

Homily 22nd Sunday Year A 2020

Having celebrated the feast of St Augustine of Hippo on Friday, the patron of the Assumptionists and whose rule we follow – the Rule of Love - let us be inspired by him just as Jeremiah was inspired to become a Prophet of God and whose heart yearned to make God known. In many ways Jeremiah was a forerunner of St Augustine. In handing over his life to God, completely trusting in God, Augustine did not consider himself taking up a cross. For him, it was an act of love and thanksgiving. We can still learn much from St Augustine today. He reminds us that **God is love! And continues...**

*So what does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what love looks like! **Resentment** is like drinking poison and waiting for the other person to die. **People** go abroad to wonder at the heights of mountains, at the huge waves of the sea, at the long courses of the rivers, at the vast compass of the ocean, at the circular motions of the stars, and they pass by themselves without wondering. **Don't** hold yourselves cheap, seeing that the creator of all things and of you, estimates your value so high, so dear, that he pours out for you every day the most precious blood of his only-begotten Son. **What, then, are You, O my God - what, I ask, but the Lord God? For who is Lord but the Lord? or who is God save our God (Ps. 17:32)? Most high, most excellent, most powerful, most omnipotent; most piteous and most just; most hidden and most near; most beautiful and most strong, stable, yet contained by none; unchangeable, yet changing all things; never new, never old; making all things new, yet bringing old age upon the proud without their knowing it (Job 9:5); always working, yet ever at rest; gathering, yet needing nothing; sustaining, pervading, and protecting; creating, nourishing, and developing; seeking, and yet possessing all things. You love, yet do not burn; are jealous, yet free from care; You repent, yet do not suffer; are angry, yet serene; You change Your ways, leaving Your plans unchanged; You recover what You find, without ever having lost it; You are never in want, while You rejoice in gain; never covetous, though requiring interest.' That You may owe, more than enough is given to You; yet who has anything that is not Yours? You pay debts while owing nothing; and when You forgive debts, You lose nothing. Yet, O my God, my life, my holy joy, what is this that I have said? And what does anyone say when He speaks of You? Yet woe to those who keep silent, seeing that even they who say most are like the dumb."***

Collections

A rabbi, a priest, and a minister were discussing how they divide up their collections between themselves and God. The minister said, "*I draw a line in the sand, throw the money up in the air, and what lands on the left side of the line goes to the good Lord and what lands on the right side goes to me.*" Then the priest said, "*I draw a circle on the ground, throw the money up in the air, and what lands inside the circle goes to the good Lord and what lands outside goes to me.*" Then the rabbi said, "*You've got it*

all wrong! I throw the money up in the air and what the good Lord catches is his and what lands on the ground is mine."