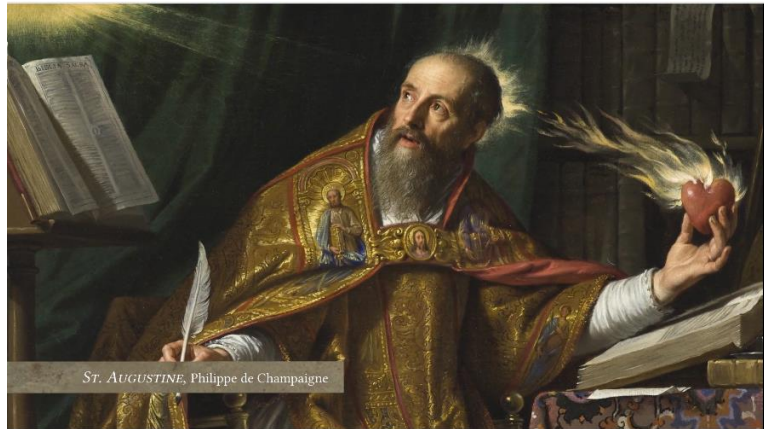


“Converse”



From St. Augustine's *Confessions* [St. Augustine is confessing praise for God and his need for God]

- Book 9: In response to Psalm 116:16–17 (a sacrifice of thanksgiving) –

Let me praise you in my heart; let me praise you with my tongue.

...

Who am I? What kind of man am I? What evil have I done? Or if there is evil that I have not done, what evil is there that I have not spoken of?

...

But you, O Lord, are good. You are merciful. You saw how deep I was sunk in death. And it was your power that drained dry the well of corruption in the depths of my heart. And all that you asked of me was that I deny my own will and accept yours.

...

At last my mind was free from my gnawing anxieties, and ambitions, and desire for gain. And from the wallowing and filth, and from the scratching and itching sore of lust.

...

And then I began to speak freely to you, O Lord, my God, my light, my wealth, and my salvation.

...

O how I cried out to you, my God, when I read the Psalms of David, those hymns of faith, those songs of a pious heart, in which the spirit of pride can find no peace and no place. I was new to your love.

...

How I cried out to you when I read those Psalms! How they set me on fire with love for you! I was burning to echo them to all the world, if only I could, so that they might vanquish man's pride.