

# Beloved Saint Anthony visits the Catholic Diocese of Orange, California

Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup> – Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026



The Franciscan Friars from Padua, Italy, invite you to join them in welcoming Saint Anthony of Padua to the Catholic Diocese of Orange, CA. St. Anthony will be visiting in the form of “two precious First-Class Relics” from the Pontifical Basilica in Padua, Italy. The holy relics will be accompanied by Fr. Fabio Turrisendo and Fr. Matteo Martinelli, two Franciscan Friars from Padua, Italy, where the Saint is buried.

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI said of relics *“By inviting us to venerate the mortal remains of the martyrs and saints, the Church does not forget that, in the end, these are indeed just human bones, but they are bones that belonged to individuals **touched by the living power of God.** The relics of the saints are traces of that invisible but real presence which sheds light upon the shadows of the world and reveals the Kingdom of Heaven in our midst.”*

St Anthony intercedes with those trying to find a job, housing, faith, love, hope, harmony within the family, good health, peace of mind and mercy. The writing of a prayer petition is a worldwide tradition when venerating a relic of a saint.

During our visit, prayer petitions and holy cards will be distributed to allow the faithful to write their prayer request to the saint. Fr. Fabio and Fr. Matteo will collect and bring the petitions back to the Basilica in Padua and place them at the tomb of Saint Anthony. The tour officially ends back at the Tomb of Saint Anthony where the Friars will gather to pray for the saint’s intercession upon intentions and petitions.



## Notes for Pastors and Bulletin Editors:

St Anthony of Padua: Born 15 August 1195 - Lisbon, Portugal  
Died 13 June 1231 (aged 35) - Padua, Italy

Anthony of Padua was a Portuguese Catholic friar belonging to the Franciscan Order. He was born and raised in a wealthy family in Lisbon. He died in 1231 and was canonized within a year after his death, the shortest time in the history of the Church. His remains are kept in the Basilica in Padua, Italy. Noted by his contemporaries for his preaching and expert knowledge of Scripture, he was proclaimed a Doctor of the Church in 1946.

St. Anthony died on June 13 in 1231. He was buried in a little church outside the walls of the town of Padua. According to the Gregorian calendar, June 13, 1231, was a Friday. Saint Anthony was buried the following Tuesday, June 17, 1231, at Santa Maria Mater Domini. It is for this reason why the nine (9) day and thirteen (13) day Saint Anthony novenas are always recited on a Tuesday.

In 1263, his remains were transferred to the newly constructed Basilica which is part of the present-day Basilica. Because of miracle activity for thirty-two years around the saint's tomb, the Minister General of the Order of Franciscan Friars Minor, Giovanni Di Fidanza, made the decision to open the saint's coffin. Friar Di Fidanza later became Saint Bonaventure. When St. Anthony's coffin was opened in St. Bonaventure's presence, bones and ashes were found. However, the saint's vocal apparatus was found to be intact and his tongue was still red and soft. At the sight of the miracle, St. Bonaventure exclaimed in awe: *"Oh blessed tongue, that ever praised the Lord, and led others to praise Him! Now it is clear how great are your merits before God!"*

Saint Anthony of Padua is known to millions of Catholics for lost items. Saint Anthony's reputation as a finder of lost things dates to an incident in the saint's life. As the legend goes, a novice who had grown tired of religious life decided to leave the Franciscan community. But before leaving, the novice took Saint Anthony's psalter. The book was very important to Anthony, especially since it was before the printing press had been invented. The psalter had notes and comments he made in teaching his students in the Franciscan order. Anthony prayed that the psalter would be found and returned to him. Anthony's prayers were answered: The novice returned the psalter and returned to the order.

**We invite you to come and ask for Saint Anthony's intercession for more than the loss of material things, but also for loss of faith, family harmony, health, hope, peace of mind and trust in others.**



Pope Francis then-Archbishop Bergoglio blessing the faithful with the Holy Relics of St. Anthony at the Cathedral Metropolitana in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 2000.



Sister Lucia of Fatima with the Holy Relics of St. Anthony, when it was taken to the nuns at the Monastery of Carmelite sisters in Coimbra, Portugal, in January 1995, during the commemorations for the 800th anniversary of the Saint's birth.



Archbishop of New York, Cardinal Timothy Dolan and Fr. Mario Conte with the Holy Relics of St. Anthony at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Manhattan, NY, in 2013.