



The Franciscan Spirit Padre Pio Prayer Group



Pray, Hope Don't Worry Newsletter Monthly Meeting Updates and Items of Interest



Our next in person meeting will be on December 6, 2025, at St Mary's

- **Eucharistic Celebration** (starts at 9:00 am in the church)
- **Prayers** (starts after Eucharistic Celebration in the K of C Room)
 - **Community Prayer for all Padre Pio Groups**
 - **Stay with me Lord**
 - **Efficacious Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus**
 - **Prayer of Saint Francis, Lord make me an instrument of your Peace**
 - **St. Michael the Archangel prayer**
 - **Litany of Padre Pio**
- **Spiritual Readings from the Letters of Padre Pio**
- **Saint of the Day: Feast of All the Saints**
- **Updates on the Prayer Group**
- **Next meeting information, websites and information**
- **Closing Prayer**

St Mary's Church

66A Main St. South, Brampton, Ontario, L6W 2C6, Canada

Email: padrepioprayergroup@yahoo.com

Website: <https://rosaries123.wixsite.com/franciscanspirit>



The Franciscan Spirit Padre Pio Prayer Group



Prayers:

Community Prayer for all Padre Pio Groups

Lord Jesus,

You called us together

as followers in Padre Pio's footsteps:

Give us your Spirit

So that with You we can say,

"Abbà Father".

Through the intercession of Padre Pio,

Who was an apostle of Divine Mercy,

Make us missionaries of peace and mercy.

For all the peoples of our times.

Inspire us with feelings of loyalty and love,

So that we can become witnesses of Your Gospel in our families,

at work, and among people.

Pour down Your blessings on us

gathered here together,

So that filled with Your grace,

we may become like new creatures

Who trust totally in Your Divine Providence.

We want to abandon ourselves into Your embrace,

and looking towards Mount Tabor,

we shall follow You on Calvary,

Children and apostles of Your sanctifying love.

Padre Francesco Moscone CRS, Archbishop of Manfredonia-Vieste-San Giovanni Rotondo

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The Franciscan Spirit

Padre Pio Prayer Group



Stay with me Lord

Stay with me, Lord, for it is necessary to have You present so that I do not forget You. You know how easily I abandon You.

Stay with me, Lord, because I am weak and I need Your strength, that I may not fall so often.

Stay with me, Lord, for You are my life, and without You, I am without fervor.

Stay with me, Lord, for You are my light, and without You, I am in darkness.

Stay with me, Lord, to show me Your will.

Stay with me, Lord, so that I hear Your voice and follow You.

Stay with me, Lord, for I desire to love You very much, and always be in Your company.

Stay with me, Lord, if You wish me to be faithful to You.

Stay with me, Lord, for as poor as my soul is, I want it to be a place of consolation for You, a nest of love.

Stay with me, Jesus, for it is getting late and the day is coming to a close, and life passes, death, judgment, eternity approaches. It is necessary to renew my strength, so that I will not stop along the way and for that, I need You. It is getting late and death approaches, I fear the darkness, the temptations, the dryness, the cross, the sorrows. O how I need You, my Jesus, in this night of exile!

Stay with me tonight, Jesus, in life with all its dangers. I need You. Let me recognize You as Your disciples did at the breaking of the bread, so that the Eucharistic Communion be the Light which disperses the darkness, the force which sustains me, the unique joy of my heart.

Stay with me, Lord, because at the hour of my death, I want to remain united to You, if not by communion, at least by grace and love.

Stay with me, Jesus, I do not ask for divine consolation, because I do not merit it, but the gift of Your Presence, oh yes, I ask this of You!

Stay with me, Lord, for it is You alone I look for, Your Love, Your Grace, Your Will, Your Heart, Your Spirit, because I love You and ask no other reward but to love You more and more.

With a firm love, I will love You with all my heart while on earth and continue to love You perfectly during all eternity. Amen

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Efficacious Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

I. O my Jesus, you have said: "Truly I say to you, ask and you will receive, seek and you will find, knock and it will be opened to you." Behold I knock, I seek and ask for the grace of..... (*For the Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV and all the clergy that they continue to remain a pillar and teachers of our faith*)

Our Father....Hail Mary....Glory Be to the Father....

Sacred Heart of Jesus, ***I place all my trust in you.***

II. O my Jesus, you have said: "Truly I say to you, if you ask anything of the Father in my name, he will give it to you." Behold, in your name, I ask the Father for the grace of.....(*For Casa Sollievo Della Sofferenza Research Hospital that Padre Pio founded and all the Padre Pio Prayergroups*)

Our Father...Hail Mary....Glory Be to the Father....

Sacred Heart of Jesus, ***I place all my trust in you.***

III. O my Jesus, you have said: "Truly I say to you, heaven and earth will pass away but my words will not pass away." Encouraged by your infallible words I now ask for the grace of.....(*for the Franciscan Spirit PPPG, its ministries and all its members*)

Our Father....Hail Mary....Glory Be to the Father...

Sacred Heart of Jesus, ***I place all my trust in you.***

O Sacred Heart of Jesus, for whom it is impossible not to have compassion on the afflicted, have pity on us miserable sinners and grant us the grace which we ask of you, through the Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, your tender Mother and ours.

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy, hail, our life, our sweetness and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve: to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears. Turn then, most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus, O merciful, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary! Amen.

St. Joseph, foster father of Jesus, ***pray for us.***

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Prayer of Saint Francis, Peace Prayer

Lord, make me instruments of Your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; Where there is injury, pardon; Where there is discord, union; Where there is doubt, faith; Where there is despair, hope; Where there is darkness, light; Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

St. Michael the Archangel prayer

"St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle.

Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil.

May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen."

Litany of St. Pio of Pietrelcina

Lord, have mercy.	<i>Lord, have mercy.</i>
Christ, have mercy.	<i>Christ, have mercy</i>
Lord, have mercy.	<i>Lord, have mercy</i>
Christ, hear us.	<i>Christ, hear us.</i>
Christ, graciously hear us.	<i>Christ, graciously</i>
	<i>hear us</i>

God the Father of Heaven, *have mercy on us.*
God the Son, Redeemer of the World, *have mercy*
on us.

God the Holy Spirit, *have mercy on us.*
Holy Trinity, One God, *have mercy on us.*
Holy Mary, Virgin Immaculate, *pray for us.*
St. Pio of Pietrelcina, *pray for us.*
Beloved of God, *pray for us.*
Imitator of Jesus Christ, *pray for us.*
Good shepherd of the people, *pray for us.*
Model for priests, *pray for us.*
Light of the Church, *pray for us.*
Adorer of the Blessed Sacrament, *pray for us.*
Faithful son of St. Francis, *pray for us.*
Marked with the stigmata of Jesus, *pray for us.*
Patient in suffering, *pray for us.*
Helper of the dying, *pray for us.*
Director of souls, *pray for us.*

Heart of gold, *pray for us.*
Apostle of mercy, *pray for us.*
Worker of miracles, *pray for us.*
Consoler of the afflicted, *pray for us.*
Lover of the Most Holy Rosary, *pray for us.*
Helper of souls in doubt and darkness, *pray for us.*
Comforter of the sick, *pray for us.*
Example of humility, *pray for us.*
Source of wisdom, *pray for us.*
Mirror of the divine life, *pray for us.*
Lover of Jesus Crucified, *pray for us.*
Resigned to the will of God, *pray for us.*
Doing good upon earth, *pray for us.*
Filled with the spirit of self-sacrifice, *pray for us.*
Our help and hope in all our needs, *pray for us.*
Vessel of the Holy Spirit, *pray for us.*
Leading us to Christ, *pray for us.*
Our spiritual father and advocate, *pray for us.*
Crowned with glory in Heaven, *pray for us.*
God our Father, You helped St. Pio of Pietrelcina to reflect the image of Christ through a life of charity and self-sacrifice. May we follow your Son by walking in the footsteps of St. Pio and by imitating his selfless love. *Amen*

