

Reflection Tuesday Week 10 St Anthony of Padua 2023

Saint Antony (b.1195?) first joined the Augustinians but was so impressed by the martyrdom of five Franciscans spreading the faith in Morocco that he became a Franciscan to preach the gospel in Africa too. Illness obliged him to leave Morocco, and a storm then drove his ship to Sicily. There he took part in the General Chapter of the Franciscans in 1221, where he met Saint Francis of Assisi. He then preached in northern Italy and southern France, then a stronghold of the Albigensian heresy. Later he returned to Padua, where he was an outstanding preacher and the first Franciscan theologian. His sermons are full of gentleness, but he reproved the wicked with fearless severity – especially backsliding clergy and the oppressors of the weak. His shrine is a centre of pilgrimage. He is the patron saint of the lost and found. (d.1231)

Be inspired by him:

The breadth of charity widens the narrow heart of the sinner.

Nothing so humbles the proud sinner as the humility of Jesus Christ's humanity.

The wisdom of God is reflected in the face of the soul: she will see God as he is, and she will know as she is known.

The religious soul finds in the heart of Jesus a secure refuge and a delightful retreat. But we must not rest merely at the entrance, we must penetrate its depths

Do you want to have God always in your mind? Be just as he made you to be. Do not go seeking another "you".

The Lord breathes the breath of life, contrition of heart, into the face of the soul when he impresses upon it his own image and likeness, which has been soiled by sin, and renews it.

The life of the body is the soul, the life of the soul is Christ.

He who lives in eternity dwells in the heart of the humble and in the soul of the penitent!