

Troubadour

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Summer 2023



“Actions speak
louder than words;
let your words
teach and your
actions speak.”

Saint Anthony of Padua





In the 12th century Christ spoke to St Francis of Assisi from this cross:

"Francis, go and rebuild my Church which you see is falling down."

Don't complain about the Church in the 21st century.

Hear Our Lord's call and do something about it!

*The Friars Minor have followed St Francis'
example for the last 800 years.*

Why not be one of them?

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Troubadour

A MISSIONARY MAGAZINE

at the service of

- The Franciscan Missionaries working throughout the world but especially in disaster areas.
- The Franciscan Missionary Union.



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Front cover:

St. Anthony of Padua depicted holding the Child Jesus.

Back cover:

The need for hope of the child.

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St Antony

The Miracle Worker

(The witness of a client of St Antony)

"O Ye who for great wonders seek."

One of the lines in the hymn to St Antony. I wonder how many of us can relate to receiving great joy and favours from St Antony in our lives; not only for finding lost objects but for many other greater requests. St Antony is a saint of long standing but also with some modern ideas e.g. he doesn't work for nothing! You must pay him in time or money to have your prayers answered. Having said this, his power, if you believe, excels all expectations.

St. Antony of Padua

Antony also spelled Anthony, Italian Sant'Antonio da Padova; original name Fernando Martins de Bulhões; born 1195, Lisbon, Portugal - died June 13, 1231, Areella, Verona, Italy; canonized 1232; feast day June 13. Franciscan friar, doctor of the church, and patron of the poor.



A number of years ago I got the dreaded news that I had Cancer and it was too large to operate initially. At first, the medics didn't know if it was three individual cancers or one covering three areas. Thank God and St Antony it was the latter. The programme to follow was chemotherapy combined with radio therapy over a period of five months before eventual surgery. During this time, I prayed constantly to St Antony for his help. I promised him more than I could afford at that time but I knew I would honour my commitment to him and he would do to me. I also promised that if I did get well I would promote his name and

The treatment shrunk the cancer enough to allow surgery. On the day I was wheeled into theatre, complete with hospital "goonie" the anaesthetist appeared and I asked him where I was going to put St Antony? Puzzled at my request I told him I always wore my St Antony Brief and without him I wasn't having surgery. He disappeared for a few minutes and returned with a large piece of micropore which he used to attach the Brief to my chest. He promised that if it came off during surgery I would wake up to it on my pillow. That was good enough for me and within a minute or two I was off to sleep. All went according to plan.



devotion to him. A thanksgiving visit to Padua was also included in my promise to him.

Back in the ward some hours later the surgeon paid me a visit. He came to report on the

operation. He thought he had a great revelation for me but I wasn't surprised as I knew St Antony was right there with me. He revealed that when they went in to remove the cancer it had already gone and all that was left was a collection of dead cells. This was the miracle I had prayed for. What greater power on earth could we have than the strength from our prayer and the intercession of the saints on our behalf to our God.

I paid my financial debt to St Antony then purchased a number of St Antony Briefs. I went back to the hospital I had been in and offered them to anyone who found themselves in a difficult situation regardless of creed. If they believed and needed hope the I knew St Antony would listen to them. No one turned down my offer of a St Antony Brief.

I also managed a trip to Padua in thanksgiving. What a powerful place to visit. A group of my friends accompanied on my journey. They too had prayed for my return to health. In St Antony' Basilica we were reduced to tears when we thanked St Antony for my recovery. Almost twenty years on I still come across many people in need of St Antony's help and offer them a Brief.

My fifth grandchild was born on the day of my cancer surgery and I've been greatly blessed to welcome a sixth grandchild into my family since. I have also had the joy of seeing my six grandchildren grow and develop. Without the help of St Antony's intercession, to our Lord and God, none of this would have been possible. We are truly blessed to have reached our advancing years as so many others never have that privilege.

Thanks be to God and St Antony for coming to my aid when I called on them.

A grateful client
(name and address withheld.)



HEALING OF MEMORIES: Namibia

I am in Glasgow for a few weeks and I have been visiting parts of the city to get to know my way around and to learn something about the history and the culture of this great city.



On one of the days I visited the metropolitan Cathedral of St Andrew. In the grounds of the cathedral in an enclosed space is what is called "The Italian garden and Arandora Star Memorial garden". I believe it is the world's largest permanent memorial to the victims of this tragedy - more than 800 died.

