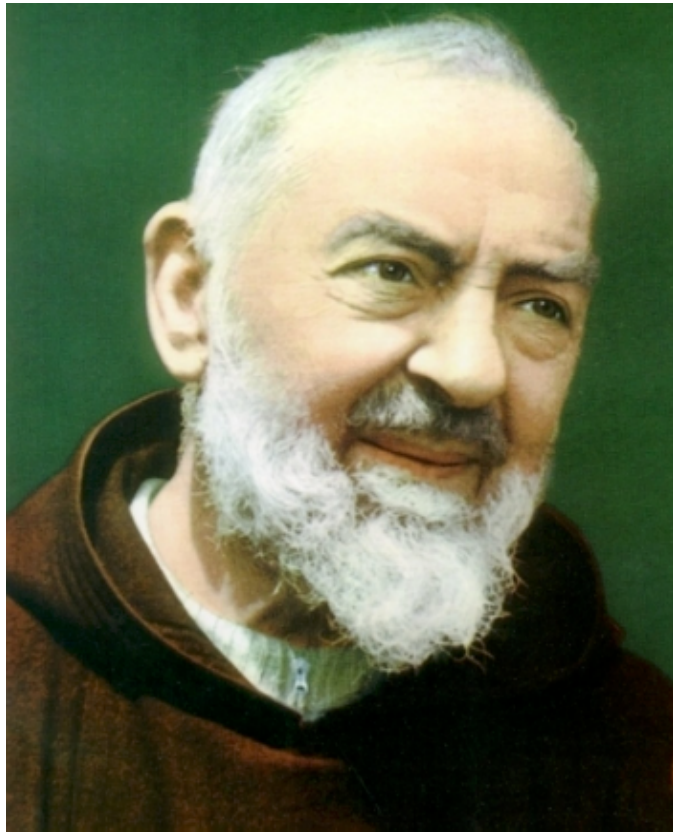


STATIONS OF THE CROSS

THE WAY OF PADRE PIO

With quotes from St. Padre Pio



Presented by the
Knights of Columbus

(Compiled by M. L. Moncayo)

STAY WITH ME, LORD

Prayer of St. Padre Pío after Holy Communion

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, judgement, 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.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The Way of Padre Pio

-A plenary indulgence is granted by praying the Stations.-

O Jesus, impart to me also that same strength, so when my weak nature foreseeing future evils rebels, so that like You, I may accept with serene peace and tranquility all the pains and distress which I may meet on this earth of exile... Destroy in me everything that does not please You, and with the sacred fire of Your love write Your sufferings into my heart. Hold me so closely to You, with a bond so tight and so sweet, that I shall never again abandon You in Your sufferings. May I be able to rest on Your Heart to obtain comfort in the sufferings of life. May my spirit have no other desire but to live at Your side in the Garden and unite itself to the pains of Your sufferings.

-Padre Pio

OPENING PRAYER

(STAND)

READER: Jesus came with His disciples to a country place called Gethsemane, and He said to them, "Sit down here, while I go over there and pray." Then He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be saddened and exceedingly troubled. He said to them, "My soul is sad, even unto death. Wait here and watch with Me." He went forward a little, and falling prostrate He prayed, saying, "Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass away from Me; yet, not as I will, but as You will." Matthew 26: 36-39

(KNEEL)

ALL: Almighty and eternal Father, accept our prayer of thanksgiving for Your Beloved Son, our LORD and Savior Jesus Christ. As we recall His Sacred Passion, send the Spirit of Christ into our hearts, we beg You, so that whether we pray or work we might do all in union with Christ our Redeemer. **AMEN.**

FIRST STATION

Jesus Is Condemned to Death

READER: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You,

(GENUFLECT)

ALL: Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

READER: The chief priests and the entire Sanhedrin were looking for false evidence against Jesus so they could put Him to death. But they did not find any, though many false witnesses came forward. Matthew 26: 59-60

When they hurled their insults at Him, He did not retaliate; when He suffered, He made no threats. Instead, He entrusted Himself to Him who judges justly. 1 Peter 2:23

St. Pio: If you suffer with resignation in doing His will, you do not offend Him, but love Him. And your heart will find great comfort in remembering that in your hour of pain Jesus Himself suffers in you and for you. He did not abandon you when you fled from Him; why should He abandon you now that you are proving your love for Him by the martyrdom of your soul?

By suffering, we have something to give God. The gift of our pain, of our sufferings, is a great thing, which we cannot do in paradise.

(KNEEL)

ALL: O God, show Yourself more and more to this poor heart of mine, and complete in me the work you have begun. I hear deep within me, a voice which says to me repeatedly – sanctify yourself and sanctify others.

