

ST. ANTHONY'S

CANADIAN MESSENGER

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"If you seek miracles, have recourse to St. Anthony."

ST. BONAVENTURE.

THE SAINT OF THE UNIVERSE.

Such is the glorious title which His Holiness Pope Leo XIII has given to St. Anthony of Padua.

The ever fruitful word of the Holy Father has thus, not merely confirmed a worship already held in high estimation, but it has moreover given that worship a wider scope, and the Saint heretofore so well known, has become the favorite Saint of the Catholic Universe.

After the Blessed Virgin and St. Joseph, whose protection naturally extends over the whole Church, which is the great family by adoption, of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the most universally popular Saint is perhaps the Thaumaturgus of Padua.

It is not in high circles alone that due honor is rendered to this Great Saint, but it is chiefly among the lowly and poor, who place entire confidence in his power.

We admire all the Saints, but mingled with this sentiment there is always a certain awe, which keeps us at a respectful distance.

We deal towards them much in the same manner we act in regard to great persons whom we love and venerate, but whose dignity impresses us. As for St Anthony, we admire him, but we do not keep away from him; we respect him, but we feel drawn towards him; his goodness is

so great, and withal so gentle that it engenders a sweet and affectionate confidence.

We have recourse to him without any effort, not only as to a powerful protector, but as to the dearest and most devoted friend. Saint Anthony becomes an intimate and familiar member in every household where he is invoked, everything is confided to his care.

Should one of the family start out on a journey, this is the mother's prayer: «Good St. Anthony, watch over him». The traveller himself will also say a daily prayer to St. Anthony, and no one will have any uneasiness about him.

If we lose anything, St. Anthony is at once invoked, and the missing article is found.

In all dangers we raise our thoughts and our voices to the Thaumaturgus, and help is granted us; in temptations we cry out to him and serenity is restored to the soul.

Is there a difficult question to be settled? It is confided to St. Anthony, and eventually, all turns out the best. Above all, if an alms, or even the promise of an alms be joined to our prayer, all the words of the «*Miraculous Responsory*» are verified to the very letter.

«Death, error, calamities, leprosy, the demon take flight; the sick are restored to health. The sea obeys; chains are broken, dangers disappear; want is no longer felt.»

It is this constant influence, as well as the perceptible and efficacious protection of the saint, which inspire and maintain this universal confidence in his power.

Is not this the only plausible explanation to be given regarding the ardor with which we invoke and praise the Thaumaturgus.

It seems as if he wished for no other claim on christian people's love, than that to which he is entitled by his power and goodness.

The liturgy of the Church goes no further, but the God has assigned him is, in reality, worth all other claims.

St. Anthony is not an Apostle but he possessed the eloquence and the gifts of one; and his preaching, like

that of the Apostles, was the proof and the food of the christian faith ; he is not an Evangelist, but he wrote in his heart, and in the hearts of his hearers, in vivid and indelible characters, the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He was not a Martyr but he sought sufferings, and he sighed for martyrdom.

He founded no religious order, but he restored faith and piety in the Church, and the numberless wonders he has wrought since his death, bear evidence to the child-like but strong faith which leads to God, and even overthrows impiety. He is ranked amongst the confessors in the catalogue of saints, but the gentle and sympathetic character of his influence, and the universality of his benevolence cause him to be loved among all the saints in Heaven. This influence, is not limited to any particular country, its action is felt everywhere, and to day its social range is considerable. The Holy Father has indeed good reason to style him the *Saint of the Universe*.

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The more we consider the developments of the devotion towards the Thaumaturgus, the more we are astonished, and the better we understand the unheard-of enthusiasm it has everywhere created.

The shrines consecrated to him have become frequented pilgrimages. An engraving, or a statue representing him, is to found in all the principal churches. Painters and sculptors have made it their delight to exercise their skill in reproducing his angelic features in some event of his life, and the subject is always new.

When we meet with one of those masterpieces, and endeavor to trace its origin, we always discover that it proceeds from a miraculous incident. The devotion to St. Anthony is everywhere inaugurated by a miracle, or else the very fact of its taking a solid footing wherever it is once introduced, through the zeal of his clients, is in itself miraculous.

For instance, we may be surprised to see the picture of the humble St. Anthony in company with Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Blessed Virgin, and some of the Apos-

bles, in the beautiful large mosaic which adorns the sanctuary walls of the basilica of St. John Lateran, the mother of all churches.

