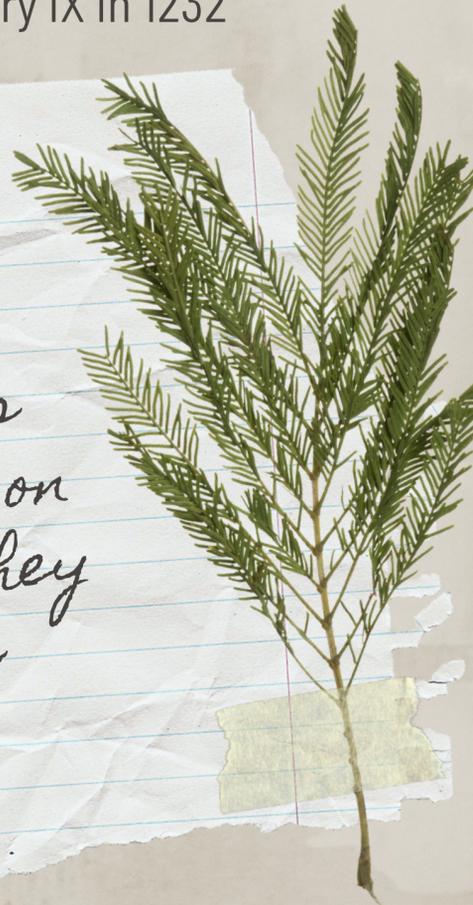


Saint Anthony of Padua



- Feastday: June 13
- Patron Saint of: lost things
- Birth: 1195
- Death: 1231
- Canonized: by Pope Gregory IX in 1232

*"Christians
must lean on
the Cross of
Christ just as
travelers lean on
a staff when they
begin a long
journey."*



✦

Saint Anthony was born in Portugal to a wealthy family. At the age of 15, he entered the religious order of St. Augustine. He soon felt a calling to leave and join a new Franciscan Order, and he changed his name from Fernando to Anthony. He was first recognized for his great gift of preaching at a gathering for the ordination of Dominicans and Franciscans. After they finished their meal, it was suggested that one of the friars give a short sermon. There were no immediate volunteers, so Anthony was asked to give "just something simple," since he was only 27 years old. Anthony began to speak in a simple way, but the "fire" within him became evident. His knowledge and passion were unmistakable. Once his talents and understanding were exposed, his quiet life of prayer and penance at the hermitage was exchanged for that of a public preacher, and he was reassigned to preach in northern Italy. Anthony traveled tirelessly in both Italy and France, perhaps 400 trips, choosing to enter the cities where the heretics were strongest.

There are many legends and stories about his life. In one such story, he was preaching to a crowd that did not care for his words. In response, Anthony went to the river and preached to the fish. As the fish gathered to hear him, the people chose to listen too.

In another instance, a heretic told Anthony that he would believe that Christ was truly present in the Eucharist only if his mule bowed down to it. They established that the test should take place and the heretic starved his mule for three days. When the appointed time had arrived, Anthony stood off to one side with the Eucharist in his hands. The mule, ignoring its own extreme hunger, knelt down to adore the Blessed Sacrament.

Saint Anthony was only 35 years old when he died on June 13, 1231. Upon exhumation 336 years after his death, his body was found to be corrupted, but his tongue was totally incorrupt, attributed to the perfect teachings that had been formed upon it.