to fulfillment.



What does “Heaven and Earth” include?

- The phrase “heaven and earth” means everything that exists, spiritual and material realities.
- God created both non-spiritual beings (matter, material world) and spiritual beings (angels, human souls).



Who are the angels?

- Angels are **purely spiritual creatures**, personal and immortal, possessing intelligence and will.
- They are servants and messengers of God, continually beholding His face.
- Their existence is a truth of faith attested throughout Scripture and Tradition.

How do angels participate in salvation history?

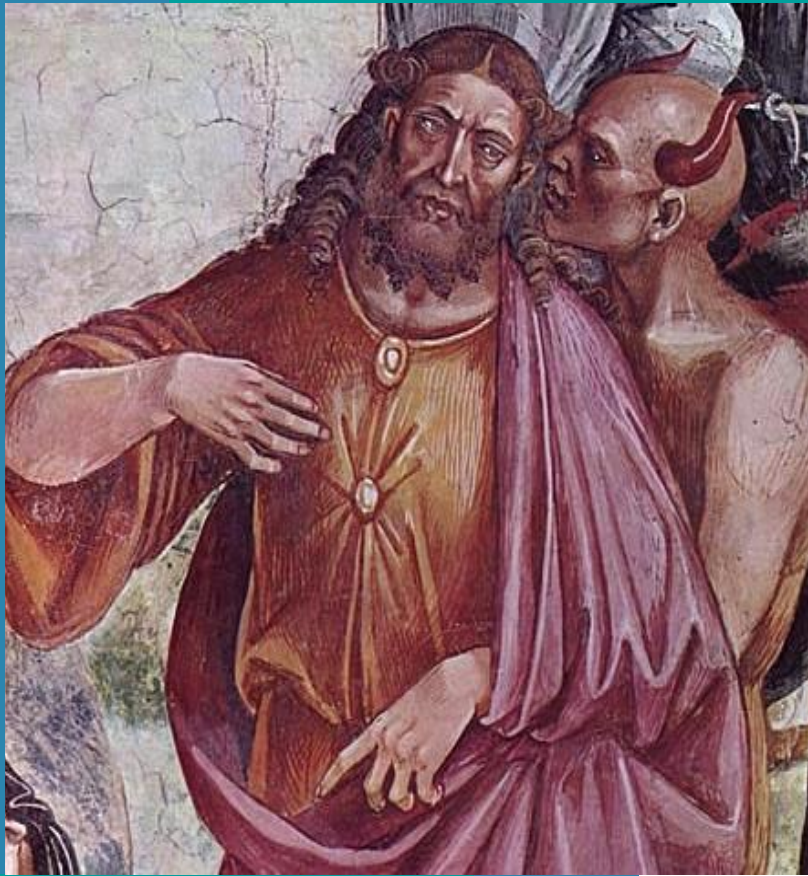


- They announce divine messages (Gabriel to Mary).
- They protect and guide God's people (Raphael guides and protects Tobias).
- They ministered to Jesus throughout His life (Temptation, Passion, Resurrection).
- In the liturgy, the Church unites with the angels in the worship of God (Preface, Sanctus, EP 1).

What is the mission of Guardian Angels?

- Every person is entrusted to the care of a **guardian angel** from birth.
- Guardian angels assist, protect, and intercede for human beings, leading them toward salvation.





What was the sin of lucifer and the fallen angels?

- Created good, some angels chose to reject God's reign.
- Their sin was **pride**—seeking independence and self-exaltation.
- Scripture identifies Satan as the leader of these fallen angels.
- “The huge dragon, the ancient serpent,^{*} who is called the Devil and Satan, who deceived the whole world, was thrown down to earth, and its angels were thrown down with it” (Rev 12:9).

How does Satan act in the world?



- The devil tempts and deceives, aiming to turn man away from God.
- Yet he remains only a creature; his power is finite and subject to God's permission.
- Christ's victory on the Cross definitively defeated Satan, though the final judgment will manifest this triumph fully.



