



The Franciscan Legionnaire

Newsletter of the Friars Legion of St. Peter's Church in the Loop

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May the Lord give you Peace!

By Fr Chuck Faso, OFM (www.frchuckofm.org)

“June is bustin’ out all over!” Finally, we might say after a winter that seemed to never end and a spring that held onto the last chill of winter. Not complaining, mind you, just the facts. And now June. What comes to mind when you think of the month of June? Give yourself a minute to make your list – let your imagination and memory enjoy the search. When I think of June, I feel warm to hot breezes. I hear wedding bells. I think of my father, Godfather and grandfathers as we celebrate Father’s Day. My entrance into the Franciscan Order and making my Simple and Solemn Profession as a Friar Minor happened in June, as well as ordination to the priesthood. Feast days come to mind – St Barnabas (June 11), St Anthony of Padua (June 13), of St John the Baptist (June 24), Sts Peter and Paul (June 29). June is the time to preach retreats, to enjoy walking and picnicking, swimming and riding bikes. Let’s reflect on a few of these.



St Anthony – June 13

Who is this St Anthony of Padua who died at the age of 36 in Padua, Italy – near Venice - and yet has captured the hearts of Catholics everywhere? Why did this preacher and teacher who was born in Lisbon, Portugal in 1195 live the last ten years of his life as a Franciscan in Italy and France? What happened to this young Augustinian priest living in Coimbra, Portugal that so moved his heart to leave the Augustinian Canons Regular and join this new Order of Friars Minor that was only ten years in existence? And are all the many stories about St Anthony true, for example how he preached to the fish in the sea



when the people in the town would not listen to him and of course hundreds perhaps thousands of fish lined up by the shore in attention to his preaching? (Every story is true and some of them actually happened! – that is, every story contains a truth.) How could it be that St Anthony was canonized (declared a saint of the Church) less than one year after his death in 1231? Let’s take a closer look at the life and meaning of the life of St Anthony of Lisbon, as he is called in Portugal, of St Anthony of Padua, as the rest of the world refers to him.

There is perhaps no more loved and admired saint in the Catholic Church than Saint Anthony of Padua, a Doctor of the Church. He was born in Lisbon, Portugal. He first joined the Augustinian Order and then left it and joined the Franciscan Order in 1221, when he was 26 years old. The reason he became a Franciscan was because of the death of the first five Franciscans martyred in Morocco in 1220. Their bodies had been brought back to the monastery in Coimbra, Portugal, where Fr Ferdinand (St Anthony’s baptismal name) was living. Ferdinand was so moved by their faith and courage that he too wanted to give his life as a martyr, so he joined the newly found Order of St Francis of Assisi. His name was changed from Ferdinand to Anthony.

Fr. Anthony never was able to preach in Morocco. When his ship landed there, he was so sick that after a short stay, he was sent back to Portugal to recover his health. There was a great storm that forced the ship he was on to land in Sicily. There he worked in the kitchen of a friary. One day a great preacher for a grand occasion did not show up. So Anthony preached, so powerfully and beautifully that the Friars asked him to accept the responsibility of teaching them. The Chronicle of the Twenty-four Generals by Arnold of Arrant states, “No matter how much the brothers’ requested Anthony to teach them, he did not presume to do so without first obtaining the permission of the blessed Francis.”

St Francis did not want his Friars to be involved in Universities or higher learning because he saw the pride and desire for power that can come from such endeavors. But St Francis made an exception for St Anthony. St Francis wrote a short letter to this new Brother Anthony: “Brother Francis sends greetings to Brother Anthony who shares in the preaching and teaching office of Bishops: I am pleased that you teach sacred theology to the brothers providing that, as it is contained in the Rule, you ‘do not extinguish the Spirit of prayer and devotion’ during study of this kind.” With these few words, St Francis places the study of theology within the context of prayer and devotion. Thus St Francis describes the environment of Franciscan theology and study. In this way there is no place for pride and power over others. St Francis’ words gave purpose and direction to St Anthony’s study and teaching.



Anthony the Franciscan taught in Padua and preached in northern Italy and in France against the heretics of the time where he was named “the hammer of the heretics.” In 1946, Pope Pius XII named him a Doctor of the Church for his great learning and writings on Scripture and the dogma of the Church.

After Vatican II (1962-1965), confusion arose regarding devotion to St Anthony and many other saints. The over-emphasis on St Anthony as a miracle-worker and finder of lost things overshadowed the true nature of devotion to the saint. We found ourselves in a dilemma: how do we recapture the true meaning and value of St Anthony without lessening the devotion and piety of the people who find great consolation in him as they live their lives in our troubled times.

The Vatican Council asked us to rediscover the deeper theological realities which were being expressed in the traditions surrounding devotion to the saints. So what are the values and deeper meanings behind the stories and the symbols which have been associated with St Anthony e.g., his early “quiet life” as a friar, the lily, the Child Jesus, the bread, the Gospel book and his recognition as the finder of lost things? Hopefully, taking a deeper look at these stories and symbols will help us understand our devotion to St Anthony and encourage us to imitate him.

Each of the stories and symbols associated with St Anthony were ways in which different ages expressed some of the more fundamental beliefs of the Christian life. The “quiet life” of St Anthony speaks of the need in all of us to recognize the importance of simplicity in our lives and the need for silence and prayer. The lily is a symbol of the way we should lead our life with God: “holy and blameless in his sight.”

St Anthony is shown in photos and statues holding the Child Jesus.

