



**Saint Monica
August 27**



**Saint Monica
Pray for Us**



St. Monica is famous for being the mother of St. Augustine and for causing his conversion.

Monica was born in Thagaste (North Africa) in the year 332. Her parents had her instructed by a very religious but strict woman. She wanted to dedicate her life to solitary prayer, but her parents wanted her to marry a man named Patrick, a hard worker, but bad tempered, unfaithful, and a gambler with little interest in religion or the spiritual life. He made her suffer terribly. She avoided fights with silence. Her example caused his eventual conversion. They had 3 children: 2 boys and 1 girl. The oldest, Augustine, was born in 354, and made her suffer much.

St. Augustine was very intelligent, so they sent him to study Philosophy, Literature, and Oratory in Carthage. But Augustine fell into a life of sin. He joins a sect, the Manichaeism, that believed the Devil created the world. Monica sent him away because she did not want an enemy of God in her home; but she had a dream that he would return to her.

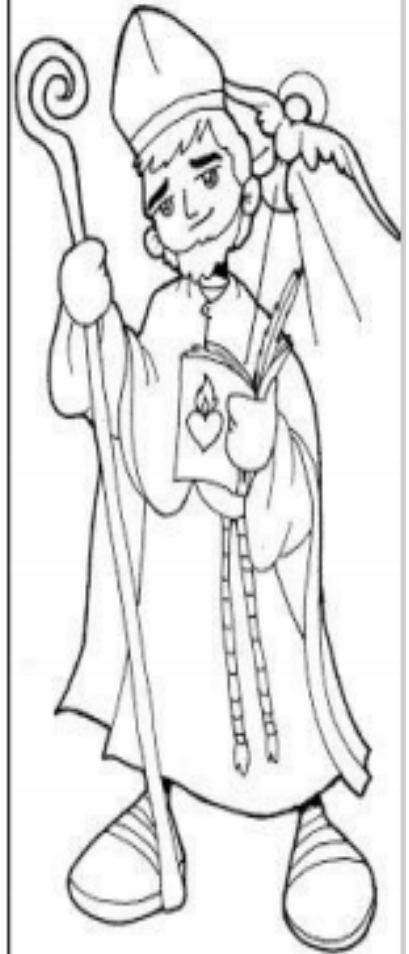
When he was 29 years old, already a doctor, he goes to Rome to study and Monica follows him. In Milan, Monica meets St. Ambrose, the Archbishop, who advises her. Augustine is impressed by his great wisdom and powerful personality and starts to desire the Catholic faith.

In the year 387, reading the words of St. Paul, Augustine decides to change and be baptized.

Having achieved all that she wanted in life, St. Monica soon dies surrounded by her children in the port of Ostia in Africa.

Augustine enters the monastic life, but in Hippo, the Bishop Valerian, asks him for help. He becomes a priest and 5 years later is named Bishop of Hippo where he remained for 34 years fighting heresies and traveling constantly to preach the Gospel. He dies August 24, 430.

**St. Augustine of Hippo,
Bishop and Doctor
Of the Church
August 28**



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Pray for Us**