



## MODELS OF FAITH

### Saint Monica

Saint Monica was born around the year 333 in Northern Africa in a country now known as Algeria. She is a wonderful example of a holy woman in the early church.

When Saint Monica was young, her family arranged her to marry a man she did not know. This man had a different faith than Monica. He was pagan and worshipped multiple gods. Although Monica's marriage was difficult, she remained faithful to her beliefs. She was so faithful that her husband converted to Christianity before passing away.

Saint Monica had three children. The most well known of her children is Saint Augustine. When Augustine was young, he led a life that was far from the faith and Monica worried about him greatly. Every day for seventeen years she prayed earnestly for the conversion of his heart. Her persistent prayers were answered. Saint Augustine was baptized a Catholic and eventually became a bishop and very important Catholic writer. People read and are inspired by Saint Augustine's writing today.

Saint Monica died in the year 387. She is known as the patron saint of married women and mothers.

## INSTRUCTIONS

To earn this patch, learn about Saint Monica. Complete one activity from each section.

Although you may want to add this page to your Girl Scout or Camp Fire USA journal/scrapbook, you do not need to write out the answers.

If you are working together as a group or troop, have discussions and/or group activities. If you are working individually, include your family. If you are an older girl or boy, learn about Miriam and teach younger children.

Once earned, Girl Scouts may place this patch on the back of the sash or vest.

Once you have learned about Saint Monica, your leader, advisor, or parent may order the patch for you by visiting [www.nfcym.org](http://www.nfcym.org) and clicking the "SHOP" link at the top of the page to access the store.

## Be Creative

- Tell your family about Saint Monica. Find a creative way to tell her story.
- Get your family or a group of friends to start praying for someone who is in need of prayer.

# Learn & Take Action

## For All

Saint Monica is believed to have been born in Souk Ahras, Algeria. Where is it in relation to your home? To Rome?

What strikes you most about Saint Monica and her life?

Saint Monica prayed for her son for 17 years. Imagine praying for someone for 17 years. What would it feel like? Would you continue to keep praying? Why or why not?

## For Older Youth

- Saint Augustine talks about his mother in his book *The Confessions*. Find the book and read some of it. What does he say about his mother?
- Many difficult marriages in the United States have ended in divorce. What does Saint Monica's example tell us about the importance of marriage?
- Learn more about the vocation of marriage as taught by the Catholic Church. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has an entire website dedicated to it.

Saint Monica was very patient and persistent in her prayer. We too can be patient and persistent in our prayers even if it takes a long time. Is there someone in your family who may have wandered from the faith? If so, pray for the conversion of heart for your family member and do not give up. You can ask Saint Monica to pray for patience and persistence for you.

## Why Is It?

Why is it that Saint Monica was so persistent in praying for the conversion of her husband and son to the Catholic faith? What does this tell you about our faith?

**Catholic Identity Patch Program is a project of the  
NCCGSCF & NFCYM**

