

Reflection Saturday Week 10 – 2020 – St Anthony of Padua.

It would seem that it is not a very good idea to go ploughing with Oxen where God is concerned, as in the case of Elisha. But it shows that God can call us at any time and probably at a time we least expect. St Anthony of Padua was a little like Mother Teresa of Calcutta, he joined the Augustinians first but later felt called to join the Franciscans where he met St Francis of Assisi. He was a renowned preacher noted for his gentleness, a gift inherited from Jesus. For all of us, our first call was at baptism when we signed up to the mission to bring the gospel to others and help spread the kingdom of God. Like the saints, we are then called to fulfil different missions at different times in our lives some of them small, some great. These calls will vary from person to person. The challenge is to be ready when the call comes and be able to respond. Elijah used his cloak to show that Elisha had been chosen and had been given the power of God to fulfil his mission as a prophet – just as we were in baptism. God never asks anything of us without giving us what we need to fulfil our mission and much more besides. Jesus makes it clear that we do not have to prove ourselves worthy of the task given us by God. We don't have to be special in any particular field and ability even though we may be. Jesus will always take us on our word, he trusts us that much. And, if we have trouble saying yes, we can ask Our Blessed Lady for help. And, if we are lost and cannot see the way ahead, we can pray to Anthony who is great at finding things and people who are lost. He certainly works overtime bringing me back when I get lost. Let's now listen to some wisdom from St Anthony:

- *Actions speak louder than words; let your words teach and your actions speak.*
- *The devil is afraid of us when we pray and make sacrifices. He is also afraid when we are humble and good. He is especially afraid when we love Jesus very much and he runs away when we make the Sign of the Cross.*
- *She/he prays best who does not know that she/he is praying.*
- *Christians must lean on the Cross of Christ just as travellers lean on a staff when they begin a long journey.*
- *The creator of the heavens obeys a carpenter; the God of eternal glory listens to a poor virgin. Has anyone ever witnessed anything comparable to this? Let the philosopher no longer disdain from listening to the common labourer; the wise, to the simple; the educated, to the illiterate; a child of a prince, to a peasant.*

Other thoughts

My wife accused me of being immature.

I told her to get out of my fort.

Back in the day when people sent telegrams an Alsatian dog went into a telegraph office and wrote: "Woof. Woof. Woof. Woof. Woof. Woof. Woof. Woof." The clerk examined the paper and told the dog: "There are only nine words here. You could send another 'Woof' for the same price."

"But," the dog replied, "that would make no sense at all!!!!!"