



**SAINT ANTHONY de PADUA**  
**DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH**

**PATRON SAINT OF MISSION SAN ANTONIO de PADUA**

Pastoral Council  
Mission San Antonio de Padua  
Second Quarter, 2023

Saint Anthony, born in 1195 as Fernando Martins, in Lisbon, Portugal, was born into a wealthy family of privilege. At the young age of fifteen, Fernando knew he had a religious calling. He entered the religious order of St. Augustine. There he studied and grew in faith, eventually being ordained into the Priesthood. He was highly influenced by a procession to the monastery wherein the bodies of five Franciscan martyrs were being returned from Morocco, where they had been slain trying to spread Christianity. Fernando felt God calling him to leave the Augustine Abbey of Santa Cruz to join the Franciscan Order. It was when he was admitted to that Order that Fernando changed his name to Anthony. He sought to become a martyr himself.

The Franciscans did send Anthony to Morocco, as he had wished. God, however, did not call Anthony to become a martyr. Instead, Anthony grew very sick and it became necessary for him to return home. Storms and high winds at sea forced his ship to blow off course and to land instead on the east coast of Sicily. He was taken in and nursed by a group of friars at a nearby hermitage of San Paolo, in Tuscany. As it so happened, Francis of Assisi was also there and also sick.

Anthony was filled with joy, as his dream of a life of seclusion and contemplation in a hermitage was coming to fruition. Called upon by the Franciscan Provincial at a gathering for the joint ordination of Dominicans and Franciscans in 1222, Anthony was asked to give

“just something simple” in the way of a short sermon, “*whatever the Holy Spirit leads you to share.*” Though reticent to speak, Anthony began. His fire, passion and knowledge of his faith was very soon apparent to all in attendance. It did not take long for his quiet life of prayer and penance at the hermitage to change to a life of a public speaker. Francis heard of Anthony’s competency and assigned Anthony to preach in northern Italy.

Anthony traveled tirelessly throughout both northern Italy and southern France (perhaps 400 trips). He chose to enter cities where the heretics’ influences were strongest. From the written sermons he left behind, it would appear that Anthony chose to present Christianity in positive grandeur. He chose to appeal to the people by teaching them of the healthiness of real sorrow and conversion, and assuring them of the wonderfulness of reconciliation with their heavenly Father. His positivity and his success with conversions led to Francis ask Anthony to teach his brother Franciscans. Anthony became the first teacher of the Franciscan Order to be given the special approval and blessing of (St.) Francis.

When Pope Gregory IX asked Anthony to speak in Rome in 1228 (during Easter Season), the response was so great that people later spoke of it saying that it seemed the miracle of Pentecost had been repeated.

Anthony continued to preach, often to crowds as large as 30,000 people. The preaching, the ministering to the people, finally exhausted Anthony. On June 13, 1231, at the age of thirty-six, Anthony blessed the city of Padua from a nearby town. He received last sacraments, sang and prayed with the friars and then began to stare intently at something. When one of the friars asked him what he saw, Anthony answered, "I see my Lord!" He died peacefully a short time later.

The traditions of devotion to St. Anthony of Padua began almost immediately upon his death, even before he was canonized by Pope Gregory IX a year later.

One of the first stories of a tradition of devotion to St. Anthony is that of **St. Anthony's bread**.

*The story began in 1263 when a child drowned near the basilica of St. Anthony. The child's mother prayed to St. Anthony to intercede for her child and promised to donate to the poor, the child's weight in grain, so they could make bread, if her child was restored to her. The child was miraculously restored to life and the woman did as she had promised. The tradition of giving alms to the poor, in St. Anthony's name, began. **St. Anthony is the patron saint of the poor.***

St. Anthony – Patron Saint of Lost Souls and eventually, Lost Items. Anthony was a man of the people. He was a man of penance and passionate faith. His genuineness helped people to relate to him and brought thousands of souls back to the church in repentance. After a story of a time when one of Anthony's favorite books of psalms went missing, along with a fellow friar, and Anthony's fervent prayers brought back both, he became to many the **Saint of the Lost**



**St. Anthony is also the Patron Saint of Mail Carriers, Guardian of the Mail.**

Many couples pray Novenas to St. Anthony requesting **aid with their childlessness.**

Anthony was also known for his **peacemaking skills and his concern for social justice.**

St. Anthony of Padua is one of the Catholic Church's most popular and revered saints around the whole world. One of the main reasons for that is that he appeared to be like us – ordinary – and yet was able to live as an example to us – a Christian life that *we are each* called to live!

- Joan Steele, Mission Administrator & Director of Religious Education

## Do Catholics Worship Saints?

The first of the Ten Commandments makes it clear that worship is due to God alone. In Deuteronomy, the Lord tells His people through Moses: You shall not have other gods besides Me... You shall not bow down before them or worship them: (Deuteronomy 5:7,9).

Catholics affirm this truth. Only the all-mighty Creator of the universe, the one in whom "we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28), is worthy of our worship--of the adoration that involves giving ourselves completely to Him. No saint or even angel should ever be adored in that sense.

At the same time, however, we obey the biblical instruction to "pay to all their dues...honor to whom honor is due" (Romans 13:7). Though we don't worship the saints and angels in heaven, we do in fact honor (or venerate) them, because they are worthy of great honor. This is a biblical distinction.

