



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 November 1st , 2025, at St Mary's

- **Updates on the Prayer Group**
- **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**
- **Next meeting information, websites and information**
- **Closing Prayer**
- **Some important dates sorted by month**

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



Prayer Group Updates:



St Mary's celebrated Blessing of the Animals on October 4th, 2025. The Franciscan Spirit Padre Pio Prayer Group organized the event under Fr. Peter's guidance and leadership. The attendance was amazing from a hamster, a cat and an abundance of dogs praising the beautiful summer like day of Blessing of Animals with their songs. The gospel acclamation was completed with the howling song of one of our four legged creatures. The event was a fitting event to honour God with St Francis of Assisi blessed intercession of making our St Mary's community and inclusive and friendly place to share our faith, believes and love for all of God's creatures.

I would also want to thank the prayer group members on their outstanding support and their dedication to ensure we had a truly blessed and special day. Without you we would not have been able to celebrate St Francis of Assisi's feast day with a true Franciscan Spirit.

We will have to set up a meeting in the very near future, to discuss and plan what events, celebrations, special items as in retreats, special guest lectures we will schedule for 2026. If you could pray over and contemplate a day (2-4 hours) (possibly December 13th, from 10am-2pm for example) we could meet, we can schedule it with the office and Fr Peter to make sure their schedules can accommodate us. We will have a sheet at back of newsletter for program ideas for the upcoming year.



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The next meeting in December will fall on the Feast of St Nicholas, the original Santa Claus, we may want to see if we could do something that involves the parish and especially the children. It would be nice if they would learn that Santa Claus was a holy man that followed the teachings of the church with faith, compassion, justice and love. A lesson we could all be reminded of occasionally.

Google search shows the following information about him:

"St. Nicolas" most commonly refers to Saint Nicholas of Myra, a 4th-century Greek bishop known for his generosity and kindness, who is the inspiration for the modern figure of Santa Claus. He is celebrated on his feast day, December 6th in many European countries and is the patron saint of children, sailors, and others.

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Padre Pio Prayer Group



Who was Saint Nicholas?

- He was a bishop in the city of Myra in Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey) during the Roman Empire.
- He was known for his acts of kindness and generosity, particularly towards the poor and children.
- A famous legend tells of him secretly providing dowries for three impoverished sisters so they could avoid being sold into slavery, a story linked to the tradition of gift-giving.
- He was imprisoned during a persecution of Christians but was later released.

What is the legacy of Saint Nicholas?

- **Feast Day:** His feast day is observed on December 6th in many Western Christian countries and on December 19th in some Eastern Orthodox countries.
- **Patron Saint:** He is the patron saint of children, sailors, merchants, and those facing financial difficulties.
- **Santa Claus:** The figure of Santa Claus is based on the legends of Saint Nicholas and his generous gift-giving traditions.
- **Relics:** His remains were moved to the Basilica di San Nicola in Bari, Italy, in 1087.

How is he celebrated today?

- **Gifts:** Children in many European countries leave out shoes or stockings on the eve of St. Nicholas Day, hoping he will fill them with presents.
- **Local variations:** The tradition has many variations. For example, in the Netherlands, children place a shoe with a carrot for St. Nicholas's horse, and he arrives by steamboat.
- **Community events:** Many communities hold festivals and parades in his honor.



