



13-TUESDAYS
NOVENA
2022

*St. Anthony's
Miracles*



From the Friars of the Basilica
of St. Anthony, in Padua, Italy.



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INSTRUCTIONS

This booklet proposes a separate miracle of Saint Anthony every Tuesday. On the first page you will find a quote about the life of the Saint, the meditation of a friar and a prayer. In the second, some questions guide your personal reflection. Finally, there is a prayer to make you feel in communion with Saint Anthony and with all his devotees.



Introduction

Anthony is the “Saint of Miracles”. Thanks to his intercession, the Lord heals the body, but even more the hearts of people. How much grace!

But that is not all! Anthony’s miracles, like those of Jesus, also have “pedagogical” value, because they open our eyes to the great themes of faith and show us the way to follow in the concreteness of life.

The Gospel repeatedly emphasizes Jesus’ compassion towards those who turned to him for help. With the same gaze of heart Saint Anthony bent over suffering humanity, which sought consolation and strength in him. He responded to everyone, bringing peace, health and truth in every situation of need.

That same gaze of the heart should animate us too, our commitment as believers, as witnesses of faith, hope and concrete charity. With the power of love we may be able to convert “the heart of the usurer”; becoming more sensitive we may be able to avoid other women from suffering the violence of those who “love” them; we may also be able to unmask false prophets, who make coexistence among men difficult, always to the detriment of the weakest.

The path of the “13 Tuesdays” will offer us the opportunity to rediscover the most famous miracles of Saint Anthony, but without our amazement ceasing: each of them will be a lesson, a model to imitate, an invitation to do our part.

Of course, miracles may not yet be within our reach, but from up there our Saint will always help us. I’m sure!

fr. Giancarlo Zamengo



Thirteen-day Novena

Dear sisters and brothers, let us present our petitions to Jesus so that, through the intercession of Saint Anthony, he may pour out his mercy on us.

1. O Lord, you have made Saint Anthony an apostle of the Gospel. Grant us, through his intercession, a strong and humble faith and make our lives coherent with the creed that we profess.

At the end of each invocation:

Glory be to the Father...

2. O God Almighty, you have made Saint Anthony a constructor of peace and fraternal charity. Look upon the victims of violence and war. Grant that in this confused world full of tensions, we may become courageous witnesses of non-violence, promoting human life and peace.
3. O God, you have granted Saint Anthony the gift of healing and performing miracles. Grant us health of soul and body. Grant serenity and solace to those who have asked for our prayers and make us always ready to serve the sick, the elderly and the distressed.
4. O Lord, you made Saint Anthony an untiring preacher of the Gospels along mankind's many paths. In your Fatherly mercy protect the homeless, refugees and migrants; keep them safe from every danger and guide their steps along the path of peace.
5. O God Almighty, you granted Saint Anthony the power to reunite severed limbs. Reunite all Christians in your One and Holy Church, and grant that we may all live the mystery of unity, thus becoming one heart and one soul.
6. O Lord Jesus, you made Saint Anthony a great master of spiritual life. Grant us the ability to renew our lives according to the teachings of the Gospel and the beatitudes, and make us promoters of spiritual life for our brothers and sisters.



7. O Jesus, you granted Saint Anthony the incomparable grace of holding you as a child in his arms. Bless our children, and grant that they may grow in goodness and in health and that they may live their lives in the fear of God.
8. O Merciful Jesus, you granted Saint Anthony the wisdom and gifts necessary to guide souls to holiness through his preaching and priestly ministry. Grant that we may approach the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the great gift of your love, with humility and faith.
9. O Holy Spirit, in Saint Anthony you gave the Church and the world a great master of holy doctrine. Grant that all those who work in the media may feel the great responsibility they have to serve truth in charity and with respect for others.
10. O Lord, you are the Lord of the harvest. Through the intercession of Saint Anthony send many worthy religious and priests into your field, fill them with zeal, generosity and your love.
11. O Jesus, you called the pope to be a universal pastor, high priest and messenger of truth and peace. Through the intercession of Saint Anthony sustain and console him in his mission.
12. Holy Trinity, you granted Saint Anthony the grace to know, to love and to glorify the Virgin Mary, your Blessed Mother, and our Heavenly Mother, grant that we may grow ever closer to her motherly heart, to better serve, love and glorify you, who are love itself.
13. Lord, you allowed Saint Anthony to meet sister death with a serene soul. Direct our lives towards you, assist the dying and grant eternal peace to the souls of our departed brothers and sisters.

