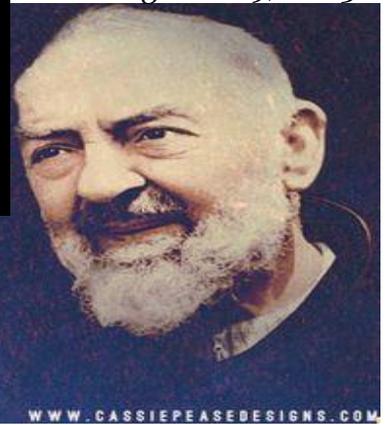


# Padre Pio Prayer Group



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## TIME WELL SPENT

When I want to get better at something or know more about it, I seek those who know more and are better at it. The same goes for spiritual things. Those who know more and are better at living the spiritual life, I call *Spiritual Giants*. There is a saying among Protestants: "For God to use a man greatly, He must first hurt him deeply." This process both purifies the soul and empties itself so God may do His work.

Scripture is filled with such people whose lives were crushed, so God could work in them. The Old Testament has King David, who spent time in the desert while being sought after by Saul, Joseph, turned Pharaoh, who spent three years in prison waiting for God's deliverance after his brothers sold him into slavery, and Abraham, who waited 70 years for God to deliver on His promise to give him a son. There is also Job, the ultimate broken man, who lost his family and wealth on the same day and later his health. His wife would say, "curse God and die" (NAV Job 2:9).

The New Testament has the apostle Paul. Before God could use him, Paul had to know who the Boss was. Our

LORD approached Saul (Paul's name before God crushed him) on the road to Damascus. Through a series of interventions, Saul learned who the Christian God truly was and received the new name Paul to signify the new man. Paul's name change was just the beginning of his new life. Our LORD constantly challenged Paul's knowledge and faith. Paul had much to atone for, and spent the rest of his life doing it. His life as a Pharisee had to end, so that the life of God could begin. Paul would go on to evangelize the world.

In our time, we have St. Faustina, St. Mother Teresa and, of course, St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina. Each saint learned to surrender themselves and to say as Paul: "I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me" (NAV Gal 2:20).

St. Faustina wrote in her diary, "He, LORD of unfathomable mercy, knows that I desire Him alone in all things, always and everywhere."<sup>5</sup>

St. Mother Teresa said it this way: "I will drink the Chalice to the last drop."<sup>6</sup>

St. Padre Pio, in a discussion with the

## PIO'S CORNER

Padre Pio Testimony: On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, my mom, Victorina, was admitted to St. Mary's Hospital with a fever, chills, and great abdominal pain. Blood work, and a CT scan determined that she had an intestinal infection, kidney infection, bladder infection, and was dehydrated. There was suspicion of liver cancer, so blood markers were ordered but the results would not be available for at least two weeks. The hospital started her on IV hydration, plus three different sets of antibiotics. However, her pain was so great, that she would continue to have nausea and vomiting in spite of hydration and the medications. Doctors

<sup>5</sup> Michalenko, St. Sophia, C.M.G.T. *The life of Faustina Kowalska: The Authorized Biography*. (Cincinnati: St. Anthony Messenger Press, 1987).

<sup>6</sup> Kolodiejchuk, Brian M.C. (e.d.). *Mother Teresa: come be my light*. (New York: Doubleday, 2007).



Father, wrote:

Pio: "Father, you love what I fear."

Reply: "I do not love suffering itself."

Pio: "I ask God for it. I desire it for the fruits it gives me; it gives me glory to God. It saves my brethren in exile. It frees souls from the fires of Purgatory. What more do You want? Father, what is suffering?"

Reply: "Expiation. And what is it for you?"

Pio: "My daily bread, my delight!"<sup>1</sup>

St. Pio in his early years suffered physically through headaches, fevers, constant vomiting, and demonic attacks. These were the "breaking" of a man who God would greatly use until there would be no more Francesco Forgione, only Padre Pio.

How did these people survive? What kept their faith from dissolving into nothingness? Or worse, hatred towards God? Were they any different from us in character? Did the times they lived in tear at them as ours does us? Did they have fewer distractions? Responsibilities? Surely, they were better at knowing God than us!