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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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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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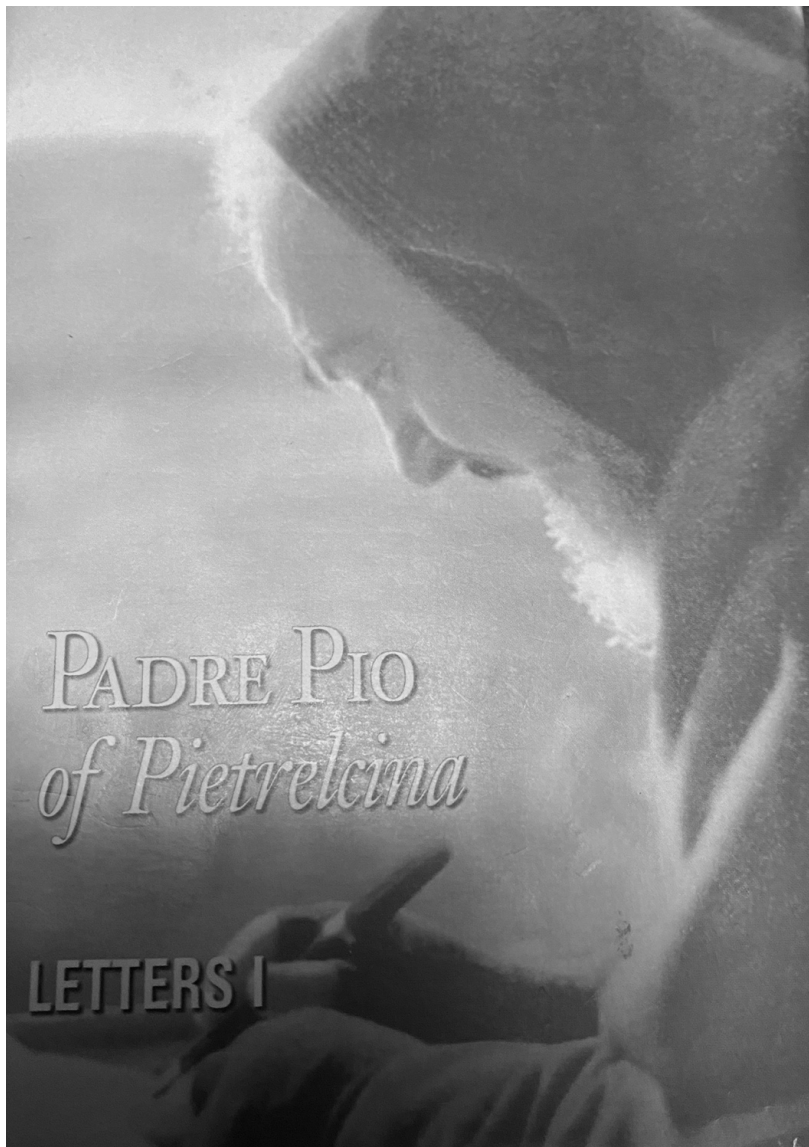
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Spiritual Readings from the Letters of Padre Pio



Letters from Padre Pio of Pietrelcina Letters 1

Padre Pio to Padre Benedetto November 1st, 1913

Padre Pio to Padre Agostino November 1st, 1915

Padre Pio to Padre Benedetto November 1st, 1920

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LETT. 155: Pietrelcina, 1-11-1913

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Padre Pio to Padre Benedetto

** An account of his prayer of quiet, of absorption in God, of knowledge of God's immensity and his own wretchedness. He is not embarrassed if others come to know of his interior marvels, for he regards them as a pure gift.*

Pietrelcina, 1 November 1913.

J.M.J.D.F.C.

My very dear Father,

My Jesus assist you always with his grace and make you holy.

From the account I am about to give you of my spiritual state, I implore you for the love of Jesus to examine the matter carefully and not to be lenient and tender in judging me. If you think I am deceived, then I entreat you to help me by the grace of the heavenly Father to get out of this state as soon as possible.

My usual manner of praying is this. I no sooner begin to pray than my soul becomes enveloped in a peace and tranquillity that words cannot describe. The senses become inactive, with the exception of my hearing, which is sometimes not inactive. Generally, however, this does not bother me in the least and I must confess that even if a great deal of noise were to be made around me it would not disturb me at all. From this you will understand that I rarely succeed in using my mind in discursive prayer.

It frequently happens that at certain moments when my mind wanders from the continual thought of God who is

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PADRE PIO TO PADRE BENEDETTO

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always present to me, I suddenly feel the touch of Our Lord in a most penetrating and sweet manner in the depths of my soul, so that more often than not I am obliged to shed tears of sorrow for my infidelity and of love for such a good and attentive Father who calls me back to his presence.

