

THE WONDER-WORKER

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

Illustrated by Lloyd Ostendorf

FERDINAND BULLOENS, THE ONLY CHILD OF A NOBLE PORTUGUESE FAMILY, AMAZED HIS PARENTS IN 1210 WHEN HE TOLD THEM HE WANTED TO GIVE UP HIS LIFE OF LUXURY.

YOU HAVE MY PERMISSION. BUT THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS WE COULD OFFER YOU.

IF YOU REMAIN HERE, YOU WILL BECOME ONE OF THE RICHEST MEN IN THE COUNTRY!



BUT FERDINAND PERSEVERED.

AND HOW DO YOU LIKE BEING A MEMBER OF THE AUGUSTINIAN ORDER, MY SON ?

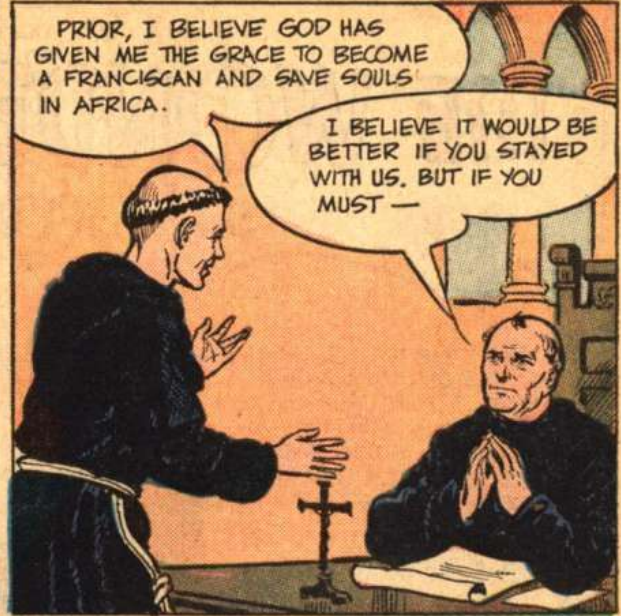
VERY MUCH, PRIOR. STILL, I AM WONDERING IF I HAVE A VOCATION TO GO TO THE MISSIONS.

HE BECAME A WELL-KNOWN PREACHER.

PEOPLE COME FROM MILES AWAY TO HEAR HIM.

YET, I HAVE HEARD THAT HE IS THINKING ABOUT BECOMING A MISSIONARY !



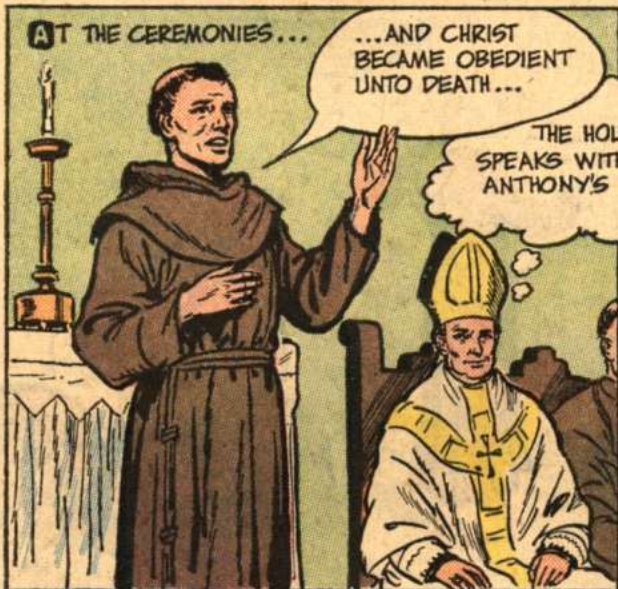




IT WAS NOT LONG THEREAFTER THAT HIS FELLOW FRANCISCANS DISCOVERED ANTHONY'S PREACHING TALENT.

THROUGH SOME MISUNDERSTANDING, NO ONE CAME PREPARED TO GIVE THE SERMON FOR TODAY'S ORDINATION CEREMONIES. WILL SOMEONE VOLUNTEER?

WHY NOT CALL ON OUR NEW BROTHER FROM PORTUGAL?



AT THE CEREMONIES...

...AND CHRIST BECAME OBEDIENT UNTO DEATH...

THE HOLY SPIRIT SPEAKS WITH BROTHER ANTHONY'S TONGUE!

ANTHONY WAS SENT TO RIMINI, ITALY. BUT THE MANY HERETICS THERE REFUSED TO LISTEN TO HIM.

MY FRIENDS, LET ME TELL YOU OF THE HEAVENLY FATHER...

BAH!

WE HAVE BETTER THINGS TO DO!



LEGEND TELLS US THAT ANTHONY FINALLY WALKED OUT TO A RIVER THAT FLOWED NEAR THE TOWN.

WHY DID WE COME HERE?

SHH! LISTEN!



FISHES OF THE RIVER AND SEA. TO YOU I ANNOUNCE THE WORD OF GOD. SINCE MEN REFUSE TO HEAR, I WILL SPEAK TO YOU.



MY BRETHREN, YOU HAVE MANY REASONS TO BLESS GOD. DID HE NOT SAVE YOU FROM DEATH AT THE TIME OF THE FLOOD ?



WAS IT NOT YOU WHO NOURISHED CHRIST THE ETERNAL KING BEFORE AND AFTER HIS RESURRECTION ?



THEREFORE, PRAISE AND BLESS GOD FROM WHOM YOU HAVE RECEIVED THESE FAVORS GRANTED TO NO OTHER LIVING CREATURES.

GO TELL THE PEOPLE WHAT'S HAPPENING !



SOON...

TO THINK WE WOULDN'T LISTEN TO HIM.

I'M GOING TO BE DIFFERENT FROM NOW ON!

GOD FORGIVE US!



ANOTHER LEGEND ABOUT ST. ANTHONY CONCERNS AN UNBELIEVER...

THAT WAS A WONDERFUL SERMON ON THE BLESSED SACRAMENT.



HE'LL NEVER CONVERT ME!
I DON'T BELIEVE IN THE BLESSED
SACRAMENT AND I NEVER WILL!



ANTHONY WAS TROUBLED WHEN HE HEARD OF GUIALD'S
LACK OF FAITH.

PERHAPS YOUR MULE HAS MORE
SENSE THAN YOU, GUIALD. BRING
HIM TO ME IN THREE DAYS.

HA! HA! YOU
HAVE A GREAT
SENSE OF
HUMOR,
FATHER.
I'LL BE THERE.



THREE DAYS LATER...

POOR BEAST OF BURDEN, ADORE
YOUR LORD AND YOUR GOD IN
THE BLESSED SACRAMENT.

COME, NOW!
YOU SURELY
DON'T THINK...

LOOK!
LOOK!

NO!
NO!
IT CAN'T BE.
MY MULE
IS
KNEELING!



MY LORD AND MY GOD!
FORGIVE ME!

THERE'S A
SIGHT I NEVER
THOUGHT I'D
SEE.

TODAY ST. ANTHONY IS OFTEN INVOKED BY
THOSE WHOSE PROPERTY HAS BEEN LOST OR
STOLEN. IN FRANCE, SIX YEARS BEFORE HIS
DEATH...

BE VERY CAREFUL WITH
THAT BOOK! IT IS VERY
VALUABLE - IT BELONGS
TO FATHER ANTHONY.

I'LL PUT IT BACK RIGHT
NOW.