Well, in this again, there is miraculous intervention. Read its history.

This mosaic is partly due to the Friars-Minor, and it may be easily supposed that their filial piety inspired them the idea of placing the two principal Saints of their order, namely St. Francis and St. Anthony, in so honorable a position.

The reigning Pope at the time was Nicholas IV, a Franciscan, he approved of the picture which moreover, was made according to his orders.

Boniface VIII, although a devout admirer of the power and sanctity of St. Anthony, considered it better to replace him, in the tableau, by a doctor of the Church. In the midst of a group so well selected, where only a few of the Apostles figured, he thought it more suitable to place one of those pillars which had sustained the Church in the dark days of heresy. He therefore ordered that the picture of the Thaumaturgus of Padua, be destroyed, and replaced by that of St. Gregory.

The men set to work ; but God had permitted the decision of his Vicar, in order to more clearly demonstrate the glory of St. Anthony.

At the first stroke of the hammer on this holy picture, both the man who struck the blow, and his companions, were violently thrown on the scaffoldings, and as it seemed, thunderstruck. They were thought to be dead.

The news of this miracle was soon spread through all the town, and the people were deeply impressed by it. The Pope ordered the work to be stopped, and St. Anthony was allowed to remain in the illustrious Company.

This extraordinary event was considered as a manifest declaration of God's will.

For a long period the engraving bore the traces of the blow from the hammer, as a visible evidence of the prodigy. These traces were obliterated four centuries later.

It is therefore the will of God that St. Anthony of Padua be glorified. Nothing happens without divine permission, all good, especially, emerges from his Providence.

If the Thaumaturgus be the Saint of the universe, it is because he is still, and will ever be, the privileged friend of Jesus.

NOTICE.

The HISTORY OF ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA that we begin to publish in this issue, is a very complete one. It has been translated from the French especially for the CANADIAN MESSENGER, by Miss A. Beardsley, a very able writer who, although not being a catholic, is wishing to do something to the glory of St. Anthony. We hope our readers will appreciate her work and call down upon her soul the blessings of the WONDER WORKER.

HISTORY OF SAINT ANTHONY OF PADUA.

CHAPTER I.

Birth of Saint Anthony of Padua—His Country—His Family—Presages—His Baptism—His Education at the School of the Canons of the Cathedral of Lisbon.

In the year 1195 of the Christian era, a child was born, to whom was given the name of Ferdinand de Bouillon. This child destined to be great among those saints to whom the Church, in virtue of the number and splendour of their miracles, gives the title of Thaumaturgus was later to be known to the world as Anthony of Padua. His country was the ancient Lusitania, that strip of land on the western coast of the Spanish peninsula, encircled by the Ocean, the Duro, and the mountains which separate it from Audalusia and Estramadura. This country, known to us as Portugal was dear to the Romans because of a beautiful topography, a pure sky, and a soil which produced a wealth of tempting fruits. The Roman establishments founded there endured as long as the glory of their founders, then came other claimants, for the country was too seductive to remain long without a

claimant. The Moors succeeded in gaining the mastery, a mastery disputed with them by the kings of Castile and of Leon, but at the middle of the eleventh century, still theirs.

In the year 1060, Henry of Burgundy, grandson of Robert I, Duke of Burgundy, and nephew of Henry I, king of France, appeared upon the scenes. According to some historians the piety of this prince was equal to his bravery, by others he is dubbed «adventurer». But the adventurer of that epoch was the Chevalier errant, who in performing his knightly functions sought at the same time his own glory. The Crusades had produced a movement of enthusiasm to which adventurous characters responded readily. The Saracen was the enemy of Christianity; the Moor shared with him this obloquy. The first was to be attacked in the Orient, the second in the plains of Audalusia and of Castile. The «Cid» was still living and the fame of his exploits had spread beyond the Pyrenees. In becoming the companion of arms of this hero of legend, Henry of Burgundy secured to himself the respect of posterity. He attached himself to Ferdinand and to Alphonse VI of Castile, and the brilliant victories which he gained from the Moors won for him the sovereignty of the Province of Porto, and the hand of Theresa, daughter of Alphonse. He founded the family which was, for so many centuries, to govern a state insignificant in territory, but famous in exploit; a state which laid out for Europe the highway of the New World and which until now, has maintained on both sides of the Atlantic, positions which the most powerful nations have not wrested from her. Henry of Burgundy was a true type of Frankish race—a race destined to bear abroad the banner of Christ and the torch of civilization. He it was who gave the signal to the Christian kingdom ready to spring into being at Jerusalem, as well as to the Latin Empire established later on at Constantinople. The work of Godfrey de Bouillon was ephemeral, that of Beaudoin of Flanders endured but a short time; the foundation of Henry of Burgundy still remains. For the rest he was modest in the midst of his good fortune. Content with

