

The Pastoral Response Assistance Team of Natick, Massachusetts USA working directly with those impacted by the issue of clergy sexual abuse commemorates their 15th anniversary of dealing by leading this *Journey to Portugal* coinciding with recognition of the World Day for Prevention of Child Abuse (November 19th) which was organized by Women's World Summit Foundation and the XIth International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect [ISPCAN] European Regional Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect (November 18th-21st) where team members Sr. Katherine Donnelly M.Ed. MFIC and Thomas Carr L.M.F.T., L.M.H.C. will be making a presentation on what we have learned from the victims of clergy abuse.

This multidisciplinary team which has worked in high profile cases since the James Porter case in 1992, brings pilgrims to Lisbon, Portugal, the birthplace of the boy named *Fernando*, who later became St. Anthony.

This pilgrimage, according to Thomas Carr, a Marriage and Family Therapist and the Team's Executive Director, "draws attention to the reality that the problem of clergy sexual abuse has been with us for a long time and its effect will be with us for a long time". Additionally, Carr says, "the work of our team and our pilgrimage demonstrate that we must be willing to reach out and go to the victim/survivors wherever THEY are; physically, psychologically and spiritually".

As a result of her research for her book *Saint Anthony Words of Fire, Life of Light*, Madeline Pecora Nugent, found that scandals involving sexual abuse were known to St. Anthony and that when he entered the seminary as adolescent he confronted the abuse that was prevalent in his day. One of his superiors was ultimately excommunicated for offenses including sexual assaults on minors. According to Mrs. Nugent, Anthony's sermons and writings often dealt with such abuse and he "was sought widely for his generous counsel to victims". It was Mrs. Nugent's research into St. Anthony's life that led her and the Pastoral Response Assistance Team, to seek St. Anthony's patronage "for another kind of loss, the loss of innocence and trust".

About St. Anthony

Saint Anthony, a follower of Saint Francis of Assisi, was born in Lisbon, Portugal in 1195. He answered the call, as Francis did, to repair the Church of his time...

To heal wounds, unite what has fallen apart, and bring home those who have lost their way....

Rule of St. Francis of Assisi.

Through the years Anthony preached tirelessly about healing and reconciliation, while speaking out against the evils of injustice including clergy sexual abuse.



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"A Prayer Service for Victim/Survivors of Clergy Sexual Abuse throughout the World"

First held at the birthplace of Saint Anthony
Lisbon, Portugal

November 19, 2007



Pastoral Response Assistance Team Inc.
U.S.A



This Prayer Service for November 19, 2007, can be shared anytime, anywhere; wherever there are two or more ...

We ask today that St. Anthony assist the Church in reaching out to all the victims of sexual abuse especially those abused by members of the clergy.

We pray that these hurting members of the Church and their families can begin to heal because each of us reaches out in some small way to let them know we understand and care... for this we pray to the Lord.
Response: *Lord hear our prayer.*

We pray for our church that in following the Gospel of Jesus Christ we can bring hope to a troubled world... for this we pray to the Lord .
Response: *Lord hear our prayer.*

For Our Church leaders that they be renewed by the gift of the Spirit who speaks to them in the voices of those they are called to care for its followers of the good Shepherd. May they be patient listeners to all caring members of the body of Christ... for this we pray to the Lord.
Response: *Lord hear our prayer.*

For peace in our world and an end to all forms of violence we pray to the Lord.
Response: *Lord hear our prayer.*

Let us pray:

May the church today be gifted with those who have the courage of St. Anthony to challenge the leadership of the church to continue to reach out to victims of clergy sexual abuse with compassion, understanding and listening hearts.

When we are tempted to believe that the “crisis “ is over and become annoyed when the issue continues to be discussed, let us remember that the hurt and the pain of the betrayal may, for some, last a lifetime and we are called to be a compassionate presence when needed.

We ask the intercession of St. Anthony to assist us in restoring lost trust to those touched in so many ways by the revelations of abuse in recent years. We ask God’s blessing on all the priests who continue to serve the church, reflecting the call of Christ to St. Francis to “heal wounds” and” “rebuild the church”.

Response: *Amen.*

David’s song

“Who’ll come with me?”

Who’ll come with me don’t be afraid I know the way.

Who’ll sing with me, don’t be afraid I know the way.

Who’ll dance with me, all through the world; don’t be afraid I’ll show the way.

We’ll come with you to search the way to find the star.

Who’ll come with us, don’t be afraid we’ll find the way.

Who’ll climb with me to reach (my) star don’t be afraid I’ll show the way.

Who’ll be my friend and walk with me and sing this song.

Who’ll love with me and change the world and set it free

We’ll walk with you. We’ll be your friend. We’ll sing your song. We know the way.

Kelly family lyrics

All love can be

I will watch you in the darkness
Show you love will see you through
When the bad dreams wake you crying
I’ll show you all love can do...All love can do.

I will watch by the night
Hold you in my arms
Give you dreams where no one will be
I will watch through the dark
Till the morning comes

For the light will take you through the night to see
All love, showing us all love can be

I will guard you with my bright wings
Stay till your heart learns to see
All love can be

Charlotte Church

God is Praying to Us...

God is depending on us for the mending ,
the loving and the sharing and healing and such .

And gives us Creation and Freedom and Wisdom

And prays that we use them for loving and sharing and healing to touch one another

God sent are we, oh, and God sending

Kathleen M. Henry 1990

God’s alive and well

When I see the stars hang in the sky
When I watch a bird spread its wings and fly
Each time I hear the wind blow through the trees
With every breath of air that I breathe, all the things I can’t see... still inside I believe
In a baby’s laugh, in a mother’s eyes,
Little miracles around us every day of our lives.
The way the sun light lights up the dark
The hope that I feel in my heart
And as far as I can tell ...God’s alive and well
Yes, God’s alive and well!

Just like the Earth cradles the moon
How that faraway sun still makes the flowers bloom
And the joy only Heaven can bring to a soul
If trouble comes, I am safe In the hands cause I know there’s a plan... My heart understands
in a baby’s laugh, in a mother’s eyes,
Little miracles around us every day of our lives.
The way the sun light lights up the dark
The hope that I feel in my heart
And as far as I can tell ...God’s alive and well
Yes, God’s alive and well!

Call it a little bit of luck
or just a simple twist of fate, Or we get swept up in the arms and we can feel it every day

In a baby’s laugh, in a mother’s eyes,
Little miracles around us every day of our lives.
The way the sun lights up the dark
The hope that I feel in my heart
And as far as I can tell ...God’s alive and well
Yes, God’s alive and well!

by D Malloy and B. Roberts