The garden has a modern monument of large mirrored objects with verses from Scripture and from Italian poets. A water feature runs through the centre of the garden and an olive tree symbolises peace.

A plaque on the east wall of the garden lists the names of the 94 Italians from Scotland who died. I was able to get into the garden from one of the doors inside the Cathedral. Besides the names of the Italians who were being remembered it was stated that the garden was built to honour the memory of so many Italian civilians who had died on a ship on the 2nd of

July 1940, the ship was called the Arandora Star and it was sunk by a torpedo on that day.

The message written says that those who built the garden saw it as a gesture of peace and reconciliation and as a contribution to the Healing of Memories.



Above: The plaque on the East wall of the Garden.

Below: The ill fated Arandora Star, on which so many souls lost their life



This statement struck me immediately as I have come to

Glasgow having spent many years in Southern Africa and having been involved in a programme called "Healing of Memories" for many years.

Everybody living in Scotland and everybody living in Namibia has a story to tell. If you are reading this magazine you have a story to tell and your story is very important.

In Namibia at the present time there is a discussion in Parliament on the importance of remembering the events in that country between 1904-1908. During this time there was a war between the German colonial power at the time and members of the Herero and Nama Namibians. It is regarded by those who study the history of that period as an act of genocide against the aforementioned Namibians. Those living in Namibia today continue to be affected by these events.

We Franciscans together with a team consisting of Namibians, Franciscan sisters and laymen and women have been inviting all who live in Namibia to join us on a journey of healing and reconciliation. We have been reaching out to all people who

live in Namibia and we travel to all areas within the country. We invite Herero, Nama, German Namibians to join us in this journey.

In October last year we were invited to a meeting with the Vice President of the country the Honourable Nangolo Mbumba. The meeting was attended by members of his staff and a few invited guests, one was a Nama leader and another was from the Herero community. We explained to him a little about our program and how we try to reach people all over the country. He listened to us and he proposed to organise a large gathering of the Herero and Nama leadership and he requested a member of our Healing of Memories Namibia family who is a leader of the Nama people, Ida Hoffmann to prepare a presentation for that gathering and to speak about reconciliation and the possibility of healing the wounds of the past.

We also held a meeting with a German Namibian, Anton Van Wietersheim, he is an active member and a spokesperson of the Forum of German speaking



Chained prisoners from the Herero and Nama tribes during the 1904-1908 war against Germany, in which many atrocities took place.

Namibians. We shared with him a little about our Healing of Memories program. He was very happy to hear about our desire to bring this program to all Namibians. He appeared to be keen to join us and to invite some of his fellow Namibian Germans to also join him. Our meeting with Anton took place in the Erongo region of the country in a town called Swakopmund. Two of our facilitators in this region are

Baster Namibians and they are very happy to be involved in organising workshops where Herero, Nama and German Namibians can come together to listen to one another and to share one another's stories.

People in Germany have heard about our Healing of Memories program in Namibia and a representative of the German Catholic Bishops Justice and Peace commission

“We have been called to heal wounds
and to bring home those

St. Francis

has been in touch with us. He explained that they are in the process of studying the effects of German colonialism in Africa and are concentrating on two countries in the continent, Cameroon and Namibia. Two representatives from Germany want to come to experience one Healing of Memories workshop, to talk with our team members and with some of those who have participated in the programme. The intention is to invite them to come to a workshop which will involve Herero, Nama, Baster and German speaking Namibians

As I write these few words I say thank you very much to the readers of the Troubadour and to all who work for and support the Franciscan Missionary Union in the custody of Great Britain. Your support has allowed us to encourage and help the people who live in Namibia to take some small steps on the road to



The memorial stone erected in the Swakopmund cemetery in 2007.

healing and reconciliation.

As I say you too have a story to tell and your story is very important. Hopefully, one day we will be able to invite you to join us on a Healing of Memories workshop in Scotland, England or Wales.

nds, to unite what has fallen apart,
who have lost their way.”


s of Assisi

Madagascar

In the midst of the needs of the people

We hear the name Madagascar and one immediate picture reaction is Penguins! The film Madagascar tells us of the 4 animals from a New York Zoo ending up in Madagascar and the story goes on.

But the real Madagascar is a place which has just recently experienced severe cyclones leading to great hunger and different problems which only add to the problems already existing in this fourth largest Island country in the world.

A young girl in a purple shirt is carrying a small child on her back. They are walking on a dry, dusty path in a rural, arid landscape. In the background, there are simple, rustic buildings and a few trees under a clear sky.