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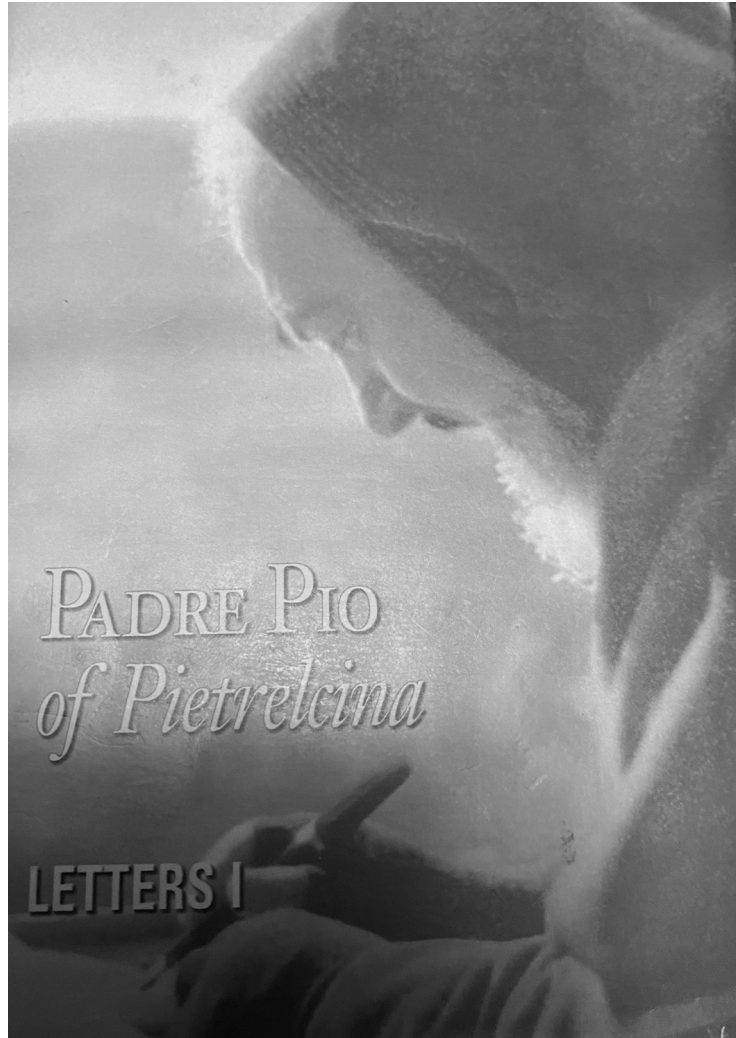
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Spiritual Readings from the Letters of Padre Pio



**Letters from Padre Pio of Pietrelcina Letters 1 and
Padre Pio of Pietrelcina Letters 3**

Padre Agostino to Padre Pio December 6, 1914

Padre Pio to Spiritual Daughter December 6, 1916 (reading for meeting and discussion)

Padre Pio to Spiritual Daughter December 6, 1917

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Padre Agostino to Padre Pio

Departure of the Superior General. Permission will be obtained for him to remain in the world outside community life. His health. A prayer for the General of the Order.

San Marco la Catola, 6 December 1914.

J.M.J.F.

My beloved son in Jesus Christ,
May the good God continue to fill you with his grace.
Most. Rev. Father General left here for Rome this

¹ Raffaelina and Giovina. Cf. Letter 334, Note 1.

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LETT. 216: San Marco la Catola, 6-12-1914

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morning, after visiting all the houses of our beloved Province. I cannot express to you the fatherly goodness of the head of our Order. He is really an angel sent by the Lord, so let us hope his visit has been a visit from God. Do not fail to pray for this intention.

The Provincial already spoken to the General about your situation and I spoke to him on the subject also. May the Lord be thanked that the Provincial is also convinced, because the General said: "Since it is God's will, let it be done; we'll obtain for him the Brief of Exclaustration and he will continue to wear the habit (*breve ad tempus, habitu retento*). The good Father will continue to pray for the Order to which he always belongs"¹. I should have liked the General to know you and he himself would have been pleased to meet you, but Jesus arranged things otherwise. May his will be done!

However, my dear son, we must not grow weary of praying for the usual intention, as long as everything comes about for God's glory and the salvation of souls.

How are you? Why have I had no answer to my last, especially with regard to that soul? Ask Jesus to allow you to answer my questions.

Say a special prayer for the Most. Rev. Superior of the Order. He is so good! Don't forget the needs of our Province and keep a little corner in your prayers also for the one who always remains,

Yours most affectionately in Jesus Christ,
Fra Agostino, Capuchin.

My respects to the Archpriest, to your family, etc.
When are we going to meet?

¹ Cf. Letter 232.

