

June 2018

Dear Friend of the Missions,

One of the *most popular* Saints in our Catholic Church is the humble Franciscan **St Anthony of Padua**. *I think that it would be safe to say that he is even more well known and revered than St Francis of Assisi*. He was born in Lisbon, Portugal in 1195 and given the name of Fernando at baptism. When he was a young boy, he joined the Augustinian Order and was ordained a priest in 1220. People wonder why Anthony left the Augustinians to join the newly formed Friars Minor (*Franciscans*). It appears that the critical turning point for Anthony was the day he saw the bodies of the first martyrs of the Franciscan Order (*St Berard and Companions*) as they were being transported from Morocco to Combrria. The witness of these men inspired Anthony to question his life in the monastery and moved him to leave his familiar life of the monastic routine to seek admission into the Friars Minor (*Franciscans*).



One of the legends of St Anthony tells of his early experience as a Franciscan. He was not given a regular assignment but was expected to help out wherever he was needed. He evidently worked in the kitchen on a regular basis. Perhaps we would never have heard of Anthony if he hadn't gone to an ordination of Franciscan and Dominican friars in 1222. As they gathered for the meal afterward, the provincial suggested that one of the friars give a short sermon. Quite typically, everybody ducked! So Anthony was asked to give "*just something simple,*" since he presumably had no education. Anthony was very shy, but finally began to speak in a simple, artless way. The fire within him became evident and his knowledge was unmistakable. His holiness was what really impressed everyone there. Now Anthony was exposed and his quiet life of prayer and penance at the hermitage was exchanged for that of a public preacher. **St Francis heard of Anthony's previously hidden gifts and Anthony was assigned to preach in northern Italy.**



St Anthony was a simple and humble Franciscan who preached the Good News lovingly and with fearless courage. This young man whom his fellow friars thought was uneducated became one of the great preachers and theologians of his day. He was a man of great penance and apostolic zeal. But he was primarily a saint of the people. *We friars of the Southwest Franciscan Missions strive to carry on the traditions of this great saint.* Our missionaries continue to walk and minister with the Native Americans and Hispanics of the Southwest. **Your generous financial support helps us to continue in the humble footsteps of St Anthony.** Our friars live with and minister to some of the neediest people in the United States.



St Anthony is known throughout the Christian world as the **Miracle Saint**. People also pray to him to find lost articles. **His Feast Day is celebrated on June 13.** I have included a *Nine-Day Novena to St Anthony* at the end of this letter. I have every confidence that St Anthony will indeed answer your sincere requests.

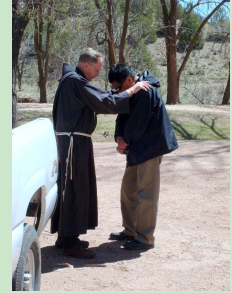
Peace and All Good!

Br Bruce, ofm

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St Anthony of Padua Nine Day Novena

- One** Oh glorious St Anthony who at a tender age consecrated yourself to the Mother of God and later as a zealous Franciscan attempted to convert the Saracens in Africa: obtain for us the grace to serve God and His people as true disciples of Jesus Christ. *(Pray for your Intention then recite one Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be)*
- Two** Oh glorious St Anthony who concealed from the eyes of men the rare talents you possessed, and endured with patience the contempt of those who considered you ignorant; obtain for us the grace to forsake the vain glories of this world and become even more pleasing in the sight of God. *(Pray for your Intention then recite one Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be)*
- Three** Oh glorious St Anthony who by your eloquence and miracles softened the hearts of obstinate sinners and converted the heretics: obtain for us the grace to follow the divine inspiration which comes from the legitimate authority and to enjoy the blessedness promised to the keepers of God's words. *(Pray for your Intention then recite one Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be)*
- Four** Oh glorious St Anthony upon whom God bestowed extraordinary gifts and the power to perform the most stupendous miracles: obtain for us the grace to conduct our life in such a manner as to merit from God His most distinctive favors. *(Pray for your Intention then recite one Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be)*
- Five** Oh glorious St Anthony who by your tender devotion to Jesus and Mary was privileged to hold Him often in your arms and converse with Him: obtain for us the grace to preserve always in our souls the life of God and friendship of Our Blessed Mother. *(Pray for your Intention then recite one Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be)*
- Six** Oh glorious St Anthony to whom God revealed the honor of death and comforted your heart in the midst of the sufferings of life: obtain for us the grace to live a holy life in this world, and thus assure for ourselves the everlasting joys of heaven. *(Pray for your Intention then recite one Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be)*
- Seven** O glorious St Anthony who constantly meditated on the Holy Scriptures and through the Holy Spirit discovered the true meaning of God's words: obtain for us the grace to understand God's revelation to His people, and always cherish the teachings of His Divine Son, Jesus Christ. *(Pray for your Intention then recite one Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be)*
- Eight** O glorious St Anthony who recovers the lost articles of your clients, and assists them in material dangers: obtain for us the grace never to lose God's friendship: and if we have, to restore it without delay. *(Pray for your Intention then recite one Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be)*
- Nine** O glorious St Anthony elevated by God among the Saints in Heaven and dear to the faithful on earth because of your profound humility: obtain for us the grace to love and practice this virtue which is the only key that opens for us the gates of Heaven. *(Pray for your Intention then recite one Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be)*



Final Prayer

Dear St Anthony, lily of purity, ornament and glory of Christianity, I salute you, great Saint, cherub of wisdom and seraph of divine love. I rejoice at the favors our Lord has so liberally bestowed on you. In humility and confidence, I ask your help, for I know God has given you charity, pity and power. Behold my distress, anxiety, and fears concerning (name your intention). I ask you, by the affection you shared with the gentle child Jesus, to tell Him now of my wants and needs.



Glorious favorite of God, I bow my head before you in humble reverence. I raise my hopeful heart toward Heaven and you, that He who so often put Himself in your arms will now fill your hands with all I ask of you. Give me, then, what I desire, angel of love, and I will publish your grandeur, thereby to honor and glorify Him, the One who blesses you. Amen