At other time I experience, instead, a great aridity of soul; I feel so oppressed by my many bodily ailments that I am incapable of pulling myself together to pray, no matter how much I want to.

This state of soul is becoming so intense that it will be a miracle of Our Lord if I do not die of it. When the heavenly Spouse of souls is pleased to put an end to this martyrdom, he suddenly sends me an irresistible spiritual fervour. In an instant everything is changed and I feel so enriched by supernatural grace and so full of strength that I am ready to defy the whole of Satan's kingdom.

All I can say about this prayer is that my soul seems to be completely lost in God and that in those moments it gains more than it could in many years of intensive spiritual exercises.

On other occasions I am seized by a violent transport, I am utterly in love with God and it seems to me that I must die. All this comes about, not as a result of any consideration, but by an interior flame and by such excessive love that if God did not come to my assistance I should in a short time be burnt up.

In the past, by my own efforts I succeeded in calming these transports, but now I am unable to defend myself at all. What I want to say about all this, without fear of being mistaken, is that I myself by no means contribute to it. I feel at these moments that my soul ardently desires to leave this life and as this desire is not gratified, I experience a most sharp yet delightful pain, so delightful that I would like it to continue for ever.

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LETT. 155: Pietrelcina, 1-11-1913

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It seems to me that everyone else finds consolation and relief in sufferings and that my soul alone remains in pain. The martyrdom which penetrates into the very depths of my soul is so far superior to its weak nature that it would be unbearable if the merciful Lord did not himself come to moderate the violence of certain raptures, so that the poor little butterfly becomes calm and quiet, both because the Lord has given it a foretaste of what it desires and because of other revelations he sometimes makes to my soul.

I am also seized by a great desire to serve God with perfection. There is then no torment that my soul would not joyfully suffer. This also happens to me in an instant, without any previous reflection on my part. I don't understand the origin of the great courage I then feel.

These desires consume my soul interiorly, since I understand by a most clear light given by God that I cannot render him the service I would like to give. All ends up, then, in the delights with which God floods my soul.

More often than not I find it very painful to have to deal with others, except those to whom one speaks of God and the great value of the soul. On this account I am very fond of solitude.

Quite often I have great difficulty in attending to the necessities of life: eating, drinking and sleeping. I submit to these things like a condemned man, merely because God wills it.

It seems to me that time flies and that there is never sufficient time for prayer. I am very fond of good reading, but I read very little because my illness prevents me and also because, when I open a book and read a little, I become deeply recollected and instead of reading am immersed in prayer.

Since the Lord has begun to treat me in this manner I feel completely changed, so that I do not recognize myself as

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the person I was previously.

I am clearly aware that if there is any good in me it is entirely the result of these supernatural gifts. I realize that this is the origin of my most firm determination to suffer all things with resignation and alacrity without ever tiring of suffering, although, alas, with how many imperfections! I most firmly resolve never to offend God even venially and I am ready to suffer death by fire a thousand times rather than knowingly commit any sin.

I feel I have improved a lot as regards obedience to my confessor and to the one who directs me, so that I would consider myself almost damned if I were to go against them in anything whatsoever.

When I am unable at times to withdraw from conversations which are prolonged as a mere pastime, I have to do myself great violence to remain there and I find this very painful.

I have never failed to receive remarkable benefit from the supernatural things which have happened to me. These heavenly favours, apart from the effects proper to each favour, have produced within me three principal effects: an admirable knowledge of God and of his incomprehensible greatness; immense self-knowledge and a deep sense of humility, since I recognize how presumptuous I have been to offend so holy a Father; finally, a great contempt for all the things of this earth and an intense love for God and for virtue.

I also realize that these heavenly treasures have given me an immense desire to meet people who have derived greater profit from the ways of perfection. I love them dearly because it seems to me that they help me very much to love God, the Author of all these marvels. I also feel strongly impelled to abandon myself completely to divine Providence. Events no longer trouble me, whether they be

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favourable or adverse. Moreover, all this happens without the slightest anxiety or desire on my part.