Glory be to the Father...

15

MARCH



Saint Anthony's Miracles

And now it's up to us!

Let us listen

“The same day many people suffering from various illnesses were carried to the tomb of the Saint, and immediately they were cured and restored to their original health through the merits of blessed Anthony. In fact, whoever was ill and touched the Tomb felt freed from whatever malady afflicted him as soon as he was let down.” (Assidua, 1232)

Let us meditate

“Si quaeris miracula” is the beginning of the best known hymn written in honor of Saint Anthony. We have believed that science and technology could explain away facts and situations that cannot be rationally explained. The reality of life, however, is quite different: there is still room for miracles! We can narrate them more broadly than in the past. We always need to open our life to the action of God who, when he intervenes, does extraordinary things. The experience of the “13 Tuesdays” will make you feel a participant in this history of grace, of which you can be a protagonist together with God the Father.

Let us pray

Jesus Christ, with eyes of mercy, looked at disease-ridden humanity, and this was the sign of our salvation; he approached us, took our infirmities upon himself, ascended the cross and there, in the burning fire of his passion, consumed and destroyed our sins.

(Saint Anthony)

22
MARCH

The first sermon
*Personal talent
at the service of God
and of the brothers*

Let us listen

“1222, Cathedral of Forlì. The young friar Anthony of Lisbon, who came down from the Hermitage of Montepaolo, is invited to preach in a solemn celebration. In the joy of being able to proclaim the faith, he leaves everyone amazed by the depth of his message combined with a simplicity that touches hearts.”

(The Life of Saint Anthony)

Let us meditate

Anthony had lived months of silence and prayer at the hermitage of Montepaolo after having met St. Francis in Assisi. But September is harvest time and an unexpected opportunity does not find him unprepared: the good plant of a man of faith bears ripe fruit, to be shared with those who are always hungry for the Word of God. Not even his foreign accent is an obstacle. This way the prodigy of Pentecost is renewed. From that moment on, the fruits of Anthony's preaching will satisfy the hunger of many people, even eight centuries later!

Let us pray

Let the face of our soul shine like the sun, so that what we see with faith may shine in works; and the good that we understand inside of ourselves be translated into the testimony of good works on the outside. And what we taste in the contemplation of God should be kindled with warmth in the love of neighbor. Only in this way will our face shine like the sun.

(Saint Anthony of Padua)

29
MARCH

The Sermon to the Fish
*The Word that saves
those who listen to it*

Let us listen

“Not wanting the inhabitants of Rimini to let the Saint speak, Anthony went to preach to the fish by the sea ... Seeing so much reverence in the fish towards God their creator, he exclaimed: “Blessed be eternal God, because fish honor him more than men heretics; and unreasonable animals listen to his word better than men without faith.” (Little Flowers of Francis of Assisi)

Let us meditate

The word of God is not for those who believe themselves to be intelligent or wise, much less for those who refuse to listen to any message that contradicts the certainties from which no evidence can disconnect them. These are the people Anthony calls heretics: those who make their truths the yardstick with which to judge the Church, the preachers and the Gospel itself. The fish in the legendary episode, on the other hand, are a symbol for all those who - despite evident limitations and incapacities (fish have no ears and cannot speak!) - are however eager to meet and know God as He is, not according to their own whims and ideas. This availability surprises and gives joy even to a Saint like Anthony.

Let us pray

Patient and merciful God, who renews your covenant with all generations, arrange our hearts to listen to your Word, so that in this time of grace it may be a light and a guide towards true conversion.

Through Christ our Lord.

