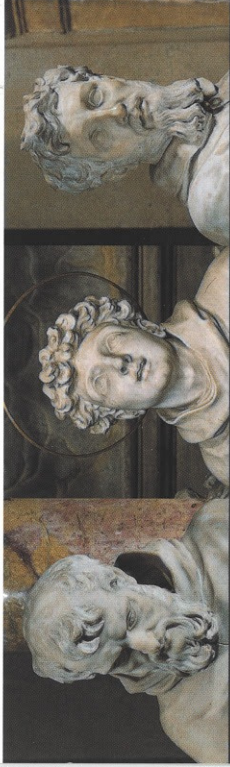




Saint Anthony of Padua was buried in the little chapel of Santa Maria Mater Domini in 1231. On 8 April 1263, in the presence of Saint Bonaventure, Minister General of the Order, the body was moved to the newly-built Basilica. When the coffin was opened, the tongue was found incorrupt and then removed. In January 1981, to mark the 750th anniversary of the Saint's death, the tomb was opened for a second time.



Saint Francis

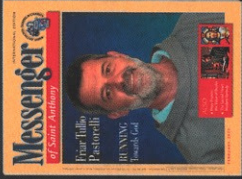
Saint Anthony

Saint Bonaventure

A continuing story

The whole in the fragment": with these words which refer to Mary, written by Von Balthasar, the great theologian of the 20th century, we would like to conclude this brief itinerary which has led you to 'touch' the holiness of God made manifest in the lives of the saints. A sainthood which continues to this day. In the chapel are also kept relics which bear witness to a history which continues to today's saints: St. Faustina Kowalska (1905-1938), St. Maximilian Kolbe (1894-1941), St. John Paul II (1920-2005), the Blessed Michal Tomaszek and Zbigniew Strzalkowski, Polish Conventual Franciscans martyred for their faith in Pariacoto, Peru (9 agosto 1991).

An Everliving Connection



Relics are not mere "fragments from the past": they are an encounter with St. Anthony and, through him, with God's holiness. If you desire to continue your path in communion with the friars of the Basilica, request the "Messenger of Saint Anthony", his voice that still speaks to us of Gospel and Charity.

Visit www.santantonio.org and his Basilica and his tomb will enter directly into your home.

Through the Messenger of Saint Anthony you will be able to:

- Ask for the celebration of Holy Masses;
- Enrol your loved ones, living or dead, to the Pious Foundation of Perpetual Holy Masses.

Every day the friars pray for the intentions of the Friends of St. Anthony at the Saint's Tomb. For more information:

- Call +39 049 8225777 (from Monday to Friday 9-12.30);
- Send an email to: info@santantonio.org
- Send a letter to (via Orto Botanico 11, 35123 Padova)

f Saint Anthony of Padua - The friars of the Basilica



Messaggero
di sant'Antonio



The Chapel of Relics

Saint Anthony's Basilica | Padua



The word 'relic' means, literally, 'remains'. For a Christian it means, in particular, the mortal remains of those who have been recognized as martyrs and saints and, in more general terms, to those objects that have been in contact with these mortal remains and which, owing to the divine power present and operating in them, have thereby received consecration from them.

To venerate the relics of the saints means to profess the Catholic faith in many different ways:

- Faith in eternal life;
- The truth of the resurrection of the body;
- The respect which all must show toward the body;
- Faith in the special power of intercession which the saints enjoy in Heaven;
- The truth of the communion of saints.

The Chapel of Relics

Designed by Filippo Parodi (Genoa, 1630-1702), it presents in an imaginary theatrical setting the Glory of Saint Anthony, a marble group of great beauty. Below it, in front of the niches, four allegories of the Virtues (Faith, Humility, Penitence, Charity), are placed between the statues of St. Francis and St. Bonaventure. These are the virtues that St. Anthony practiced in his life and which led him to the pinnacle of sainthood and glory. On entering the chapel, on the left, some items uncovered during the 1981 recognition are exposed in a niche: the great crimson red mantel which originally covered the Saint's mortal remains; the seals of the 1263 recognition; four small coins from Verona, 10 white rings and 50 black ones from a lace or a rosary. On the next niche are two wooden coffins which contained the Saint's mortal remains and a tombstone with the dates of the Saint's death (1231), of his canonization, and of his translation from the church of Santa Maria Mater Domini to the new Basilica (8 April 1263).

On the central space under the balustrade there is a great glass theca with the Saint's reddish woolen cassock. On the two niches on the right of the entrance the cloths that covered the coffins are exposed.



The red mantel



The woolen cassock



The two coffins

The Heart of the Chapel of Relics

The Saint's Tongue

What we see is an inexplicable fact. Almost eight centuries have passed since the Saint's death, and this tongue remains a perennial miracle, unique in history and laden with religious meaning.

Symbolically, it witnesses to the saint's work of evangelization.

