

The medallions on the exterior of the St. Anthony Regional Hospital Surgery Center are a special feature of that building. The medallions symbolize important aspects of our Catholic Franciscan tradition and Carroll heritage.



**Father Joseph Kuemper**

Father Joseph Kuemper was an influential Catholic priest who founded St. Anthony Regional Hospital in 1905.



**The Bible**

As a Catholic organization, St. Anthony adheres to the teachings of Jesus Christ as we fulfill our healing ministry.



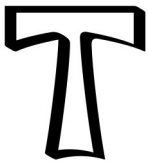
**St. Anthony and the Infant Jesus**

The hospital in Carroll was named after this beloved saint who was considered a wonder worker.



**The Cross in a Circle**

The cross is a symbol of God's love for mankind. The circle is a symbol of eternity and God's infinite love.



**Tall Cross**

St. Francis chose the Tau cross, an ancient symbol of redemption, as his model for living.



**Heart**

The heart is the emblem of love. This love is demonstrated by Jesus and his life.



**Caduceus**

The Caduceus is recognized as the universal symbol of medicine. St. Anthony has been served by a dedicated medical staff providing the community the best in medical care during the past century.



**Microscope**

The microscope represents St. Anthony's commitment to the science and technology of medicine, demonstrated by our dedicated medical professionals and the acquisition, of the latest equipment and services.



**Apple Tree**

In the early days, much of the food served to patients was raised on the hospital's farm and orchard.



**Florence Nightingale Lamp**

The lamp symbolizes Florence Nightingale's dedication and influence on modern nursing techniques. The nursing profession is an important part of St. Anthony. dating back to the Antonian School of Nursing and continuing through the current DMACC and University of Iowa programs.



**Nursing Home Fountain**

In 1963, the nursing home was added to the services offered at St. Anthony. In 2003, the nursing home was renovated and an Alzheimer's unit was opened.



**Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration Medal**

The Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration were called to serve St. Anthony in 1905. Through their commitment and sacrifice they have continued to provide guidance and leadership during our first 100 years.



**Rolling Hills**

St. Anthony is located in the southern part of Carroll, overlooking the surrounding countryside of fields and river valley.



**St. Anthony "A with a cross"**

The St. Anthony "A with a cross" is symbolic of our name and represents our Catholic heritage.



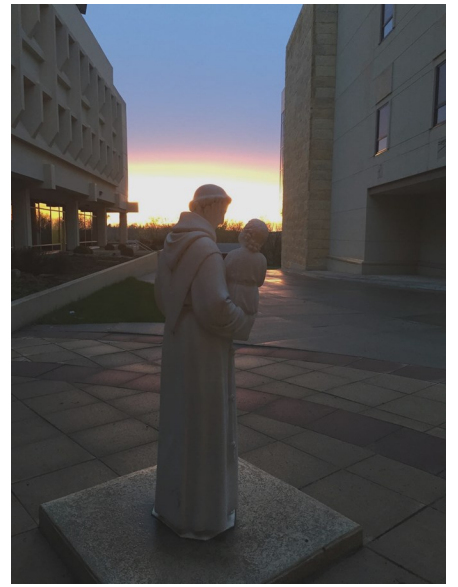
**Farm Fields**

The agricultural community has played an important role in the history of Carroll and St. Anthony. Carroll County continues to be one of the top producing agricultural areas in the country.



**Stork**

Storks are symbols of fertility and are associated with springtime and birth. The St. Anthony Birth Place uses this stork as its logo.



# FINDING ST. ANTHONY: HIS ART AND MIRACLES

By  
Marion Amberg

"St. Anthony, please help me find my keys." "St. Anthony, I lost my job and need to find a new one." In some regions of the country where St. Anthony is revered as a celestial matchmaker, single women pray, "O, lovely St. Anthony, find me a lovely husband." And if you're a writer, you might beg the Franciscan to help you find the right words!

What reader hasn't asked St. Anthony of Padua-patron of lost items and many other causes-for help in finding something? But how many of us ever go looking for St. Anthony? If we did, we'd find the friar's likeness chiseled in stone, painted on murals, carved in wood or etched in stained-glass. He's seen embracing the Christ Child, preaching to fish or holding a lily, a sign of purity. "Tony" even guards the poor box (often the good fortune of racetrack betters) at Immaculate Conception Church in New Orleans, Louisiana.

What do all these artistic renditions have in common? They depict the faith-story and intercessory powers of this irresistible saint. Come, St. Anthony is waiting to be found-in some very inspiring and miraculous artwork!

## The Evangelical Fish

The miracle of St. Anthony preaching to the fish has captured the imagination of many artists over the centuries, including award-winning *santeros* (Spanish for "saint-makers") Roberto Gonzales and Ernesto Salazar of New Mexico. Their jointly carved and painted *bulto* ("statue") is a stunning representation of this divine fish tale.