(Roman Missal)

5

APRIL



The Reattached Foot

Love and forgiveness heal relationships

Let us listen

“A young man, after giving his mother a violent kick, confessed his sin to Anthony. But then, impulsively, he amputated the limb which was “guilty” of this gesture. Upon hearing this, Anthony immediately reached the reckless young man and with a sign of the cross he reattached his foot.”

(From the Book on Saint Anthony's Miracles)

Let us meditate

Unfortunately, family relationships are often the place where conflicts, sometimes violent, are experienced: physical or verbal aggression, deathly silences or wrenching separations. However, relationships, even the most deteriorated ones, can be cured and healed. The remedy does not lie in impulsive gestures or even in brooding over feelings of guilt. Rather, what heals is a sincere repentance and forgiveness that is asked and given. These are difficult processes which we are able to carry out only when we ask the Lord, through prayer, to give us his strength: mercy.

Let us pray

God the Father, make every human family become a true sanctuary of life and love for the generations that are always being renewed. Let love prove to be stronger than every weakness and every crisis through which our families sometimes go through. Amen.

(Pope St. John Paul II)

12

APRIL



The Vision of the Child Jesus
*God lets himself be taken
 in the arms of the simple
 and the humble*

Let us listen

“Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, (...) He came to the Temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus (...), he took him into his arms and blessed God, saying: “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation.”

(Lc 2, 25-28)

Let us meditate

“... on that day, when the strongest one will arrive, which is called humility, and which will enter the human heart to defeat the spirit of pride and eliminate the blindness of the mind (...) Then humility and simplicity will appear in the eyes, truth and kindness will resound in the mouth, detraction and adulation will be removed from the ears, purity and piety will be in the hands, experience and seriousness in the feet.” (Sermons of Saint Anthony)

Let us pray

Christ Jesus, you conquered the pride of the evil one by the humility of your incarnation: please also grant us the power to shatter the chains of pride and arrogance through the humility of our heart so that we may be worthy of the gift of your glory. With your help who are blessed from age to age. Amen. (Saint Anthony)

19

APRIL



The violent husband *Women and men united in the same plan of love*

Let us listen

“One day, the wife of a wealthy and noble knight gave her husband a rash response, and he was overcome with rage. As he often did, he beat her, raining punches and kicks upon her. He then repented his actions, fervently begging St. Anthony to come and help the unfortunate woman. The Saint reproached him and then knelt down, asking God to give the dying woman her life and health back. When the Saint prayed over her, she rose up completely healed again.”

(From The book on St. Anthony's Miracles)

Let us meditate

“God created man in his image, male and female he created them”. In the original project, man and woman have equal dignity before God. Over time, different cultures have distorted this balance with the tragic consequences we now know, including “femicide”. In his miraculous intervention, Anthony “reproached” her husband, dismantling his presumption of superiority and then saved the woman. In this way he offers them the opportunity to live an authentic relationship of love.

Let us pray

Good Father, you have given us many models of holy families throughout history, but to become a good family one must learn every day: learn by listening and understanding each other; learn to cope with conflicts and difficulties; learn to forgive yourself seventy times seven. Give us the grace to grow in mutual acceptance and love.

(Fr Andrea M.)

26
APRIL

The baby who drowned *Contagious goodness*

Let us listen

“One day Tommasino was left alone by his mother carelessly near an open container of water. When she returned home, she saw her son’s head immersed at the bottom of the container while his feet were sticking up in the air. Screaming, she pulled the little one out, but he was already dead and stiff. She, however, sought the intercession of St. Anthony and began to implore him for his help. She promised to give grain to the poor, as much as her child weighted, if St. Anthony were to bring him back to life. Only a short time later the baby revived and was given back alive to his mother.”

(From The Book on St. Anthony’s Miracles)

Let us meditate

In today’s miracle, a mother’s joy for her child returned to life. The joy of motherhood. The joy of Mary and Elizabeth. Here the Magnificat becomes a work of caring for other mothers, other children.

There are always mothers nearby who need to be listened to and encouraged. If we do our part well, that mother, that father, will become capable of generating more goodness: a circularity that the world so much needs.

