



ENCOURAGEMENT

FROM

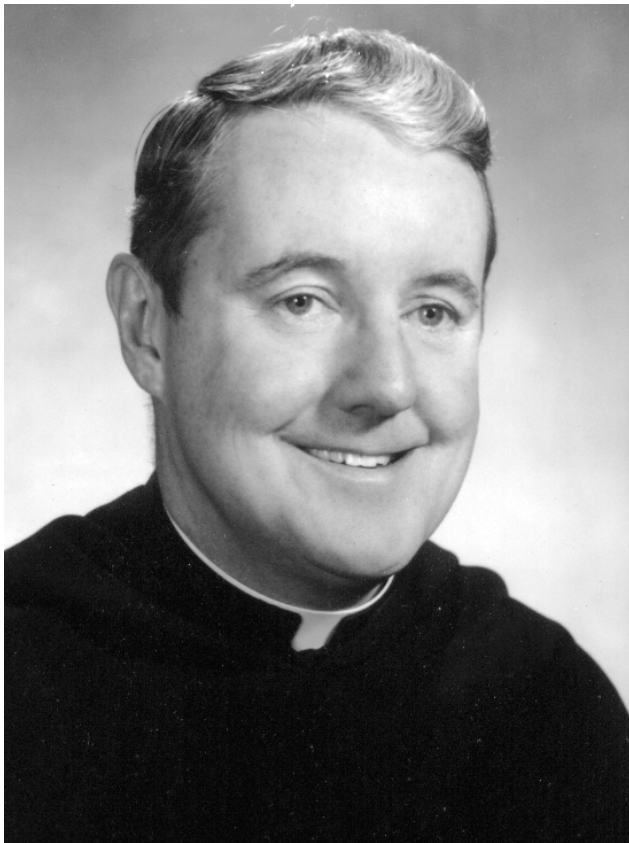
ST. MONICA SODALITY

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The Holy Season of Lent

As we are all preparing for a deep spiritual renewal, may I suggest you direct your Lenten offerings to those who have lost the faith! A fruitful Lent is three fold: prayer, fasting and almsgiving. In our prayer, let us listen silently to our Lord and prepare to do His Will. As we fast, let us give up, not only food and drink, but hours of wasted time watching TV or the Internet. Let us also fast by curbing our power of speech and developing a holy silence. In almsgiving, we have many opportunities to give to the poor.



Father L. Dudley Day, O.S.A.

We have two wonderful, exciting announcements to make here at St. John Cantius Parish. The first is the formal erection of the Society of St. John Cantius by Cardinal Francis George, O.M.I. The new religious community, which I have founded, is dedicated to "Restoring the Sacred." We have 8 men now in spiritual formation; we follow the rule of St. Augustine, and have a special devotion to St. Monica. Please pray for them, for vocations to the priesthood and for our new community.

Our second announcement directly concerns the St. Monica Sodality. Father L. Dudley Day, O.S.A. will be assisting us in our newsletter with a question and answer section. Father Day will answer questions directed to him at the St. Monica Sodality's regular address. Many times, it is difficult to find true and solid answers to our questions about the faith. We are very blessed to have Father Day's spiritual expertise to assist us.

In closing may our Lord extend His heavenly blessing to each of you. May St. Monica intercede for us and many you have a holy and fruitful Lent and a blessed Easter.

Father C. Frank Phillips, C.R.
Pastor, St. John Cantius Church
Director St. Monica Sodality

BOOKS & VIDEOS

"Saint Monica and Her Son Augustine" by Leon Cristiani, published by St. Paul Books and Media, is available at most religious book stores.

Available from Ignatius Press—a wonderful video, "St. Augustine, His Life & Spirituality" as explained by Fr. Benedict Groeschel.

Please help us develop a library of materials about St. Monica. Write and tell us about your favorite book or article about our beloved St. Monica or her son Augustine.

St. Monica, pray for us.

A REAL SUCCESS STORY

While listening to my car radio, I became alert to the topic: "Nice Guys Do Go to Hell".