-Padre Pio

SECOND STATION

Jesus Is Made to Bear His Cross

READER: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You,

(GENUFLECT)

ALL: Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

READER: Then Pilate took Jesus and had Him scourged. The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns, and put it on His head, and dressed Him in a purple robe. They said, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and they struck Him with their hands. When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!" As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw Him, they shouted, "Crucify Him!" John 19: 1-6

St. Pio: In the hour of trial, don't tire yourself in trying to find God. He is within you even then, in a most intimate manner. He is with you in your groanings and searching, just like a mother who urges her little child to seek her while she is behind him, and it is precisely her hands that encourage them to reach her.

You are suffering all the effects of divine abandonment, but you have never been abandoned. And it is so, also for other souls who love Jesus. They suffer everything, even the trial of abandonment, but God is always with them. Therefore, be assured that God is always with you and loves you because He is pleased with you. So, don't be afraid; let Jesus treat you as He pleases.

(KNEEL)

ALL: O God, show Yourself more and more to this poor heart of mine, and complete in me the work you have begun. I hear deep within me, a voice which says to me repeatedly – sanctify yourself and sanctify others.

-Padre Pio

THIRD STATION

Jesus Falls the First Time

READER: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You,

(GENUFLECT)

ALL: Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

READER: Though harshly treated, He submitted and did not open His mouth; like a lamb led to the slaughter, or a sheep silent before shearers, He did not open His mouth. Isaiah 53:7

He poured out His soul to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet, He bore the sins of many, and made intercession for the transgressors. Isaiah 53:12

St. Pio: Physical and spiritual ills are the most worthy offering you can make to Him who saved you by suffering.

You think you know My love for you, but you don't know it is much greater than you can imagine. I follow you with my prayers, with my suffering, and with my tears.

Then we shall be offering the most beautiful, the most noble of prayers because our prayers will have sprung from sacrifice.

(KNEEL)

ALL O God, show Yourself more and more to this poor heart of mine, and complete in me the work you have begun. I hear deep within me, a voice which says to me repeatedly – sanctify yourself and sanctify others.

-Padre Pio

FOURTH STATION

Jesus Meets His Afflicted Mother

READER: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You,

(GENUFLECT)

ALL: Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

READER: Now there were standing by the cross of Jesus His mother and His mother's sister, Mary of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus, therefore, saw His mother and the disciple standing by whom He loved, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold, your son." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home. John 19:25-27

St. Pio: Some people are so foolish that they think they can go through life without the help of the Blessed Mother.

Remember what took place in the heart of our heavenly Mother at the foot of the Cross. She was turned to stone before Her crucified Son, due to the excessive suffering, but you cannot say she was abandoned. On the contrary, She was never loved more than at that moment when She suffered and couldn't even cry.

Our Lady of Sorrows loves us. She gave birth to us in suffering and love. May you never forget Our Lady of Sorrows and may Her sufferings be engraved in your heart.

(KNEEL)

ALL O God, show Yourself more and more to this poor heart of mine, and complete in me the work you have begun. I hear deep within me, a voice which says to me repeatedly – sanctify yourself and sanctify others.

-Padre Pio

FIFTH STATION

Simon of Cyrene Helps Jesus Carry His Cross

READER: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You,

(GENUFLECT)

ALL: Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

READER: And when they had mocked Jesus, they took the purple cloak off and put His own clothes on Him, and they led Him out to be crucified. Then they forced a certain passer-by, Simon of Cyrene, coming from the country, to take up His cross. They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha, a name meaning 'the place of the skull.' Mark 15:20-22

St. Pio: **So many come to San Giovanni Rotondo asking for help. So few ask for the grace to bear their cross.**

In this life Jesus does not ask you to carry the heavy cross with Him, but a small piece of His cross, a piece that consists of human suffering.

We do not want to understand that God neither wants nor is able to save or sanctify us without the Cross, and the more He draws a soul to Himself, the more He purifies it by means of the Cross.

(KNEEL)

ALL: O God, show Yourself more and more to this poor heart of mine, and complete in me the work you have begun. I hear deep within me, a voice which says to me repeatedly – sanctify yourself and sanctify others.

-Padre Pio

SIXTH STATION

Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus

READER: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You,

(GENUFLECT)

ALL: Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

READER: When You said, "Seek My Face," my heart said to You, "Your face I will seek." Psalm 27:8

"LORD, when did we see You hungry, and feed You; or thirsty, and give you drink? And when did we see You a stranger, and take You in; or naked, and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?" And answering the king will say to them, "Amen, I say to you, as long as you did it for one of these, the least of my brethren, you did it for Me." Matthew 25: 37-40

St. Pio: We must give an exact account of every moment, of every grace, of every opportunity to do good. The slightest transgression of God's holy laws, will be taken into consideration.