In the past I used to be embarrassed when others came to know what the Lord was doing in me, but for some time past I no longer experience this embarrassment for I see that I am no better on account of these favours, indeed I feel I am worse than before and make poor use of all these graces. As I see myself, I do not know if there are people worse than me; and when I perceive certain things in others which seem to be sins, I cannot convince myself that these people have offended God, even though I see the thing very clearly. The only thing that worries me is evil in itself, which very often distresses me considerably.

This is what I ordinarily experience within my soul. But at times, although rarely, these favours are withdrawn for a certain amount of time, even for several days. They are cancelled so completely from my mind that I cannot remember even the smallest benefit received. My soul then appears completely shrouded in darkness and I can remember nothing at all.

All my bodily and spiritual ailments combine to torment me. I feel very uneasy. I want—I do not say to pray—I want to formulate a single thought of God, but while I am in this state everything is impossible. Then I see how full of imperfections I am and my previous courage seems to abandon me completely. I see myself as extremely weak in the practice of virtue, in resisting the enemies' attacks. Then I am more than ever convinced that I am good for nothing. A deep sadness comes over me and the atrocious thought crosses my mind that I may be deceived without knowing it. God alone knows what a torment this is for me! I say to myself that perhaps the Lord, as a punishment for my infidelities, is allowing me unwittingly to be deceived and to deceive my spiritual directors. How am I to dispel this

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PADRE PIO TO PADRE BENEDETTO

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doubt, when by a light in my soul I recognize perfectly well my many faults into which I am constantly falling involuntarily, in spite of the many treasures of the Lord which I bear within me?!

What I understand quite well and clearly is that at such times my heart is also filled with a great love, with a much greater love than my mind can conceive. I have absolutely no doubt on this point and so great is my certainty with regard to this love that, excepting the truths of faith, there is nothing of which I am so certain as I am of this.

While this state lasts, the only thing I can say with certainty is that I do not offend God more than usual, because, thank heaven, I never lose my trust in him. No sooner does Our Lord visit me than all this vanishes; my mind is filled with light; my courage and all my good desires revive within me and even my bodily ailments seem greatly alleviated.

I have observed this accurately on more than one occasion.

Judge for yourself, now, my dear Father, whether what I have set forth up to this point is due to some trick of the devil and tell me quite frankly what you think of it all, if Jesus wills, of course ¹.

¹ This letter was not sent off at once to Padre Benedetto, and Padre Agostino read it first when he passed through Pietrelcina. On 3 November he then sent it on to Padre Benedetto accompanied by a note in which he said: "My dear Father Provincial, I have replied orally to Padre Pio but it would be well for you too to answer him at once."

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Padre Pio to Padre Agostino

Called to the army. "May the divine plan be fulfilled in me." The confessor.

Pietrelcina, 1 November 1915.

J.M.J.D.F.C.

My very dear Father,

May Jesus keep his gaze turned upon you and enable you to belong to that *great multitude*—seen by the beloved disciple—*which no man could number*¹. Amen.

In this letter I am going to give you a fresh piece of news which will certainly not be very welcome. By today's military manifesto two groups of the third class 1886 and 1887 are called up, and I who belong to the latter year am

¹ Rev 7 : 9.

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certainly included.

The call is for the 6th of this month. Dear God! What is in store for me? Everyone or almost all lead me to hope that I will be exempt for sufficiently obvious reasons. Only the principal one concerned has little or no hope of this exemption.

I am hoping that this pessimistic presentiment will blow over. My view of the matter is too gloomy. At all events, I am ready to face cheerfully this fresh trial to which the Lord wants to subject me. It seems to me that my fears are justified. Some time ago here in Benevento an inquiry was held with regard to the medical officer at the recruiting office and he was reported to be too humane in pronouncing judgment on the ill-health of army recruits. And to tell the truth, it seems that many irregularities were to be deplored.

