

Saint Anthony OF THE CAVES

When you live an exemplary life, people want to be around you! St. Anthony of the Kyiv Caves, not to be confused with St. Anthony the Great, is commemorated July 10 and 23 and lived in Ukraine in the 10th century. Anthony wanted to be a monk from his childhood, and so he went to Mount Athos in Greece to learn about monasticism from the famous monks who lived there. After some time, however, the Abbott decided to send him home to Ukraine as a missionary to teach others in his homeland about monasticism.

He went home to the mountains of Ukraine and dug for himself a cave deep in the woods. It wasn't long before people who had heard about him and his ascetic way of life began to venture out to visit with him and listen to him preach. Some loved the saint's messages so much that they set up huts to be near the cave where St. Anthony lived. When there were 12 of these men living around him, they decided to dig a big cave there and make it into a church, which later became a famous monastery which exists in Kyiv to this day.

-Written by Lynne Wardach

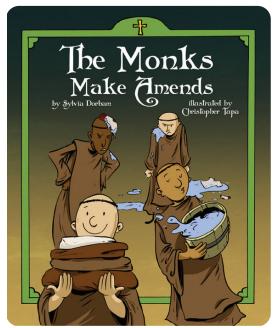
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