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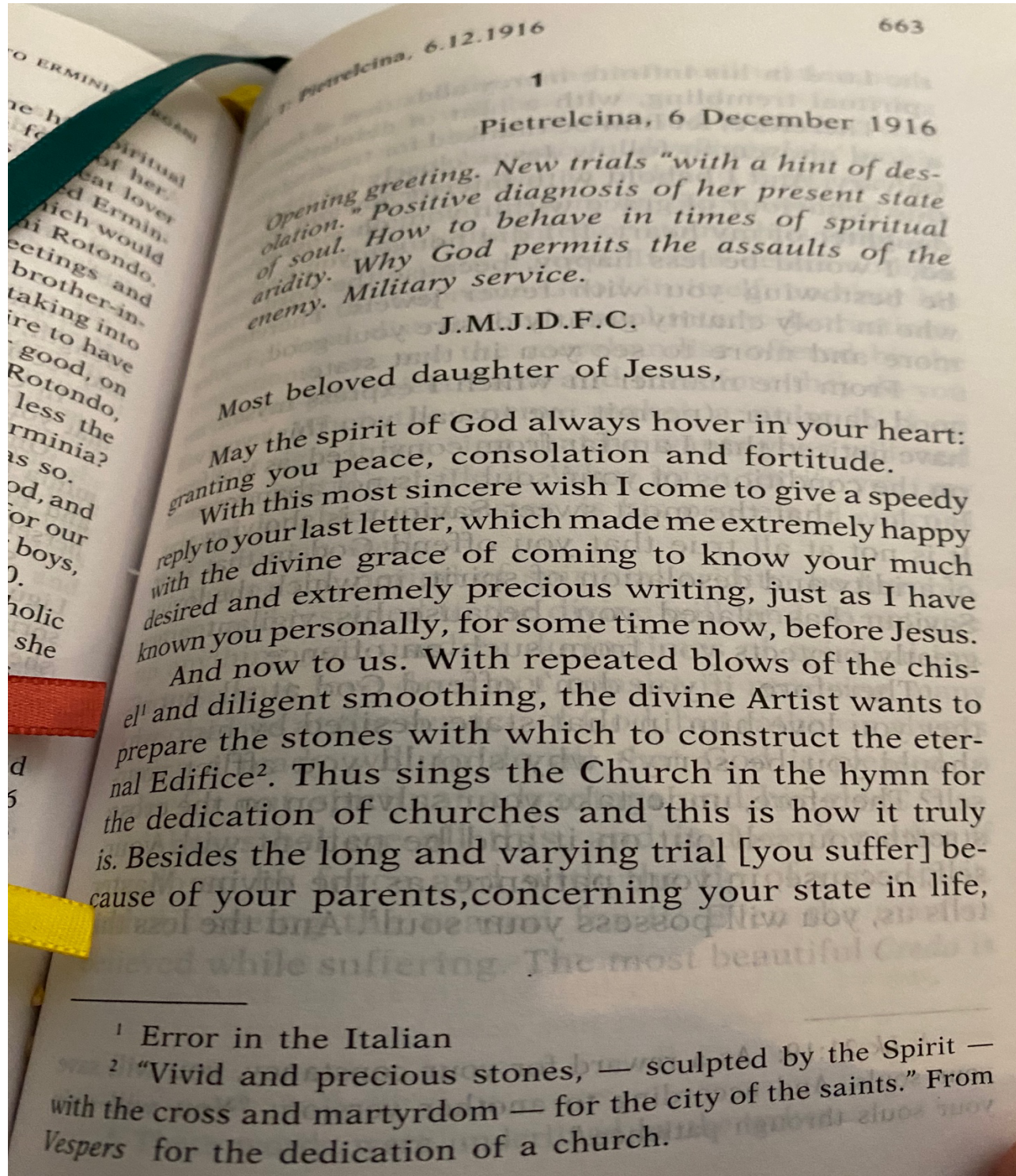
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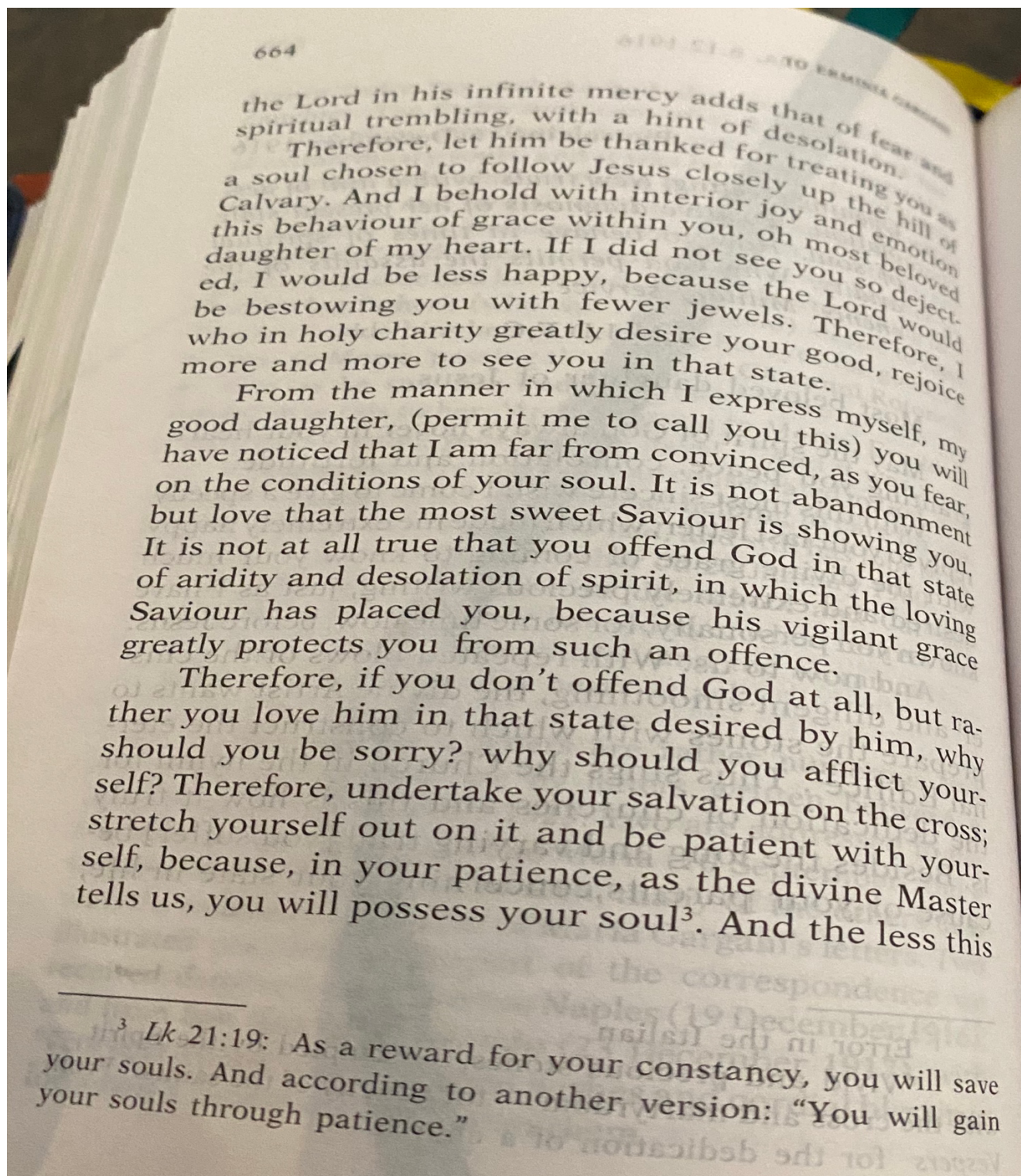
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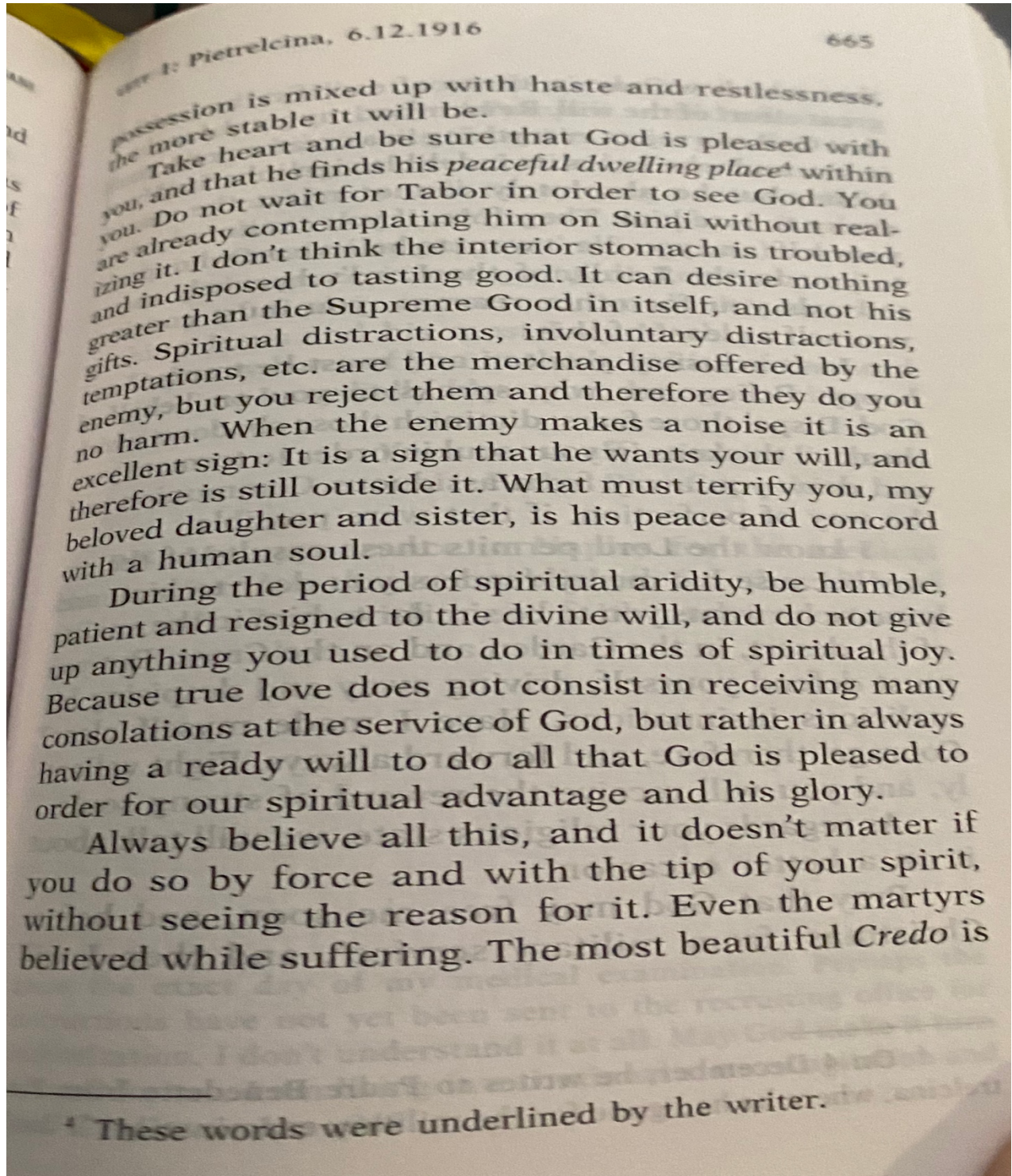
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that which we say in times of sacrifice and with a great effort of the will. Remember, my good daughter, that God can reject everything in a creature conceived in sin, and who bears its indelible sign inherited from Adam, but he absolutely cannot reject the sincere desire to love him. Therefore, if you cannot reject yourself (and you don't want to believe me who speaks to you in the Lord), of the Lord's heavenly mercy towards you for other reasons, you must convince yourself at least of this.

