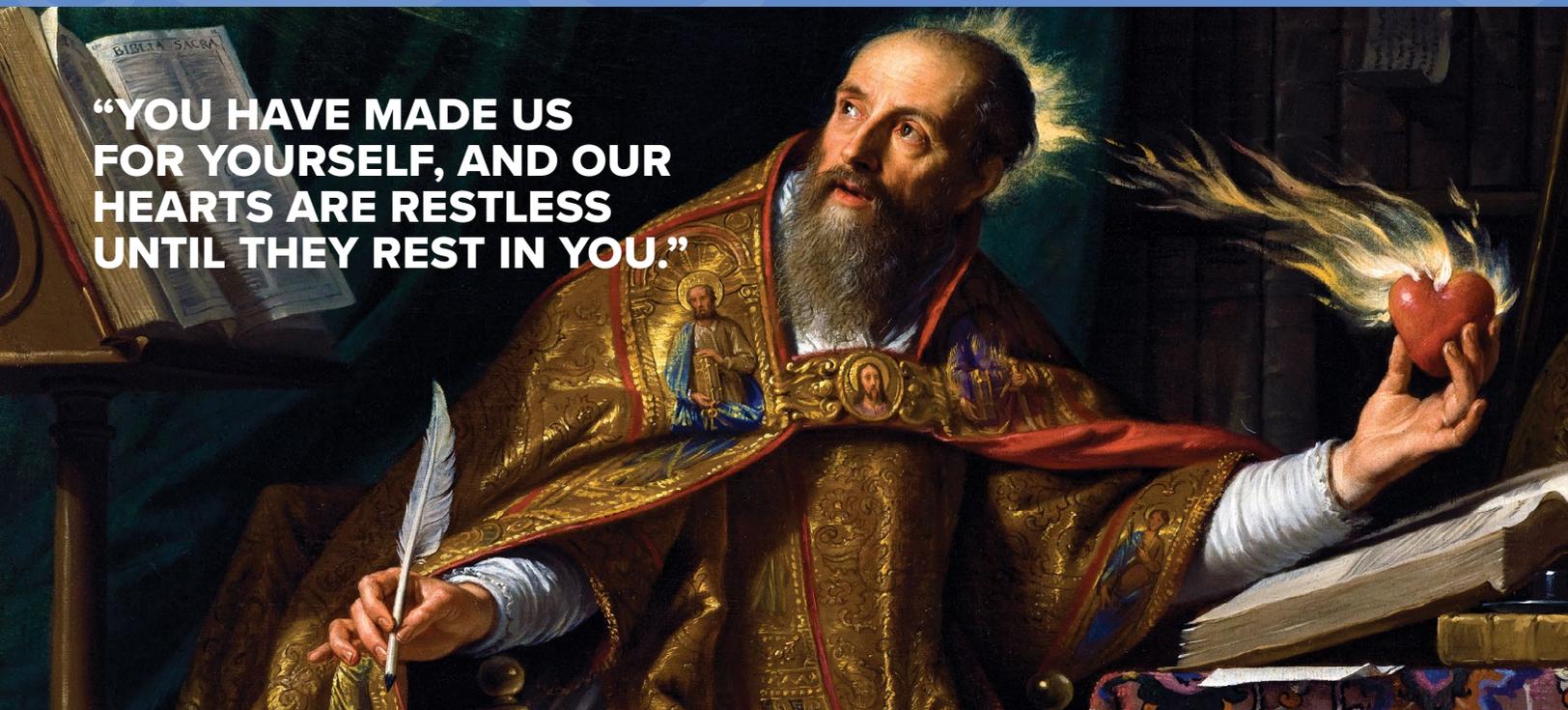


INFORMED

THE FORMED NEWSLETTER FOR PASTORS AND PARISH LEADERS

**“YOU HAVE MADE US
FOR YOURSELF, AND OUR
HEARTS ARE RESTLESS
UNTIL THEY REST IN YOU.”**



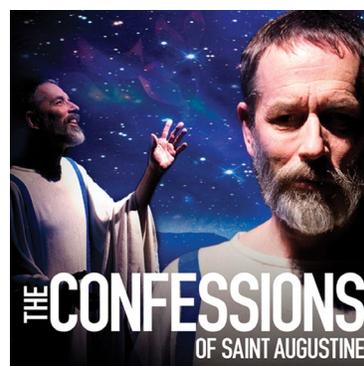
The *Confessions of Saint Augustine* is considered one of the greatest Christian classics of all time. A poetic, passionate, and intimate prayer after his conversion, Augustine wrote this famous autobiography to confess his sins and proclaim God's glory.

