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Religion / Church Fathers Essay

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St. Augustine of Hippo

Saint Augustine was born on November 13, 354 in Thagaste, Numidia, a very cultural city located in North Africa. His mother, St. Monica, an ardent Catholic, tried to bring Augustine up in the Catholic faith. Although his mother was an ardent Catholic, his father was a rich pagan who did not care for religion. Because of this, Augustine was never baptized as a child. As a young adult and adult, he fell into grave sins although he was very intelligent. He was tempted and committed sins of impurity and pride, clouding his judgment, leading him to believe many falsehoods.

Augustine eventually became aware that Christianity was the one true religion although he still was not baptized, "because he thought he could never live a pure life." [1] He eventually read some stories of saints who were not of worldly intelligence although and they had entered heaven. Augustine realized his sins, and was ashamed of himself. He then heard a child singing, "Take up and read!" He took that message to heart feeling that it was a message from God meant for him. So, he began to read the letters of Saint Paul. The first sentence he saw in Paul's letters said, "to put away all impurity and to live in imitation of Jesus." [1] After reading that, he was baptized, and Augustine left his life of sin and made a firm amendment to serve God.

He eventually was ordained a priest, and later became the bishop of Hippo Regius. He defended the Catholic church in many ways by crushing several heresies of the time such as

Manichaeism. He wrote a very intelligible autobiography called *The Confessions*. Augustine also tough on many aspects of life such as Christian Anthropology. He died in November in 430, at the age of seventy-five. He was canonized by popular acclamation. For his great works and dedication of the rest of his life to the protection and defense of the church, he was declared a preeminent Doctor of the Church as well as the patron saint of brewers, printers, theologians, sore eyes, and several more.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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2) https://fourthfruit.com/publicfiles/SaintAugustine_of_Hippo.pdf