

## St. Vincent de Paul

### Prayer (traditional language)

Almighty God, who didst call thy servant Vincent de Paul to serve thee in the person of those in need: Grant, we beseech thee, that we, following his example, may fulfil thy commandments by defending and supporting the poor, and by loving thee with all our hearts, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

### Prayer (contemporary language)

Almighty God, who called your servant Vincent de Paul to serve you in the person of those in need: Grant that we, following his example, may fulfil your commandments by defending and supporting the poor, and by loving you with all our hearts, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

- Born: in Pouy in Gascony France in 1580 or 1576 to a poor family
- Died: in Paris September 27, 1660
- Feast day: September 27
- Priest – ordained in 1600
- In 1605 captured by Turkish pirates and sold as a slave – escaped in 1607 and converted his Master.
- Canonized June 16, 1737
- Brought together several women to form the Daughters of Charity. The women were trained in how to help the poor and sick.



### Stories of St. Vincent:

In August 1617, as he was preparing for Sunday Mass, a parishioner brought news of the illness and destitution of an entire family in the parish. He preached on their need, and that afternoon the people responded in overwhelming numbers by carrying them food and supplies. Vincent then called a meeting of interested women, and urged them to put order into their generosity by taking turns. With rules drawn up by Vincent, they established a group which became the first Confraternity of Charity.

Vincent assumed direction of the Hôtel-Dieu, a large hospital in Paris. Both Vincent and Louise realized that greater commitment would be needed to give the necessary care with consistency and love. Young women from rural areas began to appear, ready to assist. In 1633, Louise welcomed several of them into her own home for training, and they became the nucleus of a new type of religious community, the Daughters of Charity. They lived in houses, not convents; their cloister was the city streets; their enclosure was their commitment to God and service. They gave their lives to visiting the sick in the homes, ministering in hospitals, caring for prisoners, orphans, the mentally ill, and the homeless of Paris. They also taught catechism to rural children.

In 1639, Lorraine was devastated by war. Vincent collected money and other forms of aid, sending members of his Congregation to distribute the aid and organize relief, and sending Daughters of Charity to minister to victims and refugees. This ministry continued during the 30 years war, and a brutal civil war called the Fronde.



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JQko61tGJrk>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/StVincentDePaulPhx>

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zrwez\\_neJT4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zrwez_neJT4)

Direct the students to read **Acts of the Apostles 6:1–7** to discover the role of deacons in the early Church. Have them make a chart comparing their role with the role of deacons today.

St. Anthony – Patron Saint of Lost Things

**Unfailing Prayer to Saint Anthony**

**Blessed be God in His Angels and in His Saints.**

**O Holy St. Anthony, gentlest of Saints, your love for God and Charity for His creatures made you worthy, when on earth, to possess miraculous powers. Miracles waited on your word, which you were ever ready to speak for those in trouble or anxiety. Encouraged by this thought, I implore of you to obtain for me (request). The answer to my prayer may require a miracle. Even so, you are the saint of Miracles.**

**O gentle and loving St. Anthony, whose heart was ever full of human sympathy, whisper my petition into the ears of the Sweet Infant Jesus, who loved to be folded in your arms, and the gratitude of my heart will ever be yours.**

