



QUEEN ANASIMONE

There are many saints who sold everything to buy the pearl of great price, but one of the most extraordinary stories is Saint Queen Anasimone. Queen Anasimone was the daughter of a Roman king. From an early age she loved learning about God and the saints more than anything.

She often wore coarse clothes under her royal garments like some of the saints would. She gave all she would get to the needy and she would spend many hours in prayer and fasting. All she wanted to do was to live for God. When her father died, she became the queen. She gave money to the poor and gave land to the monasteries. She continued to secretly live like a saint, fasting from luxurious food, wearing coarse garments under her clothes and leaving her palace bed to sleep on the floor.

She felt that she needed to make her soul more pure before God by giving everything up for him. After one year of being the queen, she left her palace and went to go live in the wilderness, eating from a tree that provided dates and drinking water from a spring. She still felt that she wanted to suffer for the name of Christ so she went to a convent and pretended to be mad (crazy). The nuns took her in, but would make fun of her and call her names. They made her clean the bathrooms. She accepted all of the insults and the hard work for the sake of Jesus Christ.

God revealed her story to one of the desert fathers and he went to go find her at the convent and take her blessing. When he told the nuns who she was, that she was the great Queen Anasimone, acting this way so she could bear insults humbly for the name of Christ, the nuns felt very sad and repented for what they did. Queen Anasimone was afraid they would praise her and that she would become proud so she quietly left the convent and lived as a hermit and anchorite for many years until God took her soul to heaven.

A priest who was blessed to see the anchorites, saw Queen Anasimone among the other anchorites and was told that she was the abbess of the anchorites and no one was holier than her in the wilderness because she gave up the most to be with God.

Saint Queen Anasimone is truly the one who, when she found the pearl of great value, sold everything she had to obtain that pearl. You can ask the children, do you think, now in heaven, she regrets that she left her palace or her wealth or her status as the queen? In heaven, do you think she is upset about the insults that the nuns called her or about the hardships she encountered on earth? If the children can understand that the things given up on earth are nothing compared to the glory of heaven, they will have a good grasp of the Parable of the Pearl.