Let us pray

Holy Mary, help us to bear radiant witness to communion, service, ardent and generous faith, justice and love of the poor so that the joy of the Gospel may reach to the ends of the earth, illuminating even the fringes of our world.

(Evangelii Gaudium)

3

MAY



The Meeting with Ezzelino of Romano

Dialogue as an answer to violence and revenge

Let us listen

“In those days there was an infamous man named Ezzelino of Romano. He was a cruel tyrant, and he made life difficult for the people of Padua and its neighboring territory. Arriving in his presence, Anthony challenged him with these words: O enemy of God, ruthless tyrant, when are you going to stop spilling the blood of innocent Christians?”

(From the Book on St. Anthony's Miracles)

Let us meditate

Rather than a miracle this is a defeat for Anthony! He faced the tyrant Ezzelino with the hope of bringing peace to his heart and to the life of the city of Padua... but without success. Yet, beyond the result, Anthony showed us the right path: the path of dialogue and encounter, the only real “strategy” we have to overcome difficult situations, which are a part of life, in the family, in working environments, sometimes even in our Christian communities. Only through open and sincere dialogue can the miracle of communion come about in relationship with others.

Let us pray

You cannot carry another's burdens unless you first get rid of your own! If you are a bird of the sky, a lily of the field, then you will be able to carry the burdens, that is, the tribulations of your neighbor as if they were your own. Thus you will fulfill the law of love, the charity of Christ, “who bore our sins in his body on the wood of the cross.”

Let us reflect

- *When I find myself managing conflicts, do I try to make my point of view prevail or listen to the reasons of the other?*
- *Faced with a wrong I have received, do I feel a grudge and the desire for revenge or do I try to talk with the person who caused my resentment?*
- *Following the example of Saint Anthony, do I want to be an instrument of peace and forgiveness in a situation that is making my family suffer?*

Prayer to St. Anthony

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring love.
Where there is offence, let me bring pardon.
Where there is discord, let me bring union.
Where there is doubt, let me bring faith.
Where there is error, let me bring truth
Where there is despair, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness, let me bring your light.
Where there is sadness, let me bring joy.*

10
MAY

Anthony converts brigands
*Mercy opens the heart
to conversion*

Let us listen

“One day a group of twelve brigands went to where Anthony was preaching. They had just barely begun to hear his words of fire when they felt regret and remorse for their misdeeds. When the homily was over, they went forward to confess their sins and crimes.”

(From The Book on St. Anthony's Miracles)

Let us meditate

Saints do not miss an opportunity to bring those who make mistakes back on the right path. For Saint Anthony, the announcement of conversion aims to bring even the most stubborn hearts closer to God. To call to conversion is to want the good and happiness of our brothers, while indifference in the face of evil, especially when it produces suffering for others, is a guilty omission, a refusal of responsibility. Each of us has been entrusted with the care and support of some of our “closest” neighbors, who have the possibility of becoming better, or even of converting, thanks also to our good word and our example of righteousness.

Let us pray

Merciful God, grant us to not turn a blind eye to evil, grant us the desire to help our brothers not to give in to the temptation of sin. May our word and example awaken in our neighbor the desire to feel loved and forgiven by You.

17

MAY



The Intact Glass To place on God the burden of proof ... of one's own existence

Let us listen

“While they all affirmed that Anthony was truly a Saint of God, Aleardino emptied the glass he was holding and, as a challenge, said: “If the one that you say is a saint will keep this glass from breaking, I will believe”. And he threw the glass down on the pavement. The glass hit the stone pavement and remained intact. Aleardino converted to Christ.”

(From the Book on Saint Anthony's Miracles)

Let us meditate

We human beings like to test God and the Saints on our terms so as to believe in them or not. It is natural to doubt the existence of God in moments of anger or, simply, to question him with queries that we claim are correct, deluded into thinking we are the center of everything. In reality, we need to undergo a Copernican revolution in order to understand anything about him: we must reposition ourselves as satellites and cease to believe we are the “Sun”. We are just planets: big, beautiful, but still planets, creatures. If we accepted this we would not doubt the existence of the “Sun”!