How are body and soul united in the human person?

- Man is a unity of body and soul (matter/form)
- The soul is spiritual, immortal, and created by God at conception.
- The body is destined for resurrection.
- The person is not a soul “trapped” in a body but a harmonious whole ordered to eternal life.

What Is the meaning of human sexuality?



- “Male and female He created them” expresses complementarity, not opposition (Satan entices division and opposition).
- Man and woman are equal in dignity and distinct in vocation.
- Their union in marriage reflects the communion of divine Persons and is ordered to life and love.
- Human sexuality is a gift ordered to self-giving and the transmission of life.

What was the original state of humanity before sin?

- Man and woman were created in **original holiness and justice**.
 - They lived in harmony with:
 - **God** – friendship and sanctifying grace;
 - **Self** – inner peace and integrity;
 - **Others** – unity and equality;
 - **Creation** – harmony without suffering or death.
- This state was a participation in divine life itself.





What was the meaning of the original test?

- God placed man in freedom with a command symbolized by the tree of knowledge of good and evil (Gen 2:17).
- Obedience would have been an act of trust; disobedience, rooted in mistrust, opened the door to sin.
- Freedom is essential to love but includes the possibility of rebellion.

Quick overview:

- God the Father Almighty is the eternal source of all being, revealed by the Son in the Spirit.
- Creation is a free and loving act of the Triune God, revealing His glory and goodness.
- The universe is ordered, good, and dependent on God's sustaining will.
- Angels are spiritual creatures serving God and assisting humanity; some fell, becoming demons, yet remain under divine authority.



Quick overview:

- Man and woman, made in God's image, possess spiritual dignity, freedom, and responsibility.
- Humanity's original holiness and harmony reveal God's desire for communion.
- Sin disrupted creation, but divine providence works toward redemption.
- The entire universe is moving toward its fulfillment in Christ, the new Adam and Lord of creation.





Sources

- ✓ Catechism of the Catholic Church
- ✓ “Fundamentals of Catholic Dogma”, by Ludwig Ott