When St. Francis of Assisi discovered Anthony's gift for preaching in 1222, he sent the Portuguese native out to preach and convert the heretics. One day when Anthony's sermon fell on deaf ears in Rimini, a seaport in northern Italy, he went down to the banks of the Marecchia River, where it flows into the Adriatic Sea. According to *Fioretti of Saint Anthony* by Virgilio Gamboso, O.F.M. Conv., Anthony called out: "Fish of the sea and the river, listen to the word of the Lord, since the heretics refuse to hear it."

"Suddenly, a great number of fish gathered near the banks and lifted their heads out of the water to listen," says Gonzales, owner of De Colores Galleria in Old Town Albuquerque and a devotee of Anthony since the saint appeared to him in a dream some 30 years ago.

"The fish were all ears-or gills!" adds Salazar, a native of Taos.

Carved from ponderosa pine and cottonwood roots, a 16-inch Anthony stands on a 16x10-inch base simulating a rocky beach. Two dozen fish, assembled according to size with the smallest fry in front, seem mesmerized by the saint, their tiny mouths in a perpetual "oo-h." In traditional New Mexico iconography, Anthony's robe is painted blue.

"During the 17th and 18th centuries, New Mexico friars dyed their gray habits blue to promote the teaching of the Immaculate Conception of Mary," explains Gonzales.

In Anthony's left hand is a cross, while his right hand holds a Bible with the Christ child sitting on top. The tiny globe in the child's hand and his painted red garment foretell his crucifixion and redemptive salvation for the whole world.

"When the heretics saw the fish listening to St. Anthony, many were converted," Salazar says. "The fish had become fishers of men."

### **The Adoring Mule**

If a donkey could bear witness to God in the Old Testament (Numbers 22:22-35), why not a mule in Anthony's time? And so it happened that an ardent heretic at Bourges in central France-or as some accounts say, Rimini-got into a spirited debate with Anthony, an ordained priest, over the Real Presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament.

"When the priest speaks the words, 'This is my body,' the essence of the bread is turned into the Body of Christ," Anthony reportedly told the heretic.

But the heretic didn't believe in the unseen and challenged Anthony to a public experiment. He would starve his mule for three days. If after three days, the mule refused food and prostrated itself before the Sacred Host, the heretic would confess the Real Presence. Meanwhile, it's said that Anthony also fasted.

What happened next is illustrated in an exquisite stained-glass window at St. Vincent Pallotti Catholic Church in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. On the appointed day, the heretic, dressed in fine green robes, appeared in the town square with the ravenous mule. Father Anthony, who had just celebrated Mass at a nearby church, approached with the monstrance held high.

According to *Fioretti of Saint Anthony*, the friar proclaimed: "...I command you, O mule, who are but a beast, to move closer immediately in humility. Show him the veneration that is due to him, so that the ill-disposed heretic may be firmly convinced that every creature must be submitted to its Creator, whom the priests hold in their hands every day at the altar."

The heretic began waving a pan of oats under the mule's nose. But the beast refused the fodder and, with head bowed in adoration, knelt on bended foreleg before the Blessed Sacrament. True to his word, the heretic embraced the Catholic faith and professed his belief in the Real Presence. With Anthony's help, another lost soul had found his way to God.

### **The Miser's Heart**

Many of Anthony's miracles reflect the teachings of Christ. That's certainly true with the story of Anthony and the avaricious moneylender, depicted in a bronze bas relief on the altar frontal of St. Casimir Catholic Church in Baltimore, Maryland, a 108-year-old parish with Polish roots. While this miracle happened nearly 800 years ago, its message remains timeless today.

According to one account, Father Anthony was in Italy's Tuscany region preaching on the Gospel passage, "Where your treasure is, there your heart is" (Luke 12:34), when the moneylender's body was brought into the church for his funeral. "He is already suffering in hell and should not be buried in consecrated ground," Anthony declared. "His corpse has no heart."

The throngs of mourners gathered were aghast and, as depicted in the bas relief, a spirit of fear and repentance broke out. When the cadaver's chest was cut open, Anthony found "a money box in place of his heart," states the church's Web site, about the replica of Donatello's 15th century masterpiece. The miser had chosen earthly wealth over eternal rewards.

Anthony seekers will find St. Casimir Church is a "little Padua." "The whole altar is an exact replica of the altar" at the Basilica of St. Anthony in Padua, explains the pastor, Father Ross Syracuse, O.F.M. Conv., adding the altar also has a bas relief of the fish miracle. "The only difference is that in St. Casimir Church, one of the statues is of St. Casimir himself."

## The Restored Foot

Anthony had a divine gift to preach and convict sinners, but when one young man took his reprimand literally, the "wonder-worker" had to pray for a miracle to undo the deed! That miracle is depicted in a thought provoking stained-glass window at St. Anthony of Padua Church in Rockford, Illinois, a century-old Italian parish.

One day during confession, Leonardo, a young man from Padua, told Father Anthony that he had kicked his mother so violently she had fallen down. "The foot that kicks a mother or father ought to be cut off immediately," admonished Anthony, echoing Jesus' rhetorical teaching in Matthew 5:29-30 to "pluck out your eye if it causes you to sin."