In conclusion, you can and must be tranquil and happy. Believe me who speaks to you on behalf of God. Dispel those fears; diminish those shadows which the devil thickens in your soul in order to torment you, and draw you away from assiduous Communion and the way of perfection, if that were possible.

I know the Lord permits these assaults of the enemy because his mercy renders you dear to him, and because he wants you to be similar to him in the anxiety of the desert, in the Garden and on the Cross. But you must defend yourself, driving away and despising his malicious insinuations. Have I made myself clear? Courage, therefore, and forward always. Fight valiantly, and you will receive the reward of strong souls.

As regards your religious state, we will talk about it on a better occasion.

Pray that God may free me soon, and before Christmas, from military service⁵, and then I will

⁵ On 4 December, he writes to Padre Benedetto from Pietrelcina, where he had gone for the military examination: "I don't

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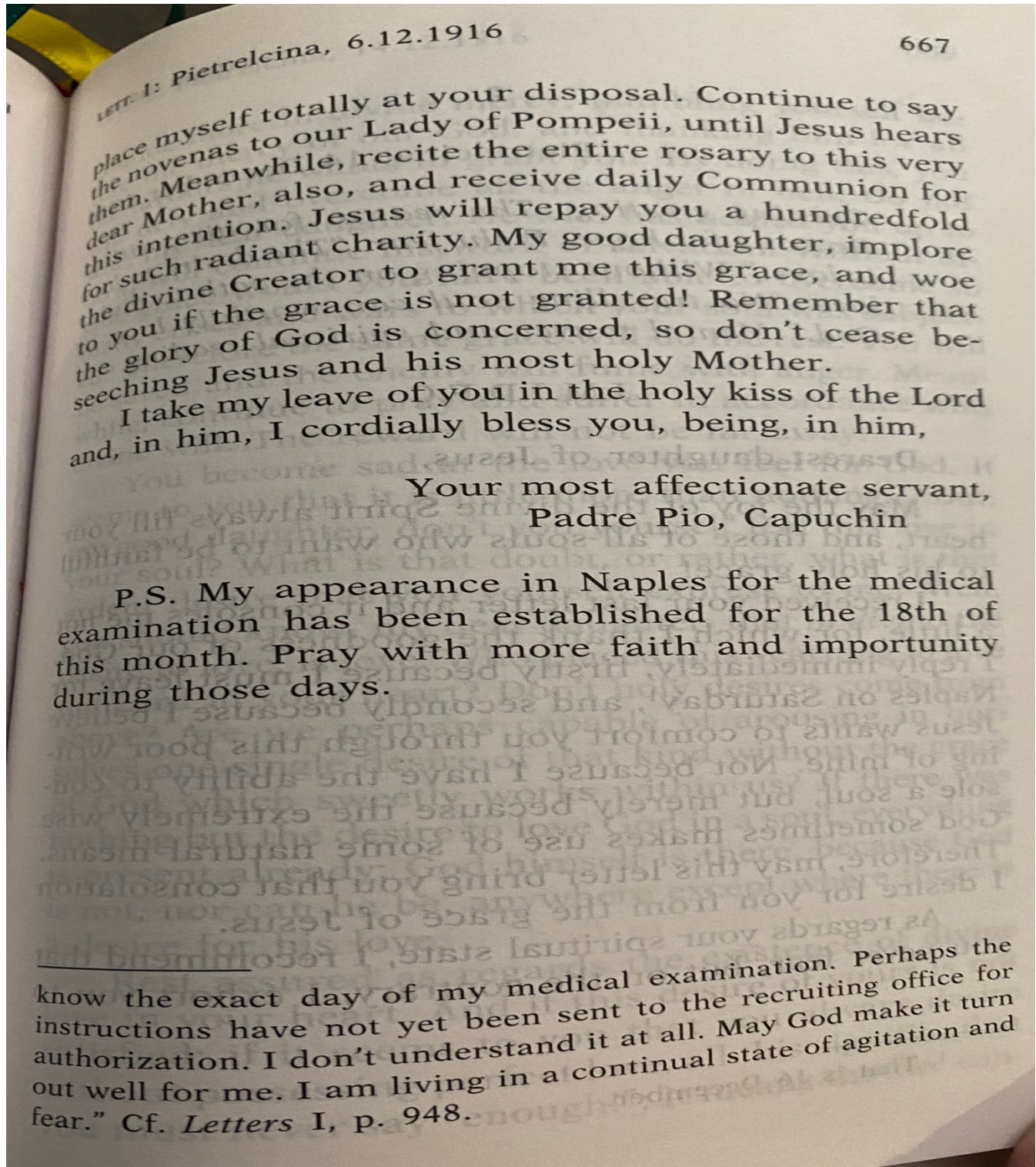
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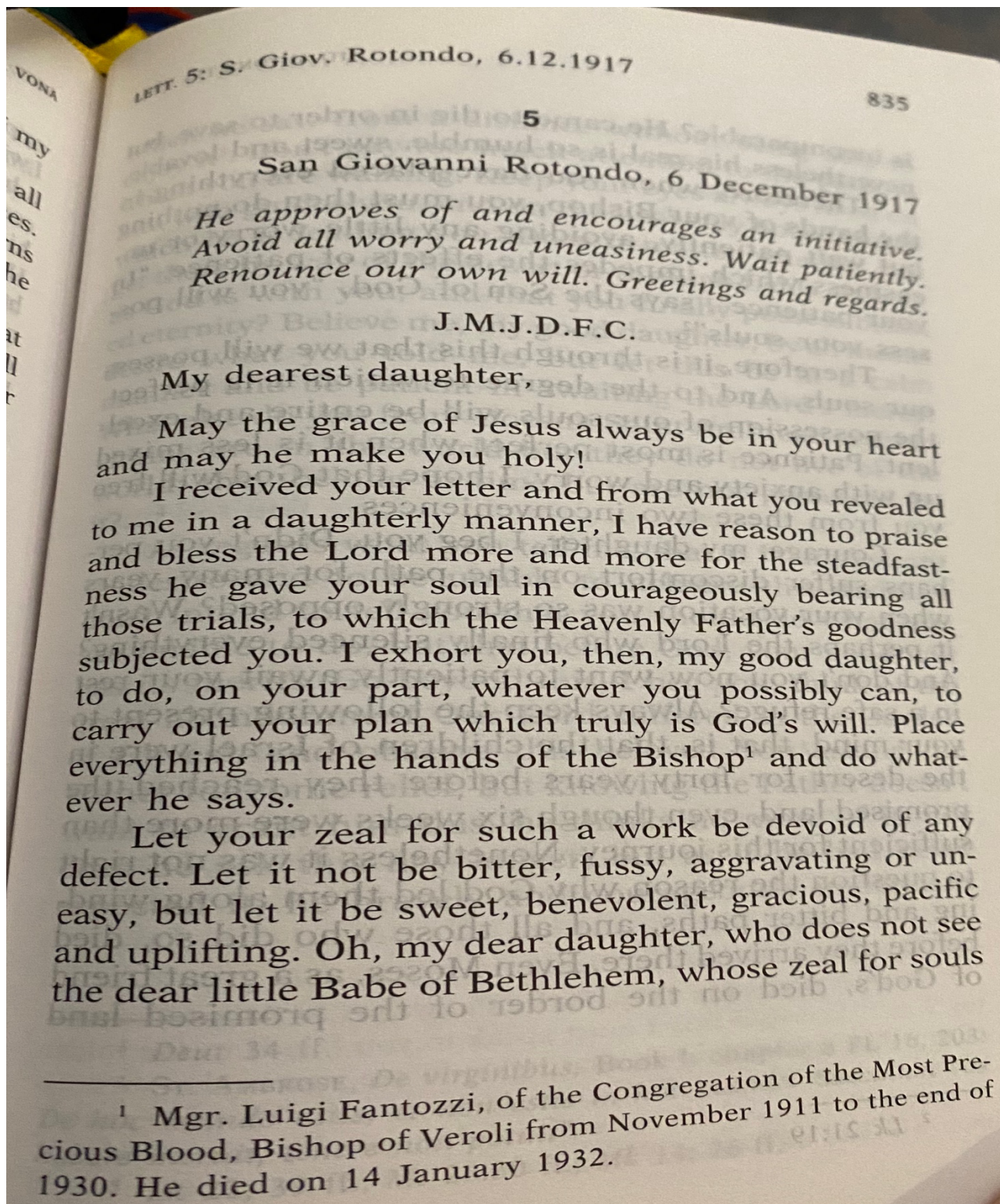
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¹ Mgr. Luigi Fantozzi, of the Congregation of the Most Precious Blood, Bishop of Veroli from November 1911 to the end of 1930. He died on 14 January 1932.

