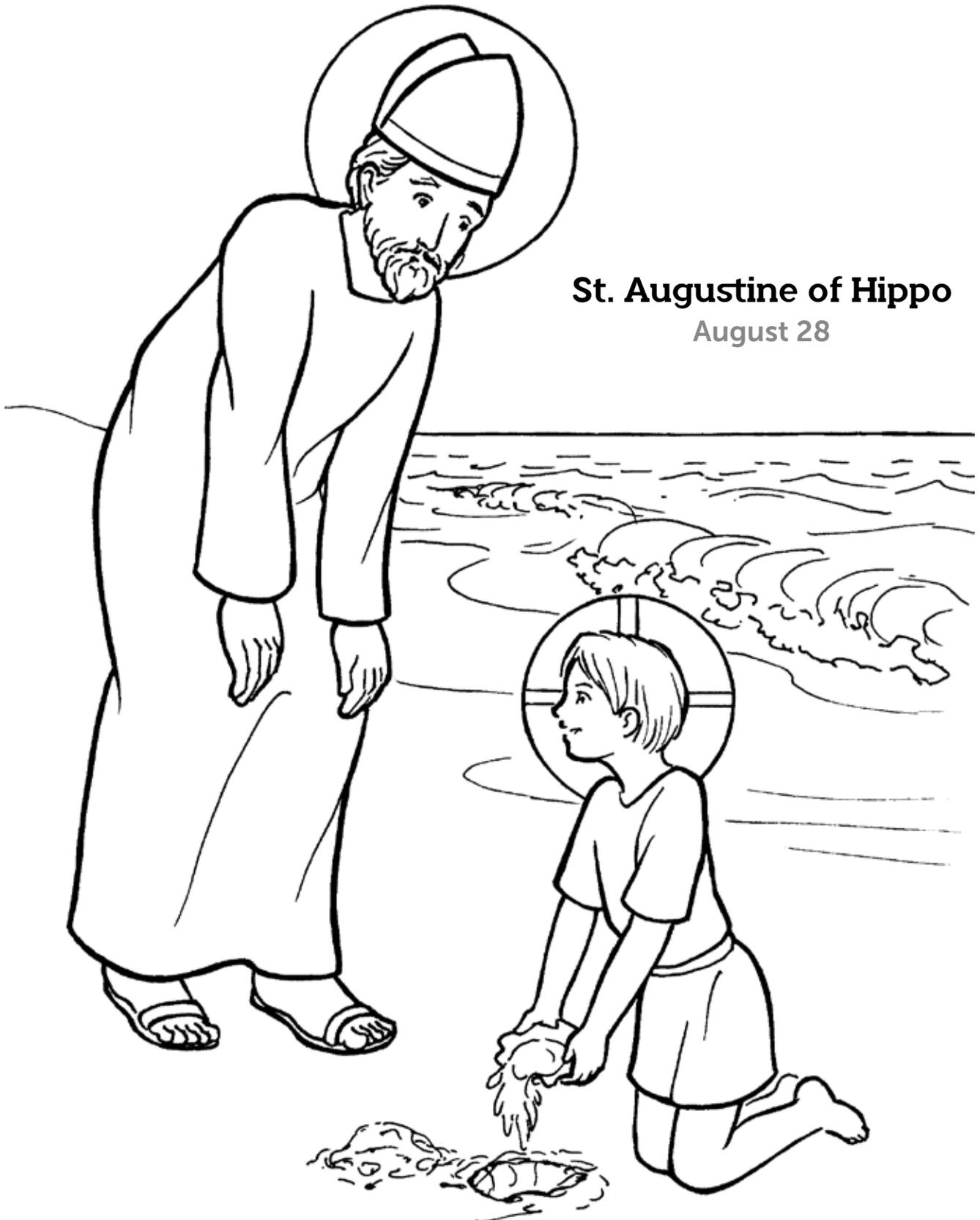


St. Augustine of Hippo
August 28



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St. Augustine of Hippo

354–430 • North Africa

Augustine was a wild and restless youth, and he caused his mother, Monica, much worry. Monica had raised him as a Christian, but Augustine lost his faith and lived a sinful life. He was a brilliant scholar and speaker, and he left his home in North Africa to teach speech-making in Italy. His mother followed him, and through her prayers and the teachings of the holy bishop St. Ambrose, Augustine returned to the Faith and was baptized on Easter.

He and his mother made preparations to return home to Africa. But to his great sorrow, Monica passed away before they could make their journey. Augustine returned to his home, gave his money to the poor, and lived a life of prayer. In prayer, Augustine found peace. He realized that because God had made each and every one of us to love Him more than anything, only in God could our restless hearts find rest.

When the bishop of the city of Hippo died, Augustine (who had already been ordained a priest) was consecrated bishop. He gave eloquent speeches and wrote letters and books in defense of the Faith.

One day, Augustine was walking by the seashore, lost in thought. He was trying to understand the mystery of the Trinity, how there could be three Persons in one God. His thoughts were interrupted when he noticed a child on the shore in front of him doing a curious thing. The child had dug a small hole in the sand and was using a seashell to pour in water from the sea.

Augustine asked the child what he was trying to do.

The child explained that he was trying to pour the entire sea into his hole in the sand.

"Impossible!" Augustine exclaimed. The sea was too great and vast to be poured into a small hole dug in the sand.

"It is easier for me to pour all of the sea into this hole," the child explained, "than for you to understand the Trinity." Then the child disappeared. Now Augustine understood that the child had been sent by God to tell him that the mystery of the Trinity was too great and vast for him to understand.

Augustine served as bishop of Hippo until he died a holy death. St. Augustine, help my heart to rest in God!