

Today is the Memorial of St. Augustine of Hippo ... who lived from the mid-fourth century until the first third of the fifth century.

The Catholic Encyclopedia calls him “*most prolific geniuses that humanity has ever known.*” It is said, among scholars that “*He lies who says that he has read all of the works [of Augustine]*” ... and indeed, the most exhaustive edition of his work was composed in the 18th century with “*eleven tomes in eight folio volumes.*”

I think that means 88 volumes.

Without going into too much detail on his writings, I'd like to offer for your reflection two quotes from Augustine.

The first:

*You have made us for yourself, O Lord,
and our hearts are restless until they rest in you.*

This can be described by saying that we all have a “*God-shaped hole*” in ourselves, and we can often spend too much time trying to fill that hole with other things.

The second:

*Late have I loved you,
O Beauty ever ancient and ever new!
Late have I loved you!
And, behold, you were within me,
and I out of myself,
and there I searched for you.*

This quote has two themes. The first, a regret for having taken so long to recognize God's presence; the second that God was always there in Augustine's heart ... but that Augustine spent his time searching outside of himself for God.

I suppose that this might be summarized, with apologies to Waylon Jennings, as “*Lookin' for love in all the wrong places.*”

Nonetheless ...

As we approach this altar to receive the Sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ ... let us pray to recognize that by the virtue of our Baptism, and the power of all the Sacraments ... we have the presence of God within us. And may we, in recognizing this presence of God ... find Him and love Him as He so desires.