If I know a person is afflicted, whether in body or in soul, what I would not do for the LORD to see that person freed from his ailments? For his salvation I would willingly take on all his afflictions, if the LORD permitted; I would give up the fruits of these sufferings for him.

Love Jesus, love Him a lot, but to do this, be ready to love sacrifice more. He who begins to love, must be ready to suffer.

(KNEEL)

ALL: O God, show Yourself more and more to this poor heart of mine, and complete in me the work you have begun. I hear deep within me, a voice which says to me repeatedly – sanctify yourself and sanctify others.

-Padre Pio

SEVENTH STATION

Jesus Falls the Second Time

READER: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You,

(GENUFLECT)

ALL: Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

READER: He was spurned and avoided by men, a man of suffering, knowing pain, like one from whom you turn your face, spurned, and we held Him in no esteem. Yet, it was our pain that He bore, our sufferings He endured. We thought of Him as stricken, struck down by God and afflicted, but He was pierced for our sins, crushed for our iniquity. He bore the punishment that makes us whole, by His wounds we were healed. We had all gone astray like sheep, all following our own way; but the LORD laid upon Him the guilt of us all. Though harshly treated, He submitted and did not open His mouth. Like a lamb led to slaughter, or a sheep silent before shearers, He did not open His mouth... But it was the LORD's will to crush Him with pain. By making His life as a reparation offering, He shall see His offspring, shall lengthen His days, and the LORD's will shall be accomplished through Him. Isaiah 53:3-7, 10

St. Pio: I suffer not for suffering's sake, but for the fruits it brings. We do not want to accept the fact that suffering is necessary for our souls; that the Cross must be our daily bread. Just as the body needs nourishment, so does the soul need the Cross, day after day, to purify it and detach it from creatures. We do not want to understand that God neither wants, nor is able to save or sanctify us without the Cross; and the more He draws a soul to Himself, the more He purifies it by means of the Cross.

(KNEEL)

ALL: O God, show Yourself more and more to this poor heart of mine, and complete in me the work you have begun. I hear deep within me, a voice which says to me repeatedly – sanctify yourself and sanctify others.

-Padre Pio

EIGHTH STATION

Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem

READER: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You,

(GENUFLECT)

ALL: Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

READER: A large crowd of people followed Jesus, including many women who mourned and lamented Him. Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me. Weep instead for yourselves and for your children." Luke 23:27-28

St. Pio: Life is nothing but a continual struggle against oneself, and it does not open to beauty without the price of suffering. Always keep Jesus company in Gethsemane and He will know how to comfort you in the hours of anguish that will come.

Rising above selfishness, we must bow down to the sufferings and the wounds of our fellow men. We must make them our own, knowing how to suffer with our brethren for the love of God. We must know how to instill hope into their hearts and bring back a smile to their lips, having restored a ray of light into their souls.

(KNEEL)

ALL: O God, show Yourself more and more to this poor heart of mine, and complete in me the work you have begun. I hear deep within me, a voice which says to me repeatedly – sanctify yourself and sanctify others.

-Padre Pio

NINTH STATION

Jesus Falls a Third Time

READER: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You,

(GENUFLECT)

ALL: Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

READER: Who will rise up for me against the wicked? Who will stand up for me against evildoers? If the Lord were not my help, I would long have been silent in the grave. When I say, "My foot is slipping," your mercy, Lord, holds me up. When cares increase within me, your comfort gives me joy. Psalms 94:16-19

St. Pio: I understand very well, that your Calvary is becoming more and more painful. But remember that it was on Calvary that Jesus redeemed us, and the salvation of redeemed souls must be accomplished there.

Our LORD sometimes makes you feel the weight of the Cross. This weight seems unbearable, but you carry it because, in His love and mercy, the LORD helps you and gives you strength.

Accept all the suffering and incomprehension that comes from Above. In this way you will perfect and sanctify yourself.

(KNEEL)

ALL: O God, show Yourself more and more to this poor heart of mine, and complete in me the work you have begun. I hear deep within me, a voice which says to me repeatedly – sanctify yourself and sanctify others.

