



Orden Franciscana de la Divina Compasión



SAINT
NOVENA
ANTHONY

V. In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

R. Amen.

The Young Canon of Lisbon

Commentator: Anthony was born Fernando Martins in Lisbon. From his youth he loved prayer, Sacred Scripture, and the service of God. Though gifted with intelligence and many opportunities for advancement in the world, he desired something greater: to belong entirely to Christ. He entered the Canons Regular of Saint Augustine, where he devoted himself to study, prayer, and the pursuit of holiness.

Assembly: The servant of God, even in his youth, was drawn more to heavenly wisdom than to earthly success. He withdrew from the distractions of the world and dedicated himself to the study of Sacred Scripture. Day and night he pondered the Word of God, seeking not merely knowledge but a deeper union with Christ.

As he advanced in learning, he advanced still more in humility. He carefully guarded purity of heart and sought to conform his life to the Gospel. The teachings of the Fathers of the Church became his constant companions, and the mysteries of salvation his delight.

The Lord was preparing him for a great mission. Before he would preach to crowds, he first learned to listen. Before he would teach others, he allowed himself to be taught by God. Thus the foundation of his sanctity was laid in prayer, study, obedience, and a burning love for divine truth. (Assidua)

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

Glory be...

Let Us Pray

O God, who didst grant Saint Anthony the grace to seek first the Kingdom of Heaven, grant that we may despise passing things and cling to those that endure unto eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Concluding Prayer

O glorious Saint Anthony, faithful disciple of Saint Francis, preacher of the Gospel, defender of the Faith, comforter of the poor, and lover of the Infant Jesus, obtain for us the grace to follow Christ with undivided hearts. May we imitate your humility, your zeal for souls, your love of Sacred Scripture, and your devotion to prayer, that one day we may rejoice with you in the eternal Kingdom of God. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

V. Saint Anthony of Padua, pray for us.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.



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| Second Day |

Called by the Martyrs

Commentator: When the relics of the Franciscan martyrs slain in Morocco were brought to Portugal, Anthony's heart was deeply moved. Their courage awakened within him a desire to give everything for Christ and His Gospel.

Assembly: When the bodies of the holy martyrs arrived from Morocco, the servant of God contemplated them with reverence and wonder. He reflected upon their steadfast faith, their courage under persecution, and their willingness to surrender even life itself for the love of Jesus Christ.

The witness of these martyrs pierced his heart. He saw in them the fulfillment of the Gospel and recognized the glory prepared for those who persevere unto the end. Earthly honors suddenly appeared small and fleeting when compared with the eternal reward promised by Christ.

Filled with holy zeal, he prayed that he too might become a faithful witness. He desired not riches, comfort, or reputation, but the privilege of proclaiming Christ wherever he might be sent. Inspired by the martyrs' example, he left behind his former way of life and embraced the poverty of Saint Francis, trusting that God would guide his future according to His holy will. (Legenda Secunda)

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

Glory be...

Let Us Pray

O God, who didst inflame Saint Anthony with zeal for the Gospel, kindle in our hearts the fire of divine charity that we may bear faithful witness to Christ. Amen.

Concluding Prayer

O glorious Saint Anthony, faithful disciple of Saint Francis, preacher of the Gospel, defender of the Faith, comforter of the poor, and lover of the Infant Jesus, obtain for us the grace to follow Christ with undivided hearts. May we imitate your humility, your zeal for souls, your love of Sacred Scripture, and your devotion to prayer, that one day we may rejoice with you in the eternal Kingdom of God. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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| Third Day |

The Hidden Friar

Commentator: Anthony desired martyrdom, but God had other plans. Illness forced him to abandon his missionary journey, and he arrived in Italy unknown and unnoticed. The Lord first taught him humility before making him famous.

Assembly: The servant of God arrived among the brethren without distinction or recognition. None knew of his learning or his gifts. He did not seek honors or preferment but was content to remain hidden from the eyes of men.

Assigned to a humble hermitage, he spent his days in prayer, silence, study, and manual labor. He willingly accepted the simplest tasks and served his brothers with joy. Far from complaining about obscurity, he embraced it as a gift from God.

In the quiet of solitude, the Lord fashioned his soul. As iron is purified by fire, so Anthony's spirit was strengthened through humility and obedience. Though unknown to the world, he was growing daily in holiness. The same God who had hidden him would, in due time, reveal him as one of the Church's greatest preachers. (Assidua)

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

Glory be...

Let Us Pray

O God, who taught Saint Anthony the way of humility, grant us grace to rejoice in hidden service and seek only Thy glory. Amen.

