

Who Stole My Patron Saint?



June 13: The undated photo (above) provided by Father Brian Doran of the St. Anthony Catholic Church in Long Beach, Calif. via the Long Beach Police Department shows a 780-year-old religious relic of St. Anthony, **the patron saint of lost causes and missing objects**, center in cabinet, that was stolen from the church.

LOS ANGELES -- A 780-year-old religious relic of St. Anthony of Padua has been stolen, and parishioners at a Southern California Catholic church are **praying to the patron saint of lost causes and missing objects for its speedy return.**

The relic was stolen from inside a cabinet beside the altar at St. Anthony Catholic Church in Long Beach on Monday, **the feast day of the church's namesake.**

While church members are upset that someone would steal a holy object, their faith is still strong. *"They said, 'Father, he's the patron saint of lost causes, so he'll come home,'"* Magana said.

"I'm hoping we've got some higher sources who've got our backs here and we can get it back," Magana said. *"People here are pretty upset but they're praying. **They're praying to St. Anthony for the return of his own object.**"*

I always thought if I ever again saw a car with a St. Christopher medal (Patron Saint of Travelers) swinging on a chain from a mirror on a wrecked car in which someone died, I would take a picture of it to show the vanity of praying to saints.