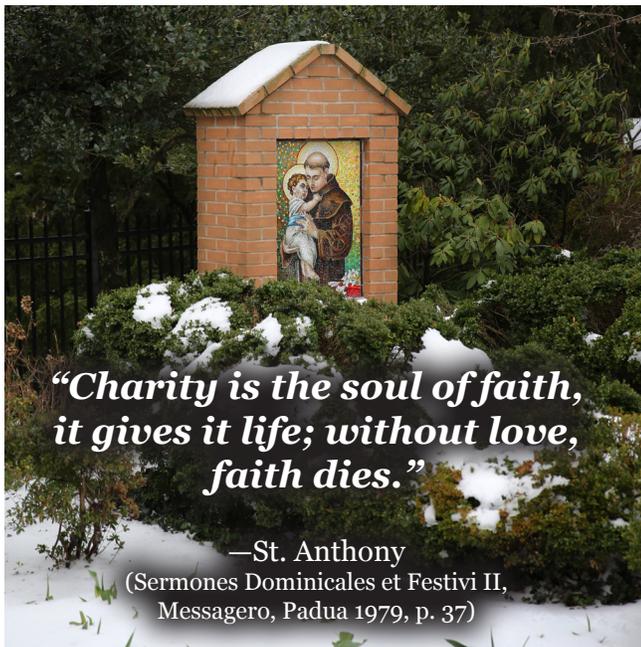




Tenth Sunday of Ordinary Time



*“Charity is the soul of faith,
it gives it life; without love,
faith dies.”*

—St. Anthony
(Sermones Dominicales et Festivi II,
Messagero, Padua 1979, p. 37)

Prayer for the Restoration of Things Lost or Stolen

O blessed Saint Anthony! The grace of God has made thee a powerful advocate in all necessities, and the patron for the restoration of things lost or stolen. To thee I turn today with childlike love and heartfelt confidence. Oh, how many thousands hast thou miraculously aided in the recovery of lost goods! Thou wast the counselor of the erring, the comforter of the afflicted, the healer of the sick, the raiser of the dead, the deliverer of the captive, the refuge of the afflicted. To thee do I hasten, O blessed Saint Anthony! Help me in my present affliction. I recommend what I have lost to thy care, in the secure hope that thou wilt restore it to me if it be to the greater glory of God and to the spiritual benefit of my soul. Obtain also for me an active faith, peace of mind, disgust for the vain pleasures of the world, and an ardent desire for the imperishable goods of eternity. Amen.

Memorial of St. Anthony

June 13

The Church has a patron saint for nearly every person, group of people, situation, and occupation. These heavenly friends benefit us with their prayers of intercession, speaking, as it were, to God on our behalf.

If you ask nearly any Catholic whose intercession they seek when something has gone missing, nearly all will tell you it's St. Anthony who is responsible for the recovery of car keys and eyeglasses by the millions. But how did Anthony become the patron saint of lost articles?

Legend has it that Anthony was the novice master at a friary in Montpellier, France. One of his charges was a somewhat discontented novice named Louis. When he wasn't at prayer or teaching the novices, Anthony devoted his time to writing a book of the psalms—he had worked on it for years. One afternoon, the manuscript vanished, and Anthony searched carefully to no avail. Having no other recourse, he prayed for its recovery.

At the same time, it seems that Br. Louis, the discontented novice, had disappeared as well and had been seen leaving with a somewhat manuscript-sized parcel. Anthony, believing that Louis was much more valuable than his manuscript, prayed that Louis would find his true path in life.

The legend says that the former Br. Louis, while on his way to sell the manuscript as his own, was moved to return the stolen book and turn his life around. So, Louis went back to the friary and returned the stolen manuscript.

St. Anthony became his mentor, and from that time forward Anthony's prayers were sought whenever something was lost. It's a tradition that continues today. For centuries, when Catholics have lost something important—their car keys or their way in life, they've sought the prayers of St. Anthony.