**Amen. (Say 13 Paters, Aves, and Glorias)**

**From Jamaica:**

**St. Anthony, St. Anthony  
Please come down  
Something is lost  
And can't be found**

**From Chicago:**

**Dear St. Anthony, I pray  
Bring it back, without delay.**

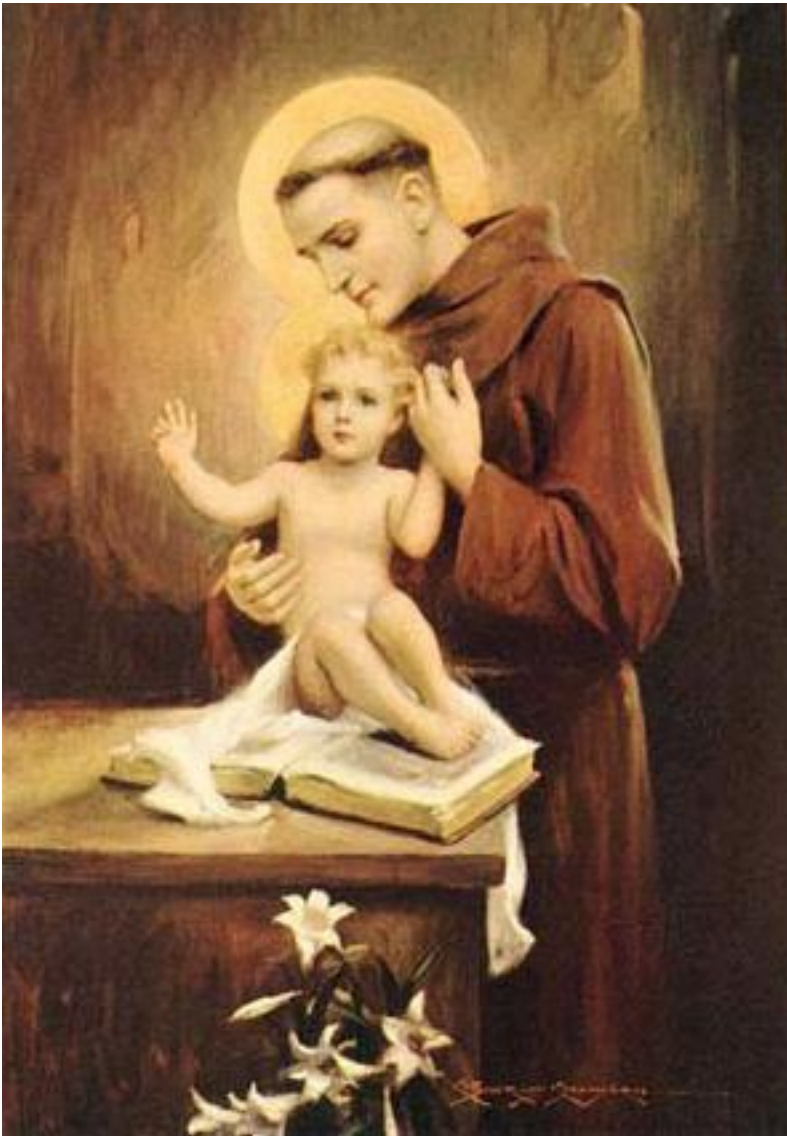
**From Poland:**

**Something's lost and can't be found  
Please, St. Anthony, look around.**

**Stats:**

- Born in Portugal in 1195
- Died in Padua, Italy June 13, 1231 at age 36
- Cannonized 1 year after death by Pope Gregory IX
- Made doctor of the church in 1945

Doctor of the Church : This is a very special title accorded by the Church to certain saints. This title indicates that the writings and preachings of such a person are useful to Christians "in any age of the Church." Such men and women are also particularly known for the depth of understanding and the orthodoxy of their theological teachings. While the writings of the Doctors are often considered inspired by the Holy Spirit; this does not mean they are infallible, but it does mean that they contributed significantly to the formulation of Christian teaching in at least one area.



#### Stories of St. Anthony:

Back in Padua, he preached his last and most famous Lenten sermons. The crowds were so great—sometimes 30,000—that the churches could not hold them, so he went into the piazzas or the open fields. People waited all night to hear him. He needed a bodyguard to protect him from the people armed with scissors who

wanted to snip off a piece of his habit as a relic. After his morning Mass and sermon, he would hear confessions. This sometimes lasted all day—as did his fasting.

How he became Patron Saint of Lost things:

The reason for invoking St. Anthony's help in finding lost or stolen things is traced back to an incident in his own life. As the story goes, Anthony had a book of psalms that was very important to him. Besides the value of any book before the invention of printing, the psalter had the notes and comments he had made to use in teaching students in his Franciscan Order.