However, the fact is that this medical officer has been transferred and his place filled by another who, by all accounts (confirmed also by some facts), shows himself anything but humane towards the unfortunates who are ill.

In a word, by this change, the Benevento recruiting office has suffered a harsh reaction. At all events, Father, do not cease to recommend my need to the Lord, so that in his infinite mercy and wisdom he may arrange things in such a way that my soul will have no cause for complaint and our enemy no reason to exult.

May the divine plan be fulfilled in me, for I desire nothing else. Please notify Father Provincial of my call to the army. I refrained from notifying him directly, as was my duty, for the simple reason that I don't know whether he is there at present or elsewhere.

I trust in your fatherly goodness to make my excuses to him for this omission and for other involuntary discourtesies I may have committed.

Tell me, please: during the time Our Lord will permit

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PADRE AGOSTINO TO PADRE PIO

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me to be far away, may I confess to any other priest either secular¹ or regular belonging to any order or congregation whatsoever?

Please set my mind at rest on this point which is so important for me, and for the love of heaven do not forget it. Recommend me fervently to the Lord and rest assured that I will always continue to remember you to the Most High.

My respects to Father Provincial and while I ask his fatherly blessing along with your own, I remain,
Your poor son,

Fra Pio.

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The Franciscan Spirit

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Padre Pio to Padre Benedetto

"It is sweet to live and suffer for one's brothers." Community news.

San Giovanni Rotondo, Feast of All Saints (1 Nov.) 1920.

... ¹. You will see that if he has not yet come, he will certainly come to you before long.

At the present time all I can say about my spiritual state is that Jesus is beginning to make me feel deep down in my soul how sweet it is to live and suffer for one's brothers.

All the Fathers send you their most affectionate greetings and remember you continually.

Padre Cherubino ² has remained here in the community to teach *mathematics*.

Padre Ludovico ³ is in San Marco. Let us hope he will be happy there.

I kiss your hand with all esteem and veneration and asking your holy blessing, I remain.

Your poor son,

Fra Pio, Capuchin.

¹ The first sheet is missing, torn off by Padre Benedetto himself.

² Padre Cherubino of San Marco in Lamis, born 31 January 1887, took a degree in philosophy at the Pontifical Gregorian University, deceased 17 December 1965.

³ Padre Ludovico of San Marco in Lamis.

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The Franciscan Spirit Padre Pio Prayer Group



Feast Day for November 01 - The Feast of All Saints

The Feast of All Saints, also known as All Saints' Day, is an extraordinary celebration that pays tribute to the glory and honor of all the saints. This celebration, deeply rooted in history, not only pays tribute to those who led exceptional lives on Earth and were recognized and canonized by the Church but also embraces all those who lived virtuous lives without receiving official recognition.

The individuals to whom this celebration is dedicated devoted their lives to honoring God in various ways, through prayer, acts of charity towards others, sacrifices, and the spread of God's word throughout the world. Some of them even endured persecution and martyrdom to disseminate divine love with extraordinary dedication.

The Feast of All Saints offers a unique opportunity to reflect on these exemplary lives and find inspiration to pursue virtue and devotion in our daily existence.



Origins of the Feast of All Saints

The Feast of All Saints has ancient roots dating back to the early days of Christianity when communities of believers honored the martyrs, those who sacrificed their lives for their faith. During the early persecutions, many Christians lost their lives defending their faith. In 64 AD, during the reign of Nero in Rome, saints like Peter and Paul were martyred, along with others. The most severe persecution occurred under Diocletian, from 303 to 311, during which churches and sacred texts were destroyed, thousands of Christians were deprived of their properties, and subjected to torture, sometimes paying with their lives.

In 313 AD, Emperor Constantine the Great legalized Christianity and promoted the construction of churches and monuments in honor of the martyrs, encouraging public devotion. The Western Church's celebration may date back to May 13, 609, when Pope Boniface IV transformed the Pantheon in Rome from a pagan temple into a church dedicated to the Virgin Mary and all the martyrs. This annual celebration honored the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the martyrs.

