

Reflection Thursday Week 21 – St Monica 2020

Monica was born at Thagaste in Africa of a Christian family in 331. She was married young, and among her children was Augustine. He had a brilliant intellect and forthright character and his wayward spiritual journey saw him at one time a Manichee and then a Neoplatonist. With many tears she prayed unceasingly to God for his conversion and her prayers were answered shortly before she died in 387. She had a deep faith and outstanding virtue and is a great example of a Christian mother. The story of Jesus healing the dead son of the widow of Naim must have been constantly on Monica's mind. She prayed for 30 years that her son, who was dead to the Lord, would come back to God. Her prayers were answered and her persistence bore fruit. Not only did her son, Augustine, become a great leader and theologian of the early Church, he helped shape the progress of the Church for the next 700 years. She is model for all mothers, who love their children, never to give up on them, however far they may stray from the truth. Despite being a Christian, Monica's parents gave her away to a pagan named Patritius. Both he and his mother were pagans and had violent tempers. St. Monica endured this with patience and kindness, and her example eventually led to their conversions to Christianity. After Augustine's conversion, she said to him, just a few days before she came down with a fever that caused her death: *"My son, speaking of myself, nothing earthly delights me any longer. I do not know why I am still here or why I should remain here. I have no further earthly desires."* In his book, "Confessions," Augustine wrote about his reaction to his mother's death: *"If anyone thinks it wrong that I wept for my mother for the best part of an hour – a mother who for many years had wept for me that I might live to you, O Lord – let him not deride me. But if his charity is great, let him weep also for my sins before you."*

Daughter: Mum, what's it like to have the greatest daughter in the world?

Mum: I don't know dear, you'd have to ask Grandma.

What's the difference between Superman and Mothers?

Superman's just a superhero now and then. **Mums are superheroes all the time!!!**