Somewhat of a simpleton, Leonardo took Anthony's words literally. He went home, took an ax and cut off his foot in remorse. When Anthony learned about the mutilation, he rushed to Leonardo's house and began praying fervently. While holding the severed foot to Leonardo's leg, Anthony made the sign of the cross. Miracle! The foot reattached itself, and Leonardo leaped with joy, praising God for his mercy and goodness.

But there's more to this stained-glass miracle, says Father John Grigus, O.F.M. Conv., associate pastor, pointing out that both of Leonardo's parents appear in the scene. Despite her son's action, the mother "does not want any evil to fall upon him," explains Father John, and the "son's face is an exact replica of the father's." No matter what their son did, he is "bone of their bone and flesh of their flesh" and they will not cease loving him.

## Anthony and the Christ child

Perhaps no legend has inspired more Antonian art than the Christ child's apparition to St. Anthony. According to one version-and there are many-Count Tito IV owned a castle near Padua and built Anthony a hermitage where he could devote himself to study and prayer. Before retiring one night, Anthony was reading the Scriptures when suddenly the Word became flesh: The Christ child was standing before him!

When Count Tito, a convert of Anthony, passed by the open door of the hermitage, he saw something more beautiful than words. Engulfed in light, the Holy Child was holding out his arms to Anthony, who embraced the child in return. When the vision ended, Anthony saw the count outside the door and pleaded, "Tell no one what you've seen until after my death."

If legends abound about Anthony and the Child, so do a multitude of artistic poses. Emulating the Franciscan spirit, a mosaic on the exterior facade of St. Francis of Assisi Church in New York City exudes peace and calm. While Anthony cradles the child, the Infant's outstretched arms seemingly bless the city. In a stunning French stained-glass window at St. John the Baptist Church on New Mexico's Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo, the Holy Child appears to be leaping from the Bible into the saint's arms.

"It depicts the Word made flesh, always coming to those who seek him in Scripture the way St. Anthony did," reflects Father Brennan, pastor, about the spiritually relevant image. In 1598, Franciscan friars brought the faith to New Mexico and, near today's pueblo church, founded the first parish in the American Southwest.

And if ever Anthony had big sandals, it's at the Surgery Center of St. Anthony Regional Hospital & Nursing Home in Carroll, Iowa. In a gigantic exterior frieze nearly 32 feet tall (Anthony's feet are more than three feet long!), the art depicts yet another pose: Cuddled in Anthony's arms, the Child's chubby hands are in prayer. While the award-winning frieze appears to have been carved from the side of the building, it was created in four sections that weighed at least 11,000 pounds each.

But no artistic interpretation of Anthony and Child is more mystical and filled with wonder than "The Great Vision" at St. Anthony of Padua Church in Bedford, Massachusetts. In a 70-foot-high semi-rotunda above the main altar in this two-story temple, the Child appears in a white cloud to a wide-eyed, tonsured Anthony. Kneeling at a *prieu dieu*, a larger-than-life Anthony reaches up to the Infant, who stands nearly five feet tall. In

the background, golden rays illumine a 40-foot-tall cross, while dozens of angel-statues are praising God with timbrel, harp and stringed instruments.

"The scene is spiritually captivating," says one admirer. "Anthony often preached on the Incarnation. Here, Jesus appears to him as a child, yet stands in the shadow of the cross, his divine mission. The essence of the whole Gospel is depicted in this scene."

It's "lost and found" with St. Anthony art. Once you find the art, you'll get lost in the message!

### **Sidebar: St. Anthony Bread**

Artwork abounds of St. Anthony holding bread. Some statues show Anthony with a loaf in one hand and the Christ child in the other, while other statues depict both Anthony and the Child holding bread. Some "statuesque" bread looks so real that hungry children try to break off a piece! But St. Anthony Bread isn't about the culinary arts (Anthony was never a baker by trade), but rather about feeding the poor.

Unlike the other miracles featured in this story, the miracle of St. Anthony Bread happened after the friar's death. According to one account, a child drowned in 1262 near today's Basilica of St. Anthony in Padua, Italy. The mother prayed to St. Anthony and vowed that, if her child were restored to life, she would give to the poor an amount of corn equal to the child's weight.

The story of this miracle shines in a beautiful stained-glass window at St. Anthony of Padua Church in Rockford, Illinois. Anthony holds the girl's hand as her mother makes good on her promise.

Today, St. Anthony Bread is a monetary offering given to the poor in honor of St. Anthony for his intercession and favors received. Many Franciscan organizations, including the publishers of this magazine, accept donations to feed the homeless and working poor. Donations may be sent to St. Anthony Bread/*St. Anthony Messenger*, 28 Republic Street, Cincinnati, OR 45202.

Marion Amberg, who lives in the Southwest, wrote this piece with a statue of St. Anthony-carved from a table-leg-at her side.

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