

Tuesday is St. Anthony's Day

by Marion A. Habig, OFM

T if you enter a Franciscan church on a Tuesday morning, you will find the altar of St. Anthony decorated with bright flowers and burning tapers. You will find the Blessed Sacrament exposed on the main altar. You will find the faithful approaching the Communion railing in great numbers. In churches of larger cities this goes on during all the morning hours. One holy Mass follows another; an endless procession constantly enters and leaves the church.

Tuesday is indeed St. Anthony's Day. It has been that from the earliest times. It was on a Tuesday that St. Anthony's body was carried in triumph to its glorious tomb in Padua; and on that day the saint began to work his countless miracles of every description. It was on Tuesday by preference that the people gathered in crowds at his tomb to implore his intercession; and it has always been the conviction at Padua that particularly on a Tuesday one could obtain from God whatever one asked through St. Anthony.

In the early part of the Seventeenth Century, Tuesday came to be St. Anthony's Day more than ever, when the devotion of the Nine Tuesdays was introduced. It happened in the following manner. In 1617 there lived at Bologna in Italy a noblewoman who had been married for twenty-two years but to her great sorrow had not been blessed with a



child. In her affliction she had recourse to St. Anthony.

In the Franciscan church of the city she prayed with great fervor and confidence before the altar of the saint. When she rose, she felt wonderfully so-laced, as if she had received the assurance that her prayers would be heard.

During the night St. Anthony appeared to her in a vision and said to her: "On nine consecutive Tuesdays visit my image in the church of the Friars Minor, and your request will be granted."

The woman did as directed, and a child was born to her; but to her great horror, it was terribly de-formed. Once more the blameless mother called

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upon St. Anthony. She wrapped up the poor babe, carried it to the church, and had it placed on the altar of St. Anthony.

And lo, another miracle! The child was heard to cry, the veiling garment was removed, and a beautiful baby face greeted the happy mother's gaze.

The report of this miracle spread rapidly throughout Italy, and the novena of Tuesdays in honor of St. Anthony became a favorite devotion. In other countries also this devotion was widely propagated.

In 1763, Pope Clement XIII granted to the churches of the Recollect Friars Minor of Germany and Belgium special indulgences on Tuesdays throughout the year. The faithful who went to Confession and received Holy Communion could gain a plenary indulgence on any Tuesday if they visited one of these churches during exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and prayed for the intentions of the Holy Father.

Pope Leo XIII, in 1894, extended this indulgence to all Franciscan churches throughout the world and made it applicable to the Poor Souls.

Noteworthy is the fact that it is not necessary to keep the Tuesdays consecutively or novena-wise to gain this Tuesday indulgence. Nor is it necessary for the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament to be public, that is, in a monstrance upon a throne; but, according to a declaration made in 1932 by the Sacred Penitentiary, one of the tribunals of the Roman Curia, private exposition is sufficient. By private exposition is meant opening the door of the tabernacle so that the ciborium containing the Blessed Sacrament can be seen. It is thus possible to gain the Tuesday indulgence, even if, for some reason or other, there cannot be public or solemn exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

In 1905 Pope Pius X granted to the churches of the first and second Capuchin Orders a plenary indulgence on the first Tuesday of each month under the same conditions as those just mentioned, with the exception that no special prayers are required. The prayers for the intentions of the Holy Father, mentioned as a condition in the previous grants, need be no more than one *Pater*, *Ave* and *Gloria*.

It is well to note that indulgences granted to any one branch of the Franciscan Order, or to its churches, are enjoyed also by all the other branches

of the Franciscan Order and their churches, including the communities of the Third Order Regular as well as the Third Order Secular.

You will not find these Tuesday indulgences listed in the *Raccolta*, because they can be gained only in Franciscan churches. The *Raccolta*, one must remember, contains only those indulgences which have been granted in favor of all the faithful (Part I) and in favor of certain groups of persons, such as priests, religious, teachers, students, etc. (Part II). It does not contain those granted to particular religious orders, confraternities, pious unions, etc. ...