On November 1, 731, Pope Gregory III dedicated an oratory inside St. Peter's Basilica to "all the saints," adding the Apostles, the martyrs, the confessors, and all holy men and women from around the world. This expanded the commemoration of saints to include not just the martyrs but also those who led holy lives. In 835, Pope Gregory IV extended the celebration of November 1 to the entire Church. In 1484, Pope Sixtus IV made November 1 a mandatory feast for the entire Church and added a vigil day and the eight days following, making the celebration a nine-day period in total. The vigil celebration for the Feast of All Saints was called All Hallows' Eve, or Halloween. Unfortunately, in many places, Halloween has lost its Christian and holy focus and has become a secular and even pagan celebration.

Profound Meaning

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The Feast of All Saints carries deep meaning within the Catholic tradition. This special day is a time for believers to commemorate and pay homage to all the saints, both known and unknown, who led virtuous lives and dedicated themselves to God. It's a time when Catholics reflect on the life examples offered by the saints and seek to emulate their virtues.

In this feast, the Church invites us to listen to the Beatitudes, following the teaching of Jesus Christ, to celebrate the true path to holiness. All saints who dwell in heaven are glorified: the martyrs, the angels, the confessors, and the virgins. Alongside the vast array of known saints, we must not forget those whose names and virtues are unknown to us but who, through their lives, were examples of genuine Christianity. The Feast of All Saints invites us to recognize that holiness can manifest itself in many forms and places, inspiring us to pursue the path of virtue and devotion in our daily lives.

Celebrations Around the World

Although the Feast of All Saints is a Catholic celebration, many other cultures around the world have similar holidays to honor their ancestors and the deceased.

In Italy, the Feast of All Saints is a nationally important and traditional holiday. During this celebration, you can still find ancient customs dating back to the Middle Ages. Early Christians used to go from village to village, asking for a sweet bread called "pane d'animo" in exchange for prayers dedicated to the donor's deceased loved ones. Many of these traditions occur on the night between November 1 and 2, when it is believed that the world of the living reconnects with the world of the deceased. November 2 is the Day of the Commemoration of the Deceased.

In Poland, The Feast of All Saints is a national holiday where people visit cemeteries to adorn the graves of their deceased loved ones with flowers, candles, and lanterns. Families gather to share special foods and pay tribute to the deceased. On this day, national heroes and war casualties are also remembered.

In France, The Feast of All Saints is known as "Fête de la Toussaint" and is the day to celebrate all saints recognized by the Roman Church and beyond. The following day, Le Jour des Morts, is dedicated to the souls of the deceased. People visit the graves of their loved ones, adorning them with flowers and candles. Many also go to church to participate in special services dedicated to the memory of saints and the deceased.

In the United States, The Feast of All Saints is less emphasized compared to Halloween, which falls on the evening before. However, some people visit cemeteries and adorn the graves of their loved ones. It is also common to light candles and offer prayers in memory of the deceased.

In many other parts of the world, The Feast of All Saints is celebrated in a similar manner, with visits to cemeteries, prayers for the souls of the deceased, and the remembrance of saints. However, traditions may vary slightly depending on local culture and religion. Overall, this holiday is a time to honor those who came before us and to reflect on life and death.

We value All Saints every day of the year, as they can be our guides and sources of inspiration. We can feel even closer to them by carrying a medal, for example, one of the saints who has a special meaning for us, perhaps the saint from whom we took our name!

