

Title: Augustus of Prima Porta

Date: 15 AD

Location: Rome Italy

[http://mv.vatican.va/3\\_EN/pages/z-Patrons/MV\\_Patrons\\_04\\_03.html](http://mv.vatican.va/3_EN/pages/z-Patrons/MV_Patrons_04_03.html)

This statue was commissioned by Augustus's son Tiberius. This statue was found in Augustus's wife's home 20 miles outside of Rome. Tiberius personalized the chest plate to show Augustus's victories in securing the Roman Empire.

“The *Augustus of Prima Porta* is based on the *Doryphorus*, a famous antique statue by Polykleitos portraying the ideal human proportions of an Athenian athlete. The depiction of Augustus portrays him as a victorious general making a speech. He is posed in the traditional *contrapposto* manner: his right leg is placed firmly forward while his left leg is bent and the heel slightly-raised. Augustus' right arm is stretched out in a noble and controlled Roman gesture and is counter-balanced by the slightly-bent left leg. Combined with these idealized features of strength and beauty, there are also personal features of Augustus: a broad cranium, deep-set eyes, sharp ridges in his brow, a well-formed mouth and a small chin. Furthermore, his face depicted in the manner of Apollo was meant to associate Augustus' abilities with those of the powerful god. Thus, Augustus wanted to portray himself as a perfect leader with flawless features, personifying the power and authority of the emperor who had the capacity to stabilize a society and an empire”