I believe the difference between us and them is this: they learned to say yes to God. They *chose* to believe in him, despite what they felt or what they saw. Their time was spent learning to obey, accepting the pillar to which they were tied, and ultimately, opening their arms to the cross God had given them, laying down on it, and saying, "I desire Him only,"<sup>2</sup> "I will drink the Chalice to the last drop,"<sup>3</sup> and "I desire it for the fruits it gives me."<sup>4</sup>

Each cross we bear, every pillar we are tied to, is our commitment to follow Him as our example, in order to offer ourselves as living sacrifices and to be a victim and unite our pain to His on the Cross, thereby saving a soul.

How do you spend your time? Will you be ready when our LORD begins the breaking in your life if He has not already? Is your foundation built to withstand the scourging of life, the burden of the cross He chooses for you? The world has many delights, temptations, and distractions that hold your mind, body, and soul. Will they be enough to sustain you in the Battle? Our LORD said, "Take courage. I have conquered the world" (ASV John 16:33). You can say the same, but you must live in Him to do it. You must be crucified to the world. You must seek out the *Spiritual Giants* that have been and continue to be crushed. Is He making you into a Spiritual Giant, too? Will you learn the way of St. Faustina, Mother Teresa, or Padre Pio? Who do you spend your time with?

## CHARITABLE WORKS

***"To lack charity is to wound the pupil of God's eye. What is more delicate than the pupil of the eye? To lack charity is like sinning against nature."***

***-Padre Pio***

Continue to serve as needed in the parish, community, and at work

discharged my mom on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day, which was on October 7<sup>th</sup>, due to "normal" labs, however, she was still feeling very sick. My mom went home with the antibiotics and pain medication, which she completed.

Two weeks later, on October 19<sup>th</sup>, my mom was back in the hospital with the same symptoms. Once again the tests were run. The liver markers were not yet back, but this time, the blood tests came back inconclusive. As you might imagine, my mom was very frustrated, and we felt helpless due to our inability to relieve her pain and suffering. It seemed as though technology and medicine weren't working.

It was suggested by Mike Moncayo, our Padre Pio group leader, to take Padre Pio's relic to my mom, and to pray for her healing. My friend and group member, Ann Clark, also gifted me her *Padre Pio's Devotions* book so that I could pray the Padre Pio's Healing Prayer over my mom. Looking back, it seems appropriate to know that Padre Pio's mantra

<sup>1</sup> Scaramuzzi, Bro. Francesco (e.d.). *Have a good day!* (5<sup>th</sup> ed.) (San Giovanni Rotondo: Edizioni "Padre Pio Pietrelcina," 2018).

<sup>2</sup> Michalenko. *The life of Faustina Kowalska*.

<sup>3</sup> Kolodiejchuk. *Mother Teresa*.

<sup>4</sup> Scaramuzzi. *Have a good day!*



## REPARATIONS

*“I want to see you as a living sacrifice of love, which only then carries the weight before Me... and great will be your power for whomever your intercede.”*

*-Jesus to St. Faustina*

Offered by the group:

- Attend Mass weekly
- Attend one daily Mass
- Attend Reconciliation on the first Saturday of each month
- Complete one Rosary per day
- Attend Adoration for one hour on the first Friday of each month
- Works of charity

*“My sacrifice, O LORD, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart God, You will not despise.”*  
*Psalm 51:17*

## MONTHLY INTENTIONS

*“Prayer is the key to God’s heart. It is the best weapon we have.”*

*-Padre Pio*

1. Young Adults
2. Spouses
3. Souls in Purgatory
4. Military
5. Teens
6. Presentation to Parish
7. Pope: **The Integrity of Justice:** That those who administer justice may work with integrity, and that the injustice which prevails in the world may not have the last word.

<http://popesprayerusa.net/2019/06/06/july-pope-video-mode-life-priests/>



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is to “pray, hope and don’t worry.” So, with a lot of hope and a lot of prayers, and with a little bit of worry, I brought the relics and the prayer book to pray over my mom for healing. I translated the prayer from English to Spanish, and she repeated after me. It wasn’t until we finished the prayers that my mom began to share about her own devotion and knowledge of Padre Pio. She began sharing facts about his life, and his gifts as a very spiritual priest. And then with a sudden excitement says to me, “Let’s go visit Padre Pio in San Giovanni?!” My mom was on a slow recovery, and feeling optimistic about her healing.

The cancer markers returned normal, and the proposed surgery for a prolapsed bladder was ruled out. Mom continues to take care of her health today, and we pray for her continued healing. It is with thanksgiving to God, Padre Pio’s intercession, and my fellow prayer group’s members and acts of reparation for her healing that I share her story with you.

Arminda Escobar