



PO Box 271227 + Flower Mound, TX + 75027 + 1-800-803-0118 + [www.dritaly.com](http://www.dritaly.com)

## ***Overcoming Temptation In Christ***

by ***St. Augustine of Hippo***  
***Early Church Father and Doctor of the Church***



***Saint Augustine is commonly recognized as the great teacher in the Western Church between the New Testament and St. Thomas Aquinas. Here, in a selection used in the Roman Catholic Office of readings for the First Sunday in Lent (Commentary on the Psalms Ps. 60, 2-3: CCL 39, 766), he comments on the temptation of the Lord Jesus Christ in the wilderness for forty days, and points out that in our pilgrimage on earth, we cannot be exempt from trials since it is by means of trials that we progress in the spiritual life and grow in Holiness. For more resources, devotions, and readings for the 40 days of Lent, visit [the Crossroads Lenten library](#).***

Hear, O God, my petition, listen to my prayer. Who is speaking? An individual, it seems. See if it is an individual: I cried out to you from the ends of the earth while my heart was in anguish. Now it is no longer one person; rather, it is one in the sense that Christ is one, and we are all his members. What single individual can cry from the ends of the earth? The one who cries from the ends of the earth is none other than the Son's inheritance. It was said to him: Ask of me, and I shall give you the nations as your inheritance, and the ends of the earth as your possession. This possession of Christ, this inheritance of Christ, this body of Christ, this one Church of Christ, this unity that we are, cries from the ends of the earth. What does it cry? What I said before: Hear, O God, my petition, listen to my prayer; I cried out to you from the ends of the earth.' That is, I made this cry to you from the ends of the earth; that is, on all sides.

Why did I make this cry? While my heart was in anguish. The speaker shows that he is present among all the nations of the earth in a condition, not of exalted glory but of severe trial.

Our pilgrimage on earth cannot be exempt from trial. We progress by means of

PO Box 271227 + Flower Mound, TX + 75027 + 1-800-803-0118 + [www.dritaly.com](http://www.dritaly.com)

trial. No one knows himself except through trial, or receives a crown except after victory, or strives except against an enemy or temptations.

The one who cries from the ends of the earth is in anguish, but is not left on his own. Christ chose to foreshadow us, who are his body, by means of his body, in which he has died, risen and ascended into heaven, so that the members of his body may hope to follow where their head has gone before.

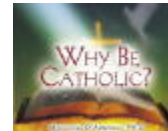
He made us one with him when he chose to be tempted by Satan. We have heard in the gospel how the Lord Jesus Christ was tempted by the devil in the wilderness. Certainly Christ was tempted by the devil. In Christ you were tempted, for Christ received his flesh from your nature, but by his own power gained salvation for you; he suffered death in your nature, but by his own power gained glory for you; therefore, he suffered temptation in your nature, but by his own power gained victory for you.

If in Christ we have been tempted, in him we overcome the devil. Do you think only of Christ's temptations and fail to think of his victory? See yourself as tempted in him, and see yourself as victorious in him. He could have kept the devil from himself; but if he were not tempted he could not teach you how to triumph over temptation.

For more Catholic resources to feed your faith, [visit the Crossroads Initiative Homepage.](#)

For more resources, devotions, and readings for the 40 days of Lent, visit [the Crossroads Lenten library.](#)

To sign up for our free weekly e-mail with Dr. D'Ambrosio's commentary on the Sunday readings, liturgical feasts, updates on where Dr. D will be speaking, a chance to **WIN a FREE CD and MORE**, [CLICK HERE!](#)



### **Making the Most out of Lent - CD**

Lent is not just about giving up junk food – it is about improving your own spiritual nutrition, and sharing the bread of life with a hungry world. In this talk you'll learn about the biblical and historical origins of the season, how we got the idea that Lent is about "giving stuff up," and how we can nourish ourselves spiritually so that we'll be different people when the Easter Alleluias finally sound in our ears this year.

### **Who Needs Confession? - (CD) Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation**

Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio explains why the Sacrament of Reconciliation, otherwise known as Confession, is a liberating gift and not a burden.

