

LITURGY BYTES

June Saints



In the month of June, we celebrate many family events in addition to birthdays, Father's Day and graduations. Dance recitals, school endings and championship sporting events fill our time as we prepare for those lazy, crazy days of summer. I thought for the next few weeks, we could explore the lives of some of the saints for the month of June.

June 1st we celebrate **St. Justin Martyr**. He converted to Christianity around the year 130 AD. He taught and defended the Christian religion in Asia Minor and at Rome. His role can be summed up in one word: it is that of a **witness**. He was known as a philosopher but found that the Christian religion answered the great questions about life and existence better than the philosophers. Justin is known as an apologist, one who defends in writing the Christian religion against the attacks and misunderstandings of the pagans. Because of his staunch adherence to Christianity, he was martyred in the year 165.

Our next June saint is a popular one, **St. Anthony of Padua**, and is celebrated on **June 13th**. St. Anthony, then known as Fernando, was born in Lisbon, Portugal. He came from a wealthy family and was educated at an abbey where he learned theology and Latin. He eventually was ordained a priest and later joined the Franciscan order where he changed his name to Anthony. On one occasion, a special book containing his notes and pointers to use in teaching went missing. He prayed for it to be returned and it was. On top of that, the person who took it also returned to the abbey. Anthony proved to be a wonderful speaker and impressed many groups. He occasionally taught at universities, but his best work was the role of the preacher. He died at the age of 35, canonized one year later, and declared a Doctor of the Church in 1946. He is best known as the patron for lost people and things.

Have a "saintly," blessed and healthy week ahead! ~~~ *Michele Hall*