The speaker's premise was that we as Christians must be on our knees praying and sacrificing daily for our loved ones who "are the lost sheep of the gospel."

The anecdote that made the greatest impression was the following: A grandmother had prayed 44 years for the conversion of her husband, a very successful oil man. The grandfather had never needed God, and said so to all his large family. He was much respected for his diligence, honesty, and kindness, not just to his family but to all his employees and business associates.

After two heart attacks that left him an invalid, the man lay resting one day when suddenly he called for his wife. He said, "I want you to pray for me, and teach me to pray." She wept with joy and be-

gan to pray. He kept repeating, "I don't want to be lost in the darkness, all alone." For two weeks he prayed and listened while his wife read him the Bible. He then declared his belief in God and prayed for forgiveness "for all the time I wasted." And then he died while praying with his wife.

I was moved and impressed by the preacher's conclusion: "Yes, nice guys do go to hell—when there is no one to pray and sacrifice for them."

I was reminded of the words of our Blessed Mother at Fatima:

**MANY SOULS WILL FALL INTO HELL
BECAUSE THERE IS NO ONE
TO PRAY FOR THEM.**

This thought could change lives—
if one were to dwell on it—

Parents of young adults need support in sharing the faith

by ARCHBISHOP CHARLES CHAPUT of Denver, Colorado in the *Denver Catholic Register*, Nov. 1997

In Catholic homes today throughout our archdiocese and elsewhere, parents of young adults are trying desperately to keep their maturing children from abandoning their faith.

But despite the parents' frequent admonitions and sometimes desperate pleas, the son or daughter feels too "enlightened" to practice his or her religion. Weekly Mass has become a burden. The sacraments are viewed as unnecessary. The love for Church so deeply ingrained in the hearts of parents is somehow lost on their children. Under these circumstances, it's easy to forget about the tremendous power of prayer.

I want to draw your attention to a Chicago community dealing with this challenge in a beautiful way. A group of parents at St. John Cantius Parish has established a St. Monica Sodality, an organization that encourages prayer as the central means of bringing children back to the Church. Once a month, the group gathers for Mass, a rosary and a novena. Petitions are brought before the group for special attention, and the members encounter the pain of others in similar situations.

When these people pray for intercession from St. Monica, they're turning to someone who well understands their pain. The patroness of married women, St. Monica **prayed for more than 30 years** for her son to abandon his "scandalous" living and heretical beliefs and return to the Church.

As always, God was listening. Her son, St. Augustine, went on to become one of the great bishops of the Western Church. St. Monica's undying belief in prayer is a wonderful example for all parents - all people. Unfortunately, many Catholics consider the notion of "the intercession of saints" as antiquated. But St. Therese of Lisieux, who was recently named a "Doctor of the Church," knew that the saints in heaven, can indeed, pray for us to the Father, through Jesus Christ. Among St. Therese's most memorable words in her brief lifetime were: "I want to spend my heaven in doing good on earth."

Obviously, parents of young adults have responsibilities in addition to prayer. They should constantly encourage participation in the Church and the sacramental life. They need to provide young adults with a consistent example of Christian living and demonstrate the incomparable joy found in serving Christ and each other. They must never become indifferent to their children's apathy toward the faith, or simply assume that a son or daughter is going through a "phase." And yes, there is even such a thing as "holy nagging."

At the same time, we have to respect what St. Paul says in Ephesians: ". . . do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up with the training and instruction of the Lord." In other words, parents should not nag children to a point where they lose heart. Instead, teach them. Love them. Pray for them and with them. . . .



ICON OF ST. MONICA

The beautiful color St. Monica Icon is available from Monastery Icons, at Light of Christ Monastery, 1482 Rango Way, Borrego Springs, CA 92004. Various sizes available (3 x 4, \$8.95; 8 x 10, \$20.95; 11 x 14, \$36.95) For a catalog or to order, call 800-729-4952.

A SPIRITUAL BOUQUET

The St. Monica Sodality will take part in the St. John Cantius Parish May Crowning on Saturday, May 13. Members will be in procession with the banner of St. Monica, and will present a spiritual bouquet to the Blessed Virgin Mary after the crowning.