the title of Count of Porto which he bore until his death, he left to his son the glory of completing the conquest and seating himself upon a definitely established throne under the title of Alphonse I. The conqueror of Castro-Verde rendered homage for his dominions to the Roman Church. When he died in 1185 Sancho I succeeded him.

In the tenth year of the reign of this king, at Lisbon, on the right bank of the Tagus, at a little distance from its mouth, Ferdinand de Bouillon was born. His father, Martin de Bouillon and his mother, Maria Theresa Tavera were in the flower of life. The details concerning this illustrious family are not all equally well substantiated. When one considers however the distance of the historians from the events ; the fact that they had to deal, not so much with the public life of the persons concerned as with those intimate virtues prone to screen themselves from the world's scrutiny ; that moreover, they had to seek the truth amid the wreck of an epoch distracted by wars, it is not surprising to see them fall back at times upon conjecture, and guess, as it were, at what the records do not establish with sufficient certainty. The eminent piety of the des Bouillon is, however, a fact upon which all are agreed. Their part in the combat against the Moors implies faith as well as hardihood. All honor to the Christians of that time who wrote their creed upon the battle-field with the point of their swords ! We know beside that the de Bouillon were among the most illustrious of the nobility, Maria Theresa Tavera was a descendant of an ancient family which had reigned in the Asturias in the eighth century. Martin de Bouillon was of the lineage of Godfrey de Bouillon, chief of the First Crusade and first Frankish king of Jerusalem. Upon this point the historians are unanimous. Henry of Burgundy had not come unattended to engage in action against the Moors. He was accompanied by several gentlemen of France, zealous of sharing the perilous glory of his enterprise. It would not require a great stretch of the imagination to suppose that among these volunteers, were to be found members of the family de Bouillon. The heroic ancestor had given the example, it was to his posterity to

follow it. In matters of genealogy names are of considerable importance. The absolute similarity of name between men of the same stamp in two countries separated only by a chain of mountains, in a century where the political conditions of Europe were such as to frequently displace the peoples who made war upon each other, certainly favors the general opinion of the historians. The name of the grandfather of Saint Anthony was Vincent de Bouillon, of whose life but little is known. It appears, however, that he had been made governor of Lisbon—at the time when that city, conquered from the Moors, became the capital of Portugal. At that time such a dignity was only obtained by some signal feat of arms. Martin de Bouillon inherited his father's fortune and sustained his reputation. The lofty conciseness employed by an anonymous writer in calling him « the soldier of King Alphonse » indicates plainly enough his part in the war of deliverance, and the esteem in which he was held by his contemporaries. He derives his chief glory however from the son whom God was pleased to give him.

(To be continued.)

A GENEROUS ARTIST.

The pretty engraving which decorates the cover of the « Canadian Messenger » is due to the clever penmanship of Mr. René Ravaux, N^o 16, St. John St, Quebec. This distinguished artist wished thereby to contribute in a measure, to the devotion of St. Anthony.

We invite those of our readers requiring any artistic work, such as oil paintings, portraits and any kind of drawings to place their orders with him. We guarantee entire satisfaction.

Chronicles of the devotion to St. Anthony of Padua.

CHICOUTIMI.—Hôtel-Dieu St. Vallier. Sunday, Feb. 9th, a relic of St. Anthony was solemnly inaugurated. The chapel was so crowded with the faithful, that several persons could not gain admission, and were obliged to go away.

Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was given by his Lordship Bishop Labrecque. The sermon was preached by the Rev. Mr. Cimon, and the ceremony was concluded by the veneration of the relic.

EXTRACTS FROM OUR CORRESPONDENCE.

CHICAGO, ILL.—Mr. Editor: You would be surprised to see how many are devoted to St. Anthony. Let me tell you how we lately experienced his power.

