



Book of Saints

“SUPERHEROES OF GOD”

By **REV. LAWRENCE G. LOVASIK, S.V.D.**

Divine Word Missionary

PART 3

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Saint John the Baptist

June 24

JOHN was the son of the priest Zechariah. His mother was Elizabeth, a cousin of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Mary came to spend three months with her to help her before the birth of John. The Angel Gabriel foretold the birth of John during a vision of Zechariah in the Temple, and told him that John would prepare the people for the coming of the Savior.

When John was a young man he lived in the desert for years. At the River Jordan he cried out: “Do penance, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand! I am the voice of one crying in the desert. Make straight the way of the Lord.” Large crowds were baptized by him as a sign of penance and forgiveness of sins.

One day John pointed to Jesus with the words, “Behold the Lamb of God Who takes away the sins of the world!” And when John poured water over the head of Jesus in the Jordan River as a sign of penance, the Holy Spirit appeared in the form of a dove, and the heavenly Father said: “This is My Beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased.” King Herod had John beheaded.



Saint Augustine

August 28

AUGUSTINE was born in North Africa in 354. His father was a pagan who wanted his son to be a man of learning, and cared little about his character. His mother was St. Monica, who urged her son to lead a good life.

Augustine fell into bad company and read bad books. For thirteen years he led a very evil life. But his mother kept praying for his conversion. One day while he was reading the letters of St. Paul, he made up his mind to become a Christian. His mother's prayers were answered. He became a Christian at thirty-three, a priest at thirty-six, a Bishop at forty-one. He preached often and wrote many books during thirty-five years as Bishop of Hippo in North Africa.

Augustine wrote: "Too late have I loved You, O Beauty of ancient days, yet ever new! Our hearts were made for You, O Lord, and they are restless until they rest in You."

St. Augustine died in the year 430. He is honored as a Doctor or Teacher of the Church and a patron of theologians.