If you wish to make a spiritual bouquet prayer pledge, please fill in the cutoff form below, and return by mail before May 6. Pictures of the May Crowning will be included in the next issue of *Encouragement* as well as a report on the size of the Sodality's contribution to the spiritual bouquet.

PRAYER OF ST. AUGUSTINE FOR TRUE SORROW FOR SIN AND A FIRM PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT

Before Thine eyes, O Lord, we bring our sins, and we compare them with the stripes we have received.

If we examine the evil we have wrought, what we suffer is little, what we deserve is great. What we have committed is very grievous, what we have suffered is very slight.

We feel the punishment of sin, yet withdraw not from the obstinacy of sinning. Under Thy lash our inconstancy is visited, but our sinfulness is not changed. Our suffering soul is tormented, but our neck is not bent.

Our life groans under sorrow, yet amends not in deed. If Thou spare us, we correct not our ways: if Thou punish, we cannot endure it. In time of correction we confess our wrongdoing: after Thy visitation we forget that we have wept.

If Thou stretchest forth Thy hand, we promise amendment; if Thou withholdest the sword, we keep not our promise. If Thou strikest, we cry out for mercy. If Thou sparest, we again provoke Thee to strike.

Here we are before Thee, O Lord, confessedly guilty; we know that unless Thou pardon, we shall deservedly perish. Grant then, O almighty Father, without our deserving it, the pardon we ask; Thou who made us out of nothing those who ask Thee. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

V. Deal not with us, O Lord, according to our sins.

R. Neither reward us according to our iniquities.

Let us pray: O God, who by sin art offended and by penance pacified, mercifully regard the prayers of Thy suppliant people, and turn away the scourges of Thy wrath, which we deserve for our sins. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SPIRITUAL BOUQUET—My pledge for May 13th May Crowning:

Rosaries _____ Fasting _____ Adoration _____ Attended Mass _____ Stations of the Cross _____

Message for Our Blessed Mother _____

PRAYER FOR CHILDREN

Dear God, the Comforter and the salvation of those who put their trust in You, You showed compassionate acceptance of blessed Monica's loving tears and prayers by converting her son St. Augustine, grant us through the intercession of these two saints, spiritual strength for our motherhood, unquenchable love for our children, the gift of forgiveness and perseverance in prayer, and the conversion and salvation of all our children. Amen.

PRAY WHILE YOU WORK— USING ST. MONICA TAPES

The 50-minute professional audio tape of the St. Monica Novena Prayers and music is available for \$10.00 each, plus \$2.00 for postage. The "Seraphim Vocal Ensemble" provides the inspirational hymns. Order a tape to use in your car when you're stuck in traffic, increase your prayer life, decrease tension. Order from St Monica Sodality, 825 North Carpenter, Chicago, IL 60622.

ST. AUGUSTINE TAPES

"The Confessions of Saint Augustine", a 75 minute audio tape, recounts the story of St. Monica's son. This incredibly moving performance by Leonardo Defilippis is available from Saint Luke Productions, PO Box 761, Beaverton, OR 97075, or call 800-683-2998. Cost: \$8.95 ea. + \$2.00 shipping/handling.

ST. MONICA SODALITY MEMBERSHIP

The St. Monica Sodality meets every Wednesday evening at 7:00 pm at St. John Cantius Church. Novena prayers and Rosary are followed by the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

On the feast of St. Monica, May 4th of every year, please renew your membership by sending \$10.00 (annual membership renewal fee) along with any change of address information, or letters of gratitude to St. Monica. New members are accepted at any time and prayer booklets, petition forms, medals, or rule booklets are available from The Saint Monica Sodality, at 825 North Carpenter, Chicago, IL 60622.

MARCH 2000

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FROM

ST. MONICA SODALITY

825 N Carpenter St, Chicago, IL 60622



IN MY DISTRESS
I CRIED
UNTO THE LORD

St. Monica, pray for us.