



Shrine of Saint Jude Thaddeus

Dominican Friars



Dear Friend of St. Jude:

My grandmother had one son and five daughters. Unfortunately her beloved son (who was her oldest) was killed in World War II (Battle of the Bulge) for which she became a Purple Heart mother. (The Purple Heart was a United States military decoration awarded in the name of the President to those wounded or killed while serving with the U.S. military.) My grandmother's favored treasure was a silk pillow given her by her son. On it was embroidered:

M is for the million things she gave me. **O** means only that she's growing old. **T** is for the tears she shed to save me. **H** is for her heart of purist gold. **E** is for her eyes with love-light shining. **R** means right, and right she'll always be. Put them all together and they spell **MOTHER**, the word that means the world to me. This is the spirit St. Augustine had regarding his own mother, St. Monica.

August 25-27 the Shrine of St. Jude dedicates a three-day Triduum to a great wife and mother, St. Monica. St. Monica's Catholic goodness eventually led to the conversion of her pagan husband, and later on, of her son Augustine. St. Monica had spent years worrying about her heretical, selfish son, Augustine who fled home, fled his girlfriend and child, to pursue a career for himself in a prestigious city of the empire. When St. Monica learned of his whereabouts, she took his girlfriend and son and sought him out. The local Bishop, Saint Ambrose, said to St. Monica, who spent years praying for her son's conversion with many tears, "**The son of so many tears cannot be lost.**" Her tearful prayers finally had their intended effect. Her son converted and became a great Saint.

And so the Shrine of St. Jude, in its concern for cases that seem hopeless, will offer once again this Triduum in honor of St. Monica: wife, mother, grandmother, and Saint.

The Triduum homilies this year will be offered by the pastor of our other St. Dominic's Church, in Benicia, CA, Fr. Carl Schlichte, O.P. If you are not able to attend physically, you can join us spiritually by praying the Triduum and sending us your intentions to be included before the images of St. Jude and St. Monica at the Shrine.

Blessings in St. Jude and St. Monica,



Father Emmerich Vogt, O.P.
Director

