



St. Anthony of Padua

Priest, Preacher & Doctor of the Church

Born: 1195 in Portugal

Occupation: Priest

Died: 1231 in Padua, Italy at the age of 36

Feast Day: June 13

Canonized: May 30, 1232 in Italy

Patron of: Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land, faith in the Blessed Sacrament, lost articles, animals, poor people, travelers, travel hostesses, fishermen.

A Part of His Story

Saint Anthony was canonized (declared a saint) less than one year after his death. St. Anthony of Padua is one of the most famous disciples of St. Francis of Assisi.

He was a famous preacher and worker of miracles in his own day, and throughout the eight centuries since his death he has so generously come to the assistance of the faithful who invoke him, that he is known throughout the world.

When we read the lives of the saints, why were so many of their lives impacted after an unexpected experience?

Fernando Martins was born in Lisbon, Portugal in the 12th century into a large, Catholic family. He was ordained into the priesthood, and began his new life with great fervor. His life as a young priest took a crucial turn when the bodies of the first five Franciscan martyrs were returned from Morocco. Fernando wanted to become a Franciscan friar after hearing the stories of the Franciscan friars' charity for others and their courage to persevere to the end. He did enter the Franciscan Order, and was given his new name, Anthony. He was to set sail across to Morocco to be a witness for Christ. His ship experienced a storm and was forced to dock in Italy. There, he attended a Franciscan Chapter with 3,000 friars in attendance; little did he know he would be chosen to preach to the large number, resulting in the discovery of his eloquent charism of preaching.

The unexpected experience of being shipwrecked in Italy turned into a greater call for Friar Anthony, who became St. Anthony of Padua. Since then to this day, he is known throughout the world for his spiritual writings and stirring sermons that have given hope to thousands. He was canonized a year after his death in 1232. The richness of his spiritual teaching contained in his sermons was so great that he was proclaimed a Doctor of the Church in 1946.

If Friar Anthony did arrive in Morocco and died as a martyr; perhaps the thousands who had been given hope and a renewed confidence in God because of his preaching may have been lost, may have remained in despair. It is apparent God had a plan for Anthony!

The life of the body is the soul; the life of the soul is God. - St. Anthony of Padua

Do you believe God has a plan for you?

Oh yes, you must believe He does! In the book of Deuteronomy 31:8, we read: *It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.*