As we celebrate the Feast of St. Augustine on August 28, we invite you and your parish to enter into this great spiritual classic with an audio drama from Saint Luke Productions. In *The Confessions of St. Augustine*, renowned actor Leonardo Defilippis places himself in the shoes of this spiritual master, brilliantly bringing to life the passion, poetry, and providence contained in Augustine's spiritual autobiography.

The Confessions of Saint Augustine was the first spiritual autobiography of Christian history and has influenced thought for over 1,500 years. A classic of Western literature, it is as relevant to the present as in the fifth century. Augustine lived in a tumultuous era with much cultural and political instability. Though Christianity was recently legalized in the Roman Empire, cultural elites like Augustine still widely criticized the faith.

Despite this fact—and owing to the prayers of his mother, St. Monica, who begged God for many years to save her son—Augustine converted to Catholicism and soon became a priest and bishop.

Just as Augustine's powerful conversion story captivated its first listeners, it has inspired millions of other people in the following sixteen centuries. His experience of God speaks across time with little need for transpositions, offering readers a perspective on trials not so different from their own.



We invite you and your parish to experience *The Confessions of Saint Augustine* anew with this dramatized audio production, enabling you to draw more deeply from the riches of Augustine's intimate spiritual life.

HIGHLIGHTS ON FORMED

This August, renew your spiritual life with these resources:

Lectio: Mary: The Bible and the Mother of God

Mary: The Bible and the Mother of God reveals the beauty of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Archetype of the Church. Dr. Brant Pitre explores the person of Mary, using both the Old and New Testaments, the life of Christ, and the teachings of the early Church Fathers.



In this eight-part *Lectio* series, Dr. Pitre examines the titles of Mary, such as the New Eve, the New Ark, and the Perpetual Virgin, revealing their roots both in Scripture and the writings of the Church Fathers. Dr. Pitre leads viewers on an engaging journey to develop a deeper knowledge of Our Lady, which in turn illuminates the beauty and the love of Christ.



The Poco a Poco Podcast

Poco a poco—“little by little” in Spanish—we make our way on pilgrimage to the Father’s house. *The Poco a Poco Podcast* is a source of rest, encouragement, refreshment, and renewal for all pilgrims, helping them discern and make the next best step. Join Fr. Innocent, Fr. Angelus, and Fr. Mark-Mary, members of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, for a collection of 10 podcasts that offer “Practical Spirituality”. In each episode, the friars break open the Gospel using their years of prayer, communal life, and work with the poor.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

To enrich your parishioners’ knowledge of and devotion to prominent saints who have August feast days, check out these resources on FORMED:

August 9: St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein)

Edith Stein: The Seventh Chamber is a moving, artistic portrayal of the life of St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross—Jewish philosopher, Catholic convert, Carmelite sister, and Auschwitz martyr. This film beautifully captures Edith Stein’s interior struggles and the great conflicts from her decision to convert to Catholicism.



August 15 and August 22: Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Memorial of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

A Bible Study on the Glorious Mysteries explores the scriptural basis for these beautiful mysteries of the faith. Join Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp as well as professors from the Augustine Institute as they explain the Glorious Mysteries, using both the Old and New Testaments. Tune in to Episodes 4 and 5 to enrich your meditation of the Rosary in time for the great Marian feasts of the Assumption and the Queenship of Our Lady.

August 28: Saint Augustine

Restless Heart: The Confessions of St. Augustine tells the story of one of the Church’s most beloved and well-known saints. Augustine, a gifted man who pursues fame and fortune without a moral compass, experiences dramatic changes in his soul when challenging events lead him to see the light of truth. Its message of sin, conversion, and redemption is as timely today as it was in Augustine’s time.



CONTENT SPOTLIGHT

St. Augustine of Hippo's tumultuous journey to Catholicism strikes a chord with people today as much as in his own era.

Many modern-day Catholics can relate to various aspects of Augustine's life, including a mixed-religion family and coming to the faith after a turbulent youth.

Augustine spent years with one foot in the Church and the other wedged in a life of earthly honor and pleasure until his dramatic conversion at age 32. He chronicles his intellectual and emotional journey to Catholicism in his famous autobiography: *The Confessions of Saint Augustine*.

