

Saint Anthony of Padua

1195-1231

HELL

Saint Anthony of Padua, in Portuguese Santo Antonio de Lisboa, known in the secular world as Fernando, the son of Martim de Bulhoes and Taveira Azevedo, was a Portuguese religious canonized by the Catholic Church and proclaimed in 1946 Doctor of the Church.

From the beginning he was an Augustinian monk in Coimbra from the year 1210, afterwards from 1220 he was a Franciscan friar. He traveled much, living first in Portugal then in Italy and in France. In 1221 he went to the General Capital in Assisi, where he saw in person Saint Francis of Assisi. Gifted with great humility but also with great knowledge and culture, and because of his worthy talents as a preacher, demonstrated for the first time at Forli in 1222, he was commissioned with the teaching of Theology, and because of this was dispatched by Saint Francis himself to fight back the diffusion of the Catharist heresy in France. He was later transferred to Bologna and then to Padua. Numerous are the miracles attributed to Saint Anthony, for this he is remembered as "Thaumaturgist" namely, "Worker of Miracles."



Famous is the episode which narrates that "during the funeral of a miser, the Saint exclaimed that the man did not merit to be buried in sacred ground because his soul was damned to Hell. Remembering the words of Saint Luke, 'Where your treasure is, there also your

heart will be', he had his chest opened by two surgeons, and it was seen that the dead man had no heart: it was found in the chest where the miser had kept his money."