This is not about an apparition of Jesus to St Anthony. Rather this image symbolizes the great devotion which he had for the Incarnation – the Son of God taking on our human flesh and living our life fully. We know this from his writings, teachings, and sermons on the Incarnation. And thus, the profound effects such a devotion to Jesus in His humanity can have upon our lives courage, hope, compassion, and love.

The image of St Anthony giving a loaf of bread to the poor and hungry calls us to be generous in our compassion and care for the poor and hungry. The term “St Anthony’s Bread” equals gifts for the poor. The bread was not meant to be a pious practice in itself, but a “sacrament” of our concern and commitment for the poor and our desire to share with them our gifts from God. In many Franciscan



Churches like St Peter’s in the Loop of Chicago bread rolls are given out to all who come to celebrate his feast. To receive this bread roll is to say yes to share your own life and goods with the poor. To receive St Anthony’s Bread to is commit oneself to giving to the poor.

The Gospel book that St Anthony often holds reminds us of the law of love which was written in the heart of St Anthony, a law which should also be written in our hearts. This furthermore underscores the totality with which St Anthony’s life and preaching were informed by the Gospel and the importance of rooting our lives in the values which the Gospel proclaims.

St Anthony’s reputation as the finder of lost things is a reminder that evil and misfortune are part of our humanity and even the result of sin. However evil has no dominion over us who have been redeemed in the

passion, death and resurrection of Christ. With God's help through the prayers and intercession of St Anthony, we can overcome sin and evil and live in the victory of Christ.

The underlying mysteries of our faith which St Anthony so strongly believed, lived and preached are the things which we seek to proclaim to our age again, and which we seek to remember and celebrate when we commemorate this saint.

Here are a few prayers and Intercessions that can aid in our devotion to St Anthony who intercedes for us to God. Often others will ask us, "Please pray for me, for my family."

We say yes and do pray for them. When we ask the Saints to pray for us, so they intercede to God on our behalf.

Let us pray.....Most High Gracious God, you are glorified in your servant, St Anthony. His glory is the crowning of your gifts. In his life on earth you give us an example. In our communion with him you give us his friendship. In his prayer for the church, you give us strength and protection. We praise and thank you, Lord through Jesus the Christ, your Son. Amen

Lord God, you manifest your presence, person and power in your saints....May we be united with you by imitating them.

Lord, Jesus, you are present among those who gather in your name...Hear our prayer, as we honor you in your servant St Anthony.

Through St Anthony you have manifested your love and kindness towards all...Show this continuing love and kindness to your friends and benefactors, and to those who join with us in these prayers.

Almighty God, you have given St Anthony to your people as an outstanding preacher and a ready helper in time of need. With his assistance may we follow the Gospel of Christ and know the help of your grace in every difficulty. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God, forever and ever. Amen

Happy Feast of St Anthony!

Ordination

June marks the anniversary of ordination for many priests. My class was ordained on June 13, 1967 – a great feast on which to be ordained. What a patron, model and example of faithfulness and commitment to Jesus, the Gospel, the Franciscan Order and the Church. Pray for all of us priests. We need your prayerful support very much. Thank you.

Father's Day – June 19

Happy Father's Day to all of you who are fathers, grandfathers, godfathers, and who father-forth life and love, values and faith in the hearts of others!

Your Personal Financial Considerations

Apart from the concern of "running out of money," there is a growing concern among many today about how they are going to pay for Long Term Care costs. Long Term Care services involve:

- Nursing home care
- Home health care
- Respite care
- Hospice care
- Personal care in your home
- Services in assisted living facilities
- Services in adult day care centers
- Services in other community facilities

Today there are a growing number of people turning to buy Long Term Care insurance to fund Long Term Care costs. Is Long Term Care insurance right for you?

You should NOT buy Long Term Care Insurance if:

- You cannot afford the premiums
- You have limited assets
- Your only source of income is a Social Security benefit or Supplementary Security Income
- You often have trouble paying for utilities, food, medicine, or other important needs
- You are on Medicaid

You Should CONSIDER buying Long Term Care Insurance if:

- You have significant assets and income
- You want to protect some of your assets and income
- You can pay premiums, including possible premium increases, without financial difficulty
- You want to stay independent of the support of others
- You want to have the flexibility of choosing care in the setting you prefer or will be most comfortable in

If you decide to buy Long Term Care Insurance, you should learn about:

- The company selling you the policy
- The coverage and benefits of the policy
- The cost for the policy including premium increases

To help you with this important process and decision, for more information and a free *no obligation* review of your options call Peter Wells at 847-543-4886.

Leaving a Legacy for St. Peter Church in the Loop

St. Peter Church in the Loop is a sacred space where much healing and spiritual comfort and rejuvenation occur. Would you please consider leaving a legacy in your will or estate plan for St. Peter Church in the Loop? Would you like to leave St. Peter Church say \$10,000 or \$25,000 or \$50,000 or more from your current assets or *create* such an asset for a fraction of the ultimate gift? For ideas on how to create your dream gift to St. Peter Church in the Loop call Peter Wells at 847-543-4886.



APPLICATION FOR YEAR-LONG MEMORIAL CANDLE

(Please print, leaving a space between each word.)

To be lit in honor of: _____
Living _____ Deceased _____

Requested by: _____

Date candle is to be lit: Immediately _____ Specific Date _____

The offering for the Memorial Candle is \$150.00. Please enclose a check for the full amount with this form.

APPLICATION FOR PERPETUAL ENROLLMENT IN THE FRIARS LEGION

(Please print, leaving a space between each word.)

Please Enroll:

as a Perpetual Member of the Saint Peter's Friars Legion.

Living _____ Deceased _____

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

OFFERING: Individual, \$25.00 _____ Family, \$100.00 _____ (Immediate family, parents and children)