



ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA



ON the 13th of June the Church celebrates the feast of St. Anthony of Padua whose name is a household word, the beloved St. Anthony, invoked alike by young and old, by those outside the Church as well as by the Church's own children !

St. Anthony was born in Lisbon the capital of Portugal of noble and wealthy parents, who never allowed the care of their wealth, nor the claims of society absorb them to the exclusion of higher duties. To train their children in the path of virtue was to these christian parents the first and all important duty of their lives, and it was faithfully and lovingly performed.

From his most tender years the little Anthony showed signs of predilection ; study and prayer filled his young life ; he cared nothing for play as a child, nor as a youth for the usual recreations of college lads. At an early age he entered a religious Order where his piety and humility gave great edification. After a few years spent here he felt a desire to give himself up wholly to God, and to that end asked his superiors to send him away from Lisbon, beyond the reach of his family and his many friends whose visits were a source of too great pleasure to him.

He was sent in accordance with his wishes to a house of the Order in Coimbra. Soon after his arrival there it happened that the Franciscans of that town were celebrating the obsequies of five members of their Order who had been martyred by the Turks, and whose bodies had been ransomed at great cost and brought home by their brethern. The young Anthony was so fired with enthusiasm at hearing the recital of their sufferings that he