

Jesus calls the first disciples



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The Children's Word

"Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them, for to such is the Kingdom of Heaven." Mark 10:14

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Following Christ

Do you have a brother or a sister or maybe a cousin? What do you do with him or her? You probably play together, eat together, read together, talk together, work on things together, and more! But what's the most important thing you do together?



In today's Gospel reading, we hear about two brothers who were working together. Peter and Andrew were fishermen, and they were helping each other throw a fishing net into the sea. Jesus came to these two brothers and said, "Follow me," and they did follow Him. They left everything and followed the Lord!

The apostles Peter and Andrew had probably done a lot of things together in their lives. They probably played together too. They talked together, ate together, lived together, and more. But what was the most important thing these two brothers did together? They followed our Lord, Jesus Christ!

When you are together with your family, you do lots of things, but the most important thing you do together is to follow Christ. Always remember that you and your brothers or sisters or cousins can help each other grow close to Christ together—just like Saints Peter and Andrew did in today's Gospel!

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- Apostles
- Augustine
- Fasting
- Fishing
- Follow
- Gospel
- Ministry
- Monica
- Mother
- Persistence
- Prayer

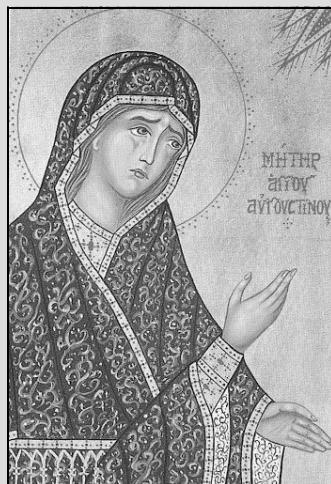
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WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

Sometimes praying is hard!

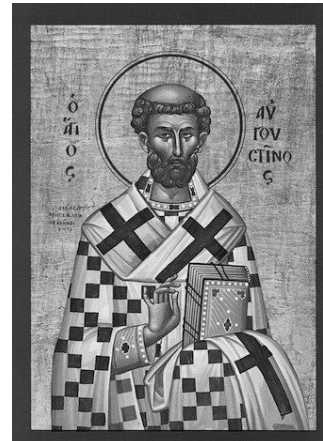
Saint Monica prayed so much for her son, Augustine, and she worried that he wouldn't turn from his sins.

Do you see Saint Monica's face? How do you think she felt, as she prayed to God?



A MOTHER'S PRAYER

SAINT MONICA AND SAINT AUGUSTINE



Do your parents ask you a lot of questions? Maybe they ask you how you did on a test, or if you brushed your teeth, or who you sat with at lunch, or what you played at a friend's house. Why do they ask so many questions? Probably because they love you, and they want you to do the right thing!

This week we celebrate a saint (Monica) who sure loved her son (Augustine) too. Saint Augustine was brilliantly smart. We can still read his writings, and we will grow closer to our Lord if we really pay attention to them. But Saint Augustine was not always close to God. His mother was a strong Christian, and she had one goal: to help her children be strong Christians too. Her son Augustine started off on the right foot, but sadly, he made some bad choices in his life. He went down the wrong path, doing some really awful things. Even more, he didn't believe what we believe as Christians, and he had some strange ideas in his faith.

Monica, his mother, prayed for many, many years. She never gave up on her son. She prayed to God that he would turn back to our one, true God with his beliefs and with his actions. Finally, she knew that God had heard her prayer. But it took many more years before Augustine turned back on the right path.

Sometimes the prayers of mothers and fathers are the strongest ones! God heard Saint Monica, and today we can learn from her and from her son, Augustine, who is now a saint of our Church!

We remember these saints tomorrow, June 15th (OC: June 28th).