



St Anthony The Great

by: Monica Abdou

St. Mary Coptic Church, Pompano Beach, FL

St Anthony was born in the year 251 A.D. in a city in Upper Egypt. He was born to very wealthy parents who raised him in the fear of God. When he was twenty years old, both of his parents died. **St Anthony** then had to take



care of his younger sister, all their lands, and estate.

One day, **St Anthony** was in church. During the reading of the Holy Gospel, he heard the Holy Scripture ***"If you desire to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasures in Heaven; and come follow me."*** (Matthew 19:21)

St Anthony felt that this was a message for him from God. **St Anthony** gave all his wealth to the poor, and lovingly placed his sister into a home of nuns.

St Anthony heart was filled with overflowing love for the Lord. So much love that he longed to find a way to devote his entire life to the Lord Jesus Christ. He traveled into the barren and isolated desert seeking only the Lord.

St Anthony found a cave for shelter and slept on bare ground. He was satisfied with only simple food to eat.

This honored saint was a very wise and holy man. The devil aware of his goodness and wisdom, used to come and tempt him. **St Anthony** always defeated the devil through his prayers and fasting.

He remained humble, modest, and obedient in his style of life. **St Anthony** was always cheerful and kind with those he encountered and believed ardently in ***"Rejoicing in the Lord always."***



St Anthony's Monastery in Wadi Arabia.

St. Anthony taught his way of life to others and therefore had many followers who also loved the Lord Jesus Christ. They all became monks like him to serve the Lord both day and night.

History records **St Anthony** as the first man to become acknowledged as a “monk.” **St. Anthony** was a role model for all those who wanted to become monks and is commonly known today as the ***“Father of all Monks.”***

St. Anthony died in the year 355 A.D. on the 22nd of Touba (end of January). Today many churches and monasteries throughout the world are named after **“St Anthony the Great.”**

May **St Anthony the Great's** prayers be with us all, Amen.