

Together to God

Praying the Augustinian Way

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Augustine and Monica, his mother, painted by Ary Scheffer

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An Augustinian Prayer

*Oh Holy Breath of God,
breathe on us gathered here,
that we may be filled
with your Holy Spirit,
and so become Your friends.*

*Help us to live and love
with one heart and mind in You,
and so become Your Church,
that others may be drawn to
friendship
with Your Son, Jesus Christ, Our
Lord.*

*Today many of us long for
community,
yet experience loneliness in our
daily lives.*

*Grant us the grace to grasp and
live what Jesus meant*

*when he taught: “There is no
greater love than this,
that someone should lay down
his life for his friends.”*

*Together with the Poor in Spirit
in this world,
may we listen with the ears of
our hearts
to your Holy Word in Scripture.
May we recognize You in
prisoners of every kind,
and work with them for the
freedom and justice
of your Kingdom until we see
you face to face.*

In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

PRAY ALWAYS

What you see on the cover of this booklet is an image of two people sharing a prayer experience—with the Word of God between them. It is Augustine and his friend, Alypius. It can portray as well an image of our own spiritual journey, not simply alone but with others. This includes in a special way the poor and oppressed, who often surprisingly convert us as we converse about the Gospel with them. As St. Augustine knew so well, we are not above those we serve, but side by side.

When I am frightened
by what I am for you,
Then I am consoled
by what I am with you.
For you I am a bishop;
with you I am a Christian.
The first is an office,
the second a grace;
The first a danger,
the second salvation.

Sermon 340
—St. Augustine

St. Augustine talked with God as he would with a friend (see *Confessions* 9,1).

So pray always. Pray in your own words, as you would talk to a friend. Pray with another or others whenever you can. And pray with the Word of