

Prayer: Beloved St. Padre Pio, you have had the signs of the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ on your body. You have carried this stigmata for everyone, enduring both the physical and mental sufferings that racked your soul and body in a continual sacrifice. We beg you to pray for us, so that we will be able to accept both the little and the larger crosses we too must bear during our life on earth and to offer these sufferings to God, assuring us a place with him in Eternal Life. Amen.

QUOTES from the Saint:

“Pray, hope and don’t worry.”

"Every Holy Mass, heard with devotion, produces in our souls, marvelous effects, abundant spiritual and material graces which we, ourselves, do not know...It is easier for the earth to exist without the sun than without the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass!" Padre Pio

"In order to attract us, the Lord grants us many graces that we believe can easily obtain Heaven for us. We do not know, however, that in order to grow, we need hard bread: the cross, humiliation, trials and denials." Padre Pio

"Faith guides even us and we follow its sure light on the way which conducts us to God and His homeland." Padre Pio

“Don’t let temptations frighten you. They are the trials of those souls whom God wants to put to the test when He sees them strong enough to sustain the battle. Weaving with their own hands the crown of glory, up to now your life has been that of an infant, now the Lord wants to treat you as an adult, and as the trials of adult life are much greater than those of an infant, now the Lord wants to treat you as an adult. This is why you find yourself rather disorganized in the beginning. But the soul will acquire its calm, and the calm will not delay in coming. Be patient a while longer and everything will work out well!” (Letters III, p 630).

“Have courage and do not fear the assaults of the Devil. Remember this forever it is a healthy sign if the devil shouts and roars around your conscience, since this shows that he is not inside your will.”



Socials with the Saints

PILGRIM CENTER of HOPE | Guiding People to Christ
PilgrimCenterofHope.org | 210-521-3377

Shrine of Padre Pio, San Antonio, Texas- www.shrineofpadrepio.com

Resources: EWTN.com, Catholic.org, FranciscanMedia.org

St. Padre Pio

Priest, Capuchin Friar, Mystic & Stigmatist

Born: May 25, 1887

Died: September 23, 1968

Feast Day: September 23

Canonized: June 13, 2002

Patronage: Of the sick & against illness

A Part of His Story

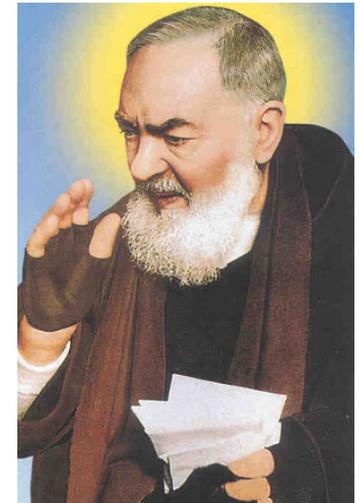
Francesco, named in honor of St. Francis of Assisi, was born to Giuseppa and Grazio Forgione, peasant farmers, in the small Italian village of Pietrelcina in 1887. From his childhood, it was evident that he was a special child of God. Francesco was very devout, and at an early age felt drawn to the priesthood. He became a Capuchin novice at the age of sixteen, and received the Capuchin Franciscan religious habit in 1902. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1910 after seven years of study, and became known as Padre Pio.

On September 20, 1918, he was kneeling in front of a large crucifix when he received the visible marks of the crucifixion on his body, making him the first stigmatized priest in history. The doctor who examined him could not find a natural cause for the wounds.

Upon his death in 1968, the wounds were no longer visible. In fact, there was no scarring, and the skin was completely renewed. He had predicted 50 years prior that upon his death, the wounds would heal.

The wounds of the stigmata were not the only mystical phenomenon experienced by Padre Pio. The blood from the stigmata had an odor described by many as similar to that of perfume or flowers, and the gift of bilocation was attributed to him.

Padre Pio had the ability to read the hearts of the penitents who flocked to him for the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) which he heard for ten or twelve hours per day. Through the confessional the



brought sinners and devout souls closer to God; he would know just the right word of counsel or encouragement that was needed.

Even before his death, people spoke to Padre Pio about his possible canonization. He died on September 23, 1968 at the age of eighty-one. His funeral was attended by about 100,000 people.

On June 16, 2002, over 500,000 Padre Pio devotees gathered in Rome to witness Pope John Paul II proclaim him Saint Pio of Pietrelcina.

More about Padre Pio (www.ewtn.com)

The Gospel identifies with the Cross. No one practiced it like Mary, who as Our Lady of Sorrows, stood at the foot of the cross. No one practiced it like St. Francis, who for two years, bore the stigmata of Jesus. No one practiced it like Padre Pio, who for 50 years, was pierced with the wounds of the Cross.

Padre Pio lived in obedience. Padre Pio, like Jesus, was obedient unto death. St. Francis was the saint of poverty; Padre Pio was the "saint" of obedience. The documents of his life are there to bear witness.

Padre Pio lived in poverty. Padre Pio, like his Seraphic Father, the Poor One of Assisi, loved and lived this evangelical virtue. Here are two concrete and irrefutable facts: the poverty of his cell and his detachment from money. From 1916 to 1945, Padre Pio lived in cell number five. In it reigns the most absolute poverty. Visiting it, [one can] marvel at the thought that in that very cell at that small, dark, simple writing table Padre Pio wrote his sublime letters from September 1916 on.

After 1945, Padre Pio lived in cell number one, today open to the public. The signs of his Franciscan poverty are easily visible and verifiable. One would not think that that cell was the abode of a man through whose hands flowed huge sums of money. And with this we are at the second concrete and irrefutable fact.

Padre Pio lived in chastity. He was an angel in human flesh and in this fashion passed in the midst of the crowds of men and women, who each day surrounded him from morning till evening.

Very seldom in those hundreds of letters does Padre Pio mention the virtue of purity. Why? Because purity is a beautiful virtue, but a virtue that is easily sullied; it is necessary to possess it in one's soul and in one's heart.

Bilocation and Odor of Sanctity (www.ewtn.com)

The phenomenon of bilocation is one of the most remarkable gifts attributed to Padre Pio. His appearances on various of the continents are attested by numerous eyewitnesses, who either saw him or smelled the odors characteristically associated with his presence, described by some as roses and by others as tobacco.

The phenomenon of odor (sometimes called the odor of sanctity) is itself well established in Padre Pio's case. The odor was especially strong from the blood coming from his wounds. Investigation showed that he used absolutely no fragrances or anything that could produce these odors. The odors often occurred when people called upon his intercession in prayer and continue to this day.

Among the most remarkable of the documented cases of bilocation was Padre's appearance in the air over San Giovanni Rotondo during World War II. While southern Italy remained in Nazi hands, American bombers were given the job of attacking the city of San Giovanni Rotondo.

However, when they appeared over the city and prepared to unload their munitions, a brown-robed friar appeared before their aircraft. All attempts to release the bombs failed. In this way, Padre Pio kept his promise to the citizens that their town would be spared.

Later on, when an American airbase was established at Foggia a few miles away, one of the pilots of this incident visited the friary and found to his surprise the little friar he had seen in the air that day over San Giovanni.