-Padre Pio

TENTH STATION

Jesus Is Stripped of His Clothes

READER: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You,

(GENUFLECT)

ALL: Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

READER: The soldiers took Jesus' garments and made four parts, one for each soldier; also His tunic. But the tunic was without seam, woven from top to bottom; so they said to one another: "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfill the scripture, "They parted My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots." So the soldiers did this. 19:23-24

St. Pio: Everything, everything has disappeared from the intelligence, from the soul. An endless desert of darkness, of despondency, of numbness is the birthplace of death, the night of abandonment, the cave of desolation. This is where my poor soul finds itself far from God and all alone.

Tell our good God to do Himself what you cannot do. Say to Him, "Do You want more love from me? I have no more. Give me some more, and I'll offer it to You." Do not doubt. Jesus will accept the offering.

The angels are jealous of us for one thing only; they are not able to suffer for God. Only through suffering can a soul say with certainty, "My God, You see, I do love You.

(KNEEL)

ALL: O God, show Yourself more and more to this poor heart of mine, and complete in me the work you have begun. I hear deep within me, a voice which says to me repeatedly – sanctify yourself and sanctify others.

-Padre Pio

ELEVENTH STATION

Jesus Is Nailed to the Cross

READER: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You,

(GENUFLECT)

ALL: Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

READER: And when they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified Him and the criminals there, one on His right, the other on His left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do. Luke 23:33-34

St. Pio: Everyone on this earth has a cross; therefore, we must be careful not to be like the bad thief, but rather like the good one.

Yes, I love the Cross, the Cross alone; I love it because I see it always on Jesus' shoulders.

Therefore, undertake your salvation on the Cross. Stretch yourself out on it and be patient with yourself, because, in your patience, as the divine Master tells us, you will possess your soul. And the less this possession is mixed up with haste and restlessness, the more stable it will be.

Even our LORD on the Cross complained of the Father's abandonment. But did the Father ever, and could He ever really have abandoned His Son? These are the supreme trials of the spirit. Jesus wants them...

(KNEEL)

ALL: O God, show Yourself more and more to this poor heart of mine, and complete in me the work you have begun. I hear deep within me, a voice which says to me repeatedly – sanctify yourself and sanctify others.

-Padre Pio

TWELVETH STATION

Jesus Dies on the Cross

READER: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You,

(GENUFLECT)

ALL: Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

READER: It was now about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon because of an eclipse of the sun. Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father, into Your Hands I commend My Spirit." And when He had said this, He breathed His last. Luke 23:44-46

(KNEEL AND PAUSE)

Therefore, undertake your salvation on the Cross. Stretch yourself out on it and be patient with yourself, because, in your patience, as the divine Master tells us, you will possess your soul. And the less this possession is mixed up with haste and restlessness, the more stable it will be.

Even our LORD on the Cross complained of the Father's abandonment. But did the Father ever, and could He ever really have abandoned His Son? These are the supreme trials of the spirit. Jesus wants them...

(KNEEL)

ALL: O God, show Yourself more and more to this poor heart of mine, and complete in me the work you have begun. I hear deep within me, a voice which says to me repeatedly – sanctify yourself and sanctify others.

-Padre Pio

THIRTEENTH STATION

Jesus Is Taken Down from the Cross

READER: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You,

(GENUFLECT)

ALL: Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

READER: But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs, but one soldier thrust his lance into His side, and immediately blood and water flowed out. An eyewitness has testified, and his testimony is true; he knows that he is speaking the truth, so that you also may believe. For this happened so that the scripture passage might be fulfilled: "Not a bone of it will be broken." And again, another passage says: "They will look upon Him whom they have pierced." John 19:33-37

St. Pio: **Before the LORD abandons us, we should have to abandon Him; we should first have to close the door of our heart to Him, and even then, how many times does He not stretch out His hand to us to arrest our headlong dash towards the cliff! How many times, when we had abandoned Him, has He not readmitted us to His loving embrace!**

The example on which one should reflect and model one's self is Jesus Christ. But Jesus chose the Cross as His standard, so He wants all His followers to tread the path to Calvary, carrying the cross and then dying on It. Only this way do we reach salvation.

Jesus said to me, "How many times would you have abandoned Me, my son, if I had not crucified you. Beneath the Cross, one learns to love..."

(KNEEL)

ALL: O God, show Yourself more and more to this poor heart of mine, and complete in me the work you have begun. I hear deep within me, a voice which says to me repeatedly – sanctify yourself and sanctify others.

-Padre Pio

FOURTEENTH STATION

Jesus Is Laid in the Tomb

READER: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You,

(GENUFLECT)

ALL: Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

READER: And Joseph bought a linen shroud, and taking Him down, wrapped Him in the linen shroud and laid Him in a tomb. Mark 15:46

(KNEEL AND PAUSE)

St. Pio: Jesus permits the spiritual combat as a purification, not as a punishment. The trial is not unto death, but unto salvation.

