



**ALL SAINTS OF THE ORDER
AND VOCATION DAY OF THE ORDER
(13 NOVEMBER 2021)**

**A MOMENT OF PRAYER
THEME: LOVE AND (SOCIAL) FRIENDSHIP**

1. Song

2. Sign of the Cross

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
R/. Amen

3. Introduction

With our theme today, Love and Friendship, our reading expounds Jesus' commandment on the love of God and neighbor. Friendship implies intimate relationship, because Jesus' friends are those who benefit from His love.

The experience of our Holy Father Saint Augustine shows a variety of friendships ranging from those very close, to those less emotionally involved. He Christianized the classical understanding friendship, showing that friendship is a gift and special grace of God, faithfully kept only when lived in Christ.

On this day of prayer, we hope and pray that we may deepen the spirit of Saint Augustine's love and friendship by bearing one another's burden, for there is no greater consolation than the loyalty and mutual affection of good and true friends.

4. Psalmody

Antiphon: *Let us live together in harmony and love, and honor God in each other, because you have become God's temple.*

Sirach 6:5-8, 14-17

Choir 1: Pleasant speech multiplies friends
And a gracious tongue multiplies courtesies
Let those who are friends with you be many
But let your adversaries be one in a thousand.

Choir 2: When you gain friends, gain them through testing
And do not trust them hastily
For there are friends who are such when it suits them
But they will not stand by you in time of trouble.

Choir 1: Faithful friends are a sturdy shelter
Whoever finds one has found a treasure
Faithful friends are beyond price
No amount can balance their worth.

Choir 2: Faithful friends are life-saving medicine
And those who fear the Lord will find them
Those who fear the Lord direct their friendship aright
For as they are, so are their neighbors also.

Glory . . .

Antiphon: *Let us live together in harmony and love, and honor God in each other, because you have become God's temple.*

5. First Reading

John 15: 12-17

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

(Silent Reflection)

6. Second Reading (choose from either of the following texts)

a. *Ratio Institutionis*, (Order of Saint Augustine), 48

Realistically speaking, we may consider friendship as an ideal. But we should not forget that friendship is only one form of love, and most of our relationships take place on a different level, with each of them having a value of its own. It would be quite an achievement if every Augustinian community possessed a loving and inviting atmosphere and put into practice what Augustine sees as the heart of all: the desire for the well-being of the other (*amor benevolentiae*). This love for one another can take shape in many different ways: *Talk and laugh together, exchange small acts of kindness, join in the pleasure that books can give; be serious or happy together; disagree without bitterness, just as one can sometimes disagree with oneself, and with that same disagreement add spice to customary harmony; learn from the other and teach something to others; sadly miss the absent and welcome warmly those returning home* (*Confessions* IV, 8, 13). This takes into account that true friendship is only possible in God.

b. Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti*, 180, 183

Recognizing that all people are our brothers and sisters, and seeking forms of social friendship that includes everyone, is not merely utopian. It demands a decisive commitment to devising effective means to this end. Any effort along these lines becomes a noble exercise of charity. For whereas individuals can help others in need, when they join together in initiating social processes of fraternity and justice for all, they enter the “field of charity at its most vast, namely political love. This entails working for a social and political order whose soul is social charity. Once more, I appeal for a renewed appreciation of politics “a lofty vocation and one of the highest forms of charity, inasmuch as it seeks the common good,”

Social love makes it possible to advance towards a civilization of love, to which all of us can feel called. Charity, with its impulse to universality, is capable of building a new world. No mere sentiment, it is the best means of discovering effective paths of development for everyone. Social love is a force capable of inspiring new ways of approaching the problems of today’s world, of profoundly renewing structures, social organizations and legal systems from within.

(Silent Reflection)

7. Intercessions

There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for a friend. Lord, we return to You in our needs and ask for Your spirit of love in our journey towards strengthening our community of friends, Let our response be:

Hear us, O Lord, our friend.

1. For the Church to be sign of love and unity to the world and to the whole of God’s creation, we pray to the Lord.
2. For world leaders especially our government officials, that they may look after the welfare of their people by fostering equal relationship through friendship with other nations, we pray to the Lord.
3. For all families, that they may mirror the relationship of the Holy Family of Nazareth, by their loving concern, care and assistance to the needs of their family members and their neighbors, we pray to the Lord.
4. For our Augustinian communities and friends of St. Augustine, that we may help uplift the lives of orphans, the street children, the homeless, jobless, the hopeless, and those who experience humiliation in life, we pray to the Lord.
5. For all of us that we may find true friends who will bring us closer to god and to one another. We pray to the Lord.

Loving God, listen to Your people as we accept Your constant offering of friendship. May our trust and acceptance of one another bring about the kingdom of justice, peace, freedom and love. Amen.

8. The Lord’s Prayer

9. Augustinian Prayer for Vocations

Leader: Let us pray to the Lord of the harvest who calls men and women to serve him in love.

All : That they may know their vocation and live it.

Leader: Let us pray.

All : All glory and praise are yours God of Truth and Light of the hearts, for you guide your people to the ways of holiness. Help those who follow the footsteps of our Holy

Father Augustine to seek you through mutual love and worship and to be servants of Your Church as examples that others may follow. Enlighten men and women to see the beauty of community life in the spirit of our Holy Father Augustine and strengthen them in your service so that the work you have begun in the fulness of time may be brought to perfection for the fulness of life. This we ask through Christ our Lord in union with the Holy Spirit. Amen

Leader: Our Mother of Good Counsel.

All: Pray for us.

10. Closing Prayer

Loving God, You made St. Augustine, a shepherd of the whole Church, to witness a friendship, that is only true, when You join it together by the charity poured forth in the heart of friends, by the Holy Spirit. We pray to You, to help us extend this love and friendship to all, especially to those who need a friend to lean on. We ask this through Christ, our friend, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever, and ever. Amen.

11. Blessing

+ The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

+ May Almighty God bless you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

Or:

+ May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

R. Amen.

12. Final Song

Suggested by:
ISA Collaborators of the Asia-Pacific Region

