

## SAINTS ALIVE! JUNE 13: SAINT ANTHONY OF PADUA



St. Anthony of Padua has been known as the most celebrated of the followers of Saint Francis of Assisi. In keeping with his beloved Franciscan tradition, St. Anthony had a special love for poor and oppressed people.

Saint Anthony of Padua is the patron saint of the poor.

Anthony was born in 1195 and raised in a wealthy family in Lisbon. His was a very rich family and the scions of such nobility were expected to become educated. His parents arranged for him to be instructed at the local cathedral school but instead he had an Augustinian school in mind.

Impressed by the visit and subsequent martyrdom of Franciscan missionaries, Anthony joined the Franciscans in 1220, meeting Francis a year later.

Anthony was known as a forceful preacher and scholar of scripture, given the gift of oration by the Holy Spirit when he was unexpectedly called upon to preach.

When St. Anthony of Padua found he was preaching the true Gospel of the Catholic Church to heretics who would not listen to him, he then went out and preached it to the fishes. Legend has it that multitudes of fishes came to listen, which echoes the Gospel story of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes.

“He attacked the tyranny of the powerful, exhorted his listeners to compassion and charity for the poor.”

Let us pray: Dear Saint Anthony, God wants us to see Christ, our brother, in everyone and love Him truly in word and in deed. God wills that we share with others the joy of His boundless love. Saint Anthony, Generator of Charity, remember me in the Father's presence, that I may be generous in sharing the joy of His love.

Amen.



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