Concluding Prayer

O glorious Saint Anthony, faithful disciple of Saint Francis, preacher of the Gospel, defender of the Faith, comforter of the poor, and lover of the Infant Jesus, obtain for us the grace to follow Christ with undivided hearts. May we imitate your humility, your zeal for souls, your love of Sacred Scripture, and your devotion to prayer, that one day we may rejoice with you in the eternal Kingdom of God. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Fourth Day

The Gift of Preaching

Commentator: At a gathering of Franciscans and Dominicans, no preacher had been appointed. Anthony was unexpectedly commanded to speak. The hidden friar revealed extraordinary wisdom, and all who heard him were amazed.

Assembly: Obedient to his superiors, the servant of God rose to speak. What began as a simple act of obedience soon became a manifestation of the grace of God. The words that flowed from his lips were filled with wisdom, clarity, and spiritual power.

Those who listened were astonished. His knowledge of Sacred Scripture seemed inexhaustible, yet his teaching was never dry or merely academic. He spoke as one who had prayed, suffered, and lived the truths he proclaimed.

The brethren recognized that God had bestowed upon him a special gift for preaching. From that day forward, Anthony traveled throughout towns and cities, calling sinners to repentance, reconciling enemies, strengthening the faithful, and proclaiming Christ crucified. Wherever he preached, hearts were moved and souls were renewed. (Assidua)

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

Glory be...

Let Us Pray

O God, who gavest Saint Anthony wisdom in preaching Thy Word, grant us attentive hearts to receive the Gospel and faithful lips to proclaim it. Amen.

Concluding Prayer

O glorious Saint Anthony, faithful disciple of Saint Francis, preacher of the Gospel, defender of the Faith, comforter of the poor, and lover of the Infant Jesus, obtain for us the grace to follow Christ with undivided hearts. May we imitate your humility, your zeal for souls, your love of Sacred Scripture, and your devotion to prayer, that one day we may rejoice with you in the eternal Kingdom of God. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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| Fifth Day |

The Friend of Saint Francis

Commentator: Saint Francis himself recognized Anthony's holiness and learning. Yet Francis also reminded him that study must always be united to prayer and devotion.

Assembly: When Saint Francis learned of Anthony's gifts, he rejoiced that the Lord had raised up such a teacher among the brethren. Yet Francis understood that knowledge alone cannot save. Wisdom must be joined to holiness, and learning must lead to love.

Therefore he wrote to Brother Anthony, granting him permission to teach theology to the friars. Yet he added a fatherly warning: that in all his studies he should never extinguish the spirit of holy prayer and devotion.

Anthony received these words with humility and gratitude. Throughout his life he united study with contemplation. The truths he preached were first nourished in prayer. The Scriptures he explained to others were first treasured within his own heart. Thus he became not merely a scholar, but a saint. (Letter of Saint Francis to Brother Anthony)

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

Glory be...

Let Us Pray

O God, who joined knowledge and holiness in Saint Anthony, grant that we may grow in wisdom while remaining faithful in prayer. Amen.

Concluding Prayer

O glorious Saint Anthony, faithful disciple of Saint Francis, preacher of the Gospel, defender of the Faith, comforter of the poor, and lover of the Infant Jesus, obtain for us the grace to follow Christ with undivided hearts. May we imitate your humility, your zeal for souls, your love of Sacred Scripture, and your devotion to prayer, that one day we may rejoice with you in the eternal Kingdom of God. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Sixth Day

Defender of the Faith

Commentator: Anthony became one of the Church's greatest preachers against error. He confronted false teaching not with anger but with truth, charity, and the power of God's Word.

Assembly: The servant of God traveled tirelessly through cities and villages proclaiming the Catholic Faith. Many had wandered from the truth through confusion, pride, or false doctrine. Anthony patiently instructed them and called them back to Christ.

His preaching was rooted in Sacred Scripture and strengthened by prayer. He did not seek victory over opponents but the salvation of souls. Those who heard him often found their hearts softened and their minds enlightened.

By the grace of God, many who had separated themselves from the Church returned to her embrace. Others who had grown lukewarm were renewed in fervor. Through his ministry countless sinners were reconciled, and the light of truth shone brightly amid the darkness of error. (Assidua)

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

Glory be...

Let Us Pray

O God, who made Saint Anthony a fearless defender of the Catholic Faith, strengthen us to hold fast the truth and live it courageously. Amen.