A novice who had already grown tired of living religious life decided to depart the community. Besides going AWOL he also took Anthony's psalter! Upon realizing his psalter was missing, Anthony prayed it would be found or returned to him. And after his prayer the thieving novice was moved to return the psalter to Anthony and to return to the Order, which accepted him back. Legend has embroidered this story a bit. It has the novice stopped in his flight by a horrible devil, brandishing an ax and threatening to trample him underfoot if he did not immediately return the book. Obviously a devil would hardly command anyone to do something good. But the core of the story would seem to be true. And the stolen book is said to be preserved in the Franciscan friary in Bologna.

In any event, shortly after his death people began praying through Anthony to find or recover lost and stolen articles. And the Responsory of St. Anthony composed by his contemporary, Julian of Spire, O.F.M., proclaims, "The sea obeys and fetters break/And lifeless limbs thou dost restore/While treasures lost are found again/When young or old thine aid implore."

St. Anthony's bread>

ST. ANTHONY BREAD is a term used for offerings made in thanksgiving to God for blessings received through the prayers of St. Anthony. Sometimes the alms are given for the education of priests. In some places parents also make a gift for the poor after placing a newborn child under the protection of St. Anthony. It is a practice in some churches to bless small loaves of bread on the feast of St. Anthony and give them to those who want them.

Different legends or stories account for the donation of what is called St. Anthony Bread. By at least one account it goes back to 1263, when it is said a child drowned near the Basilica of St. Anthony which was still being built. His mother promised that if the child was restored to her she would give for the poor an amount of corn equal to the child's weight. Her prayer and promise were rewarded with the boy's return to life.

Another reason for the practice is traced back to Louise Bouffier, a shopkeeper in Toulon, France. A locksmith was prepared to break open her shop door after no key would open it. Bouffier asked the locksmith to try his keys one more time after she prayed and promised to give bread to the poor in honor of St. Anthony if the door would open without force. The door then opened. After others received favors through the intercession of St. Anthony, they joined Louise Bouffier in founding the charity of St. Anthony Bread.

To make an offering to St. Anthony Bread in thanksgiving for blessings received, you may send your donation designated as St. Anthony Bread, to *St. Anthony Messenger*, 1615 Vine Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202. Your alms will be used to help the poor, especially those to whom the Franciscans minister.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=leg1gJcjjc>

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hk\\_k-j-rYIg&list=PL86FDACE8B42ED65F](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hk_k-j-rYIg&list=PL86FDACE8B42ED65F)

### **St. Rita:**

**Born:** Roccaporena, Italy – Cascia 1381 – 1447

- wanted to be a nun, but her parents forced her to marry at age 12
- her husband was cruel
- she was married 18 years
- 2 sons (twins)

Her husband was killed in a brawl. Her sons felt the need (according to tradition – vendetta) to avenge their father’s death. Both boys died shortly after. Although, Rita’s husband was a horrible man, she was still shaken. She tried to persuade her sons to not go after their dad’s killer, but they would not listen. She prayed and when she realized the boys would not listen to her she left it in the hands of God.

She was always very kind and loving to her husband despite how he treated her.

When she found herself alone, she tried to return to her earlier passion to become a nun. At first she was denied because she was a widow. However, she was finally accepted after doing many, many good deeds for the community. Later she spent a lot of her time nursing sick nuns.

She is best known for the scars on her forehead that many compared to Jesus’s crown of thorns.

She was beatified in 1626 and finally canonized in 1900.

Her body is incorrupt – meaning it has not gone through much decomposition. Her body is on display at the Basilica at Cascia. Some say it has changed position and her eyes have opened and closed.

### **Prayer to St. Rita**

Dear Rita, model wife and widow, you yourself suffered in a long illness showing patience out of love for God. Teach us to pray as you did. Many invoke you for help, full of confidence in your intercession. Deign to come now to our aid for the relief and cure of (name). To God all things are possible; may this healing give glory to the Lord.  
Amen.

