

St. Anthony of Padua

A Guide to the Church and Its Ecclesiastical Art



St. Anthony of Padua

CHURCH EDIFICE

St. Anthony's conforms to the best lines of ecclesiastical art by combining many beautiful details into a harmonious pattern. It creates the impression of massiveness when viewed from the exterior. Two square, well-proportioned Romanesque towers add to this impression. Inside, however, the church's massiveness seems to melt away by interior enhancements of light and color, for a general result of warmth, beauty and grandeur. Its harmonious pattern will become more apparent as the single murals and windows are viewed in the ideas the designers had in mind.

The architectural style of the church is Romanesque, borrowed from some representative copy of this architecture in the German Rhineland. Romanesque style's chief characteristic traits are the rounded arch, the floor plan in the form of a cross, rounded vaulting ceilings, with the circle and curved line prevailing throughout.

St. Anthony's was erected in 1910 at a cost of \$175,000—unbelievable at today's building costs. And it was completely paid for by 1919. In fact, on Thanksgiving Day in 1919, the church was consecrated. (Only a church that is completely paid for may be consecrated.) Once a year on the anniversary of its consecration, the twelve candles at various places throughout the church are lit.

The columns (or pillars) in the church are made of plaster with a steel beam, painted to resemble marble. This type of painting is about a lost art—only one man in this country is now known to be able to do it.



27• ST. ANTHONY AND THE POOR.

The scene in which St. Anthony gives alms to a beggar is symbolic of the Saint's concern for all of Christ's poor and suggests the so-called St. Anthony's Bread, which is offered by his clients as a token either of their confidence or their gratitude for favors received through his intercession.

28• ST. FRANCIS, LOVER OF GOD'S CREATURES.

A favorite way with artists to express the idea that St. Francis loved all God's creatures for the Creator's sake. So, they surrounded him with various animals. The animals approach the Saint unafraid, and equally unafraid of one another in the presence of a true friend of God.

29• THE DEATH OF ST. ANTHONY.

An angel holds the palm as a badge of the Saint's merits before God, while a fellow friar stands at his bedside. This latter is a representative of all those who praised God for his holy death—the birthday of a saint in Heaven. Indeed, he was canonized within a year of his death.

30• MARY, QUEEN OF ANGELS.

A title under which the Blessed Virgin Mary is particularly venerated in all three Franciscan orders. August 2 is set aside as a special feast to celebrate this, her title, and that of the little chapel of Portuocella, which St. Francis revered as the cradle of his orders. Two angels, probably the Angel of the Annunciation and the Angel of Bethlehem welcome their Queen into Heaven.

31• CHRIST IN GLORY.

A compassion picture of the one on the Epistle side. Again, two angels, probably the angel of comfort in the Garden of Gethsemane and the angel of the Resurrection, are in the forefront of the angelic hosts who witness Our Lord's triumphant entrance into the heavenly mansion.

32• ST. ANTHONY BECOMES A FRANCISCAN.

Up to the first years of his priesthood, "Freiland" was a Carcan Regular of St. Augustine in Lisbon. His Franciscan vocation first came to him through the Protonotary of the Franciscan Order when they passed through Lisbon on their way to Morocco, and again when their martyred remains were borne back to Lisbon.

33• ST. ANTHONY, CHAMPION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT.

The painting to the right of the large window features the Saint to the altar in an attitude of preaching in defense of the Eucharist, the heretics of his day. Significantly, devotion to St. Anthony as a Franciscan church is enshrined in loving attention to the Holy Mass, Holy Communion, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, sacramental benedictions. Therefore, the impact on Christ in our traditional St. Anthony devotion.



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