## St. Monica (f)

- 4<sup>th</sup> Century, present day Algeria
- Married to an Pagan and abusive husband who later converted to Christianity through her help
- Patron Saint of difficult marriages, abusive relationships and the conversion of relatives
- Very often (though not here) pictured with her son, St.
   Augustine, because of the profound effect her faith had on him and his spiritual journey. One might think that this would detract from St. Monica but she was more than happy to sacrifice herself for the spiritual healing of her family.
- She is also often (*like here*) pictured with a book, which I believe is attributed to her for her inspiration of her son in his famous work, *Confessions*.
- A very popular prayer is attributed to her, which praises her for her faith in such adversity and then asks for intentions usually related to an abusive relationship or family member away form the Faith.
- Mother of St. Augustine, who also had a difficult journey to conversion to Christianity
- St. Augustine writes of his mother's faith in his famous book, *Confessions*, and the pages that are considered his best are said to be inspired by her.

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