

Today is the feast of St. Augustine, bishop and doctor of the Church. Born in 354, but not baptized until 387, he lived a dissolute life and travelled from his native north Africa to Rome and eventually to Milan. After his conversion, he returned to northern Africa, eventually becoming bishop of the city of Hippo which is in modern day Algeria. He formulated theologies around original sin and grace. It is from Augustine's teachings that we often hear the summarized idea that we all have a "God-shaped hole" in our hearts, and we seek to fill that hole. Perhaps more eloquent would be a passage from Augustine's *Confessions* where he expresses this idea:

*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.*

As we approach this altar to receive the Sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, let us pray to never miss the presence of God in our daily lives. May we always hunger for the Bread of Life, and realize that with God's grace ... all things are possible.