

January 17th: St. Anthony, the Abbot

Gospel text (Mt 19,16-26): A young man approached him and asked, «What is still lacking?». Jesus answered, «If you wish to be perfect, go and sell all that you possess and give the money to the poor and you will become the owner of a treasure in heaven. Then come back and follow me».



Illustration: Pili Piñero

Today we remember the example of Saint Anthony (Egypt, 250-356 a. C.). After giving his goods to the poor, he retired to the desert to lead a life of prayer and penance. His example removed many others who came to see him for advice or to share his life. In fact, Saint Anthony Abbot is considered the founding father of the monks.

- There are deserts and deserts! Who is attached to material things lives in an unproductive "desert".