

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time – A

- Before St. Augustine was St. Augustine he was just Gus
He was recognized as a brilliant philosopher BUT he was NOT a Christian

He was totally caught up in what the world had to offer
Successful, rowdy friends, a mistress – eat drink and be merry

BUT – a nagging sense that *Christianity offered something more*
AND – he had a mother who knew Christianity offered something more
St. Monica prayed and prayed and prayed for her Son

In “Confessions” St. Augustine tells the story – He was in a Garden, thinking about the parties, the drinking, the women – and the conflict of that life with Christianity

- He hears a voice “Take and read”, again “Take and read”
- ROM 12 – same message, don’t be conformed to this age - Put on Christ
And he made the commitment

We can **conform** to this age – or be **transformed with Christ**

We can chase the world’s goals, OR GOD’s - It’s up to you.

This is what Peter learned in today’s Gospel

He had just proclaimed Jesus as the Christ
Jesus re-named him Peter & said, ‘Upon this rock I will build my Church’
But tho Peter knew JC was the Christ – he wasn’t ready to accept the CROSS
The world sees the cross as folly – to die – willingly – for sinners! That’s nuts!
But Jesus says, ‘Get behind me satan’

Anything tempting JC to another path was not of God
All of JC’s life was oriented towards getting to the Cross
To offer Himself to atone for OUR sin

Like Augustine – there is a choice – the world’s goals or God’s
It’s not an easy choice.

But it’s a choice we each have to make