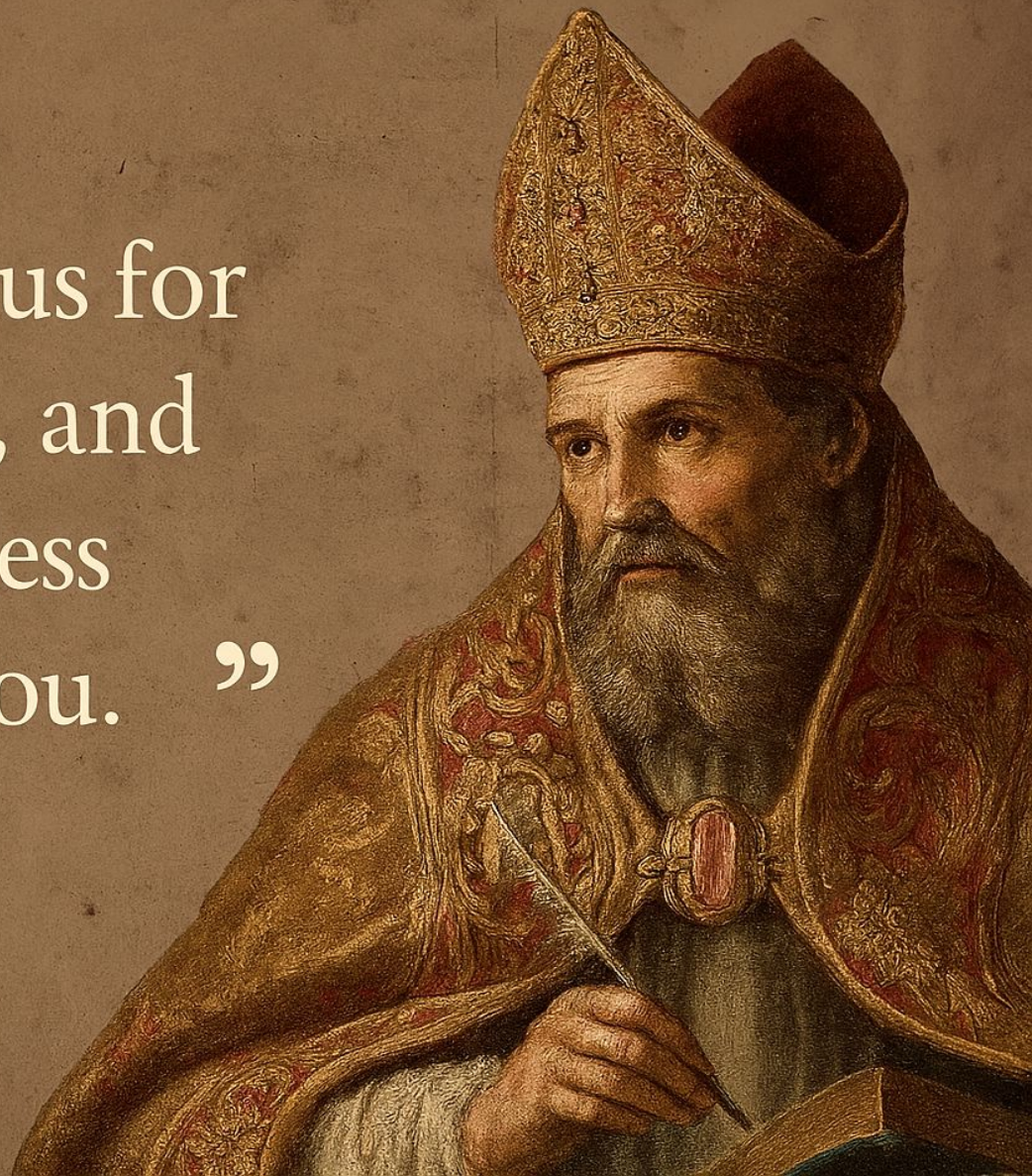
Small Group Discussion Questions



- How does reflecting on God as Creator change the way you see your life and purpose in the world?
- In what ways do you recognize God's providence guiding your daily decisions, relationships, or challenges?
- How does understanding that you are made in God's image affect the way you treat yourself and others?
- How does the reality of angels and spiritual beings inspire you to live with greater awareness of God's presence and protection?
- How does the knowledge that God's ultimate plan restores all creation in Christ give you hope in the face of difficulties?

“You have made us for
yourself, O Lord, and
our heart is restless
until it rests *in* you.”

