

# **ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA**

## **Our Franciscan Friend**

**Guidelines, Devotions and Prayers  
for Growth in the Spirit of  
St. Anthony of Padua**

**Illustrated**



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# CONTENTS

Foreword .....	7
<b>GETTING TO KNOW ST. ANTHONY .....</b>	<b>9</b>
Saint of the Whole World .....	11
The Wisdom of St. Anthony .....	19
St. Anthony's Friends .....	28
<b>HONORING ST. ANTHONY .....</b>	<b>31</b>
Tuesday, St. Anthony's Day .....	32
"St. Anthony's Bread" .....	34
St. Anthony's Lilies .....	37
"St. Anthony Guide" Stamps .....	40
<b>PRAYERS .....</b>	<b>43</b>
Introduction to Prayer .....	44
A Journey with St. Anthony along the Way of the Cross .....	45
Traditional Prayers .....	56
Contemporary Prayers .....	69
<b>NOVENAS TO ST. ANTHONY .....</b>	<b>77</b>
How to Make a Novena to St. Anthony .....	78
Novena to St. Anthony .....	80
Readings for "Thirteen Tuesdays" .....	87
Short Prayers for "Thirteen Tuesdays" .....	95
Readings for "Nine Tuesdays" .....	98
The Nine Tuesdays before Christmas .....	99

<b>LIVING IN THE SPIRIT OF</b>	
<b>ST. ANTHONY</b> .....	107
Seeking Personal Renewal with	
St. Anthony .....	108
Affirmations of God's Love in the Spirit	
of St. Anthony .....	113
A Walk through the Twelve Steps	
with St. Anthony .....	116
<b>Chronology of St. Anthony's</b>	
<b>Life</b> .....	119
<b>Map of St. Anthony's Journeys</b> .....	122
<b>Benediction of the</b>	
<b>Blessed Sacrament</b> .....	124
<b>Acknowledgments</b> .....	127

# Saint of the Whole World

**S**T. Anthony of Padua is the name by which he is generally known. He was only a young man when he died.\* Padua was indeed his last home on earth. His relics rest there today, honored by thousands every year in a basilica built in his honor.

Since his death and by his intercession, countless miracles have been reported through more than seven centuries in all parts of the world.

But Padua, in northern Italy, was not his native city. Anthony was born in Lisbon, Portugal, in 1195, according to tradition on the feast of Mary's Assumption. A contemporary of St. Francis of Assisi, he was to become his most illustrious disciple.

The fact is that neither the people of Italy nor the people of Portugal can claim him exclusively as their own. St. Anthony is the Saint of the Whole World—a universal saint for a universal Church. Like Mother Teresa today, he was one who followed Francis as an instrument of peace in caring about people.

Devotion to St. Anthony and the Franciscans forms a part of life in nearly every land. Visit a Catholic church of any size and you will most likely find a statue or stained glass window of St. Anthony and a Way of the Cross—popularized by the Franciscans.

\* See also the Chronology on pp. 119-121.

**L**OVE is essential, so that without love all our efforts are in vain, no matter how much good we accomplish.



**W**ITH love in our hearts, we will approach God with humility, others with compassion, and ourselves with respectful purity.



**L**OVE prompts us to forgive our brothers and sisters who wrong us. Love helps us to correct our erring brothers and sisters. Love makes us compassionate and caring.



**S**EEK God's Kingdom above all else. Make it the most important thing in your life. Everything else must be sought in view of this Kingdom; nothing should be asked beyond it. Whatever we ask must serve this end.



### First Station Jesus Is Condemned to Death



**F**OR proclaiming a Kingdom that challenges the order of his day, Jesus is condemned to die. In reality, we know it is Jesus who stands in judgment over Pilate and over our lives as well. Our Lord's love and commitment to the mission described in Isaiah "to bring glad tidings to the poor . . . to let the oppressed go free" is the true standard for judging success.

*St. Anthony, help us to be fearless of the world's judgment, knowing that only the judgment of God matters.*

### Second Station Jesus Accepts His Cross



**W**E hear Jesus' call to carry a cross and follow him. Our cross may be sickness or aging, death or separation. It may be sitting up with a sick child or listening to someone's troubles. Sharing with the

# Contemporary Prayers

## St. Anthony, Promoter of Eucharistic Devotion

**S**T. Anthony, you nourished your love of Christ and the Church through the Bible and the Sacrament of the Altar. Share with me your burning desire to seek Christ in the prayerful study of God's Holy Word and the faithful celebration and reception of Christ in the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

Allow these Sacred Mysteries of Christ's Saving Presence to inspire and strengthen me so that I might live Christ's own life through deeds of self-sacrificing love on behalf of all, especially the poor and unwanted. As a sure help may I approach Mary, the Mother of God, with your childlike confidence for she can lead me to proper worship of Christ and service to him in the Church and the world.

And when my witness to Christ brings trial help me to unite myself to the sufferings of Christ in the sure hope of a share in the Banquet of Eternal Life in heaven with you and all God's Holy Ones. For this I hope, St. Anthony; for this I pray. Amen.

✠ *Bernard Cardinal Law*



# Short Prayers for “Thirteen Tuesdays”

*(Select from this book any prayers you wish for your Novena. Close with the respective prayer below.)*

## First Tuesday

**S**T. Anthony, you found quiet time to retreat into private communion with God to replenish your life with new strength. Help me in the midst of my busy life to seek the Spirit's guiding presence within my heart.

## Second Tuesday

**S**T. Anthony, you lived in the midst of storm and danger and were exposed to evils, yet you kept a prayerful spirit. Keep me prayerful and surround me by your constant care.

## Third Tuesday

**S**T. Anthony, you were challenged by change and new experiences so many times in the course of your life. Help me not to be afraid of the changes that will take place in my own life and to realize that by dealing with them I will grow in faith.

## Fourth Tuesday

**S**T. Anthony, in your preaching of the Gospel you proclaimed that God forgives sinners and understands our human frailty.