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is incomparable? He came to die in order to save, but nevertheless his zeal is so humble, sweet and lovable. Therefore, when you have placed everything in the hands of your Bishop, you must then do nothing but wait patiently, avoiding any little worry or uneasiness which impedes the effects of patience. "In your patience", says the Son of God, "you will possess your souls"².

Therefore, it is through this that we will possess our souls. And to the degree to which it is perfect, the possession of our souls will be entire and excellent. Patience is most perfect when it is less mixed up with anxiety and worry. I hope that God will free you from these two inconveniences.

Courage, my daughter, I beg you. Didn't you perhaps suffer discomfort on the path for many years when your vocation was so strongly opposed? Wasn't it perhaps the Lord who finally silenced everything? And don't you now want to patiently await your rest in a safe refuge? Always keep the following present to your mind, that is, that the children of Israel were in the desert for forty years before they reached the promised land, even though six weeks were more than sufficient for this journey. Nonetheless it was not right to question the reason why God led them along winding and bitter paths, and all those who did so, died before they arrived there. Even Moses, as a great friend of God's, died on the border of the promised land

² Lk 21:19.

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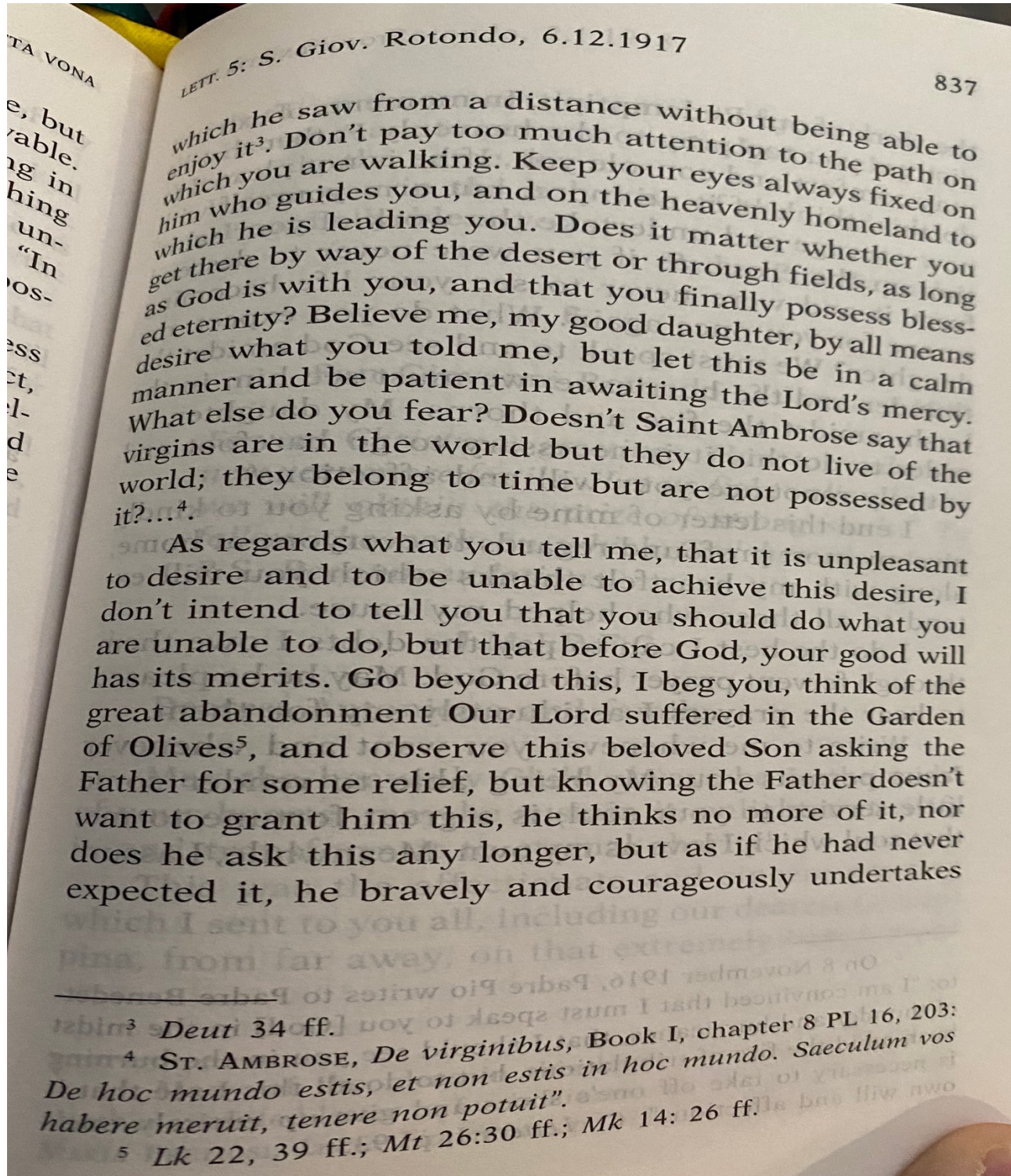
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the work of our Redemption. In moments of extreme distress you too pray to the heavenly Father that he may comfort and console you. If he is not pleased to do this, think of it no more, but arm yourself with new courage and undertake the work of your salvation on the cross, as if you were never to descend from it and were never to see your life becoming serene for you once again. What do you expect, my daughter? We must speak to and see God amidst the thunder and the hurricane; we must see him in the bush, amidst the fire and thorns. My daughter, in order to do this it is necessary to go barefoot and entirely renounce your will and affections⁶.

