

All My Hope Lies in Your Great Mercy

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

How many people spend their lives searching for happiness, peace, and fulfillment, only to discover that what they seek cannot be found in the things of this world? Saint Augustine knew this struggle well. After years of seeking meaning in success, pleasure, and worldly pursuits, he finally discovered that the God he longed for had never been far away.

In his *Confessions*, Saint Augustine prays: “Late have I loved you, O Beauty ever ancient, ever new, late have I loved you!” These words express both sorrow and gratitude—sorrow for the years spent far from God, and gratitude for the mercy that never abandoned him.

Augustine’s experience echoes the words of the Lord spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: “You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart” (Jeremiah 29:13). God is always nearby. He patiently waits for us to turn toward Him. Even when we become distracted by the worries and demands of daily life, He continues to call us by name.

Like Augustine, we often search outside ourselves for lasting happiness. We place our trust in possessions, accomplishments, comfort, or recognition. Yet none of these can satisfy the deepest longing of the human heart. Only God can fill the emptiness that remains when everything else passes away.

Saint Augustine also teaches us that the Christian life is a journey of continual conversion. Even after his return to God, he still struggled with weakness and temptation. Yet he did not hide his wounds from the Lord. Instead, he entrusted them to God’s mercy, praying: “You are my physician, I your patient.” What a beautiful reminder that God’s mercy is always greater than our failures.

The Lord invites each of us to encounter that mercy through prayer, the Holy Eucharist, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Whenever we come to Him with humble hearts, He renews us with His grace and strengthens us for the journey ahead.

As we continue our pilgrimage through life, let us remember that our true home is not found in earthly success or comfort, but in communion with God. In moments of joy and in times of trial, may we place our confidence in the One who never abandons His children.

This week, I invite you to spend a few moments each day in silent prayer. Ask the Lord to reveal His presence more deeply in your life and to draw you closer to Him. May we all come to echo the words of Saint Augustine: “All my hope lies in your great mercy.”

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May He let His face shine upon you and grant you His peace.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Father Vilaire Philius
Pastor