



Feast Day of

ST. AUGUSTINE AUGUST 28, 2025

SSND's Day of Observance of the LCWR's 100 Days
of Prayer, Fasting & Advocacy

OPENING

The SSND charism flows from their spiritual heritage, including the gifts of St. Augustine, who formed a community to be of one heart and of one soul in God, seeing in the Trinity the basis, source and goal of all community. - *You Are Sent, Constitution of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, Prologue*

VÍSIO DIVINA Click [here](#) to contemplate a piece of art by Vernon Adams depicting St. Augustine.¹

SUGGESTED PROCESS FOR A VÍSIO DIVINA

Preparation: Find a quiet space. Gaze upon the image slowly and prayerfully. Let your heart settle.

Gaze and notice:

- The **flaming heart** pierced with light-symbol of divine love and transformation
- The **open book**-a nod to Augustine's scholarship and spiritual journey
- The **crucifix modeled after Archbishop Desmond Tutu's** - a bridge between African bishops across time
- The **crozier** - a symbol of pastoral leadership, echoing Augustine's role as bishop
- The **stained glass of St. Monica** - his mother's enduring prayers
- The **pears** - a reference to his youthful mischief and confession
- The **columbine flower (Aquilegia)** - symbolizing faith and wisdom, and the unlikely blossoming of Augustine's life

Meditate:

- Try to see Augustine as a man, not an icon. What might be stirring in you?
- How might his African heritage deepen your understanding of his story?
- What part of his journey might mirror your own?

Pray: *God of wisdom and transformation, pierce my heart as You did Augustine's. Let me see the unlikely beauty in my own story.*

Contemplate: Sit in silence. Let the image and your prayer settle into your soul. Be open to what God may reveal.

Go forth to live it out:

Carry the image with you. Let Augustine's journey inspire your own:

- Embrace your past with honesty
- Seek wisdom through study and prayer
- Let love be the flame that guides your path



¹ The artwork was commissioned by The Office of the President, Villanova University. Scroll to the bottom of the webpage for further information on the artwork.

READ & REFLECT

[Read this brief article](#) in U.S. Catholic by Tia Noelle Pratt, PhD of Villanova University. In light of the SSND focus on Dismantling Racism, the SSND charism of “longing for the oneness of all in God”, and the Call of the 25th General Chapter:

What (false) narrative(s) do you find prevalent in our culture? How is SSND as a congregation and you as a leader in SSND sponsored and co-sponsored ministry, as a Sister, Associate, staff member and/or friend called to change, evolve and/or transform this narrative?

- called to offer thought leadership?
- called to ‘educate, advocate and act’?

CLOSING PRAYER

Holy Spirit Prayer of Saint Augustine

Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit,
That my thoughts may all be holy.
Act in me, O Holy Spirit,
That my work, too, may be holy.
Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit,
That I love but what is holy.
Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit,
To defend all that is holy.
Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit,
That I always may be holy.
Amen.

“I was searching without,
but you were within.”
—St. Augustine

ACT WITH US!

Observe with us the [LCWR 100 DAYS](#) of prayer, fasting and advocating. SSND chose **August 28**, the Feast of St. Augustine as the day of observance.

For Canada, please engage the [ORCIE/BCREI](#) offerings, add your voice and take action.

[Dare to Care](#)

LEARN MORE

Three short resource videos on St. Augustine can be found [here](#).

[Augustine Blog](#)

& SONG

[A Rightful Place](#) by Steve Angrisano

Let us live our lives so that all might see
that our hearts are restless till they rest in thee.
Let us build your kingdom in truth and grace
so that all might know they have a rightful place.

Beauty ever ancient and new,
breaking through our deafness so we hear you.
Shattering the darkness of night,
a new dawn is rising to bring your light
to all the world.

To gather in your presence we came
to be one in spirit, in truth and name;
strengthened by the body of Christ,
taking up the call now to share your light
with all the world.

