



PRAYERS OF THE SAINTS

LATE HAVE I LOVED YOU

Saint Augustine of Hippo

Confessions, X, 27



LATIN

Sero te amavi, pulchritudo tam antiqua et tam nova, sero te amavi! Et ecce intus eras et ego foris, et ibi te quaerebam, et in ista formosa, quae fecisti, deformis inruebam. Mecum eras, et tecum non eram. Ea me tenebant longe a te, quae si in te non essent, non essent. Vocasti et clamasti et rupisti surditatem meam; coruscasti, splenduisti et fugasti caecitatem meam; fragrasti, et duxi spiritum et anhelo tibi; gustavi, et esurio et sitio; tetigisti me, et exarsi in pacem tuam.

ENGLISH

Late have I loved you, Beauty so ancient and so new, late have I loved you! And see, you were within, and I was outside, and there I looked for you; and, deformed as I was, I rushed headlong into the lovely things you made. You were with me, and I was not with you. Those things held me far from you which, unless they were in you, would not be at all. You called, you cried out, and you broke through my deafness; you flashed, you shone, and you put my blindness to flight; you breathed your fragrance, and I drew breath, and now I pant for you; I tasted you, and now I hunger and thirst; you touched me, and I burned for your peace.

