

St. Anthony's Bread.

A wonderful devotion has spread itself these last few years throughout the world. It is that of "St. Anthony's Bread." It began as follows:—It was at Toulon, France, March 12, 1890. Louise Bouffier, who kept a small drapery shop at 41 Rue Lafayette, was unable to open her store, the lock being broken. A locksmith was called, and, after trying all kinds of keys for an hour or so, decided upon breaking in the door, and went for the necessary implements. In the meantime Louise was inspired to promise some bread to St. Anthony for the poor if the door was opened without breaking in. A key was again introduced and the door unlocked at once. Since that moment Louise and a number of her friends began to recommend themselves to St. Anthony, and to confide to him all their troubles, with promise of bread for the poor. One of them made a promise of two pounds of bread every day of her life if the saint would cause a member of her family to correct himself from a defect that had grieved her for twenty-three years, which was granted at once. Out of gratitude she bought a small statue of St. Anthony, which she presented to Louise, and she placed it in the back room of her shop in Toulon. Since then, from morning till night every day, people walk in and out the little shop for the sake of kneeling at the foot of St. Anthony, expose to him their difficulties, and make a promise of bread to the poor. At first Louise would find every evening small amounts of money deposited in the cups or saucers or laid down on the shelves of her back room. Later on a trunk was placed there to receive the offer-

ings, which, in 1891, were about \$40 per month. In 1892 they went from \$50 to \$200 per month, in 1893 from \$200 to \$1,200, in 1894 from \$1,000 to \$7,900 per month. The annual receipts were, for

1892	\$ 1,000.00
1893	7,600.00
1894	21,700.00
1895	24,180.00
1896	25,580.00

All these amounts are spent in bread and other necessaries, and are distributed to the poor people, to the asylums, orphanages, etc. Besides offerings in money there are others in clothes, pieces of lace, silk, etc., which are carefully cleaned and made up into vestments, altar decorations, etc and sent to the missions. Last week a box weighing 120 lbs., full of similar articles, arrived in Kamloops, with a letter from Madame Louise Bouffier describing the articles sent and recommending herself to our memoros.

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Next Year, 1899.

Septuagesima Sunday falls January 29.
 Ash Wednesday, February 15.
 Easter Sunday, April 2.
 Ascension Thursday, May 11.
 Pentecost Sunday, May 21.
 Corpus Christi, June 1.
 Sundays after Pentecost, number up to twenty-seven.
 First Sunday in Advent, December 3.

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Days of Fast and Abstinence

During 1899.

1. Lent. All week days during Lent are fast days. Abstinence must also be kept on all Wednesdays and Fridays throughout