My dear father had a law-suit with some men about land; it has been in court for over five years. Mamma and I prayed to St. Anthony to help papa to settle it. The next night papa came home and said that the men were negotiating to settle.

We have only to thank St. Anthony for it.

A DEVOTED CHILD OF ST. ANTHONY.

THREE-RIVERS.—Some time ago, as I was returning home about eleven o'clock at night, I lost an article which I prized very highly. I immediately retraced my steps to look for it, but I was not successful. I then promised bread for the poor, and a friend to whom I confided my trouble also promised, if St. Anthony would enable me to find my lost article, to publish the favor in the MESSENGER.

The next morning, my first idea was to examine the road I had taken the night before, but still I could not find it. About noon, I returned a second time, to ask of the persons with whom I had spent the evening, if they knew anything of the missing article. On approaching the house I began to scatter the snow with my foot, when to my great surprise, it seemed to me that I perceived some glittering object, I stooped and picked up the article I had lost; it was not in the least injured, though it was very fragile, and moreover, being lost on the public highway, it must have been trampled upon by many persons passing back and forward.

Thanks then to St. Anthony to whom I owe this favor.

A SUBSCRIBER.

QUEBEC.—I obtained a great favor from St. Anthony after promising an alms, and an insertion in the MESSENGER, the conversion of a man addicted to liquor.

I am therefore happy to acquit myself of my debt towards our good Saint, who has never refused me anything. All honor to St. Anthony, and implicit confidence in his holy protection.

A LADY SUBSCRIBER.

Mr. Editor,

Four years ago, my youngest son, twenty-one years of age, having committed a youthful error, which to him seemed enormous, abruptly left the paternal roof without informing any one of his design. Thenceforward, and up to last autumn, he had not given any sign of his existence. The prayers I offered for my wayward son, as well as those I besought of others, were indeed numerous and seemingly very fervent, still they were fruitless. One day towards the end of last summer, in the course of a family conversation on the devotion to St. Anthony, we resolved to begin a novena in his honor, in order to obtain the favor we so ardently desired. Scarcely a week after the close of the novena, I received a letter from my son who was in the far North-West. He stated that until lately he was quite determined not to send home any news, when suddenly an irresistible force compelled him to write us. The novena to St. Anthony had worked this change. Since then he has written regularly, and as soon as his present engagement is concluded he intends to return home. In requesting you to publish this true story for the edification of your readers, I hope to acquit myself, in some measure, of the debt of gratitude I owe St. Anthony.

A MOTHER.

M..... Nov. 1895.

FAVORS OBTAINED.

ST. BERNARD, DORCH.: Favors obtained. C. A.—KANSAS CITY: I made a request to St. Anthony, promising 20 lbs. of bread. He granted me what I asked, and I now fulfil my promise. Mrs. R. R.—ST. THEODORE, MONTCALM: A valuable medal was found, thanks to the visible intervention of St. Anthony. Miss D. L.—QUEBEC: I was out of employment for two months. I made two consecutive novenas to St. Anthony and promised bread, soon after I received four different offers of a situation, and I accepted the most lucrative. Thanks to St. Anthony. J. P.—ST. RAYMOND: A favor obtained. J. R. P.—ST. ALPHONSE: Two favors obtained after promising to publish in the « Messenger ». A subscriber.—ST. ROBERT: A great favor obtained. Mrs. P. P.—GRAND BAY: Good St. Anthony, I fulfil my promise. You

have cured me; here is bread for your poor. *Miss M. M.*—ST ADRIEN D'IRLANDE: Thanks be rendered to St. Anthony for several signal favors. *J. O. L.*—QUEBEC: An almost incurable sore throat cured by St. Anthony. *A favored one.*—ROCHESTER, N. H.: Favors obtained through the intercession of the Good Saint. *Rev. Sisters of the Holy Cross.*—BERTHIER (en haut): Thanksgiving to St. Anthony for favors obtained. *A.*—Signal graces received. *E. L.*—STE. CLOTHILDE: St. Anthony has just settled for me some very difficult business. *Mrs. F. O.*—STE ANNE OF L.: An almost despaired of cure, and an extraordinary temporal favor obtained through St. Anthony. Glory and thanksgiving to the Great Thaumaturgus. *Mrs. F. G.*—LEVIS, ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL: St. Anthony granted us four great favors after promising him bread for the poor. *J. L. F.*

