



St. Thomas Church: established July 1, 1285 by King Vaclav II



Open School year Mass, September 1st 2014 at
08:30. Hornokřesk 3. Praha 4

"Our hearts are restless, O Lord, until they rest in you."

August 30st and August 31st
2011

22st Sunday in Ordinary
time A.
St. Augustine Solemnity

St. Thomas Church

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Saint Augustine

Augustine, the father founder of the Augustinian Order, with Thomas, the Apostle, are the two principal patrons of our parish and for pastoral reasons his Solemnity, celebrated on August 28th, has been transferred to this Sunday.

Celebrating the memorial or remembrance of Christ's more preeminent disciples has been a consistent Catholic tradition since New Testament times. Culled evidence from the *sub* and *post apostolic* epoch (ca. A.D.70-120) is replete with reverential mention both of the deeds and the very bodies particularly of martyrs (matureis="witness") who suffered for Christ. Jesus himself provided the model of fidelity and patience in his own passion. St. Paul writes that *"we are to fill up what is lacking in the passion of Christ"* by conscientiously imitating him *"who went before us."* Each generation both in the western and eastern churches often took on some unique characteristics which, more often than not, were inspired by contemporary art or cultural forms. For example, the baroque side altars or reliquaries of Saints Boniface and Justus here in our own church of St. Thomas are monuments of seventeenth century artistry and piety.

We celebrate this Solemnity of St. Augustine, the bishop and the spiritual father of your Augustinian pastoral community. Even in secular intellectual circles Augustine represents an intensely active man of his times; an important genius who, by any standard, entered into the various contemporary philosophical, political and theological problems with unparalleled brilliance. Scanning the centuries since his death in 430 and judging from the number of times, for example, Augustine has been quoted in the second Vatican conciliar documents we can safely say his memory lives on in the Church he served and loved so well.

Yet, there is another winning side to this north African intellectual: his warm hospitality; his strong affection for his friends; a personal desire for truth expressed in numerous books, tracts, letters, treatises and his Rule (now called "of St. Augustine") which is a singular contribution to monastic life. Indeed, behind all this we find a warm engaging human being whose memorable remark sums him up:

"Our hearts are restless, O God, until they finally rest in you!"

FIRST READING

In these few verses, Jeremiah outlined his rage against and his surrender to the Lord. Are these two attitudes incompatible? Can one be mad at God? Can he or she say "Yes" to God at the same time? We do not know the exact source of Jeremiah's despair, but we do know the context. Jeremiah prophesied toward the end of the Judean monarchy, just before the Babylonian exile. The kings of the small Jewish state played the regional powers (Egypt and Babylon) against each other. Jeremiah railed against these shifting alliances between enemies. His adversaries took direct (arrest) and indirect (rumors and slander) action against the prophet.

SECOND READING

God works in strange ways. He shows mercy when we expect his wrath. He gives humanity goodness in the face of evil. He transforms evil into a greater good. Death becomes life. The sinner becomes the saved. If that is true, what is next for the believer? After Paul recognized that the seemingly incredulous nature of God's mercy at the end of Romans 11 (see last week's study), he turned to the practical implications of his thought. Since God was merciful, Paul reasoned, shouldn't followers respond the way their Savior responded? While Paul did not specifically state such, we can reasonably assume Paul saw self-giving as a form of worship that joined the faithful to their Lord's self-giving on the cross. Joining one's self to Christ on the cross made living a holy and pleasing sacrifice to God. In the light of God's mercy in Christ, this was the only reasonable way to serve God.

Coffee, Cookies & Conversation follows Sunday's Mass in the Monastery Refectory off the Cloister Garden. **All are invited, especially our visitors.**

Please contact, Fr. William Faix if you want to add announcements to the bulletin. wfaix@yahoo.com or osaprag@augustiniani.cz

Project "Back to school 2014"

Its Back to School time! As you know, the St. Tomas Religious Education Program takes a special interest in kids in need in our community. We are now holding our third School Supplies Drive to collect much-needed school supplies for the children of our parish school, those in foster care or orphanages, and in shelters or safehouses in Prague. During the next 2 weeks – till Sunday, September 7th, please bring new unused school supplies, such as colored pens or pencils, paper, notebooks, kid's safety scissors, glue sticks, backpacks or even new clothes, sports shoes, etc, to the basket under the English Community's bulletin board in the courtyard. Cash donations are very welcome and will be put towards whichever items are most needed (if you would like to donate cash, please do so in person to Mary Beth Hlavsa or Fr. Juan, or via a sealed envelope in the collection basket clearly labelled "For School Supplies Drive". PLEASE DO NOT leave cash donations in the donation bin). Thank you!

FEASTS and ANNIVERSARIES: September

- 01 *Giles (+600)*, the Abbot and spiritual director of many, is venerated as Patron of Edinburgh and hunters.
- 03 *Gregory I (+604)*, the Pope, organized liturgical music, papal administration and sponsored missionary activity in England.
- 04 *The SOLEMNITY OF OUR MOTHER OF CONSOLATION is celebrated in the Augustinian Order. Since the fifteenth century Mary has been especially venerated as the Order's Patroness. The leather belt or cincture worn by the Augustinians was said to have been given to St. Monica grieving for her son by Our Lady as a sign of concern.*

Activities

- If you would like to receive a copy of the bulletin by email, please contact osaprag@augustiniani.cz
- Anyone interested in teaching **Religious Education Classes** next year (starting in September) - please contact Mary Beth at redirector@augustiniani.cz
- We welcome our visitors and invite you to join us for refreshments immediately after Mass in the summer refectory of the monastery.
- If you would like to serve as a lector or Eucharistic minister at the Sunday mass please contact Ann at dalyaann@hotmail.com. Training will be provided for those who have not previously served in these ministries.

CHANGES IN ST. THOMAS MONASTERY AND CHURCH

From September 1st there are some changes in the Augustinian community and St. Thomas Church in Prague

Fr. Antonio Rivas, OSA has been appointed new pastor of Saint Thomas Parish. He is taking the place of Fr. Vit Marciniec, OSA that has been served here from 2011.

Fr. Vít is moving to Brno to serve in the Augustinian Parish of Staré Brno. We thank Fr. Vít for his service here and wish him all the best. We pray also for the new pastor of the parish, Fr. Antonio, asking for him all kind of blessings.

The pastor of the English speaking community, **Fr. William Faix, OSA**, has been also appointed prior of St Thomas Monastery.

Fr. Jozef Ržonca, OSA has been also appointed chaplain in the parish.

Fr. Juan Provecho, OSA will serve also like chaplain.

Saint Augustine day, August 28th, was the first day in the monastery for the 2 new candidates to the Augustinian order, that are going to be living at our community: Zdeněk a Stanislav



Fr. Antonio Rivas, OSA
New pastor St. Thomas Church