

Some Thoughts for August, 2025

Marge Loenser

Dear Lord thank you for showing us Your Glory through the lovely flowers and trees that are in full bloom this month. I especially love the Crepe Myrtle and the Zinnias whose colors are breathtaking!

August was named for Caesar Augustus in 8 BC. He was the grand nephew of Julius Caesar, known for his conquests and I personally thank him for Caesar salad. Yum!

Our very first celebrant on Aug. 1st, is St. Alphonsus Liguori, born in 1696. He was a bishop, doctor of the church, a poet, artist and lawyer. He suffered greatly with rheumatoid arthritis yet lived to be 91 years of age. He founded the Redemptorists. St. Alphonsus, pray for us.

On Aug. 8th we celebrate St. Dominic, a native of Spain, who envisioned an order that preached for the salvation of souls, and that would become the Dominican Order. He was given the Holy Rosary from the Blessed Mother, Herself. St. Dominic, pray for us.

On Aug. 14 we celebrate St. Maximilian Kolbe who was born in Poland in 1894. He was devoted to our Blessed Mother from an early age. At age 10 Mary appeared to him and offered him two crowns: a red one for martyrdom and a white one for purity. He chose both. In 1941 he was arrested by the Gestapo and imprisoned at Auschwitz; there he offered to take the place of a family man condemned to death. He was locked in a small room where they tried to starve him to death. Apparently he held on quite a while and his keepers becoming impatient, decided to kill him with a lethal injection. He is the patron saint of drug addicts, people with eating disorders, amateur radio operators and the pro-life movement. St. Maximilian, please pray for us.

On the 15th we celebrate the Assumption of the Blessed Mother into heaven. God saw it was so fitting that Jesus' mother not be allowed to decay but to live forever with all the angels and saints in heaven, that he took her home, body and soul. Holy Mother please pray for each one of us and for our country. Bring God's influence back to our schools, government and market places.

To name a couple more of August's saints, we celebrate St. Monica on the 27th, and her son, St. Augustine on the 28th. They lived in the 4th century; St. Monica was a devoted Christian wife and mother. Her son left her side and mingled with pagan philosophers but was constantly in Monica's prayers for conversion. Her prayers were fruitful when he came under the influence of St. Ambrose, bishop of Milan. Augustine, used to living a life of immorality, with great effort, repented and became one of the greatest saints of our church. His theology, his writings will be pertinent and fruitful forever. He is especially known for his book, Confessions. St. Monica is a wonderful example to parents and grandparents who pray for their children who have left the church--never give up. St. Augustine is a wonderful example to those who have lived a life of abandon, that Christ forgives everything when one turns away from sin and turns toward God. St. Monica and St. Augustine, please pray for us.

Well, I'll say so long for now and may God grant us grace and blessings each day of August, and always!

Love,  
Marge



Marge Loenser is a member of Saint Mark's Church in Sea Girt where she is a Lector and a Eucharistic Minister. She has retired from teaching CCD at Saint Mark's. She has been a member of Catholic Women of Zion for about 30 years and is also a member of Mary Queen of Peace Prayer Community for about the same length of time. She writes for a monthly column for Saint Mark's Church Bulletin.