Worthy of this incredible item is the exquisite reliquary which has been holding it for centuries, a masterpiece in gilded silverware made by Giuliano da Firenze (1263)

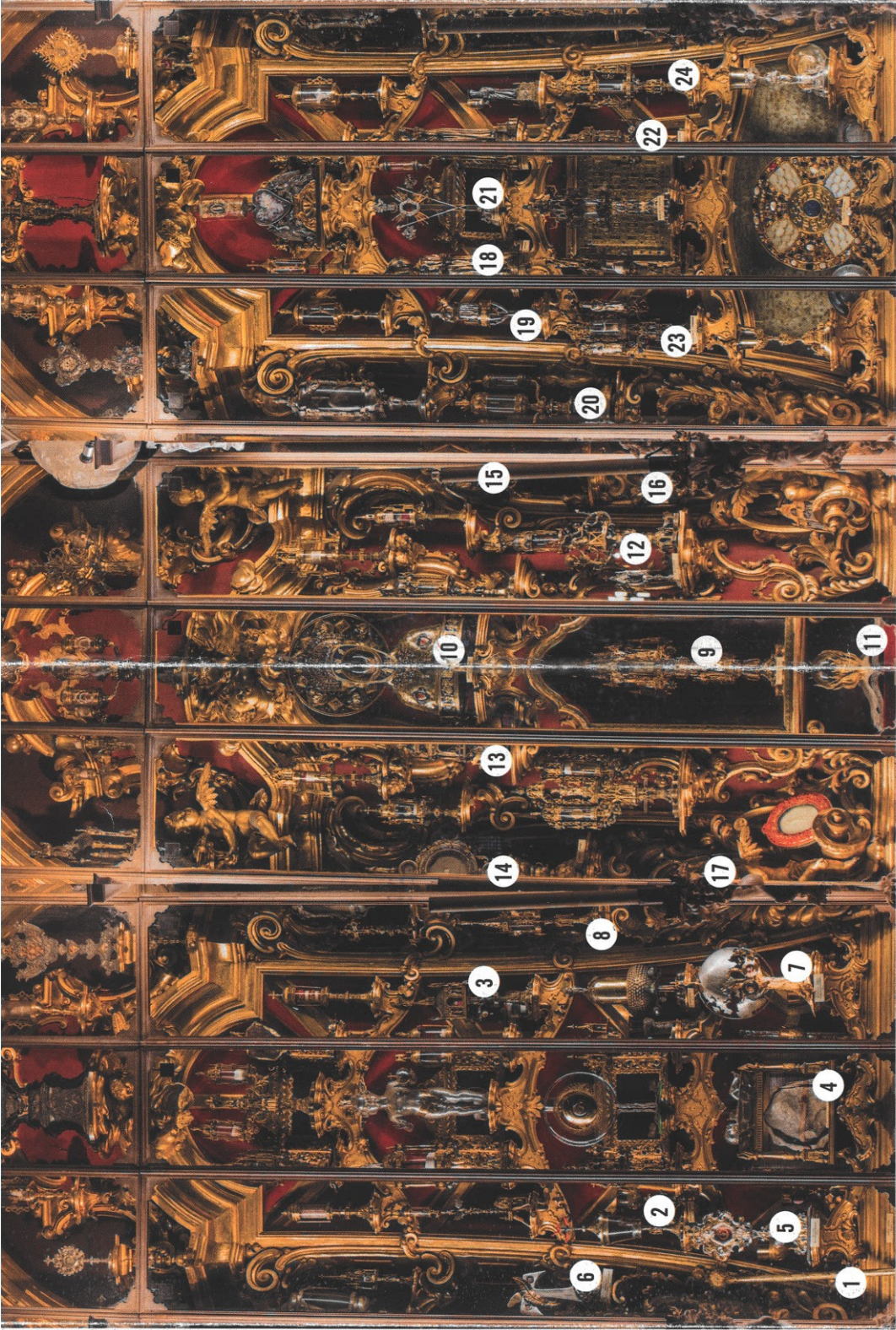
“O blessed tongue, which has always blessed God and caused others to bless Him, now it appears evident how great were your merits before God!”

The Jawbone Relic

The Saint's jawbone is placed in a reliquary in the form of a bust with halo and a crystal in the place of the face. On 14 February 1350 Cardinal Guido de Boulogne came to Padua to donate the precious reliquary in obedience to a vow to St. Anthony upon being healed of the Black Death.

The larynx cartilages

The larynx cartilage has attracted the attention of doctors in 1981. The reliquary is the work of Carlo Balljana (1981) an artisan from Treviso who developed a synthesis of St. Anthony symbols: an open Gospel from which the Word of God issues in the form of a flame containing a crystal urn, inside which, on two small swans, the Saint's larynx cartilages are placed.



Niche 3

- 18 Statue with St. Anthony's finger
- 19 Hair from the head of St. Anthony
- 20 Ampoule with the blood of St. Felice
- 21 Fragment from the wood of the Holy Cross
- 22 Finger of St. Lawrence
- 23 Piece of the cassock of St. Bernardine
- 24 Reliquary of St. Taddeo

Niche 2

- 9 Incorrupt tongue of St. Anthony
- 10 St. Anthony's jawbone
- 11 St. Anthony's vocal apparatus
- 12 Skin from St. Anthony's head
- 13 Monstrance with three thorns from Christ's crown
- 14 St. Anthony's cilice
- 15 Reliquary of Saints Catharine, Magdalene and Justine
- 16 Reliquary of St. Prsodrcimo
- 17 Piece of St. Anthony's cassock

Niche 1

- 1 Turkish navy club (gift of the Polish king G. Sobieski)
- 2 Drinking glass of the heretic Aleardino
- 3 Stone from the Garden of Gethsemani
- 4 St. Anthony's Pillow Stone
- 5 Reliquary of St. Leopold Mandic
- 6 Reliquary of the Blessed Martyrs of Peru.
- 7 Reliquary of the Saints John Paul II and Faustina Kowalska
- 8 Reliquary of Polish Saints and Blessed

The Saint's Tongue

The Jawbone Relic

The larynx cartilage