Saint Augustine of Hippo



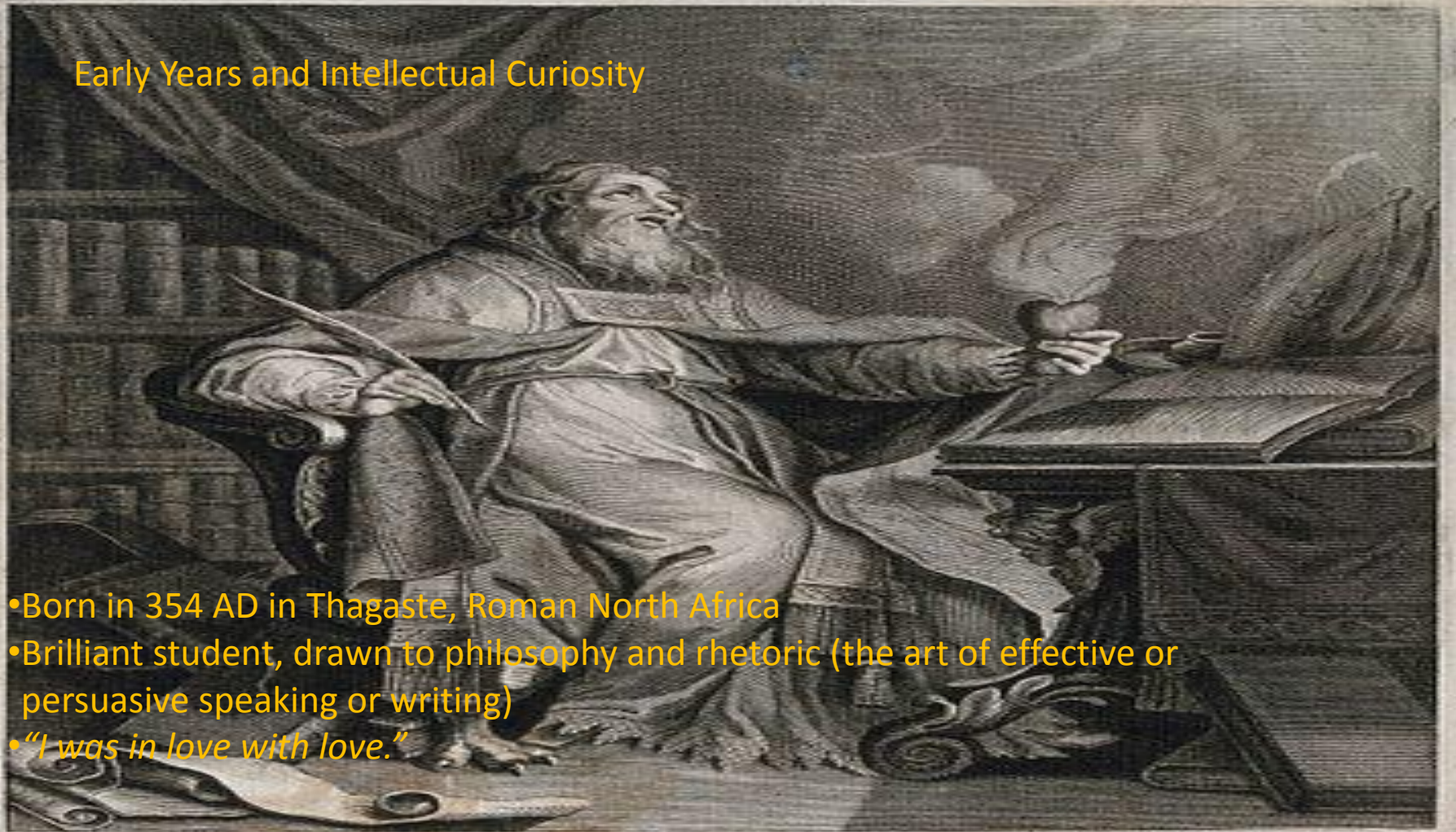
The Restless Heart

The Life and Legacy of Augustine of Hippo



Early Years and Intellectual Curiosity

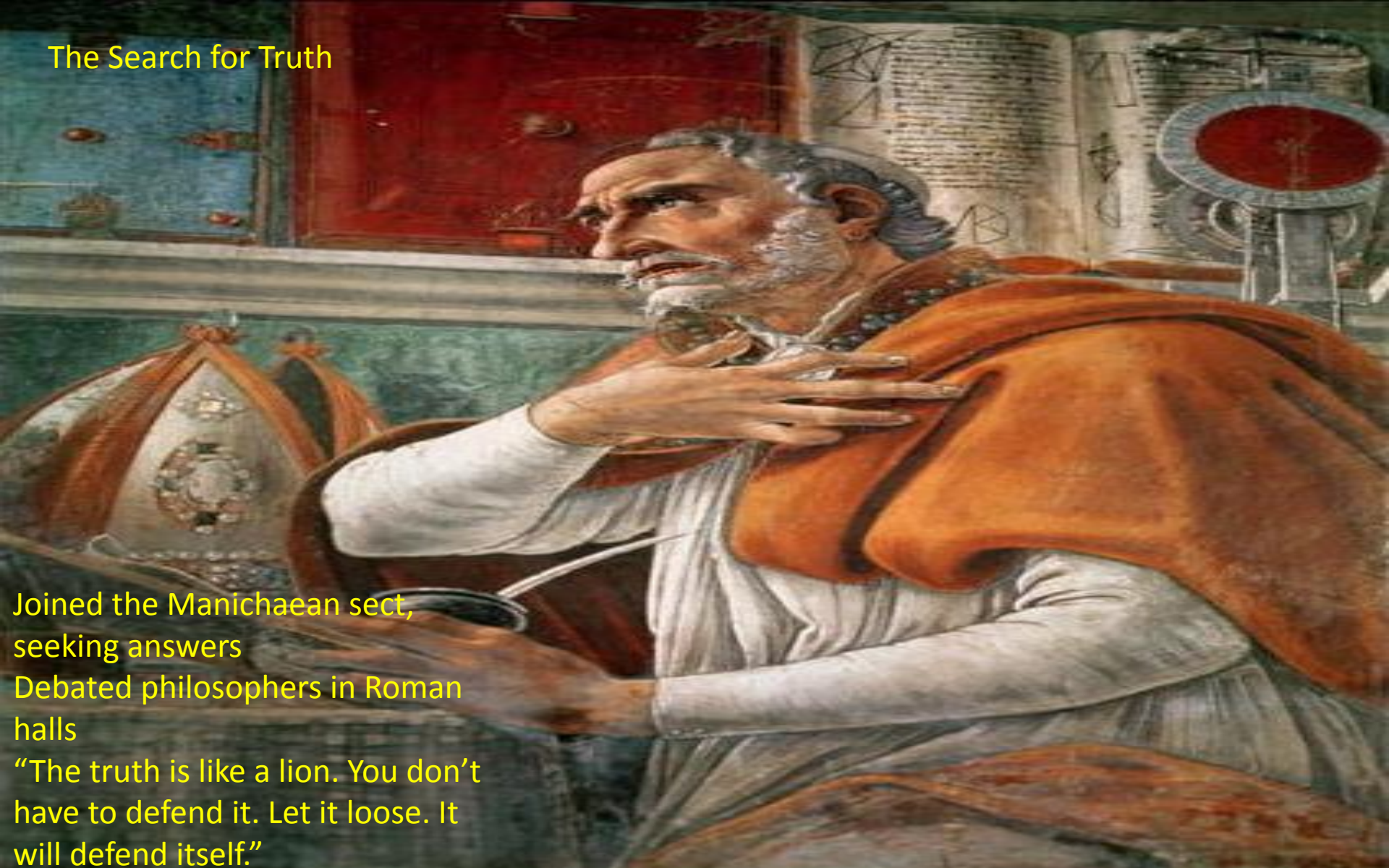
- Born in 354 AD in Thagaste, Roman North Africa
- Brilliant student, drawn to philosophy and rhetoric (the art of effective or persuasive speaking or writing)
- “I was in love with love.”



SAINT AUGUSTIN

Evêque d'Hippone : digne fils de l'Ambroise dans la Foi : Défenseur de la Religion Chrétienne contre les Pères, de la foi contre les Hérétiques de la Loi et des Prophètes, contre les Manichéens, de la Divinité du fils de Dieu contre les Ariens de l'Unité de l'Eglise contre les Donatistes, et de la grâce contre les Pélagiens et les Semipélagiens.

The Search for Truth



Joined the Manichaean sect,
seeking answers
Debated philosophers in Roman
halls
“The truth is like a lion. You don’t
have to defend it. Let it loose. It
will defend itself.”

Moment of Conversion



Heard a child's voice say, "Take and read"
He Read Romans 13:13–14 and felt
transformed
"Take and read... take and read."

Baptism and New Life

Baptized by Bishop Ambrose in
387
His son Adeodatus was baptized
alongside him
"Too late have I loved you, O
Beauty so ancient and so new."



