



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



750 let Augustiniánů v Čechách

1262–2012

S nadějí a radostí

**THE AUGUSTINIANS IN THE CZECH
LANDS: 750 YEARS IN SERVICE OF THE
GOSPEL.**

With Hope and Joy!

April 21st and April 22nd
2012

The Third Sunday of
Easter- B

St. Thomas Church

Josefská 8, Malá Strana, Prague 1, 118 01

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The Reflection of the Gospel

There are several approaches to the resurrection of Jesus Christ: the first, of course, is to be dismissive. After all, the sceptics bray, the dead *are* dead and that means *no vital activity!* Others propose a more conciliatory approach. Jesus did return *from the dead* but not as Luke and the other evangelists would have us believe. Christ according to this *Docetic* theory did appear to to his disciples but in the semblance of a *ghost* or *phantasm*; could we add *extraterrestrial*? With some unique additives, the Jehovah Witnesses would subscribe to this “body denying” theology. The third, or basic Catholic explanation, would be that

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. On the third day he rose again from the dead.

Do you notice the emphasis that the Church places on Jesus’ death? There are no euphemisms or circumlocutions: Christ has died, Christ has risen! Luke, of course, was faced with the same questions both within and outside the struggling Christian community. How could a dead man return from the cold grasp of death? When the apostle Paul broached the question in sophisticated Athens (*Acts 17:31 ff.*) he was laughed off the podium for his temerity. Even though the ancients, more so than our culture today, believed in revived gods and goddesses often symbolised in the recurrent cycle of nature. Christians were unique in so far as they believed in their own resurrection promised through Christ’s victory over death.

Today’s gospel borders on the incredible: his troubled disciples did not believe the resurrection reports; they did not even recognise him physically or even intellectually as he explained scripture to them. The Risen One, however, does accept their invitation to share a meal: he, who gave them to eat, now receives food from his discouraged disciples and reveals himself in the breaking of the bread. For us the Eucharist is both nourishment and recognition; this is our Emmaus as we journey often in discouragement and fear.

**The Lord is risen! He is truly
risen! Alleluia!**

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Conversion of St. Augustine. April 24

Augustine's life as a young man was characterized by loose living and a search for answers to life's basic questions. He would follow various philosophers, only to become disillusioned with their teachings. For nine years he was associated with the Manichean sect. But he gradually became aware that Manicheism was unable to provide satisfactory answers to his probing questions.

At this time, Augustine was teaching rhetoric in Milan. He went to hear the preaching of Saint Ambrose, the Bishop of Milan. At first he went only to hear Ambrose's eloquent style of speaking. But the Bishop's preaching led Augustine to a new understanding of the Bible and the Christian Faith. Some time in the year 386, Augustine and his friend **Alypius** were spending time in Milan. While outdoors, Augustine heard the voice of a child singing a song, the words of which were, "Pick it up and read it. Pick it up and read it." He thought at first that the song was related to some kind of children's game, but could not remember ever having heard such a song before.

Then, realizing that this song might be a command from God to open and read the Scriptures, he located a Bible, picked it up, opened it and read the first passage he saw. It was from the Letter of Paul to the Romans. Augustine read:

Not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual excess and lust, not in quarreling and jealousy. Rather, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the desires of the flesh. --Romans 13: 13-14

Reading this scripture, Augustine felt as if his heart were flooded with light. He turned totally from his life of sin. He was Baptized by Ambrose during the Easter Vigil April 24, 387. His friend Alypius and his son Adeodatus were Baptized at the same time.

Later, reflecting on this experience, Augustine wrote his famous prayer: *You have made us for yourself, Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you.* He went on to become a powerful influence on the spirituality and theology of the Christian Church.

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XIV. AUGUSTINIAN WEEK

23.4-27.4

Saint Thomas Monastery , Josefská 8. Praha 1

AUGUSTINE AND THE AUGUSTINIANS IN THE CZECH LANDS: 750 YEARS IN SERVICE OF THE GOSPEL

April 23, 2012

5:30pm A beneficial concert will be presented for the special school in Ruzinovske by the children of Saint Augustine's School, Krc, and the school in Ruzinovske
06:30pm The Opening Exhibit: Saint Augustine and the Augustinians in the Czech Lands
07:00pm The Mystique of Iberian Wine.