St. JÉROME: Financial crisis happily overcome after promise of publishing the fact in the « Messenger ». *R. V.*—ACADIAVILLE, N. B.: I fulfil my promise by requesting you to publish a great favor obtained through St. Anthony. *Mrs. O. R.*—CHICOUTIMI: A sick person who was unconscious for six hours, and in imminent danger, was suddenly restored to full consciousness, and a few days later completely recovered her health, through the promise of a person who was present, promising bread to St. Anthony for his poor.—QUEBEC: After I had promised to receive Holy Communion and to give an alms on nine consecutive Tuesdays, St. Anthony procured a situation for my husband who had been idle for five months. *Mrs. A. P.*—ST. BERNARD: St. Anthony cured me instantly from the effects of an accident which was likely to keep me, for a long time, confined to the house. *F. P. A.*—L'ISLET: Two favors from St. Anthony. *A subscriber*—QUEBEC: My child having been cured through the intercession of St. Anthony, I neglected my promise to publish the fact. The dear little child relapsed and was a second time cured by him. I therefore, without any more delay, thank him for this twofold favor. *Mrs. J. C.*—ST. MARY: My child was perfectly cured of very sore eyes after I made a promise of bread to St. Anthony. *Mrs J. P. B.*—SACRED HEART OF JESUS: A lost article found. *Mrs. Ls. B.*—LACHINE: I have been requested to thank St. Anthony, through the « Messenger », for a favor obtained by his intercession. *C. F. Priest*—BRITISH COLUMBIA: Thanks be rendered to St. Anthony, for a signal favor obtained after a promise of publication in the « Messenger ». *M. A.*—ST. R.: Will you kindly publish in your « Messenger », the great favor I have received. For eleven years I had had no news of my husband. I made enquiries everywhere and had prayers said for him, but my petition was not heard. Finally, I invoked St. Anthony, I promised him bread for his poor, also to publish this favor in your pamphlet. Thanks be rendered to him; I received news from my husband. Thanks O good St. Anthony! *Mrs. L.*

St. HYACINTHE: Last December, I entered the novitiate of the Marist Brothers in St. Hyacinth, shortly afterwards the devil suc-

ceeded in arising pecuniary troubles, and a misunderstanding between certain persons interested in me, which imperilled my vocation.

In my distress I raised my eyes to St. Anthony, and in union with my companions, commenced a novena to this good Saint. Receiving no answer at the end of this first one we immediately commenced another. Our prayers were not in vain.

What was not my joy when, on the fifth day of this second novena, I received a letter from my good mother, containing these words: « You may rest quietly, everything is settled ». My amiable protector had disposed everything for the best. Glory then to God, and all honor to the powerful St. Anthony! *P. X.—QUEBEC*: Having made the thirteen Tuesdays and promised to publish in the « Messenger », and after giving a few loaves in alms, I obtained a signal favor which I had solicited a very long time. Glory and thanksgiving to the good St. Anthony. *A subscriber* —S. S.: I joyfully thank good St. Anthony, through the « Messenger ». We feared a case of diphtheria in our convent, but all danger disappeared after we promised to have the favor inserted in the « Messenger », and to give a small loaf to the poor during some months. Thanks also to St. Anthony, for three other graces obtained through his intercession, *A subscriber*.

Other special favors, 36.—Business settled, 2.—Situations obtained, 3.—Law suit won, 1.—Articles found, 11.—Cures, 6.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO ST. ANTHONY.

Parish, 1.—Epileptics, 2.—Sick, 31.—Absent, 11.—Special favors, 66.—Conversion of 4 families.—Conversion of 14 other persons, and of 3 apostates—A Canadian in foreign lands.—Parochial works—Students, 6.—Agreement in married life, 8.—Marriages, 2.—Important affairs, 13.—Credits, 2.—Vocations, 18.—Retreats, 3.—Children, 19.—Peace of soul, 2.—Religious institutions, 6.—Persons addicted to liquor, 18.—Money lost, 4.—Situations, 6.

Kindly recite the « Miraculous Responsory » for all those intentions as well as for the other intentions already published.

Every day prayers are recited in the Hôtel-Dieu St. Vallier for all intentions recommended in this pamphlet.