However, the *Raccolta* does mention the indulgences granted for the Thirteen Tuesdays, because these are not limited to Franciscan churches and can be gained by all the faithful in any part of the world. Not satisfied with nine Tuesdays, the piety of the faithful in some places increased the number to thirteen, in memory of the day when St. Anthony departed from this life and was borne to Heaven, which is also his annual Feast day, June 13.

The practice of honoring St. Anthony on thirteen Tuesdays was enriched with special indulgences by Pope Leo XIII in 1898, when he granted a plenary indulgence, on any *Tuesday* or *Sunday* of the year, to all the faithful who perform some exercise of devotion in honor of St. Anthony at home or in church, with the intention of doing so on thirteen successive Tuesdays or Sundays, and who, in addition, fulfill the usual conditions for gaining a plenary indulgence.

If, therefore, a person, through forgetfulness or because of a legitimate hindrance, omits the exercise of devotion on any of these Tuesdays or Sundays, he can still gain a plenary indulgence on the subsequent Tuesdays or Sundays. The exercise of devotion in honor of St. Anthony is not specified. Father Campelo tells us that it can be, for instance, a short period of spiritual reading, or the recitation of some prayer or prayers of one's own choice, or attendance at holy Mass.

When Pope Leo XIII granted these very generous indulgences, he declared: "Every Catholic has a personal reason to cherish special devotion to St. Anthony. For by a singular favor and privilege of God, the saint daily obtains for the faithful such graces and benefits that the Church herself exhorts all the faithful to have recourse to him if they would see miracles." †

Life of Adoration in Union with Mary

from St. Peter Julian Eymard

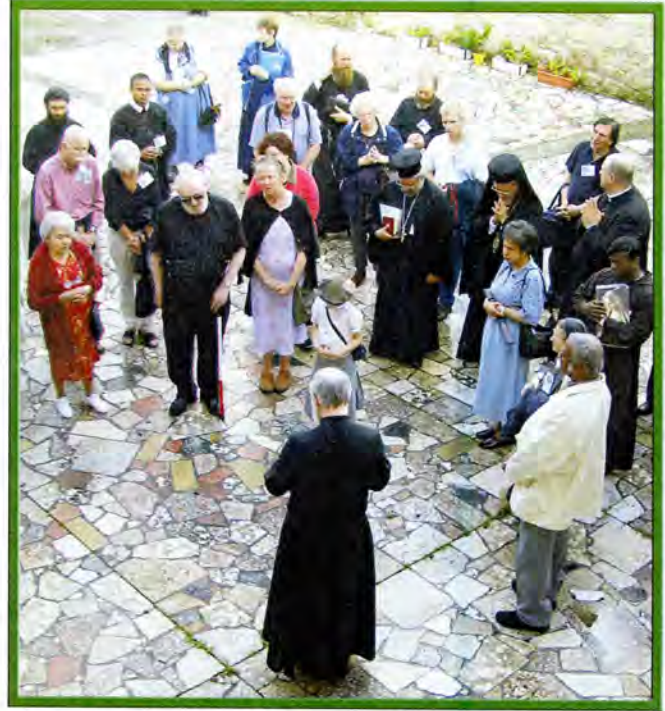
In considering attentively the reasons that induced Our Lord to leave us His Blessed Mother and so separate Himself from Her, it seems to me that He did so because He was distrustful of our weakness and inconstancy. Our Lord feared that men, not knowing how to find and adore Him in His Sacrament, would become discouraged and would forget Him. The child, as we know, does not search long for something he wants; if he does not find it at once, he gives up and seeks something else. This is what Our Lord feared for us; so He left us His Mother, whose mission it should be to take us by the hand and lead us to His Tabernacle. The Blessed Virgin, then, became our Mother, in view of the Eucharist. To Her is entrusted the task of showing us how to find our Bread of Life, of making us appreciate and desire that Heavenly Food; it is Her mission to form us for adoration.

After Our Lord's Ascension, She gathered about Her a community of pious women at Jerusalem; She dwelt with them, sharing with them Her treasure of grace and love. Her influence extended to the disciples and to the first Christians. Like a true Mother, She trained Her children to be faithful to the duties of their state and to practice virtue.

