

FRIENDS OF AUGUSTINE

AUGUSTINE FOR TODAY



INTRODUCTION

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Few people have influenced the life of the Church and the development of western Christianity more than Augustine. This man of towering intellect remains today a deeply significant figure in the history of the Christian community and the development of its theological understanding. In addition to his great theological work, Augustine was also a pastor, deeply concerned for his friends and for the people of his diocese in North Africa, and offering much to them in discovering and deepening their relationship with God and each other in the midst of everyday life. Above all Augustine was man of prayer who drew deeply on the Scriptures as his guide and inspiration.

FRIENDS OF AUGUSTINE is an association of people who find in Augustine a guide for their journey of faith and who seek to share with each other the search for God.

As an aid in the search and the journey these reflection/discussion leaflets are offered. They are principally designed for use by those who, in a truly augustinian way, want to share the search and the journey with others, though they can, of course, also be used for personal prayer and reflection.

Nine leaflets are offered, which allowing for holiday periods, will offer for material for a year. Some of the leaflets are for specific times in the Church's Year, such as Advent, Lent and the post-Christmas period. Others may be used at will.

Please write and let us know what you think, and whether there are ways in which we could improve the resource.

When using the leaflets in a group it is suggested that:

- the meeting begins with the invocation of the Holy Spirit in word or in song;
- the Word of God and the thoughts of Augustine be read slowly. Each passage should be followed by a short time of silence to allow the words to rest in the heart and mind;
- the reflection should be read aloud and then time be given for silence, during which participants can re-read the reflection and have some time to absorb the ideas;
- participants be asked to share their initial reactions;
- the section "Points to Ponder" be used to prompt discussion;
- when the discussion has concluded, there should be a time of silence. This might be followed by a time of shared praise and intercession;
- the gathering ends with the Lord's Prayer and a blessing prayer.

**We search for God in order to find him
with greater joy,
And we find him in order to keep on searching
with greater love.**

De Trinitate 15,2