You must by no means fear that the LORD will leave you at Satan's mercy. He is faithful and He never allows you to be tempted beyond your strength. He gives our enemy just as much power to torment you as serves His own fatherly plan for the sanctification of your soul and rebounds to the greater glory of His divine majesty.

Don't allow sadness to dwell in your soul, for sadness prevents the Holy Spirit from acting freely.

You seek your God; you sigh for Him, call Him, but cannot find Him. God seems to hide Himself, to abandon you. But, I repeat, do not fear. Jesus is with you then also, and you are in Him and with Him.

(KNEEL)

ALL: O God, show Yourself more and more to this poor heart of mine, and complete in me the work you have begun. I hear deep within me, a voice which says to me repeatedly – sanctify yourself and sanctify others.

-Padre Pio

FIFTEENTH STATION

Jesus Rises from the Tomb

READER: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You,

(GENUFLECT)

ALL: Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

READER: On the first day of the week, Mary Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. So, she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, "They have taken the LORD from the tomb, and we don't know where they put Him." So, Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first; he bent down and saw the burial clothes there, but did not go in. When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial clothes there, and the cloth that had covered His head, not with the burial clothes but rolled up in a separate place. Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and he believed. For they did not yet understand the scripture that He had to rise from the dead. John :1-9

St. Pio: Be totally resigned in the Hands of our LORD, giving Him your remaining years, and begging Him always, to fill them with preparations for a life which is pleasing to Him. Don't worry about useless promises of tranquility, enjoyment or merits, but present your hearts to your divine Spouse, totally emptying it of all other affections, except His divine love.

(KNEEL)

ALL: O God, show Yourself more and more to this poor heart of mine, and complete in me the work you have begun. I hear deep within me, a voice which says to me repeatedly – sanctify yourself and sanctify others.

-Padre Pio

ADDITIONAL QUOTES

On Prayer

Prayer is the best weapon we have. It is the key to God's Heart. You must speak to Jesus not only with your lips, but with your heart; in fact, on certain occasions, you should speak to Him only with your heart.

Souls are saved through continuous prayer.

Prayer must insistent since insistence denotes faith.

You cannot win the battle without prayer.

On the Mass

Each holy Mass heard with devotion, produces marvelous effects in our souls, spiritual and material graces, that we ourselves do not know.

On the Rosary

This is my weapon. With this, one wins the battles.

Always recite her Rosary. That is the armor against the evils of the world today.

On Mary

The shortcut... is the Virgin. The Holy Virgin is the perfect example of God's mercy on earth. She acts as His double. She is the one who brings us a ray of God's immensity and of divine powers.

On Heaven

Every sacrifice we make on earth will be recompensed. Heaven is total joy, continuous joy. We will be constantly thanking God. It's useless to try to figure out exactly what heaven is like, because we can't understand it, but when the veil of this life is taken off, we will understand things in a different way. No suffering, no matter how low the motive on which it rests will go unrewarded in eternal life.

Your child is in paradise, watching over you, assisting you, smiling on you, and preparing a place for you. (To a couple who lost their child)

On Suffering

When suffering is endured in a Christian spirit, it will sanctify you... Jesus Himself suffers in you and through you and with you.

The kingdom of Heaven is reached by prayer and suffering.

These are the trials of chosen souls whom God wants to put to the test when He sees they have the necessary strength to sustain the battle.

Rest assured that the more a soul is pleasing to God, the more it must be tried.

On Faith

The most beautiful credo is the one that burst forth from your lips in the dark, as a sacrifice, as a suffering, and with extreme effort to do right.

On Satan

The devil has but one door through which to enter into our soul; the will. There is no sin, if it has not been committed willfully.

Your temptations come from the devil, but your suffering and afflictions come from God... Despise the temptations and embrace the tribulation.

On Life

Life is nothing but a continual struggle against oneself, and it does not open to beauty without the price of suffering. Always keep Jesus company in Gethsemane and He will know how to comfort you in the hours of anguish that will come.

On Spiritual Children

I can forget myself, but I cannot forget my Children. I tell you that when the Lord calls me, I will stay at the door of Paradise and will tell Him, "Lord, I will not enter before I see that all my Children have entered."

When the Lord entrusts a soul to me, I place it on my shoulder and never let it go.

When I have lifted a soul, I don't let it fall down again.

When a soul approaches me, I take it. When I have taken a soul, I never let it go.

I belong entirely to everyone. Everyone can say: Padre Pio is mine.