

Refer to this text frequently and use it to view yourselves as in a mirror.'

'Lovingly observe all that is written here, living not as slaves but as free people in the Love of Christ.'

**Chapter VIII, 'Final Exhortation'**

'Pray and work in a spirit of love, charity and friendship for and with the friars to further Christ's Kingdom, giving thanks for the richness and depth that this brings to our lives.'

**Chapter VII, 'Love in authority and obedience';**

'Avoid conflict, if it occurs, be conciliatory preventing further escalation. Be quick to give and receive forgiveness but forgive even if not forgiven. Always love one another from the heart.'

**Chapter VI 'Love and Conflict'**

'Desire and work for the best for everybody, though remember this includes looking after yourself adequately. Be compassionate to those who are ill and give them all the time and help they need from you. Try and do all you have to do cheerfully!'

**Chapter V 'The Care of Community Goods and Treatment of the Sick'**

'Exercise mutual care over your purity of life: seek inner beauty and purity of heart especially with regards to the opposite sex. Be open and accountable to each other because God looks after you through your brothers and sisters. Be vigilant for each other.'

**Chapter IV 'Safeguarding Chastity and Fraternal Correction'**

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## Meeting Prayers

We light this candle to be a sign of Christ's presence amongst us as we gather in His name. We pray that we may be inspired by His presence and guided by His Spirit as we ponder His word. May our hearts and minds be united in Christ and open to His inspirations as we reach out towards our loving God through Christ our Lord.

Breathe into me, Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy. Move in me, Holy Spirit, that my work too may be holy. Attract my heart, Holy Spirit, that I may love only what is holy. Strengthen me, Holy Spirit, that I may defend all that is holy. Protect me, Holy Spirit, that I may always be holy.

To have been together in the same light has been good  
To have been glad together in the same light has been good  
To have rejoiced together in the same light has been good  
But when we part from one another  
When we part, let us not part from God.

'Remember we are equal but not the same: we should all have what we need but simplicity should be our guide in life. Enjoy what you have but try not to be too attached to this. At meal-times be thankful and encourage conversation around the table, being mindful of God in each other.'

**Chapter III 'Moderation and Self-Denial'**

Persevere faithfully in prayer: think over in your hearts the words that come from your lips. Let the words that come from your lips be alive in your hearts.'

**Chapter II 'Prayer'**

'Live together in one mind and heart on your journey to God through life. God is love and we must love each other. Share everything humbly: your riches and experience, time and talents, for the glory of God. Give from your heart, not just material things, but yourself. Don't seek your advantage alone but try to be of benefit to everyone.'

**Chapter I 'Purpose and Basis of the Common Life'**

At the Friends of Augustine National Meeting held at Boarbank Hall January 2009, we were urged to study The Rule of St Augustine but from a modern Lay view point. Time permitted only the first four chapters of the Rule to be discussed. The Clare Priory continued to study and complete the Rule encompassing thoughts aired at Boarbank and in our following three monthly meetings:

## The Rule of St Augustine

# Friends Of Augustine Clare Priory Group



## Meeting Booklet

Augustine Confessions (IV, 8)

There were joys to be found in their company which still more captivated my mind – the charms of talking and laughing together and kindly giving way to each other's wishes, reading elegantly written books together, sharing jokes and delighting to honour one another, disagreeing occasionally but without rancour, as a person might disagree with themselves, and lending piquancy by that rare disagreement to our much more frequent accord. We would teach and learn from each other, sadly missing any who were absent and bitterly welcoming them when they returned. Such signs of friendship sprang from the hearts of friends who loved and knew their love returned, signs to be read in smiles, words, glances and a thousand gracious gestures. So were sparks kindled and our minds were fused inseparably, out of many becoming one.

## Thoughts from St Augustine:

### Who We Are

The Augustinian Order have been generous and welcoming in encouraging lay people to share in the richness of Augustine's wisdom about the Christian life. They have organised three superb international conferences for the laity in Rome, the first in 1999 again in 2006 and 2012, supporting and guiding the laity to develop both their own understanding of Augustine and also their own way of living according to his example of following our Lord. Augustinian parishes across the world have responded in various ways, many of them forming study and prayer groups.

At a Clare Priory Parish in Council meeting in December '99, Fr. Ben supported us in forming such a group and we chose the name, 'Friends of Augustine'. Our first meeting was March 23rd 2000 and we have been meeting monthly since then growing in friendship and in understanding Augustine.

Our meetings are open to everybody who is interested in St. Augustine; lay or religious, there are no commitments beyond that!

- Study St Augustine in various ways – history, teachings and writings and the basis of his thoughts and life and be inspired by his example of commitment to Christ.
- To learn from Augustine's insights on prayer.
- To pray and reflect upon scripture.
- To grow in friendship and discuss together how Augustine's insights can help us deal with the complexities of family life, work and society in a Christian way.
- We want to assist others who wish to know about Augustine and to stay in contact with the other Augustinian parishes in England and internationally.

Lighting Candle with opening Prayer  
 Introduction - by Leader  
 Guided study  
 Contemplation (~10 mins)  
 Personal Reflection  
 Prayer  
 Any other business  
 Closing Prayer  
 Refreshments

*(for guidance only)*

## Order of Meeting

### Links

#### Websites

Clare Priory	<a href="http://www.clarepriory.org.uk">www.clarepriory.org.uk</a>
OSA - England & Scotland	<a href="http://www.theaugustinians.org">www.theaugustinians.org</a>
Augnet	<a href="http://www.augnet.org">www.augnet.org</a>

#### Contacts

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#### Book List

St Augustine – Confessions (Several editions)

Confessions—St Augustine; A fresh translation	Benignus O'Rourke OSA
Finding Your Hidden Treasure	Benignus O'Rourke OSA
As One Struggling Christian to Another	Theodore E. Tack OSA
Prayers from the Confessions	John E. Rotelle OSA

Augustine for Today on [www.clarepriory.org.uk](http://www.clarepriory.org.uk)