Why do they deserve such honor? Because they now stand before Him in heaven face-to-face, and they have become like Him (see 1 John 3:2). They have become, by God's grace, His glorious image (see 2 Cor 3:18), partakers in His divine nature (see 2 Peter 1:4). They share in His holiness (see Hebrews 12:10), His glory (see Rom 8:17; 1 Peter 5:1), His knowledge (see 1 Cor 13:12), and His authority to judge and rule (see 1 Cor 6:2-3; 2 Timothy 2:12; Revelation 3:21).

Finally, we should note that, as the old saying goes, "Imitation is the sincerest form of praise." Of all the ways we can honor God's saints, the best way is to imitate their faith in Him (see Hebrews 6:11-12; 13:7).

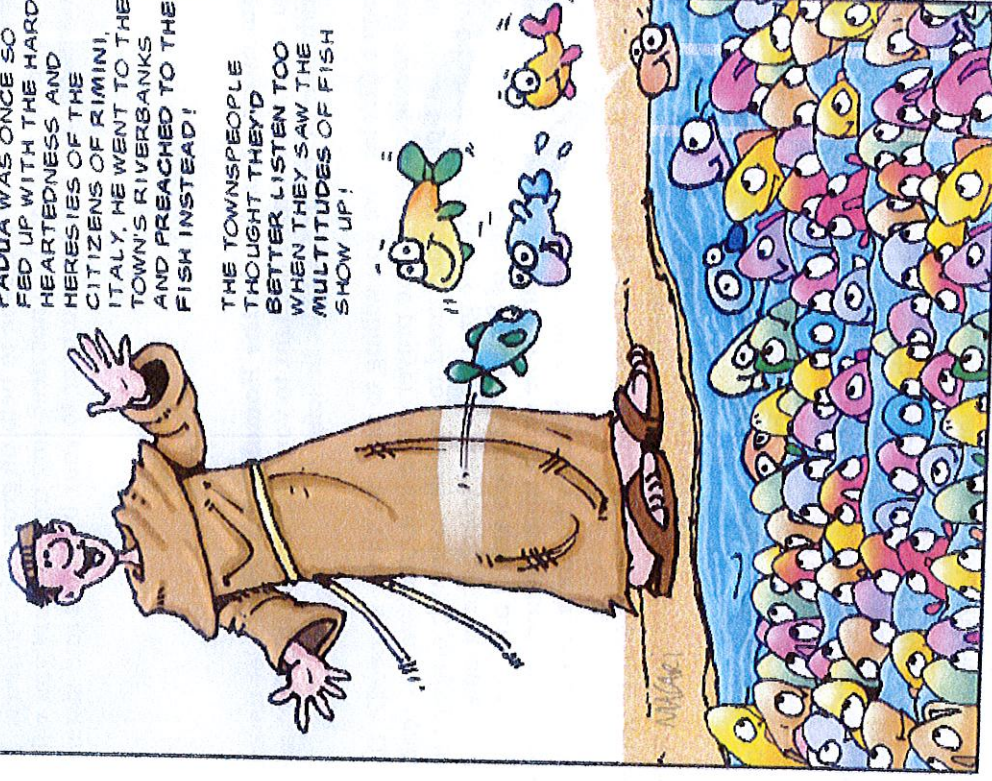
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## SAINTS FUN FACTS

by mario d. macari

**S**AIN T ANTHONY OF PADUA WAS ONCE SO FED UP WITH THE HARD HEARTEDNESS AND HERESIES OF THE CITIZENS OF RIMINI, ITALY, HE WENT TO THE TOWN'S RIVERSBANKS AND PREACHED TO THE FISH INSTEAD!

THE TOWNSPEOPLE THOUGHT THEY'D BETTER LISTEN TOO WHEN THEY SAW THE MULTITUDES OF FISH SHOW UP!



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## **Outreach Ministry**

Mission San Antonio de Padua supports several outreach programs. We are looking for someone to help us grow this ministry. It won't take a lot of time; you do not need any training and you will be answering God's call to minister to your brothers and sisters.

## **Programs:**

**Communion Service for the Homebound:** Please let us know if you need communion brought to you. Receiving the Eucharist is fundamental to our Catholic beliefs.

**Prayer Circle:** Are you willing to pray for those in need? Do you need special prayer? The prayer circle is a great way to reach out and reach up! You don't need to be able to travel; prayer requests can be shared within the group via the telephone or email. A scheduled prayer time of 8 a.m., 12 noon and 8 p.m. unites those offered prayers. Join in any time or all times to add your united voice of prayer for those in our parish family who are in need.

**Meals during a family illness/hospitalization:** Would you be able to provide a meal for someone who is in need? Are you in need of some help while you deal with health issues?

**Carpooling services for Mass:** If you need a ride to Mass or if you can provide a ride, this might be the ministry for you.

Want to help in other ways? We are always looking for volunteers to help in the Padre's Garden, Clean the church or work on our necessary fund raisers. Call the Mission for more ideas.

If you are interested in lending a hand or would like to be remembered in any of these ministries, please contact Joan at the office.

Mission San Antonio

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