April 24

6:00pm Conference presented by Dr. William Stanislav Faix, OSA, Ph.D, (English)
750 Years of Augustinians in the Czech Lands

7:00pm Mass commemorating the Conversion of Saint Augustine (AD 387)

April 25

6:00pm Book Presentation by Fr. Jan N. Jiriste, Kostel a klaster sv. Vavřava v Bele pod Bezdezem (The Church and Monastery of St. Wenceslaus in Bele pod Bezdezem)

6:30pm Dr (Cand.) Francis Chambers, OSA, M.A. Saint Augustine and His Friends (Sv. Augustin a pratele) (English)

April 26

12:15pm Mass celebrated in honor of Our Mother of Good Counsel, Patroness of the Augustinians
06:00pm Dr. Vaclav Nemeč, Křesťanská konverze jako uzdravení vůle podle sv. Augustina (Christian Conversion as a healing of the will according to Saint Augustine)

April 27

6:00pm Conference presented by Fr. Antonio F. Rivas Gonzalez, OSA, Sv. Augustin v době krize (Saint Augustine in times of Crisis)

The **15th Annual Marian Pilgrimage** to the Shrine of the Gracious Madonna, at sv. Dobrotiva-Zaječov, will be held on May 19th. We meet in front of St. Joseph's Church on Josefská Street, at 08:30 am, Saturday morning, May 19. If you do not have a ride please contact Fr. Juan Bautista for details. In keeping with our tradition, please bring a lunch, which you can share with another person on pilgrimage. Whatever is left over (if you so will) is given to the poor. There is a brochure, which explains the origins and traditions behind this beautiful 700-year pilgrimage, which has been renewed after forty years of communism.

Announcements and Ongoing

Activities

*Every Saturday at 9:00am feeding of the homeless, as a social service

*We are looking for an **English teacher** for next school year for our School in -Prague 4. If you are interesting, please contact with fr. Juan.juan@augustiniani.cz

*We are organizing a pilgrimage to Poland, Czestochowa, **25.5. - 27.5. 2012. Price 1500.- CZK** For concrete information ask Fr. Juan. Juan@augustiniani.cz or 602684538.

*If you would like to receive a copy of the bulletin by email, please contact osaprag@augustiniani.cz

Parish Council Meeting Announcement, Sunday, April 21th
After Mass. 12:30 pm

All members are cordially invited to attend

Icon workshop at St. Thomas the Apostle, Prague-

Monday July 2 to Saturday July 7, 2012 6 days
9:30 to 4:30 one hour for lunch.

Limited to 10 participants.

Workshop/retreat given by Fr. Richard G. Cannuli, OSA

The workshop/retreat consists of painting an icon of St. Augustine of Hippo, 11 h X 9 w. It will be in the Byzantine Russian tradition using panel, egg tempera and 22 k gold leaf. All supplies and notes will be provided.

The workshop/retreat will give participants time to reflect on the spirituality of the "icon" as it applies to its place in the Church and the symbolism that is used in the process. At the end of the workshop/retreat participants will leave with a finished icon.

The cost for the workshop/retreat is \$420.00 US dollars.

Very important NO ARTISTIC TALENT NECESSARY only a desire is required.

"Late have I loved you, O Beauty ever ancient, ever new, late have I loved you! You were within me, but I was outside, and it was there that I searched for you. In my unloveliness I plunged into the lovely things which you created. You were with me, but I was not with you. Created things kept me from you; yet if they had not been in you they would not have been at all. You called, you shouted, and you broke through my deafness. You flashed, you shone, and you dispelled my blindness. You breathed your fragrance on me; I drew in breath and now I pant for you. I have tasted you, now I hunger and thirst for more. You touched me, and I burned for your peace"

St. Augustine