

ST. AUGUSTINE'S

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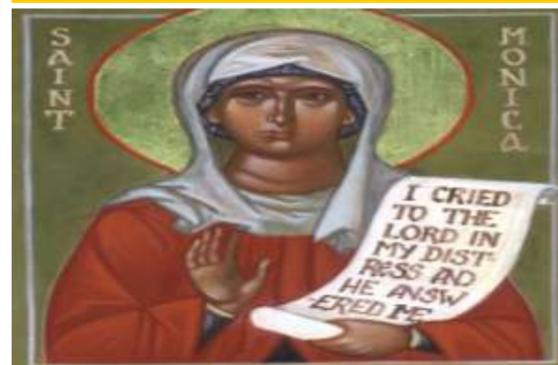
Feasts

St Monica: Saturday August 27th
 St Augustine: Sunday August 28th
 Augustinian Community will
 Concelebrate 11.15 Mass
 on Sunday to mark the Feast

Mother and Son



Lord our God, all the we have
 You have given us.
 Give us peace,
 The peace of tranquillity
 the peace of your Sabbath Rest,
 the peace without sunset.
 For this most beautiful order
 of things so excellent
 will complete its course
 and pass away:
 it will have its sunset
 as it had its dawn.
 But your Sabbath knows no evening
 or no sunset
 because you have sanctified it
 to last forever.
 May we too share
 in your Sabbath Rest
 of unending life.
 S. Aug: Confessions XIII



Who Wins?

There are those now last who will be first and those now first who will be last. (Today's gospel).

Aged 25, Paul J Meyer was the best-paid life insurance salesman in the US. At 27, he was youngest in a special class of salespeople called *The Million Dollar Round Table* and at 32 he founded the *Success Motivation Institute* of Waco, Texas. This latter body grew and grew and Paul's own income ranged from \$5 to 50 million per year for over fifty years. (To be fair, his Foundation gave tens of millions to charities).

The *Success Motivation Institute* was perhaps ten years



old when it's reps tried to sell its *Personal Development and Self-improvement Program* to the Irish province of the Augustinians. We, seminarians, lived in Ballyboden at the time and our Fr Provincial was there too. He asked some of us to meet the reps, listen to their sales pitch and tell him what we thought. The team he picked comprised a Tipperary intellectual, a bright spark from Cork and—he still thought being in better company might bring me on a bit —myself.

The brainy man from Tipp and the sharp Corkman would recall more details than I, but I do remember this: They showed us a filmed recording of the finish of a horse race. It seemed to us it might be a dead heat but they pointed to one horse, saying *he won*. They then asked what we thought was the difference. The intellectual said an inch or less. I said a nose and the Corkman opined millimetres—that was in pre-decimal days but he was a mathematician. Our educators triumphantly announced that we were all wrong, the difference was \$200,000 in prize-money, not counting incalculable future loot from stud fees. At this, the chief rep. of the

Success Motivation Institute of Waco, Texas, thumped the table and said, it is so because one horse had the Slight Edge over the other.

“And that’s what we’re here to offer you, our program would give you the slight edge over your rivals and the slight edge makes all the difference.”

Paraphrasing the man in the gospel we asked *And who is our rival?*

“Whoever you’re competing with, he replied, like the next parish”.

Having no wish to wipe out the newly-



Van Gogh's idea of what gives the Slight Edge was different.

established Ballyroan parish, or indeed old Glencullen on the other side, we reported to the Provincial recommending no deal. He agreed, probably having so decided long before.

The aim of the package being sold by the *Success Motivation Institute* was probably fine in business, and certainly fine in sport. But taking it into general life and, still more, into religion, **would be give problems. It's hard to see how Jesus's “those last who will be first and those now first who will be last” might fit into it.**

When the last race is run the great Stewards Enquiry in the sky may turn up some surprising results. **The population of the winners' enclosure might shock many who had always thought we had the slight edge. Even the bookies may have to pay attention to some erstwhile “losers.”**

Mass Times

Mon—Friday

7.30 am. 8.30 am.
 10.15 am, 4 pm.

Saturday

8.30 & 10.15 am

Sunday

9.00 am, 11.15 am
 7.00 pm

Confessions

Mon & Friday

10.45—12 noon
 3 pm—4 pm.

Saturday

10.45 am, 12.00
 2.30 pm—4 pm

Diocese of Limerick Vacancy for Youth Ministry Coordinator

(3-yr fixed-term fulltime contract)
 The Diocese is recruiting a Youth Ministry Coordinator. Application Pack with Job Description (PDF) and Application Form (Word) are available on www.limerickdiocese.org/news/vacancy-for-youth-ministry-coordinator/. CVs will not be accepted.



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St Augustine's Church

Child Safeguarding Representatives

- Fr Flor O'Callaghan OSA
- Fr John Lyng OSA
- Ms Geraldine van Dam
- Mr Robert Ryan
- Ms Charlotte Gleeson
- Ms Mary Deegan