SAINT ANTHONY THE GREAT
—Commemorated January 17th—

Certain people said that the Holy Spirit would enlighten Saint Anthony about all things; however, he did not want to reveal them so that people would not marvel at him. Even though he lived in the desert, he knew all the things that were taking place in the world, and everything that would occur in the future.

A few monks once went to visit Saint Anthony, and they asked him concerning a verse from the book of Leviticus. Saint Anthony did not immediately reply, but he got up and walked out into the desert. Familiar with Saint Anthony's custom, Elder Ammonas discretely followed behind him. When Saint Anthony had distanced himself so that he was no longer in view, he stood in prayer and cried aloud: "My Lord, send Moses to explain the meaning of this verse to me." Immediately, a voice was heard speaking to Saint Anthony. Afterwards, Elder Ammonas stated: "I heard the voice speaking with him. However, I could not ascertain what was being said."

Once, as Saint Anthony was contemplating the unfathomable decisions and judgments of God, he asked: "O Lord! How is it that certain people live a short time on the earth while others reach old age? And why is it that certain people live in poverty, while others are wealthy? And why is it that evil people often become rich, while righteous people are generally poor?" And he heard a voice saying to him: "Anthony, look after yourself. God arranges these matter according to His judgment, and it is of no use to you to find out."

Sayings

I saw all the traps of the devil laid out throughout the entire earth. And I sighed and asked, "Who, I wonder, will be able to pass by all these traps without being snared?" And I heard a voice answering, "the humble man."

Life and death depend on our fellow man. If we befriend our brother, we become friends with God. If we offend our brother, we sin against Christ.

No one can enter the Kingdom of Heaven without experiencing trials and afflictions. Eliminate hardships, and no one would be saved.