Next meeting information, websites and information

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**December 06, 2025, 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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Some important dates for the Padre Pio Prayer Groups:

Moveable Feast Days

• For year 2026

- Ash Wednesday: Wednesday, February 18
- Easter Sunday: Sunday, April 5
- Ascension: Sunday, May 17**
- Pentecost: Sunday, May 24
- Holy Trinity: Sunday, May 31
- Body and Blood of Christ Sunday, June 7
- Sacred Heart of Jesus: Friday, June 12
- Assumption of Mary: Saturday, August 15
- All Saints: Sunday, November 1
- Christ the King: Sunday, November 22
- First Sunday of Advent: Sunday, November 29

▪ For year 2027

- Ash Wednesday: Wednesday, February 10
- Easter Sunday: Sunday, March 28
- Ascension: Sunday, May 9**
- Pentecost: Sunday, May 16
- Holy Trinity: Sunday, May 23
- Body and Blood of Christ : Sunday, May 30
- Sacred Heart of Jesus: Friday, June 4
- Assumption of Mary: Sunday, August 15
- All Saints: Monday, November 1*
- Christ the King: Sunday, November 21
- First Sunday of Advent: Sunday, November 28

January

- 1 New Years Day - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
- 4 Epiphany of the Lord
- 11 Baptism of the Lord
- 16 [1903] At age 15, he entered the Capuchin Novitiate in Morcone, Italy.
- 21 [1990] The beatification process was completed.
- 22 [1903] Investiture into the Capuchin Order taking the Franciscan habit and the name Brother Pio.
- 27 [1907] Brother Pio took his final vows.

February

- 9 [1940] Work was started on Padre Pio's "Grand Earthly Undertaking", namely the building of his "House for the Relief of Suffering".
- 11 Our Lady of Lourdes
- 17 [1916] He was appointed to the monastery of Sant'Anna in Foggia.

March

- 16 [1918] Padre Pio returned to the monastery of SAN Giovanni Rotondo for good.
- 19 St. Joseph
- 20 [1983] The official inquiry into Padre Pio's case was opened in San Giovanni Rotondo.
- 25: Annunciation of the Lord

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April

- **22 [1925]** Resenting the restrictions placed on Padre Pio's confessional duties, the faithful throughout the country were again in a state of turmoil.

May

- **2 [1999]** Padre Pio of Pietrelcina was officially beatified by John Paul II.
- **5 [1956]** The House for the Relief of Suffering was officially opened.
- **13: Our Lady of Fatima**
- **15 [1919]** His superiors call for the first medical examination of his stigmata by Dr. Romanelli. On July 26, 1919, he was examined by Dr. Bignami and on October 9, 1919 by Dr. Festa.
- **23 [1987]** The Holy Father, John Paul II, made a pilgrimage to San Giovanni Rotondo and prayed at Padre Pio's tomb.
- **25 [1887]** Padre Pio (Francesco Forgione) was born at 5:00 pm in Pietrelcina (Benevento) to Grazio Forgione and Maria Giuseppa (Peppa) Di Nunzio.
- **26 [1887]** Little Francesco was baptised in the church of Sant'Anna.
- **31 Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

June

- **9 Mary, Mother of the Church**
- **13** St. Anthony of Padua
- **16 [2002]** Padre Pio of Pietrelcina was officially canonized by John Paul II.
- **17 [1923]** Padre Pio was debarred from saying Mass in public or replying to any of the letters arriving at the monastery in San Giovanni Rotondo.
- **24** Nativity of St. John the Baptist
- **25 [1923]** A popular revolt broke out on the afternoon of the day when Padre Pio first said Mass in a private chapel.
- **26 [1923]** Padre Pio resumed saying Masses in the church.
- **27 Most Sacred Heart of Jesus**
- **28 Immaculate Heart of Mary**
- **29** Sts. Peter and Paul
- **30** First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church

July

- **1 [2004]** The new Sanctuary of St Pio of Pietrelcina was consecrated in San Giovanni Rotondo.
- **15** St. Bonaventure
- **16: Our Lady of Mount Carmel**
- **16 [1933]** Padre Pio resumed saying Masses in public following a two-year suspension.

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- **26 [1919]** Padre Pio was examined by Professor Amico Bignami, head of the medical pathology department of the University of Rome.
- **26 Sts. Joachim and Anne**
- **28 [1916]** During a period of suffocating heat, he was taken to the monastery of San Giovanni Rotondo and stayed there one week.
- **31 [1968]** His Prayer Groups are given official recognition by the Vatican.