What Mary did then, She will do for us now. She will instruct us, show us Our Lord in the Eucharist, causing us to take part in Her pious devotion to His service – for all that a mother possesses belongs to her children. Mary being our Mother,

An Answer to Prayers: Health Restored

A friend of Our Lady's apostolate, a recent convert, rejoiced to share the following story of an event that took place this past autumn. His sister, a fallen-away Catholic, had been diagnosed with an illness that offered "no hope." The doctors expected a rapid deterioration. Our friend told the doctors, "no, you are wrong; you do not understand 'hope'." He asked the Fatima Center to include his sister in the 54-day Rosary Novena which is offered each day for the Center's intentions. He ob-



A number of priests, bishops and laypeople visit the courtyard in Pontevedra, Spain where the Child Jesus appeared to Sister Lucy and spoke to her about promoting the Communion of Reparation on the First Saturdays.

then, will educate us. When the child lets its attention wander from its work, the mother is there to recall it to its duty; if it is sick, she cares for it. She does not leave the child to itself, she fulfills her duty as educator. Mary, in the same way, will train you; She will instill into you Her method of adoration; She will even make your adoration in and for you, for only She can inspire you with the spirit of true and fervent adoration. †

tained a Miraculous Medal for his sister, both Green and Brown Scapulars, and some other sacramentals. He asked everyone he knew to pray for his sister.

The doctors induced a coma in his sister, to allow her body a rest. While she was still in the coma, our friend placed an image of Our Lady in the hospital room so that his sister would see it when she woke up.

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The “Last Chance for World Peace” Conference held last October was heartening for all of us. Attendees were overjoyed to learn the whole truth

about the great Fatima story. One of the most exciting things to come out of the Conference was when Father Gruner invited the priests and bishops there to help form a “Fatima Movement of Priests”. Father urged the clergy in particular to consecrate their parishes, dioceses and apostolic service to Our Lady of Fatima; to begin to form their thinking and preaching with reference to the complete Fatima Message. He encouraged them to preach the reparative and penitential spirit that the three children embraced, and to remind souls of the reality of hell.

While one or two of the clergy might have bristled at this serious message, the Conference attendees were filled with joy. Father warned them to expect troubles when they started working for Our Lady of Fatima, but he also reassured them.

Everyone left the Fatima conference with a spirit of “commission.” Please pray now for their spirit of commission to be fortified with commitment. They will need the graces of spiritual arms, which they must rely on readers such as yourself to provide. Thank you. †



Father Gruner addresses several clergy at the recent “Last Chance for World Peace” Conference.

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When his sister did come out of the coma, the first thing she saw was the image of Our Lady. At once, she burst into tears. She told her brother, “that is She, who came to me while I was in the coma. She offered me a choice of staying or going, and I chose to stay. Then I woke up.”

Not only did our friend’s sister recover virtually completely, but she has also returned to the Faith. With the conviction that may be a special gift to converts, he attributes all this to prayer and hope.

Let us be reminded that we can form a great army for Our Lady by offering our smallest

prayers and sacrifices. The more we can sanctify our days with aspirations and offerings, the more we fly against the spiritual Enemy, just as white blood cells fly against bodily infection. The more we join our prayers with others, the more violently we barrage him who would lead our souls to sickness and death.

When we unite our prayers with the priest’s offering of the Holy Mass, this strengthens the Holy Mother Church. When we unite our prayers with others in the family rosary, the block rosary, and other devotions (public or private), we strengthen the effect over and above the sum of our individual prayers. That is the point of confraternities of prayer – to gain the graces from the union of prayers from all its members. The Fatima Center does not have a particular confraternity, but one can join one’s prayers, and one’s recommendations for prayers, to all those offered by its friends. We hope you will do so, that we may all aid each other, and be strengthened by each other’s prayers.

Please pray for **Jim Bubb**, who recovers slowly from a stroke. His wife has been a faithful volunteer for the Center for many years. †

We’d Like to Hear From YOU!

Crusaders of Mary
Newsletter

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