Bishop and Legacy

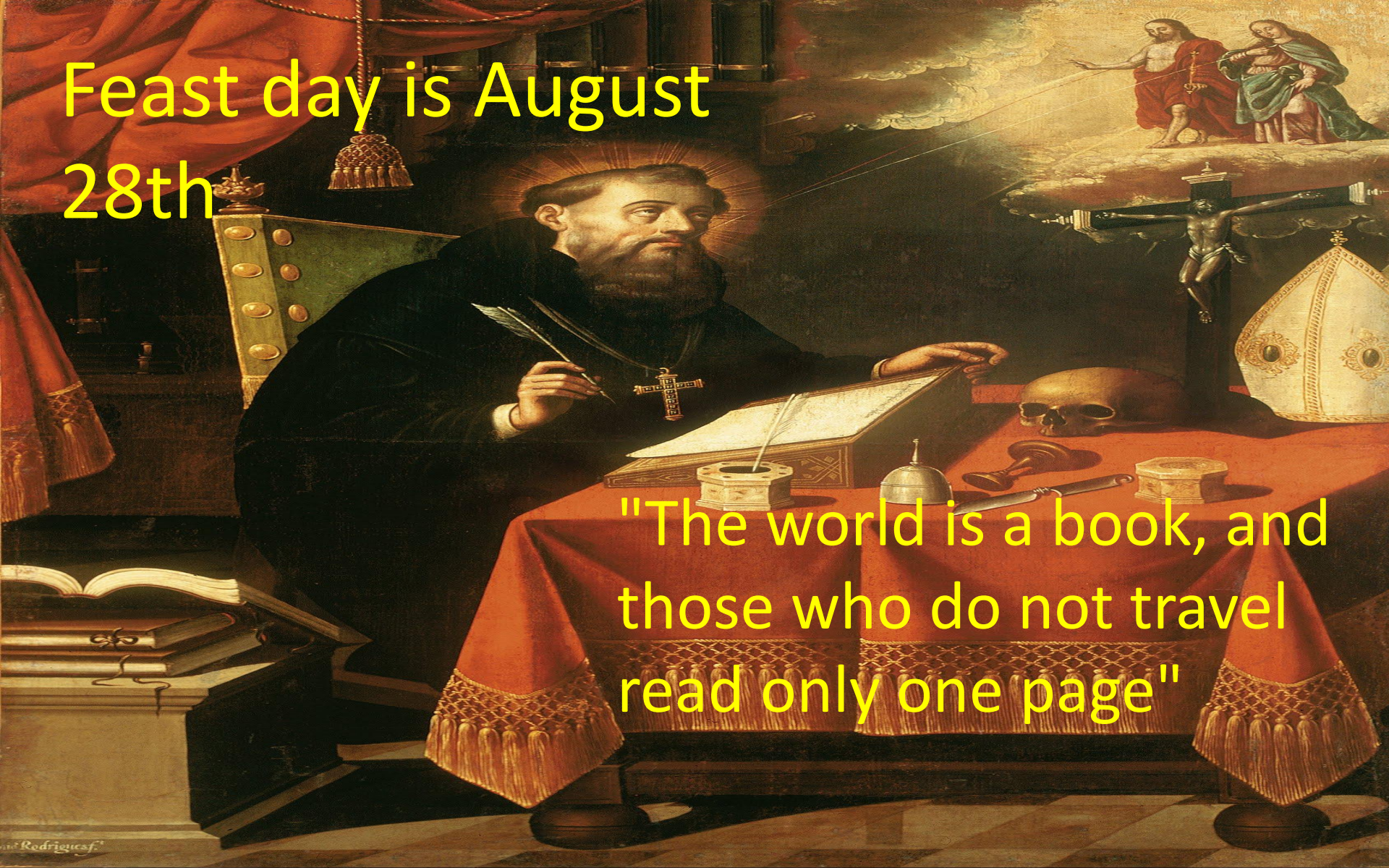
Became Bishop of Hippo in
395

Wrote *Confessions*, *The City
of God*, and more “Faith is
to believe what you do not
see; the reward of this faith
is to see what you believe.”



Feast day is August
28th

"The world is a book, and
those who do not travel
read only one page"



Closing Prayer