I end this letter of mine by asking you to kindly give my most profound regards to everyone at home, along with my heartfelt thanks which you will extend to all those who helped my cause.

I do the best I can to pay the debts I owe them through fervent prayer before God. May he be pleased to hear the prayers I assiduously say for them.

Write to me whenever you want and whenever Jesus permits you. My being able to render some little service to your soul, is a great fortune to me; that soul which I love as my own. Meanwhile, I assure

⁶ On 8 November 1916, Padre Pio writes to Padre Benedetto: "I am convinced that I must speak to you [God] in the midst of thunder and hurricanes, that I should see you in the burning bush amid the fire of tribulations, but to do all this I see that it is necessary to take off one's shoes and give up entirely one's own will and affections". Cf. *Letters I*, p. 933.

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The Feast of St. Nicholas

Feast Day for December 6

**Patron of Bakers and
Pawnbrokers**

The great veneration with which St. Nicholas has been honored for many ages and the number of altars and churches all over the world that are dedicated in his memory are testimonials to his wonderful holiness and the glory he enjoys with God. As an episcopal see, and his childhood church falling vacant, the holy Nicholas was chosen bishop, and in that station became famous by his extraordinary piety and zeal and by his many astonishing miracles. The Greek histories of his life agree he suffered an imprisonment of the faith and made a glorious confession in the latter part of the persecution raised by Diocletian, and that he was present at the Council of Nicaea and there condemned Arianism. It is said that St. Nicholas died in Myra and was buried in his cathedral.

St. Nicholas' episcopate at Myra during the fourth century is really all that appears indubitable authentic, according to Alban Butler, an English Roman Catholic priest from the 1700s. This is not for lack of material, beginning with the life attributed to the monk who died in 847 as St. Methodius, Patriarch of Constantinople. Nevertheless, the universal popularity of the saint for so many centuries requires that some account of the legends surrounding his life should be given.

St. Nicholas, also known as "Nikolaos of Myra," was a fourth century saint and Greek bishop of Myra. Nicholas was born in Asia Minor in the Roman Empire as an only child to Christian parents. Nicholas would take nourishment only once on Wednesdays and Fridays, and that in the evening according to the canons. "He was exceedingly well brought up by his parents and trod piously in their footsteps. The child, watched over by the church, enlightened his mind and encouraged his thirst for sincere and true religion." Both of his parents tragically died during an epidemic when he was a young man, leaving him well off, but to be raised by his uncle – the



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Bishop of Patara. Nicholas was determined to devote his inheritance to works of charity, and his uncle mentored him as a reader and later ordained him as a presbyter (priest).

An opportunity soon arose for St. Nicholas and his inheritance. A citizen of Patara had lost all his money, and needed to support his three daughters who could not find husbands because of their poverty; so, the wretched man was going to give them over to prostitution. Nicholas became informed of this and thus took a bag of gold and threw it into an open window of the man's house in the night. Here was a dowry for the eldest girl and she was soon duly married. At intervals Nicholas did the same for the second and the third; at the last time the father was on the watch, recognized his benefactor and overwhelmed Nicholas with his gratitude. The three purses represented in pictures, came to be mistaken for the heads of three children and so they gave rise to the absurd story of the children, resuscitated by the saint, who had been killed by an innkeeper and pickled in a brine-tub.

Coming to the city of Myra when the clergy and people of the province were in session to elect a new bishop, St. Nicholas was indicated by God as the man they should choose. This was



during the time of persecutions in the beginning of the fourth century and "as he [Nicholas] was the chief priest of the Christians of this town and preached the truths of faith with a holy liberty, the divine Nicholas was seized by the magistrates, tortured, then chained and thrown into prison with many other Christians. But when the great and religious Constantine, chosen by God, assumed the imperial diadem of the Romans, the prisoners were released from their bonds and with them the illustrious Nicholas, who when he was set at liberty returned to Myra."

Copied from

<https://www.stnicholascenter.org/who-is-st-nicholas>

(not shared during meeting for personal information)

Who is St. Nicholas?

The true story of Santa Claus begins with Nicholas, who was born during the third century in the village of Patara in Asia Minor. At the time the area was Greek and is now on the southern coast of Turkey. His wealthy parents,

who raised him to be a devout Christian, died in an epidemic while Nicholas was still young. Obeying Jesus' words to "sell what you own and give the money to the poor," Nicholas used his whole inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the suffering. He dedicated his life to serving

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God and was made Bishop of Myra while still a young man. Bishop Nicholas became known throughout the land for his generosity to those in need, his love for children, and his concern for sailors and ships.

Under the Roman Emperor Diocletian, who ruthlessly persecuted Christians, Bishop Nicholas suffered for his faith, was exiled and imprisoned. The prisons were so full of bishops, priests, and deacons, there was no room for the real criminals—murderers, thieves and robbers. After his release, Nicholas attended the Council of Nicaea in AD 325. He died December 6, AD 343 in Myra and was buried in his cathedral church, where a unique relic, called manna, formed in his grave. This liquid substance, said to have healing powers, fostered the growth of devotion to Nicholas. The anniversary of his death became a day of celebration, St. Nicholas Day, December 6th (December 19 if on the Julian Calendar).

Through the centuries many stories and legends have been told of St. Nicholas' life and deeds. These accounts help us understand his extraordinary character and why he is so beloved and revered as protector and helper of those in need.

One story tells of a poor man with three daughters. In those days a young woman's father had to offer prospective husbands something of value—a dowry. The larger the dowry, the better the chance that a young woman would find a good husband. Without a dowry, a woman was unlikely to marry. This poor man's daughters, without dowries, were therefore destined to be sold into slavery. Mysteriously, on three different occasions, a bag of gold appeared in their home—providing the needed dowries. The bags of gold, tossed through an open window, are said to have landed in stockings or shoes left before the fire to dry. This led to the custom of children hanging stockings or putting out shoes, eagerly awaiting gifts from Saint Nicholas. Sometimes the story is told with gold balls instead of bags of gold. That is why three gold balls, sometimes represented as oranges, are one of the symbols for St. Nicholas. And so St. Nicholas is a gift-giver.