Let us pray

Lord, please teach me not to speak like a resounding bronze or a ringing harpsichord, but with love. Enable me to understand and give me the faith that moves mountains, but with love. May I have been the faint but constant reflection of your perfect love. (Saint Theresa of Calcutta)

24

MAY



The Heart of the Usurer
*Selfishness impoverishes
 man, reducing him
 the mere dimension of having.
 Generosity makes him free
 and rich in spirit*

Let us listen

“At a funeral of a very rich man St. Anthony cried out that the deceased should not be buried in consecrated ground because his body had no heart. Finally a surgeon opened the chest of the man’s body, but he could not find a heart. Rather, just as the Saint had foretold, the man’s heart was found in the strong box where he had stored his money.”

(From The Book on St. Anthony’s Miracles)

Let us meditate

Strange to say, I truly own something to the extent that I am willing to donate it. When I try in every way to keep an asset for myself I deceive myself that it is my possession, but in reality I depend on it because I have to continually invest energy to preserve and defend it. Whoever wants to keep his life for himself loses it; on the other hand, whoever gives it out of love finds it, like a seed that dies to bear fruit. It is the generosity of the gift that makes me truly free, that makes me look like the Father, the source and giver of all goodness.

Let us pray

Lord, by giving your life out of love you have shown us the way to give meaning to our existence: you have given yourself totally to the Father and to us. Let us learn from you, make us passionate with your example and fill us with the grace of your Holy Spirit.

31

MAY



Boys Announce
the Saint's death

*The pain of mourning
as an experience of human
and spiritual growth*

Let us listen

“Although the friars tried most diligently and carefully to hide his blessed death from strangers, and even from friends and acquaintances so that they would not be crushed by the onrush of large crowds of people, groups of boys nevertheless ran about the city, shouting: “The holy father is dead! Saint Anthony is dead!”

(From the Vita Prima of St. Anthony)

Let us meditate

The first biography of Saint Anthony says that his brothers tried to handle the news of his death with great caution, worried about the reaction of adults. And so they lost control of children, who with lightness and simplicity began to spread the fact by running around the city.

Today, we are very careful to preserve children from the idea that they can die. We protect them with increasingly unlikely narratives, perhaps so as to not upset their light-heartedness, or perhaps because it is we adults who are in difficulty with the prospect of death, and we do not know how to “tell” it.

And to think that St. Francis called death his “sister”!

Let us pray

In me there is darkness, but in You there is light;
I am lonely, but You do not leave me;
I am feeble in heart, but with You there is help.

(D. Bonhoeffer)

7

JUNE

The Funeral Procession
*The spiritual legacy of
 Saint Anthony enlightens
 the path of his devotees
 and inspires the conscience
 of those who seek the truth*

Let us listen

“In the early morning, large processions of faithful arrived to Arcella to see the body of the most blessed Anthony, and anyone who was able to touch him in any way just once was considered lucky.”

(From The life of Saint Anthony)

Let us meditate

Anthony's contemporaries did everything to touch or see his body, and many came back home changed. The encounter with death is always unsettling, especially when it deals with loved ones. That pain can open up a path of new light, inspire new feelings and behaviors. Isn't this perhaps a conversion? Even today many people approach the tomb of the Saint or pray to him from home to ask for graces and, perhaps, precisely the grace of conversion. Anthony is the "Saint of miracles" and is happy when he is asked for the miracle of conversion, to be open to a truer, more evangelical life, like his.

Let us pray

Help us, O Lord, not to let ourselves be overcome by discouragement. Help us to revive our faith in eternal life. Make us aware that every gesture of love sown on this earth is already a “seed of heaven” that makes us feel in advance a pinch of that joy that we will have fully when we are always with you.

THIRTEEN-DAY NOVENA 2022

*St. Anthony's
Miracles*



Every Tuesday of the
"Thirteen-day Novena",
on the website
www.santantonio.org,
you can follow
the reflections proposed
by the same friars
who wrote this booklet.
Furthermore on Tuesday,
at 6.00 pm (CET),
the Holy Mass and
the Thirteen-Day Novena
will be broadcast
live stream.

SAINT ANTHONY
OF PADUA

