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This is a thematic edition about St. Augustine 354-430 AD, Bishop of Hippo. Bishop Augustine was a Berber African and a productive theological pioneering writer and looked upon as a pioneering leader even today after many centuries.

### **Wilco de Vries, “Editorial”**

With clock-like regularity new books about St. Augustine appear or symposia are organized where you can listen to his opinions about rest, love and the good life. This is a sufficient reason for us as Sophie editors to publish a thematic edition about the Bishop of Hippo. We are going to hold discussions with Jamie Smith, Paul van Geest and yours truly about the actuality of Augustine’s theology and philosophy. Roel Kuiper, Mathijs Lamberigts and Harm Goris read Augustine in the manner by which he himself wanted to be read: critically. In his book *On the Trinity* Augustine asks his reader to embrace all that is true in his writings and to critique him for his errors. Kuiper follows this advice when he writes about Augustine’s political thought and about whether Augustine has created a political philosophy. Lamberigts and Goris follow the same advice in their articles about Augustine’s and Thomas of Aquinas’ opinions about sexuality.

Aaron Ebert takes us one step further back and writes about how Augustine's sense of truth was formed from, among other sources, his flirtation and confrontation with skepticism. In the midst of a world bewitched by falsehood and misleading, Augustine sought live a truthful life. In our period of fake news and deep fake we can still learn much from Augustine, according to Ebert. Augustinians, monks who live according to Augustine's monastic rule, follow him in this ideal of the truthful life. Martijn Schrama is such a monk who writes about the origin of Augustinians and their spirituality. While Schrama reflects about living with Augustine, Hans Alderliesten delves into Augustine's thought about the curse that touches all of us, namely, death.

In this edition about a philosopher-theologian who wrote lyrically about the restless heart, we cannot avoid a moment of silence and meditation. In addition to articles that sharpen our thoughts, you will also find three pages of citations from Augustine about praise, humility and love. We thank Suzan Sierksma-Agteres, one of our co-editors, for this contribution.

If you need to reflect about the time Augustine lived and about the important moments in his life, read artist Jaap Hulst's account of his life in the pull-out poster in the middle of this edition.

Finally, we, the editorial team, are busy thinking about the continuity and future of Sophie. What do you like about this edition? What could be improved? Would you like to see a thematic number on a certain philosopher? Let us know via [sophie@christelijkefilosofie.nl](mailto:sophie@christelijkefilosofie.nl) . After all, fans of Sophie always listen to good advice (Proverbs 12:15).

