



“Do not be afraid. Open wide the doors for Christ!” Pope Saint John Paul II

In the Apostles' Creed, we recite “I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, **the communion of saints**....”

The saints bring us closer to Jesus.
We call upon Saint Anthony of Padua to intercede because we believe he is in Heaven very close to God.

“Relics are parts of the body of a saint who was the Temple of the Holy Spirit.” Pope Francis

~How To Venerate~

The Franciscans encourage people to TOUCH the reliquaries. One may touch the reliquary with their hand, any religious object such as rosary beads, prayer cards, Bibles, prayer books as well of photos of ill family members. We allow photography because the Franciscans think it is a beautiful thing to share the experience through photos with a loved one who is not able to attend. In this digital age, we also see people finding a loved one on their cell among their photos and then touching the reliquary with the cell phone ever so gently. Our relics are first class relics of the saint - actually body parts of the saint. One reliquary contains a fragment of the saint's floating rib and the other contains skin layers of the saint's cheek. 2nd class relics are an object that a saint might have possessed in her or his lifetime – their habit, rosary beads or prayer book. As for a third-class relic, we pass out holy cards inside the prayer petition envelope. The prayer is a beautiful prayer to the miraculous saint which you may recite anytime while venerating. Any religious object that you touch the reliquary with will become a third-class relic of the saint. We Catholics know that only God performs miracles. We call upon the communion of saints to intercede on our behalf to lift our prayers and petitions to God in Heaven.

A quote from Friar Alessandro Ratti from the Basilica of Saint Anthony of Padua in Padua, Italy.

“Veneration is confirmation of two core Christian beliefs: resurrection and eternal life. *“I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen”* We believe Saint Anthony is alive in Eternal Life with Christ in Heaven. We call upon Saint Anthony to lift our prayers to Our Lord in the Celestial Paradise.”