

Then the Prior cast his eyes around his own community, and resting them on Anthony, the humble kitchen brother, bade him preach. He protested saying he knew not how to preach, nor could he think of anything to say.

The Prior commanded him to speak what the Holy Ghost would teach him. He was thus compelled under pain of disobedience to preach. Commencing first in simple words, he grew inspired and poured forth a flood of eloquence, displaying the wonderful gifts of his soul, insomuch that all who heard him were filled with amazement, and the Prior at once notified St. Francis of the treasure which he found in the young brother. The latter directed him to place Anthony under the care of a celebrated theologian, for a course of instruction, so that he could be fitted to use the great gifts which God bestowed on him in the extirpation of heresy. To leave his beloved solitude was a severe trial to the humility of our Saint, but the same humility made him obey unquestioning the command of his superior.

His progress was rapid, and in a little while we find him conducting missions in various places. So great was the force of his eloquence that the most hardened sinners were brought to see themselves in a new light, and sobs and groans resounded through the church while he preached.

Every one wanted to hear him, business was suspended and store keepers closed their doors in order to go and listen to the inspired orator. Many miracles are recorded, which fill volumes. From henceforth his life was so full of labor that it was a miracle in itself how any human body could endure so much. Travelling constantly, never resting ; as soon as he arrived at each city, the people were waiting for him in crowds ; the highest nobles were glad to offer him hospitality.

One of these, a wealthy man of *Limousin* was anxious about the comfort of the honored priest, and wishing to satisfy himself that the Saint was sleeping, looked through a crevice in the door of the room where he had lodged him : he beheld him on his knees, adoring a most lovely infant, who hovered above him smiling, enveloped in a blaze of light ! This vision is the subject of many