



Augustinian Interiority in an AI World



***Augustinian Interiority
In a World of Artificial Intelligence***

**APAC
Taiwan
October, 2024**

1




An Augustinian Prayer for a Student or Teacher

ALL:
God of Truth and Beauty,
you give each one of us the desire to seek the Truth.
Fire me with a thirst for knowledge and Truth.
Let me use that knowledge to build a community of justice and love.
God of Splendor and Glory,
you show us your splendor in the heavens,
the earth and the mystery of each person.
May I see your presence and warming love in the gifts of this earth.
May I reverence this presence.

2


An Augustinian Prayer for a Student or Teacher



God, companion on the journey,
you touched the restless heart of Augustine as he searched for you.
Help me to support my friends, mentors, and companions in their quests
and seek their help in mine.
Remind me that you are within me and them as teacher and friend.
Be present to us in the struggles of life as we journey together.
God of Unity, God of Peace,
you inspired Augustine to gather friends around him in community.
May we always live together in harmony
and be of one mind and one heart.
Amen.

*Rubio Bardón, Pedro, O.S.A. *Education – An Augustinian Approach*. Adapted and edited by Michael Morahan, O.S.A.
Coorparoo, Australia: Villanova College, 2001, p. 31.

3




FACTS

#1

**Artificial Intelligence is
NOT Intelligence**

4

Augustinian Interiority in an AI World



AUGUSTINIAN
PEDAGOGY


FACTS

#2

**Thinking is
NOT Calculation**

5

**Saint Augustine
Inner Teacher and Interiority**




AUGUSTINIAN
PEDAGOGY

Because there is generally no interval of time between the moment of speaking and that of knowing, and because their coming to learn from within follows quickly upon the suggestive force of the speaker's words, they think that they have learned externally from him who spoke those words. (The Teacher, 14, 45).

Now see a great sacrament here, brothers: the sound of our words strikes the ears; the teacher is within. Don't think that a person learns anything from a human being. We can offer a suggestion by the sound of our voice, but if he who teaches isn't within, our voice is of no avail. (Homily 3 on the First letter of John 13.)

6



AUGUSTINIAN
PEDAGOGY


FACTS

#3 – AI Augments Our Understanding

#4 – AI is Greatest to Truth in World

7

**Saint Augustine
Interiority**



AUGUSTINIAN
PEDAGOGY

Great Threat to Truth for St. Augustine

Roman Rhetoric

Persuasion Fostering Lies

Artificial Intelligence

Rhetoric of Today

Persuasion Fostering Lies

8

Augustinian Interiority in an AI World

Saint Augustine Interiority



Central to Interiority in Book IV

Romans (5:3-5) reminds us that “we even boast of our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance, proven character, and proven character, hope, and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us.” (Book IV 7,11)

Created as Image of God - Inner Teacher

9

Augustinian Inspired Reflective Interiority Practices



H.O.P.E.

Humility Recognizing Limitations

Obedience Compliant to the TRUTH

Prompt for Reflective Learning

Elocution for Clarity of Understanding

10

Augustinian Inspired Interiority H – HUMILITY RECOGNIZING LIMITATIONS



Only a humble person with a sincere heart can grasp the truth

Amos - Let us acknowledge that our canonical authors and teachers were indeed eloquent, as well as being wise, with kind of the eloquence that befitted such persons. Book IV 7, 21.

Questions to Ask

Is the AI database Up-To-Date?

Is there Bias in the AI database?

Does the AI App use an Appropriate Algorithm?

11


Augustinian Inspired Interiority H – HUMILITY RECOGNIZING LIMITATIONS



12

Augustinian Interiority in an AI World

Augustinian Inspired Interiority
H – HUMILITY RECOGNIZING LIMITATIONS



Diligent Quest for Truth – *Wherever readers find themselves stuck by unfamiliarity, they need to investigate them.* Book IV 16, 23.

