

Saint Anthony of Padua

1195 - 1231

PARADISE

Saint Anthony of Padua had a heavenly vision of Baby Jesus, of which a man was witness, as narrated in (*Liber miraculorum* 22,1-8): “One time, when the blessed Anthony was preaching in a city, he was hosted by a resident of that place. This person provided him a remote room, so that he could attend to his study and contemplation undisturbed. Then, while he was praying alone in the room, the owner increased his coming and goings through his buildings.

While he was observing with concern and interest the room where Saint Anthony was praying alone, casting glances secretly through a window, he saw appearing in the arms of blessed Anthony a beautiful and joyous baby. The Saint was hugging and kissing him, contemplating his face with unceasing devotion. That citizen, amazed and enraptured by the beauty of that baby, was thinking to himself from where could have come such a lovely child.

That baby was the Lord Jesus. He revealed to blessed Anthony that the host was observing him. After a long time of prayer, when the vision disappeared, the Saint called the citizen and prohibited him from revealing to anyone what he had seen.”

The saint performed another miracle in Lisbon, as Bartholomew of Pisa narrates: “In the city of Lisbon, of which St. Anthony was native, – while the relatives of the Saint were still living, that is father, mother and brothers –, there were two citizens who were enemies and hated each other to death. It occurred that the son of one of them, a young boy, happened to encounter the enemy of his family, who lived close to

the parents of blessed Anthony. This man, ruthless, seized the youth, brought him into his house and immediately killed him. Then, in the deep of the night, upon entering the yard of the relatives of the Saint, he dug a ditch, buried the body in it and fled.

Since the youth was a son of a notable person, his disappearance was investigated, and it was verified that he had passed through the district where their enemy lived. Thus, the dwelling and garden of this man were searched but no clue was uncovered. By performing an inspection in the yard of the relatives of blessed Antonio, the boy was located, buried in the garden. As a result of this, the executioner of the king arrested as murderers of the youth, his father along with the entire household.

The blessed Anthony, although he was in Padua, knew of the deed through divine inspiration. That evening, after asking permission to the guardian, he exited the friary. And while he was walking into the night, he was transported by means of a divine miracle to the city of Lisbon. Upon entering the city in the morning, he directed himself to the executioner, and began asking him to absolve those innocent people from the accusation and release them. Since he was unwilling to do this for any reason, blessed Anthony ordered that the body of the murdered boy be brought in front of him. After the body was brought, blessed Anthony commanded the boy to get up and tell whether the Saint's relatives had been the ones who killed him. The boy awoke from death and confirmed that the relatives of blessed Anthony were completely innocent of that crime. Consequently, they were



absolved and released from prison. The blessed Anthony remained in their company for the entire day.”