## **Novena to Saint Rita of Cascia**

**This Novena must be said for nine consecutive days, and then must be published if your petition is granted.**

O Holy Patroness of those in need, St. Rita, whose pleadings before thy Divine Lord are almost irresistible, who for thy lavishness in granting favors hast been called the Advocate of the hopeless and even of the impossible; St. Rita, so humble, so pure, so mortified, so patient and of such compassionate love for thy Crucified Jesus that thou couldst obtain from Him whatsoever thou askest, on account of which all confidently have recourse to thee expecting, if not always relief, at least comfort; be propitious to our petition, showing thy power with God on behalf of thy suppliant; be lavish to us, as thou hast been in so many wonderful cases, for the greater glory of God, for the spreading of thine own devotion, and for the consolation of those who trust in thee. We promise, if our petition is granted, to glorify thee by making known thy favor, to bless and sing thy praises forever. Relying then upon thy merits and power before the Sacred Heart of Jesus, we pray thee grant that ..... **(here mention your request).**

Pray for us, O holy Saint Rita, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.  
Amen.

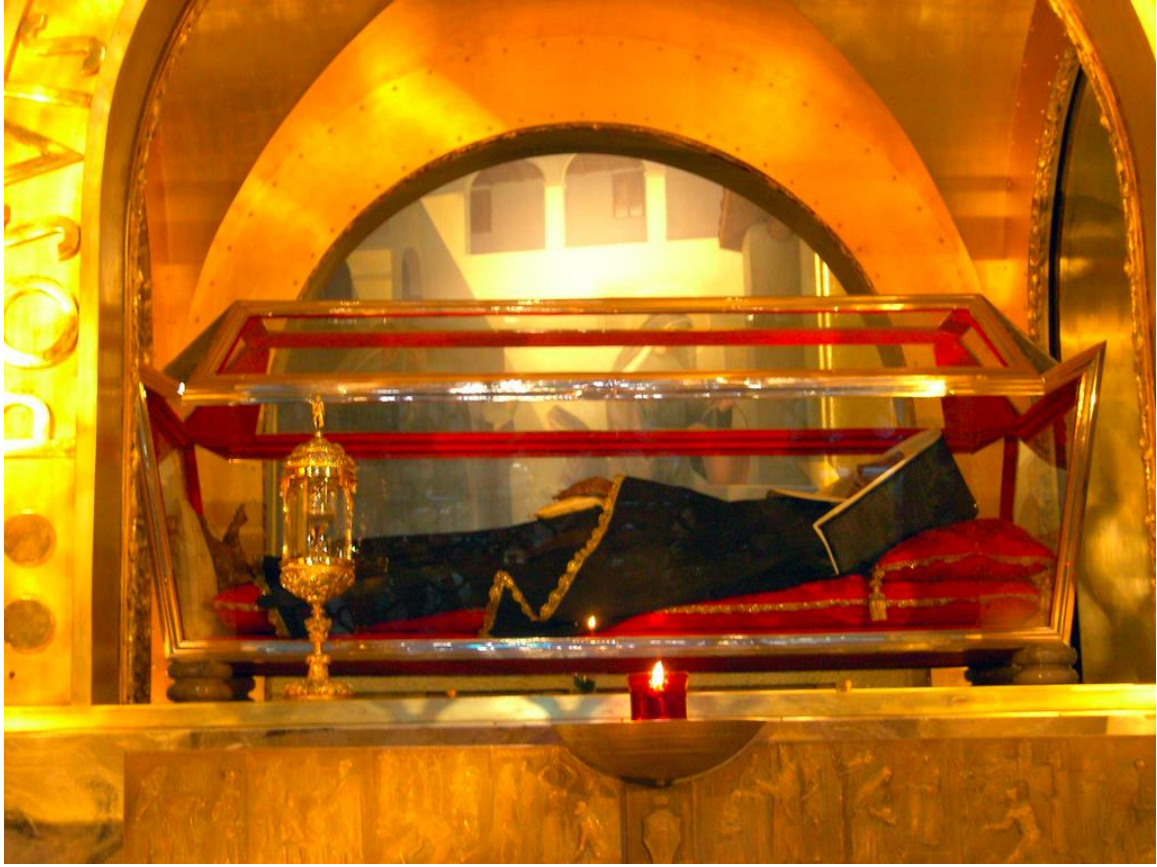
<http://www.marypages.com/Rita.htm>

**Certain Saints, at the time of their death or many years later after they were exhumed, were found to be incorruptable. That is to say, their bodies did not decompose. There are more than 250 incorrupt bodies of Catholic saints.**



Immediately after death her body is said to have performed miracles and had signs of Incorruptibility. After centuries of veneration of her Incorrupt body and numerous documented miracles, Rita of Cascia was canonized in 1900. The Saint's body is still partially incorrupt and housed in the Basilica of Saint Rita in the Umbrian town of Cascia.







