

## Saint Monica

**O** THOU MODEL of mothers! Christendom honors thee as one of the most perfect types of human nature regenerated by Christ. Previous to the Gospel, during those long ages when woman was kept in a state of abjection, a mother's influence on her children was feeble and insignificant; her duties were generally limited to looking after their bodily well-being; and if some mothers of those times have handed their names down to posterity, it is only because they taught their sons to covet and win the passing glory of this world. But we have no instance in pagan times of a mother training her son to virtue, following him from city to city that she might help him in the struggle with error and the passions, and encourage him to rise after a fall; we do not meet with one who devoted herself to continual prayer and tears, with a view to obtain her son's return to truth and virtue. Christianity alone has revealed a mother's mission and power.

What a forgetfulness of thyself, O Monica, in thine incessant endeavor to secure Augustine's salvation! After God, thou livest for him, and to live for thy son in such a way as this, is it not living for God, who deigns to use *thee* as the instrument of His grace? What carest thou for Augustine's glory and success in this world when thou thinkest of the eternal dangers and of the eternal separation from God and thee to which he is exposed. There is no

sacrifice which thy maternal heart is not ready to make in order to satisfy the divine justice: it has its rights and thou art too generous not to satisfy them. Thou waitest patiently, day and night, for God's good time to come. The delay only makes thy prayer more earnest. Hoping against all hope, thou at length feelest within thy heart the humble but firm conviction that the object of all these tears can never be lost. Moved with mercy towards thee, as He was towards the sorrowing mother of Naim, He speaks with that voice which nothing can withstand: "*Young man! I say to thee, arise!*" and He gives him to his mother [Lk. 7:14, 15]. He gives thee the dear one whose death thou hadst so bitterly bewailed, but from whom thou couldst not tear thyself.

From the eternal home where thou art now happy with this son who owes to thee his life both of earth and heaven, cast a loving look, O Monica, on the many Christian mothers who are now fulfilling on earth the hard but noble mission which was once thine. Their children are also dead with the death of sin; and they would restore them to true life by the power of their maternal love. After the Mother of Jesus, it is to thee that they turn, O Monica, whose prayers and tears were once so efficacious and so fruitful. Take their cause in hand; thy tender and devoted heart cannot fail to compassionate them in the anguish which was once thine own.

*Commentary from The Liturgical Year by Dom Prosper Guéranger, O.S.B. (1805-1875).*



## Proper Prayers of the Mass in the Extraordinary Form

ADDENDUM:

MAY 4

### Commemoration of St. Monica, Widow

#### Second Collect

O GOD, Comforter of the sorrowful and salvation of them that hope in Thee, who didst mercifully receive the devoted tears of blessed Monica for the conversion of her son Augustine: enable us through their joint intercession to bewail our sins and to find merciful grace from Thee. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son ...

#### Second Secret

MAY THIS sacrifice of Thy dedicated people be accepted by Thee, O Lord, in honor of Thy Saints: to whose merits we attribute the help afforded us in tribulation. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who liveth and reigneth ...

#### Second Postcommunion

THOU HAST filled Thy household, O Lord, with holy gifts: do Thou cherish us always, through the intercession of her whose festival we are keeping. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son ...

DEUS, mœrèntium consol-  
átor et in te sperántium  
salus, qui beátæ Mónica  
pias lácrymas in conversióne  
fílii sui Augustini miseri-  
córditer suscepísti: da nobis  
utriúsque intervèntu, peccá-  
ta nostra deploráre, et grátia  
tuæ indulgéntiam inveníre.  
Per Dóminum nostrum ...

ACCÉPTA tibi sit, Dómine,  
sacrátæ plebis oblátio pro  
tuórum honóre Sanctórum:  
quorum se méritis, de tribu-  
latióne percepisse cognóscit  
auxílium. Per Dóminum  
nostrum Jesum Christum ...

SATIÁSTI, Dómine, famíliam  
tuam munéribus sacris: ejus,  
quæsumus, semper interven-  
tíone nos réfove, cujus  
solémnia celebrámus. Per  
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