

**REGIONAL FORMATION: SUMMER STUDY ON FRANCISCAN  
SAINTS**

**ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA**



**Article written by:**

**Annapoorna Mary, OFS, St. Joan of Arc  
Fraternity, Germantown, TN, Regional  
Formation Director, St. Clare Region, MO, USA**

# St. Anthony of Padua

## 1. Introduce yourself [ Fraternity & Franciscan journey]

I am Annapoorna Mary, OFS, belong to St. Joan of Arc Fraternity and serve as Regional Formation director of St. Clare Region, MO, USA. I am married, mother of two grown up sons, mother in-law of two daughters, and grandma of three grand children. In the service of the Lord, I have experiences of teaching PRE for 7<sup>th</sup> grade and 8<sup>th</sup> grade both in India and in Memphis, Sing in Choir, Eucharistic minister, and a secular Franciscan. My sources of Spiritual strengths are Holy Mass, Stations of the Cross, Rosary, Divine Mercy, reading reflecting Holy Bible, and family. My newfound spiritual exercise is praying Stations of the Cross for the souls in purgatory from 2020 onward. I believe in the faith-based way of life with constant conversion. My Secular Franciscan journey began before I could know about St. Francis. The first Franciscan saint I got familiar with was St. Anthony of Padua, which I can remember from my childhood. He has been my constant intercessor throughout my life.

## 2. Choose a Franciscan saint of your choice:

I choose St. Anthony of Padua for this summer study, as he has been our guardian intercessor. When we were newly married [1987], we consecrated our family to Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary. My husband received baptism at our marriage and his baptismal name is Anton Dominic Selvam, you know him as Guru, which is his last name given by his parents at his birth as Hindu. We named our first new house in India as Anton cottage honoring St. Anthony of Padua. His intercession has been a constant blessing to our family.

## 3. Write a paragraph of saint's bio description:

[[https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint\\_id=24](https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=24)]

**Feastday:** June 13; **Patron:** of Lost Things; Birth: 1195; Death: 1231

Canonized: Pope Gregory IX in 1232

“Saint Anthony was born Fernando Martins in Lisbon, Portugal. He was born into a wealthy family and by the age of fifteen asked to be sent to the Abbey of Santa Cruz in Coimbra, the then capital of Portugal. During his time in the Abbey, he learned theology and Latin. Following his ordination to the priesthood, he was named guest master and was responsible for the abbey's hospitality. When Franciscan friars settled a small hermitage outside Coimbra dedicated to Saint Anthony of Egypt, Fernando felt a longing to join them. Fernando eventually received permission to leave the Abbey so he could join the new Franciscan Order. When he was admitted, he changed his name to Anthony.”

## 4. Write the virtues on Holy Spirit's gifts and fruits visible to you in Saint's life:

In reflecting St. Anthony of Padua life and his miracles, I witness the manifestation of all the gifts of the Holy Spirit implied including 1) Wisdom · 2) Understanding · 3) Counsel · 4) Fortitude · 5) Knowledge · 6) Piety · 7) Fear of the Lord . St. Anthony performed many miracles during the journey of spreading the good news through his strong faith and fervent prayers in the company of Eucharist and Crucifix. The popular thirteen

miracles attributed to St. Anthony, and he was known to raise the dead to life in many occasions. Some of the popular miracles include Heretic mule, Re attached foot, Drowned child alive, Tommy & St. Anthony bread, Eurilia Comes Back to Life, Dead man speaks, The miser's heart, A violent husband miracle, Speaking Infant, The liberation of Padua, the cure of Cunniza tumor, and preaching to the fishes. He is also known for delivering people from the clutches of evil spirits.

**5. How the saint's life influences your secular Franciscan life one paragraph.** Our family has received multiple blessings through the intercession of St. Anthony. One profound blessing that we received and we believe associated with his patron intercession was **lost and found of my father**. Few years ago, my father [89 years then] went with our family to attend St. Anthony of Padua Church festival at Pulliyampatti[India], which is located about 100 miles from our village. During the festival mass, in the crowd, my family realized that father was missing, and they searched, searched, searched every where they could with no avail. Our family was shaken with fear, worry, and terror of unimaginable outcomes were in the view. Two days went by, father was found nowhere, and no news anywhere therefore police report was filed, and flyers went out all over the state of Tamil Nadu [India] to lookout for him. As family, we prayed to St. Anthony fervently, while the hopes were becoming impossible. Whole family and relatives gathered with tears in our village. Church bells rang multiple times in his search, which is a traditional prayer practice for the lost. On third midday, my brother [Anthony Packia Madavadian] received a call from his friend from a neighboring town, which is about 50 miles away from our place in a different direction with the good news of locating my father. By then, my father had walked almost 192 miles in circles [309 Km] from the Church and have reached this town. This event was nothing less than a miracle. We all thanked St. Anthony for his intercession. Father lived few years after this event and now he is in heaven from May, 7th 2020. As for my OFS life, St. Anthony's thirst for evangelization and his aspired martyrdom for the Lord captivate my admiration and that inspires my walk in Secular Franciscan life. His recognition of God's caring presence in all His creation and inclusion of creations in carrying good news were remarkable, which were evident in his preaching to the fishes, when people insulted, ignored, and neglected him. St. Anthony's strong faith in the eucharist brought forth the revelation of God's mighty power that was evident in a miracle where starving Donkey chose to adore the eucharist instead of temptation of feed.

**6. How saint's life may help to guide us in our Secular Franciscan life:** St. Anthony is a great Franciscan saint, who performed many miracles and preached the good news throughout his life and his life continues to inspire us as OFS today. He is also one of the Doctors of the Church. His love for the infant Jesus, crucifix, and Eucharist was profound. In him, we can see the manifestation of Holy Spirit Gifts and fruits vividly. St. Anthony's intercession is a valuable spiritual gift we can have, as secular Franciscans. His choice of Franciscan Way of life elevates our call as OFS. Here is a powerful prayer of St. Anthony that he used which has become my daily prayer, "Behold the Cross Behold the Cross of the Lord! Begone, you evil powers! The Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered. Alleluia!"