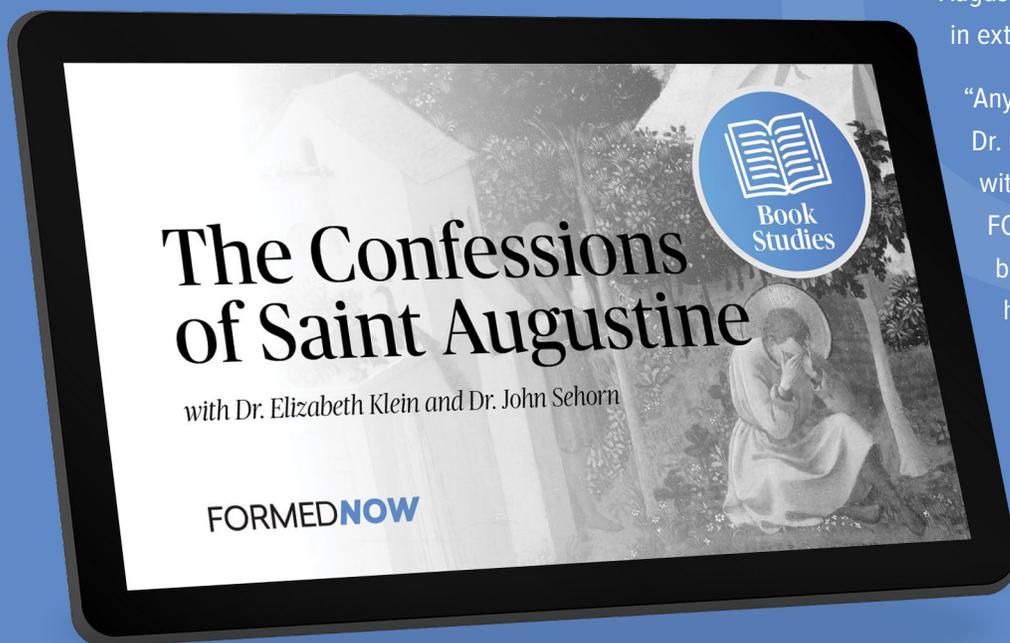


Dr. Elizabeth Klein

Many Catholics recognize this work as a classic, but fewer feel equipped to dive in and gain its full benefit on their own. Dr. Elizabeth Klein and Dr. John Sehorn teach viewers how to approach *The Confessions of Saint Augustine* in this six-part FORMED Now book study series. Each segment guides participants through the dominant themes of the text.

A modern reader might expect an author to set the stage with the story's time period or describe the characters involved, but Augustine takes a different route. "It's not your typical autobiography," Dr. Klein explained. Instead, Augustine addresses God throughout the text in extended, profound prayer.

"Anyone can read and benefit from it," Dr. Klein said. She recommends meeting with other parishioners to watch the FORMED Now videos and discuss the book. "Augustine's journey to the faith has always been relatable for people."



DEVOTIONAL CONTENT



August is a season of transition for many families: the end of summer, the beginning of another school year. During this time, invite your parishioners to set aside two minutes per day for nine consecutive days to pray **The Novena of Surrender to Jesus**. Presented by Fr. Charbel Grbavac, O. Praem, this novena is produced by the Abbot's Circle and the Norbertine Fathers of St. Michael's Abbey. It reminds us of our need to trust in the love and grace of our Lord: "O Jesus, I surrender myself to You, take care of everything!"



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An offering from the  AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE and  ignatius press



FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR

Dr. Ben Akers

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We celebrate many saints in August, including our patron St. Augustine, whose conversion story is as relevant today as ever. To celebrate St. Augustine's feast on August 28, invite your parishioners to watch *Restless Heart: The Confessions of St. Augustine*—a movie about his life—or begin a six-part book study on *The Confessions* led by Augustine Institute professors Dr. Elizabeth Klein and Dr. John Sehorn. On August 15 and 22, we celebrate two great Marian feasts: the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Memorial of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Foster devotion to our holy Mother in your parish through *Lectio: Mary*, a study examining her identity through Scripture, and the series *A Bible Study on the Glorious Mysteries* with professors of the Augustine Institute, Taylor Kemp, and me. Another upcoming feast day is St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross on August 9. We recommend you watch *Edith Stein: The Seventh Chamber* to learn more about her life and martyrdom. August is a season of transition for many families—encourage your parishioners to pray *The Novena of Surrender* to Jesus to promote trusting the Lord in all things. Alongside this prayer, *The Poco a Poco Podcast* is an excellent resource for rest and renewal as it accompanies your parishioners in their next best step. As always, the FORMED team is praying for you. May these resources aid your parishioners in growing closer to the Lord!