



JOURNEYS

URSULINE SISTERS

of the Roman Union † United States Provinces

August, 2016

Dear Friends,

St. Augustine, whose feast is this month, expressed his search for God like this: *“You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they can find rest in you.”* If we’re honest, we know we all yearn for something beyond ourselves. Our quest for God takes many turns and detours. It’s a lifetime journey that makes all the difference in how we choose to live and how happy we will be.

Is it really possible to hear the voice of God and know God personally? We’re tempted to be engulfed by the noise and self-absorption of our culture and let plans for “success” become the goal of our lives. What’s more important is to learn to be quiet and listen for the gentle voice of God. When we pray to recognize God in daily life, we discover God’s directing presence and the profound peace it offers.

Though Augustine lived centuries ago, his life reads like a novel of today. African by birth, he turned from his Catholic upbringing and had an affair with a woman who bore their child. Later, he heard a voice telling him, “take up and read.” Assuming this meant the bible, he read from St. Paul, “put on the Lord Jesus Christ,” and was led to conversion. Monica, his mother, had prayed for this for years. *“Too late have I loved you, O Beauty ever ancient and ever new! Too late have I loved you, and behold, you were with me all the time,”* Augustine prayed with an enlightened heart.

May you discover God’s presence with you every day!

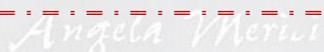
Sincerely,



Sr. Elisa Ryan

For Reflection

- When do you feel restless? What causes this?
- When do you experience a sense of God’s peace? Why?
- What choices might help you let go of restlessness and live more fully in God’s peaceful presence?



Angela Merici

Scripture Helps

Read **Psalm 46**. Listen to God say personally to you, *“Be still and know that I am God.”* Try to be very still and hear with your heart. How do you know God is? What kind of relationship do you desire with God? What do you want to say to God?



Ponder the words of **Jeremiah 29:11-14**: *“I know well the plans I have in mind for you, plans for your peace and not disaster, to give you a future of hope. When you call me, and come and pray to me, I will listen to you. When you look for me, you will find me.”* Spend some moments of prayer asking Jesus to help you in your search for God. What *“plans for your peace”* does he share with you?

Other Resources

Watch this short video, [When Love Sees You](#), to see Jesus as the presence of God among us. What is the story you might share with him about yourself?

Here's a [7 minute meditation](#) on wisdom Augustine shares in his personal *Confessions*. You'll find it genuine, prayerful, and touching into your own soul.

[18 Special Moments in Daily Life to Discover God's Presence](#) offers down to earth ideas for this discovery.

Click here for a quick and enjoyable story of [St. Augustine](#). His feast is August 28.

*Late have I loved you, Beauty so ancient and so new,
late have I loved you!
You called, shouted, broke through my deafness;
You flared, blazed, banished my blindness;
You lavished your fragrance, I gasped; and now I pant for you;
I tasted you, and now I hunger and thirst;
You touched me, and I burned for your peace.*

--Confessions of St. Augustine

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