Augustinian Doubt – Readiness for Learning

Hermeneutic of Suspicion

- Factchecking Activities to Learn Researching
- Asking Apps Who/What are Sources for App Information
- Reflecting on Results from Different Apps
- Reflecting on Apps vs Library Research

13

Augustinian Inspired Interiority
H – HUMILITY RECOGNIZING LIMITATIONS



A conversation with Google 🗣️🗣️🗣️




Hey Google, how many Jews were killed by the Nazis?

A conversation with Google 🗣️🗣️🗣️



camps Sorry, I don't understand.

14



Augustinian Inspired Interiority
O – OBEDIENT COMPLIANCE TO THE TRUTH

We should be heard with obedience compliance, that is that these testimonies should be believed ... of course, if [the narrator of the facts] is not understood, it is obvious to all of us that he cannot be heard. Book IV 26,56.

- Truth OVER Rhetoric - Jeremiah rails against those who use eloquence to celebrate iniquity (Jer 5:30-31) - Book IV 14,30
- Deepfakes - AI Created Misinformation – Checking Sources and Credentials
- Teach Love of Learning the Truth

The teacher ... the duty of both teaching what is good and unteaching what is bad ... for the clearing up of doubts and the establishment of certainty, reasoned arguments and documentary proofs are needed. Book IV 4,6.

15



Augustinian Inspired Interiority
O – OBEDIENT COMPLIANCE TO THE TRUTH

Who Are You Going to Believe - Me or Your Lying AIs?



16

Augustinian Interiority in an AI World

Augustinian Inspired Interiority P - PROMPTS FOR LEARNING TRUTH



Cyprian – *Keeps to the style of calm diction, which readers can easily discover for themselves. Book IV 21,45.*

Pointing – Illumination

Knowledge of Signs - Connection to Local Class

Ambrose – *Employs a plain, calm style of speaking, since the subject he has undertaken does not call for flowery language ... but requires instructive examples and illustrations of the matter proposed. Book IV 21,46.*

17

Augustinian Inspired Interiority P - PROMPTS FOR LEARNING TRUTH



Beware ... of those whose unwisdom has a flood of eloquence. Book IV 5,7

18



Augustinian Inspired Interiority E – ELOQUENCE WITH CLARITY

An eloquent man once said ... 'Teaching your audience is a matter of necessity, delighting them a matter of being agreeable, swaying them a matter of victory.' Of these three, the one put first, that is the necessity of teaching, is to be found in the things we are saying, the remaining two in the way we say it. Book IV 11,27.

The person who is teaching will avoid all words that do not in fact teach ... provided the matter itself is being taught and learned correctly. Book IV 10, 24.

AI Literacy

AI Academic Integrity

AI Writing Detection

Paul writes As the companion of wisdom, the leader of eloquence, following the former, going ahead of the latter. Book IV 17,20.

19



Augustinian Inspired Interiority E – ELOQUENCE WITH CLARITY



We want to be heard not only intelligently, with understanding, but also gladly, with pleasure.

Book IV 26,56.

20

Augustinian Interiority in an AI World

Augustinian Interiority Ongoing Development



Romans (5:3-5) reminds us that “we even boast of our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance, proven character, and proven character, hope, and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us.” (Book IV 7,11)

**Created as Image of God
Ongoing Dialoguing with Inner Teacher**

21



Follow Up Resources



URL: <https://augustinianpedagogy.org/apac-2024>

Presentation – PPT and PDF

One Piece at a Time: Solving the AI Writing Puzzle

Why Evaluating Students’ Use of AI Writing Tools Is Important: Actionable Strategies for Institutions

22

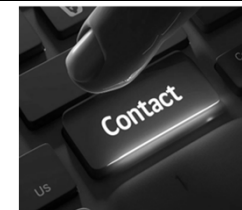


How do AI tools shape our Augustinian interior reflections?

How does AI impact the role of Augustinian teachers?

What training do Augustinian teachers need to effectively integrate AI into their classrooms?

23



Rev. Gary N. McCloskey, O.S.A.

Villanova Monastery

800 E. Lancaster Avenue

Villanova, PA 19085-1687

Phone: 610.519.4624

eMail: gary.mccloskey@augustinian.org

URL: www.augustinianpedagogy.org

24