One of the oldest stories showing St. Nicholas as a protector of children takes place long after his death. The townspeople of Myra were celebrating the good saint on the eve of his feast day when a band of Arab pirates from Crete came into the district. They stole treasures from the Church of Saint Nicholas to take away as booty. As they were leaving town, they snatched a young boy, Basilios, to make into a slave. The emir, or ruler, selected Basilios to be his personal cupbearer, as not knowing the language, Basilios would not understand what the king said to those around him. So, for the next year Basilios waited on the king, bringing his wine in a beautiful golden cup. For Basilios' parents, devastated at the loss of their only child, the year passed slowly, filled with grief. As the next St. Nicholas' feast day approached, Basilios' mother would not join in the festivity, as it was now a day of tragedy. However, she was persuaded to have a simple observance at home—with quiet prayers for Basilios' safekeeping. Meanwhile, as

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Basilios was fulfilling his tasks serving the emir, he was suddenly whisked up and away. St. Nicholas appeared to the terrified boy, blessed him, and set him down at his home back in Myra. Imagine the joy and wonderment when Basilios amazingly appeared before his parents, still holding the king's golden cup. This is the first story told of St. Nicholas protecting children—which became his primary role in the West.

Another story tells of three theological students, traveling on their way to study in Athens. A wicked innkeeper robbed and murdered them, hiding their remains in a large pickling tub. It so happened that Bishop Nicholas, traveling along the same route, stopped at this very inn. In the night he dreamed of the crime, got up, and summoned the innkeeper. As Nicholas prayed earnestly to God the three boys were restored to life and wholeness. In France the story is told of three small children, wandering in their play until lost, lured, and captured by an evil butcher. St. Nicholas appears and appeals to God to return them to life and to their families. And so St. Nicholas is the patron and protector of children.

Several stories tell of Nicholas and the sea. When he was young, Nicholas sought the holy by making a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. There as he walked where Jesus walked, he sought to more deeply experience Jesus' life, passion, and resurrection. Returning by sea, a mighty storm threatened to wreck the ship. Nicholas calmly prayed. The terrified sailors were amazed when the wind and waves suddenly calmed, sparing them all. And so St. Nicholas is the patron of sailors and voyagers.

Other stories tell of Nicholas saving his people from famine, sparing the lives of those innocently accused, and much more. He did many kind and generous deeds in secret, expecting nothing in return. Within a century of his death, he was celebrated as a saint. Today he is venerated in the East as wonder, or miracle worker and in the West as patron of a great variety of persons—children, mariners, bankers, pawn-brokers, scholars, orphans, laborers, travelers, merchants, judges, paupers, marriageable maidens, students, children, sailors, victims of judicial mistakes, captives, perfumers, even thieves and murderers! He is known as the friend and protector of all in trouble or need.

Sailors, claiming St. Nicholas as patron, carried stories of his favor and protection far and wide. St. Nicholas chapels were built in many seaports. As his popularity spread during the Middle Ages, he became the patron saint of Apulia (Italy), Sicily, Greece, and Lorraine (France), and many cities in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Italy, Russia, Belgium, and the Netherlands (see list). Following his baptism, Grand Prince Vladimir I brought St. Nicholas' stories and devotion to St. Nicholas to his homeland where Nicholas became the most beloved saint. Nicholas was so widely revered that thousands of churches were named for him, including three hundred in Belgium, thirty-four in Rome, twenty-three in the Netherlands and more than four hundred in England.

St Mary's Church

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Nicholas' tomb in Myra became a popular place of pilgrimage. Because of the many wars and attacks in the region, some Christians were concerned that access to the tomb might become difficult. For both the religious and commercial advantages of a major pilgrimage site, the Italian cities of Venice and Bari vied to get the Nicholas relics. In the spring of 1087, sailors from Bari succeeded in spirited away the bones, bringing them to Bari, a seaport on the southeast coast of Italy. An impressive church was built over St. Nicholas' crypt and many faithful journeyed to honor the saint who had rescued children, prisoners, sailors, famine victims, and many others through his compassion, generosity, and the countless miracles attributed to his intercession. The Nicholas shrine in Bari was one of medieval Europe's great pilgrimage centers and Nicholas became known as "Saint in Bari." To this day pilgrims and tourists visit Bari's great Basilica di San Nicola.

Through the centuries St. Nicholas has continued to be venerated by Catholics and Orthodox and honored by Protestants. By his example of generosity to those in need, especially children, St. Nicholas continues to be a model for the compassionate life.

Widely celebrated in Europe, St. Nicholas' feast day, December 6th, kept alive the stories of his goodness and generosity. In Germany and Poland, boys dressed as bishops begged alms for the poor—and sometimes for themselves! In the Netherlands and Belgium, St. Nicholas arrived on a steamship from Spain to ride a white horse on his gift-giving rounds. December 6th is still the main day for gift giving and merrymaking in much of Europe. For example, in the Netherlands St. Nicholas is celebrated on the 5th, the eve of the day, by sharing candies (thrown in the door), chocolate initial letters, small gifts, and riddles. Dutch children leave carrots and hay in their shoes for the saint's horse, hoping St. Nicholas will exchange them for small gifts. Simple gift-giving in early Advent helps preserve a Christmas Day focus on the Christ Child.

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The Franciscan Spirit Padre Pio Prayer Group



Prayer Group Updates:

We grew again, “glory to God”, “The Franciscan Spirit Padre Pio Prayer Group”, is still working on gaining more members in the fold for Padre Pio and St Mary’s Church. We have members now from the Archdiocese of Toronto and the Diocese of Hamilton who are active participants. With a basic breakdown, our members are from four parishes in Brampton, a couple parishes in Mississauga and one in Milton. The word is spreading, “thanks be to God”!

We emailed and via WhatsApp send a survey out after the last meeting. The survey is intended to streamline the prayer groups mandate to its members and the church, to find out what the common goal and expectations from each member to build on our faith, experience and general wellbeing as followers of St Francis, St Clare and Padre Pio. To be able to imitate their lives and improve our relationship and spiritual well-being in relation to the beliefs and teachings of the church to follow our Lord Jesus Christ.

Unfortunately, the response was less than 25% which makes it rather difficult to work out the statistics for the whole group. Some of the results are very interesting and educational for us.

I feel that a brief survey or some other evaluation tool will be beneficial to ensure that we meet spiritual needs and authenticity in following the teachings of the church and of Padre Pio. But a survey or any other evaluation tool is only as good as the people that complete it. If only 25% of the members complete it, we do not get a good sense of what the needs and goals of everyone.

Question 8. What are your beliefs?

Everyone said yes, only one also said Christian.

Roman Catholic	6	Christian	1
Eastern Rights Catholic	0	Non Christian	0
Orthodox Christian	0		

Question 14 in the survey: Ranking the activities in order of priority:

1	Start time.	1 st 33%	2 nd 33%	3 rd 17%	4 th	6	Social time	1 st 17%	2 nd 17%	3 rd	4 th 17%
2	Prayer’s	1 st 33%	2 nd 33%	3 rd	4 th	7	length of meeting.	1 st	2 nd 33%	3 rd	4 th
3	Readings of the Letters of Padre Pio					8	Faith sharing.	1 st	2 nd	3 rd 17%	4 th 17%
		1 st	2 nd	3 rd 17%	4 th 33%	9	Prayer Group and Parish, Diocese, Prayer Group HQ and Vatican Information and Updates				4 th 17%
4	End time					10	works of mercy / charity				
5	Readings of the Saint of the Day										

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The Franciscan Spirit

Padre Pio Prayer Group



Question 12. What would you like to see as part of the **regular Prayer Group meetings**?