Concluding Prayer

O glorious Saint Anthony, faithful disciple of Saint Francis, preacher of the Gospel, defender of the Faith, comforter of the poor, and lover of the Infant Jesus, obtain for us the grace to follow Christ with undivided hearts. May we imitate your humility, your zeal for souls, your love of Sacred Scripture, and your devotion to prayer, that one day we may rejoice with you in the eternal Kingdom of God. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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| Seventh Day |

The Friend of the Poor

Commentator: Anthony loved the poor and defended those who suffered injustice. He saw in the needy the very face of Christ.

Assembly: The servant of God showed great compassion toward the poor, the oppressed, and all who suffered hardship. He encouraged the wealthy to practice mercy and warned against greed and injustice.

Many came to him seeking help, counsel, and consolation. He listened patiently and responded with kindness. He defended debtors from exploitation and worked to reconcile those divided by conflict and resentment.

His love for the poor was not merely a work of charity but an expression of his love for Christ. He recognized that whatever is done for the least of God's children is done for the Lord Himself. Thus he became a refuge for the afflicted and a source of hope for the forgotten. (Canonization Testimonies)

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

Glory be...

Let Us Pray

O God, who filled Saint Anthony with compassion for the needy, teach us to see Christ in the poor and serve Him with generous hearts. Amen.

Concluding Prayer

O glorious Saint Anthony, faithful disciple of Saint Francis, preacher of the Gospel, defender of the Faith, comforter of the poor, and lover of the Infant Jesus, obtain for us the grace to follow Christ with undivided hearts. May we imitate your humility, your zeal for souls, your love of Sacred Scripture, and your devotion to prayer, that one day we may rejoice with you in the eternal Kingdom of God. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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| Eighth Day |

The Vision of the Christ Child

Commentator: Tradition tells us that Anthony was granted the grace of holding the Infant Jesus in his arms. This vision reflects the profound intimacy with Christ that characterized his entire life.

Assembly: The servant of God sought Christ above all things. In prayer he contemplated the mysteries of the Incarnation, marveling that the eternal Son of God became a little child for our salvation.

His sermons reveal a heart filled with love for Jesus. Again and again he urged the faithful to welcome Christ into their hearts, to prepare a worthy dwelling for Him through repentance, humility, and charity. Because he loved Christ so deeply, tradition tells us that the Lord granted him a vision of the Holy Child.

Whether in vision or in prayer, Anthony knew the closeness of Jesus. His life reminds us that holiness consists not merely in doing great works but in living in intimate friendship with the Savior. (Sermons of Saint Anthony and Early Tradition)

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

Glory be...

Let Us Pray

O God, who granted Saint Anthony profound union with Thy Son, draw us ever closer to Christ that we may love Him above all things. Amen.

Concluding Prayer

O glorious Saint Anthony, faithful disciple of Saint Francis, preacher of the Gospel, defender of the Faith, comforter of the poor, and lover of the Infant Jesus, obtain for us the grace to follow Christ with undivided hearts. May we imitate your humility, your zeal for souls, your love of Sacred Scripture, and your devotion to prayer, that one day we may rejoice with you in the eternal Kingdom of God. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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The Saint's Heavenly Reward

Commentator: After years of preaching, prayer, and service, Anthony's earthly pilgrimage came to an end. Surrounded by his brothers, he prepared to meet the Lord whom he had loved so faithfully.

Assembly: As his strength began to fail, the servant of God fixed his mind upon Heaven. Those around him saw the peace that filled his soul and marveled at his serenity in the face of death.

Near the end of his life, he lifted his eyes upward as though beholding a glorious vision. Filled with joy, he exclaimed, "I see my Lord." The brethren recognized that the one who had spent his life preaching Christ was now being welcomed into His presence.

Thus Anthony completed his earthly course. The preacher entered into eternal silence; the pilgrim reached his homeland; the servant was welcomed by his Master. Having labored faithfully in the vineyard of the Lord, he received the crown prepared for those who persevere in faith and charity unto the end. (Assidua)

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

Glory be...

Let Us Pray

O God, who didst crown Saint Anthony with eternal glory, grant that following his example we may persevere unto the end and attain the joys of Heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Concluding Prayer

O glorious Saint Anthony, faithful disciple of Saint Francis, preacher of the Gospel, defender of the Faith, comforter of the poor, and lover of the Infant Jesus, obtain for us the grace to follow Christ with undivided hearts. May we imitate your humility, your zeal for souls, your love of Sacred Scripture, and your devotion to prayer, that one day we may rejoice with you in the eternal Kingdom of God. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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