August

- **5 [1918]** Through the work of a mysterious celestial being, Padre Pio's heart was pierced by a spear, leaving him with a wound that was to bleed for the rest of his life. This phenomenon is known as "transverberation".
- **5 Dedication of Basilica of St. Mary Major**
- **8 [1923]** Padre Pio was ordered to move to Ancona.
- **10 [1910]** At twenty-three years old, he was ordained a priest by Archbishop Paolo Schinosi in the Cathedral in Benevento, Italy.
- **11 Feast of St. Claire of Assisi**
- **13 Bl. Michael J. McGivney**
- **14 [1910]** Said his first Mass at Our Lady of the Angels parish in Pietrelcina.
- **14 St. Maximilian Kolbe**
- **15 Assumption of Mary**
- **17 [1923]** Worried by the restlessness of the crowds, the ecclesiastical authorities suspended the order for Padre Pio to move to Ancona.
- **22: Queenship of Mary**

September

- **4 [1916]** Assigned to Our Lady of Grace Monastery in San Giovanni Rotondo.
- **5 St. Teresa of Calcutta**
- **8 Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
- **14 Exaltation of the Holy Cross**
- **15 Our Lady of Sorrows**
- **20 [1918]** Received the visible stigmata while praying before a crucifix in the monastery church of Our Lady of Grace; a mysterious person dripping with blood in the chapel appeared to him, then he found that he himself now had wounds on his hands, rib cage and feet. From then on, Padre Pio's body was marked with stigmata, the visible signs of the Passion of Christ. He became the first priest in the history of the Catholic Church to bear the stigmata.
- **22 [1968]** Padre Pio said Mass at 5 a.m. as usual. This was to be his last celebration of the Eucharist.
- **23 Feast St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina**

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- **23 [1968]** Padre Pio died at 02.30, his last words being "Jesus, Mary! Jesus, Mary!" The Father Guardian of the Monastery stated that ten minutes after Padre Pio's death, all traces of the stigmata on his hands, feet and side had disappeared.
- **26 [1968]** Over a hundred thousand people attended his funeral.
- **27 [1968]** The crypt containing Padre Pio's body was opened to the public and was visited by droves of pilgrims over the years.
- **29 Sts. Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael**

October

- **2 Guardian Angels**
- **4 Feast of St Francis of Assisi**
- **7 Our Lady of the Rosary**
- **9 [1919]** At the request of the General of the Capuchins, Padre Venanzio from Lisle-en-Rigault, Padre Pio underwent in-depth medical examinations conducted by Dr Giorgio Festa.
- **10 [1915]** He told his Superior that he had been suffering the pain inflicted by flagellation and the crowning of thorns for years now.
- **22 St. John Paul II**

November

- **1 All Saints' Day**
- **2 All Souls' Day**
- **6 [1915]** Drafted into the Italian Army. On Dec. 6, he was assigned to the 10th Medical Corps in Naples. Due to poor health, he was continually discharged and recalled until March 16, 1918 when he was declared unfit for military service.
- **12 [1917]** He returned to the monastery of San Giovanni Rotondo, where he stayed until 5 March 1918, the year when he resumed national service in Naples.
- **21: Presentation of Mary**

December

- **6 Feast of St Nicholas (Santa Claus)**
- **8 Immaculate Conception**
- **9 St. Juan Diego**
- **10 Our Lady of Loreto**
- **12 Our Lady of Guadalupe**
- **18 [1916]** He went to Naples on national service, but his poor physical conditions made the doctors send him home on special leave.

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- [21 [1998] The scientifically unexplainable healing of Mrs. Consiglia De Martino of Salerno, Italy, needed miracle for beatification, is approved by Congregation for the Cause of Saints.
- **24 Christmas Eve**
- **25 Christmas Day - The Nativity of the Lord**
- **28 The Holy Family and Holy Innocents**
- [2000] The scientifically unexplainable healing of 7-year-old Matteo Collela of San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy, needed miracle for canonization, is approved by Congregation for the Cause of the Saints

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