



INSTITUTE OF
CATHOLIC
CULTURE

ST. AUGUSTINE'S *CONFESSIONS*

ICC BOOK CLUB

DR. ANTHONY ESOLE

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:

Books 1-5

Why does Augustine NOT begin with the mundane details of his birth, such as who his parents were, what his father did for a living, and so forth?

Why should Augustine give us instead a kind of autobiography of DESIRES?

What do you think about his view of original sin, that we see its effects even in infancy?

What is so significant about the prank with the pear tree? Is it a trivial thing that Augustine is making too much of? What is his point?

Why does Augustine mention the "wanderings of a certain Aeneas"? What does *The Confessions* have to do with *The Aeneid*?

People see signs all the time that portend for them some future, good or bad. How often do these show up in *The Confessions*?

What can we make of the decision to delay baptism—actually, the custom of doing so? More than that it is a bad idea, what KIND of bad idea is it?

What do you make of the element of TIME in the account of Augustine's friend's death?