

Recap of The First Book Session August 20, 2026

We started with a story of how Dan & I have seen the presence of God when Dan's Brother-In-Law passed away. Others shared some of their stories too.

Prayer

We went through The St. Monica Book and Session 1 in the study guide.

1. **Pg 5-8 What did Monica Do?** She loved them through the storms. She didn't walk away from them and their lifestyle.
2. **Pg 9-12 How can we "Cry out to God"?** Pray and ask for guidance. Speak carefully, but truthfully. I read on page 7 about Monica's vision. She was dynamic, quick & insightful in her answer.
3. **Pg 13-16 Do we pray with and impatient heart?** 'Yes, we want it sooner!' Sometimes we feel empty, prayers feel hopeless. Someone commented on Father Beard saying, 'any prayer is better than no prayer.'

I find conviction in my own path is put before me and try to respond to that by changing the error in my own life.

More than one conversion story in our own lives... we change often, listening to God's words, we hear them differently sometimes. And I find emptiness & feelings of being non-present to the Lord when I pray... then something small will happen, like with this group. I was wondering if it was just 'my idea' and should not proceed. I visited with Rita, she felt it was good, but I still was holding back... then she called me that afternoon or the next day and someone had left St. Monica Cards and more information about St. Monica with a note saying 'please use these Prayer Cards as you like!' Coincidence – or Answered Prayer?!!!

4. **Pg 17-18 How will sitting at the feet of Jesus help us?** Slows us down. It's a wonderful place to be. We give it to Him. Let Him do the work. He loves them more than we do. (Don't take it back.) Our hearts belong to God, our spouse & our children. Prayer IS WORK!!

Pg 17: 'Dropping to our knees and praying is active, deliberate work – work we're required to do both as parents who promised at our children's baptisms to bring them up in the Faith and as stewards entrusted with these talents we're supposed to multiply.'

5. **Pg 19-22 How can we love our prodigals? Are we kind or nice?** Include them in all family stuff. Ask advise on menu and ideas for decoration. Each brings something at our house. Always include foods that they can have and favorites for them.

Pg 23-24 Daily Surrender. Begin every day with a daily surrender. (Visualize this in your mind): Do little things with great love; Hold your child in your heart and place your child on the altar as you would gifts; Give him/her back to God at every Mass.

***"St. Monica pleaded with her son, Saint Ambrose and Priests"
Persist in Prayer – Witness Your Love**

***Re-read and underline/highlight what stands out to you.
Journal your thoughts as we go.**