Prayer	6	Education and Discussion on Family life in the Church	1
Rosary	1	Veneration of Relics	3
Saint of the Day	2	Adoration	4
Padre Pio Letters for the Day	4	Social Time with fellow members	2
Education and Discussion on Faith	1	Outreach - feeding the needy	2
Education and Discussion on Church related items	1	Outreach - sharing the Gospel Message	1
Education and Discussion on Catechism of the Church	2	Outreach - visitation of the elderly, sick	1
Education and Discussion on Church History	1	3 hour mini Retreats	3
Education and Discussion on Sacraments of the church	1	Rosary making	1
		Faith Sharing	6
		Other	0

Preferred activity by colour

1st 6 votes 2nd 5 votes 3rd 4 votes 4th 3 votes 5th 2 votes 6th 1 vote no interest no votes

Question 13. What would you like to see as part of the **regular Prayer Group activities**?

Prayer	3	Outreach - sharing the Gospel Message	4
Rosary	2	Outreach - visitation of the elderly, sick ...	5
Saint of the Day	2	24 Hour Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	3
Padre Pio Letters for the Day	3	48 Hour Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	2
Education and Discussion on Faith	3	24 Veneration of the Relics of Padre Pio	1
Education and Discussion on Church related items	2	1 Day Retreats	4
Education and Discussion on Catechism of the Church	3	3 Day Retreats	2
Education and Discussion on Church History	2	Rosary making	1
Education and Discussion on Sacraments of the church	2	Faith Sharing	3
Education and Discussion on Family life in the Church	1	Pilgrimage tours (Rome, San Giovanni, Assisi, Israel, etc)	3
Veneration of Relics	1	Pilgrimage tours within one day (local and nearby, Martyr Shrine, Fatima Shrine, etc.)	2
Adoration	5	Pilgrimage (overnight, Montreal etc.)	3
Social Time with fellow members	2	Other	0
Outreach - feeding the needy	2		

Preferred activity by colour

1st 6 votes 2nd 5 votes 3rd 4 votes 4th 3 votes 5th 2 votes 6th 1 vote no interest no votes

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The Franciscan Spirit
Padre Pio Prayer Group



January 03, 2026, at 9:00 am
In the Knights of Columbus Hall

Closing Prayer:

As we close this meeting, Lord, we want to give honour to You.

Thank You, God, for the time we had today to pray over and discuss issues and make decisions.

May You bless each person who took the time to gather here today and let Your hand of protection be on them throughout the rest of the month.

Let the work done here today come to fruition and let it all be for Your glory.

Help us each to do our parts to bring the plans discussed to life.

We ask this thru the intercession of Padre Pio, St Francis and St Clare in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Pace bene.

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The Franciscan Spirit Padre Pio Prayer Group



Advent Prayers

Advent Prayer

Lord, during this time of Advent, help us to prepare ourselves for the gift of Christ's birth.

Open our hearts to the joy that it brings. Just as St. Francis recognized what a blessing this holy season is, inspire us to see it through his eyes and embrace the miracle of Christ among us. Remind us to take a break from our hurried pace and set our sights on the true purpose of this season. Let us focus on the gift that you are to us rather than the gifts we will buy. During these troubling times, walk with us in our uncertainty and bring comfort to those who are sick or lonely. Inspire us to reflect your image to others and remind us that we are all made in your image. Most of all, thank you for finding us worthy of the gift of your son. Amen. *(By Susan Hines-Brigger of [Franciscan Media](#))*



Advent Family Prayer

God of Love, Your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us.

He is a sign of your love.

Help us walk in that love during the weeks of Advent, as we wait and prepare for his coming.

We pray in the name of Jesus, our Savior.

- Author Unknown

An Advent Prayer

Lord God, we adore you because you have come to us in the past.

You have spoken to us in the Law of Israel.

You have challenged us in the words of the prophets.

You have shown us in Jesus what you are really like.

Lord God, we adore you because you still come to us now.

You come to us through other people and their love and concern for us.

You come to us through men and women who need our help.

You come to us as we worship you with your people.

Lord God, we adore you because you will come to us at the end.

You will be with us at the hour of death.

You will still reign supreme when all human institutions fail.

You will still be God when our history has run its course.

We welcome you, the God who comes.

Come to us now in the power of Jesus Christ our Lord.

- Caryl Micklem, "Contemporary Prayers for Public Worship"

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The Franciscan Spirit Padre Pio Prayer Group



Prayers for Lighting the Advent Wreath Candles

First Week

All-powerful God, increase our strength of will for doing good that Christ may find an eager welcome at his coming and call us to his side in the kingdom of heaven, where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Second Week

God of power and mercy open our hearts in welcome. Remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy so that we may share his wisdom and become one with him when he comes in glory, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.



Third Week

Lord God, may we, your people, who look forward to the birthday of Christ experience the joy of salvation and celebrate that feast with love and thanksgiving. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Fourth Week

All-powerful God, your eternal Word took flesh on our earth when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of your plan. Lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces his glory and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for his coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen. - Author Unknown

Advent Prayer

Lord Jesus,
Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.
We who have so much to do and seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day,
We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.
We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom.
We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.
We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.
To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!" Amen.

- Henri J.M. Nouwen

Epiphany Solemn Blessing

God has called you out of darkness, into his wonderful light.
May you experience his kindness and blessings, and be strong in faith, in hope, and in love.
Because you are followers of Christ, who appeared on this day as a light shining in darkness, may he make you a light to all your sisters and brothers.
The wise men followed the star and found Christ who is light from light.
May you too find the Lord when your pilgrimage is ended.

- Author Unknown

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Journey of the Magi

A cold coming we had of it, just the worst time of the year for a journey, and such a long journey; The ways deep and the weather sharp, the very dead of winter. And the Camels galled, sore-footed, refractory, flying down in the melting snow. There were times we regretted the Summer palaces on slopes, the terraces, and the silken girls bringing sherbet. Then the camel men cursing and grumbling and running away, and wanting their liquor and women, and the night-fires going out, and the lack of shelters, and the cities hostile and the towns unfriendly and the villages dirty and charging high prices; A hard time we had of it. At the end we preferred to travel all night, Sleeping in snatches, with the voices singing in our ears, saying that this was all folly.

Then at dawn we came down to temperate valley, wet, below the snow line, smelling of vegetation, with a running stream and a water-mil beating the darkness, and three trees on the low sky. And an old white horse galloped away in the meadow. Then we came to a tavern with vine-leaves over the lintel, six hands at an open door dicing for pieces of silver, and feet kicking the empty wineskins. But there was no information, and so we continued and arrived at evening, not a moment too soon finding the place; it was (you may say) satisfactory. All this was a long time ago, I remember.

And I would do it again, but set down this set down this: were we led all that way for Birth or Death? There was a Birth certainly, we had evidence and no doubt. I had seen birth and death but had thought they were different; this Birth was hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death.

We returned to our places, these Kingdoms, but no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation, with an alien people clutching their gods. I should be glad of another death.

- T. S. Eliot



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