

ST. ANTHONY - Wednesday games

I was named Fernando Martin and was born into a very rich family of the nobility who wanted me to become educated, so they arranged for me to be instructed at the local cathedral school. Against the wishes of my family, I entered the community of Canons. The Canons are famous for their dedication to scholarly pursuits and so they sent me to major centers of studies where I studied theology and Latin.

After my ordination, I was named guestmaster and was in charge of hospitality for the abbey. It was there that I came into contact with five Franciscan friars and was strongly attracted to their simple, evangelical lifestyle. I obtained permission from church authorities to join the Franciscan Order and adopted the name Anthony.

I then set out for Morocco but illness stopped me on the way, so I changed my destination to Italy which was the center of my new order. On the voyage there the ship ran into a bad storm and we had to land in Sicily. I looked so ill that they sent me to a small, remote convent where I lived as a hermit, worked in the kitchen and spent much time in private prayer and study.

One day during a great ordination there was tremendous confusion as to who was to preach. The bishop asked me to speak whatever the Holy Spirit should put in my mouth. I objected but was overruled. My sermon created a deep impression and held the attention of all the hearers. After this, I came to the attention of Francis of Assisi who put me in charge of the studies for the friars. From then on I used my gifts as a preacher.

People invoke my help in finding lost or stolen things or people because I had a book of psalms that was very important to me. It was important to me not only because printing had not yet been invented, but also because a Franciscan novice went AWOL and took my psalter. When I realized that the psalter was missing, I prayed that it would be found and returned. After this prayer, the thieving novice was moved to return the psalter to me, and to return to the Order.

Game: a scavenger hunt to locate lost items (use a foreign name)

An old bulletin, a pencil, a Kleenex, a paper cup, a paper clip, etc
Example: Kyndigung (German for notice or bulletin)

Invocation: Anthony, Anthony, come on down. Something is lost and can't be found.