Cyclones, drought and flooding have had a devastating effect on thousands upon thousands of Madagascans.



The needs of the poor and disadvantaged in Madagascar has never been greater after the catastrophic natural disasters in recent years. These are the result, in no small measure, from the climate change emergency the planet is experiencing.



Our Franciscan Friars are there in the midst of the needs of the people and even while they are studying they try to reach out to the poor people amongst whom

they live. They live a poor life but try to reach out to help and serve the people. Their main occupation, of course, is study and Franciscan formation. But



Antananarivo, also known by its colonial shorthand form Tana, is the capital and largest city of Madagascar.

they have begun a project of self-sustainability and it is for this project that the Friars are asking help.

The project is to build an amenity which will provide space and materials to help the local people attain a way of self help leading to a better way of life. The building will be erected in the grounds of the Fraternity of St Joseph, Antananandro in Antananarivo, the Capital town of Madagascar.

Here the intention is to provide a way of learning about cooking, hair-dressing, music, English language courses and computer initiation. It is seeing the needs of the people and trying to provide

for them which is seen as most important.

Plans for the building of accommodation for these projects has proceeded and even the building has started. But they have already run out of money. All the permissions have been obtained but now the difficulty is to finance the completion of the building. That is where we come in. We are sending them the money to complete the project and hopefully will be able to report in the future about how the project is developing and helping the local people. You can see what has been happening in the photos. Let us hope that in such a beautiful country something beautiful for God may be done.

The project progresses...



but we now
need your help!

With thanks...



DIOCESE OF BELLARY

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20 April 2023

Our dear Rev. Fr. Edmund Highton ofm.

Warmest greetings of the Easter Season - the Lord is Risen, Halleluiah!

We are happy to inform you that we have been able to complete the civil works of the major renovation of the 208 - year old heritage building of the Bishop's House, Bellary. It was designed and constructed by Royal Engineers of UK using a mixture of bricks, sand and limestone. The roof was done with wood, mud and local lime stone. Later in 1938 it was bought by the Franciscan Fathers for use as their residence. It needed a major renovation, which we did keeping the heritage character of the house.

H. Em. Anthony Cardinal Poola, Archbishop of Hyderabad, declared it open and celebrated the thanksgiving Holy Mass. Bishop Robert Miranda of Gulbarga lit the lamp and Bishop Henry D'Souza blessed the building. The city Mayor Smt Rajeshwari unveiled the plaque. Sri Kalyana Swami, Qazi Mohmit, the Mayor and the Bishops lighted the first lamp in the house on March 13.

You have been a generous and prompt supporter of the noble initiative. Without your assistance the project would have been half done. It is only with your timely financial help we have been able to complete the civil works which took a good 15 months. We are sincerely and immensely grateful to you. You have quietly supported many noble causes for education of the most backward Dalit children, particularly women. We believe in the words of the Holy Bible which says: "God loves a cheerful giver!" May God abundantly bless you and your donors with robust health and joy of life! We keep you and your donors in our daily prayers.

You have been a pillar of support in our need. Once again we thank you most sincerely and assure you of our prayers.

Thanking You,


20-Apr-2023
+ Henry D'Souza
Bishop of Bellary

To:
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*The images show:
Franciscan priests in the
portico of the house in
1938.*

*Blessing of the newly
refurbished house.*

*The renovated exterior
of the house.*

*Some of the honoured
guests who attended:
Two areas of the interior
of the renovated house.*



6 things you may not know about ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA



His name wasn't Anthony and he wasn't Italian

Born in Portugal, he took the name Anthony when he became a Franciscan friar.



He started as an Agustinian friar

He was an Agustinian friar for 10 years before becoming a Franciscan.



He is known as the most miraculous saint

He has been credited with many miracles.



He is known as "The saint of the world"

Pope Leo XIII gave him that title because he is venerated all over the world.



Many people pray to him for a good husband or wife

Many Catholic singles ask him for a good husband or wife.



He was canonized only a year after his death

Pope Gregory IX canonized him only one year after his death in Padua.

Prayer to St. Anthony

St. Anthony, perfect imitator of Jesus, who received from God the special power of restoring lost things, grant that I may find what has been lost. At least restore to me peace and tranquility of mind, the loss of which has afflicted me even more than my material loss.



COLOURING PAGE

Colour this page as neatly and brightly as you can. HAVE FUN!



St. Anthony of Padua, patron saint of lost and stolen articles

“ Our time has a great need for hope!
The young can no longer be robbed of hope.
... The young need hope. ”

Pope Francis