<http://www.sacramentals.com/saintritaofcascia.htm>

Prayer cards and medals



St. Rita's body at Basilica of Cascia



st. Rita videos:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Ho\\_kTtaakg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Ho_kTtaakg)

Posters of the Saints

<http://www.cafepress.com/+catholic-saints+posters> \$14

<http://www.adoremusbooks.com/analphabetofcatholicsaintsposter.aspx?zmam=46742494&zmas=1&zmac=78&zmap=94036&gclid=CKjm1ZPc8LcCFYkWMgodfQYAbg> alphabet poster of the saints \$5

Saint stories for kids:

<http://www.loyolapress.com/saints-stories-for-kids.htm?cId=402585>

Craft ideas:



[christiancrafters.com](http://christiancrafters.com)- The Colors of Christ Cross

[crafts.kaboose.com](http://crafts.kaboose.com)- change the colors of the beads to make this cross

\*Tip: Hot glue the blue, white, and red beads together.

Each of the bead colors are intended to remind us of Biblical truths:

**Black = Sin**

The black bead reminds us of our sin which separates us from God and dooms us to

eternal darkness. Romans 3:23 “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (see also Ephesians 2:11-13)

**Red = Christ’s blood**

The red bead symbolizes Christ’s’ blood shed for you and me. Romans 5:8-9 “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us...we have been justified by his blood...”

**White = Prayer of Repentance For Cleansing**

The white bead represents the cleansing that occurs when a sinner repents and turns to God. Psalm 51:1-2 “Have mercy on me, Oh God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.”

**Blue = Water/Spirit Baptism**

The blue bead represents baptism. Ephesians 4:5 “...one Lord, one faith, one baptism.” We are baptized with water to identify ourselves with Jesus. The Holy Spirit baptizes those who trust in Jesus and takes up residence in the believers heart. If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. Romans 8:9

**Green = Christian Growth**

The green bead represents growth in our faith. Colossians 1:10 “And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God...”

**Gold = Eternal life**

The gold bead represents eternal life with Jesus in Heaven. John 3:16 “ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”



Make a paper rose – craft idea??

Supplies needed:

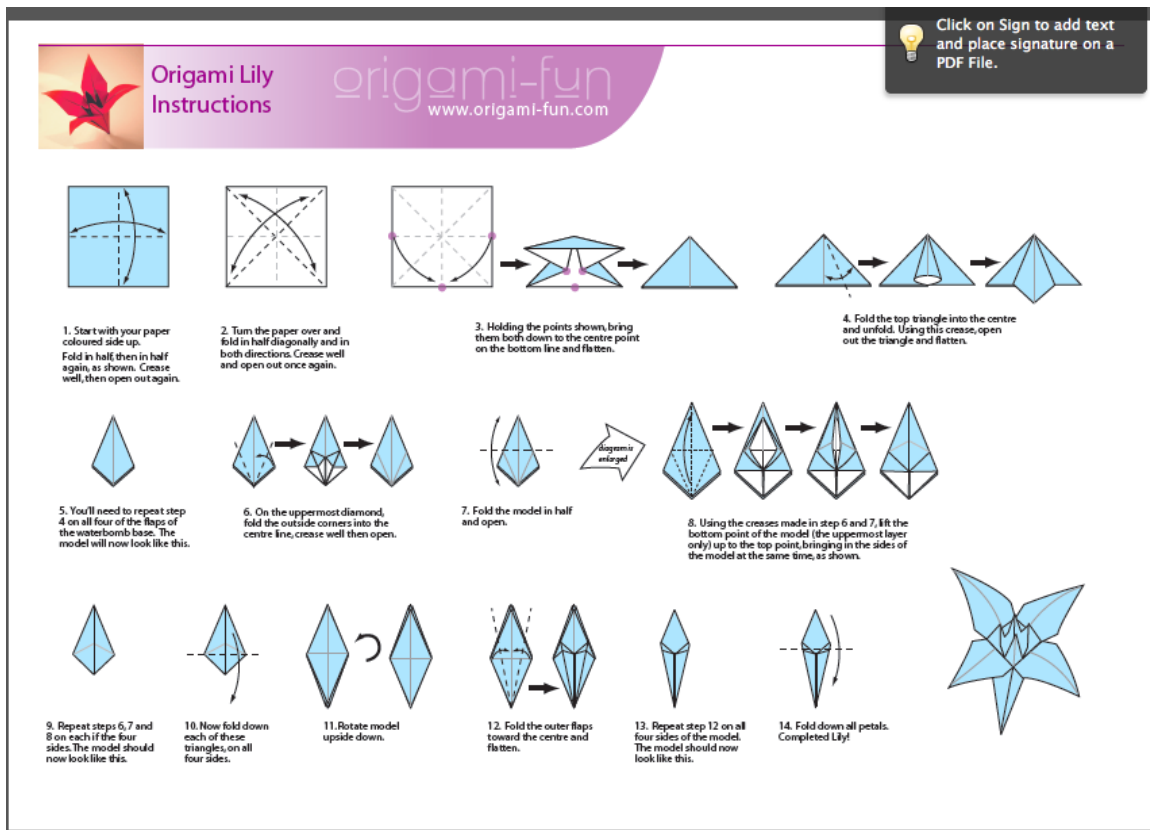
- a square of 4" x 4" paper
- a pencil
- a scissors

Steps taken:

- draw a spiral on the sheet of paper
- cut out the spiral
- starting on the OUTSIDE, roll up the spiral and keep rolling until there's no paper left

And you're done!

Lily – origami (for older kids) ?? I find origami hard, but if we can master it, we could guide the kids step by step.



Obviously the kids need to do something for the needy. I don't know what yet! When I was a kid, my dad used to dress up as Santa and we would pass out presents to people in the nursing home where my aunt was. Perhaps the kids could wrap small presents and we could take them to one of the nursing homes in the area. Maybe some kids and parents could come? We gave things like hand lotion, small Kleenex, etc.

Kids could bring in one thing to donate to St. Vincent DePaul. Perhaps we could arrange a pick up, so kids could actually see.

Snack:

Hand cookies (from last year) - lend a helping hand!

Bible versus:

**Deuteronomy 15:11** *For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, 'You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.'*

**Matthew 25:35-40** *For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'*

**Luke 3:10-11** *And the crowds asked him, "What then shall we do?" And he answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise."*

Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ (Galatians 6:2)

**James 2:14-17** *What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.*

**Luke 10:25-37**

New International Version (NIV)

**The Parable of the Good Samaritan**

<sup>25</sup> On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

<sup>26</sup> "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"



<sup>27</sup> He answered, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’<sup>[a]</sup>; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’<sup>[b]</sup>”

<sup>28</sup> “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.”

<sup>29</sup> But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

<sup>30</sup> In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup> A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup> So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup> But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. <sup>34</sup> He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. <sup>35</sup> The next day he took out two denarii<sup>[c]</sup> and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’

<sup>36</sup> “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”

<sup>37</sup> The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.”

<http://www.schoolsupplygiant.com/europe-wall-map-30-x-24-e-124521?mr:trackingCode=A49145A9-7950-E211-B425-BC305BEDE924&mr:referralID=NA&mr:adType=pla&mr:ad=20369820872&mr:keyword=&mr:match=&mr:filter=37711125624&gclid=CIzltKWl8bcCFdFDMgodjS4A3g>

Cheap wall map of Europe. Mark on a map where all these people lived.

Saints song – just like the elements

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fnt-P38ykc4>