

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI



FLIP-FLOP
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The Wolf of Gubbio and other Wonderful Stories for Children

FISH

(1Cel 61, LM 8:8)

Saint Francis was moved also by a tender affection towards fish. When they were caught alive and he had the chance, he would put them back into the water, warning them to be more careful lest they be caught again.

One day on the lake of Rieti he was offered a live fish called a Tinca - a type of carp with green on top and a gold belly - by a fisherman. He accepted it joyfully and held it kindly and began to call it brother, as usual and to talk to it as a friend. Then singing the praises of God he put it back into the water beside the boat.



The fish played about there in front of him, as if it were attracted by his affection, and would not go away while he sang his praise of God. Then he gave it a blessing and his permission to leave and the fish swam away into the deeper water of the lake.