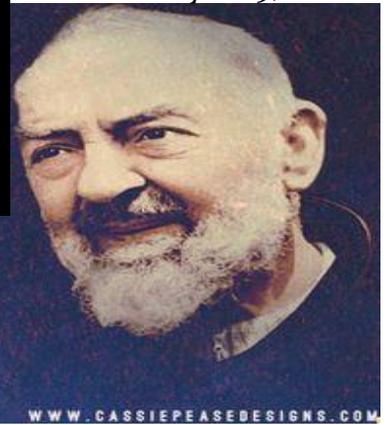


Padre Pio Prayer Group



THE WRONG END OF SUFFERING

When we think of sacrifice, we think of pain. When we are offered opportunities to sacrifice for others, we say, "Oh, that is more than I am able to do...the cost is too high...I am too busy." And, in our humanity, that is normal. This is what our LORD struggled with in His humanity in the Garden. "Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as Thou wilt" (RSVCE Matthew 26:39).¹

In our sacrifice we look at the wrong end. Let me tell you a story.

I got a call from the babysitter of my son's children. They were all walking in Macy's department store when it happened. My son fell onto the floor. When the security guard tried to help him up, my son pushed him away. It was then the guard smelled the liquor on my son. The helping guard became the security guard he was paid to be, and tossed my son out the store. My grandkids were horrified. But, they saw this a lot at home. My son is an alcoholic. His alcoholism caused the kids to be taken away from him. That call broke the heart of a parent.

At that moment, I cried to the LORD to let me take his pain, to let me carry

it and bare it so he can be well. What parent would not run into a burning building to save their child from the flames, indeed, become a human shield against the flames to protect their child? In that moment, no parent is saying, "The cost is too high... that is more than I am able to do."

We focus on the wrong end of suffering.

When she called, I did not see the high cost of sacrifice. In fact, I sought the opposite. I begged our LORD for healing, and asked what He wanted me to do. What could I give Him to save my son? I would pay any cost!

In my prayer time, I remembered the loneliness of our LORD in the Garden, saying to the disciples, "Could you not wait one hour with Me?" What I heard was, "Peter. John. I hurt. I struggle. I am lonely. Stay with Me. I need your companionship." The answer to my question came.

"Spend time with Me. I need your companionship."

I gave what I felt would be the hardest for me do: three hours in the early

PIO'S CORNER

The stories of Saint Pio of Pietrelcina are many. The Corner is dedicated to the many interventions he has wrought throughout the years, both past and present. I begin with my own.

Anyone who is a Spiritual Child of Padre Pio, as he is affectionately called, has a story. Mine began a few years ago when I was reading the life of Saint Mother Teresa. Hers was a life of sacrifice and devotion to the Madonna, and to the Call within a Call. This Call within a Call was to answer our LORD's request, "Come be My Light in the slums of Calcutta." This was my introduction to Redemptive Suffering: the act of offering one's suffering for the healing of another in their spiritual, emotional and/or physical life.

¹ *The Bible*. Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition (RSVCE) (Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America, 1966).



morning from 12am to 3am the first Friday of the month for Adoration. I struggled, and did not always stay awake, but I was there. My son was with me, in spirit, as were all those I brought with me, to the garden to be with Jesus.

The secret to sacrifice is love and motivation. We do because we love. We love, therefore, we do. And we sacrifice for those we love. Our LORD said to Saint Faustina, "There is but one price a soul is bought: suffering united to My suffering on the Cross."²

We focus on the wrong end of sacrifice.

Jesus fought the knowledge of what He knew was to come. Instead, our LORD focused on His love for us in His torment and suffering for the healing it would bring. It is called The Passion of the Christ. We are called to participate in that Passion, and thereby complete His afflictions (RSVCE Col 24:16).³ We lack only the person God is calling us to suffer for. Or, we dismiss suffering as, "too high a cost... too busy."

When our LORD said, "There is no greater love than this, that a man should lay down his life for his friends" (RSVCE John 15:13).⁴ He stated His own sacrificial love for us.

Who is He calling you to suffer for? When you find them, look at the right end of suffering, the end with healing.

Healing came, and is coming to him. My son is on the road to recovery. He has our grandkids back with him.

MONTHLY INTENTIONS

"I have never made more progress in the spiritual life as when I began to devote myself to praying for others."

-St. Therese of Lisieux

1. Family
2. Intentions of the Holy Father: That the church in Africa, through the commitment of its members, may be the seed of unity among her peoples and a sign of hope for this continent.

<http://popesprayerusa.net>

CHARITABLE WORKS

"Come be My Light. In your immolation of Me, and your love for Me, they will see me, and know Me."

-Mother Teresa

1. Continue to serve as needed in the community and at work
2. Be a light in a dark world for others

St. Faustina's Divine Mercy became a fixed prayer in my life at this time. She embodied Redemptive Suffering through her relationship with Christ.

In my reading of Redemptive Suffering, the person of Padre Pio was often referenced. Between his movies, documentaries and devotionals, I sought him.

I have always believed that to improve oneself, one should surround themselves with those who are better at the thing you want to improve at. In the world of spirituality, I call them Spiritual Giants. Padre Pio was definitely a Spiritual Giant. He had one foot in this world, the other in Heaven. He had answers to questions I had not even thought to ask. But, he had one answer that no one could ever adequately answer, especially after the tragedy of 9/11. Why is their suffering? And what is its purpose?

When I read in Dianne Allen's book, *Pray, Hope and Don't Worry* (vol. 2), I asked Padre Pio to be my Spiritual Father. I asked him to show me he had accepted my request. A week later, I received at my doorstep a package. In it were 12 Padre Pio Rosaries. Now, mind you, I had ordered once before from this website. They had my address and past order information. Yet, I had not ordered these Rosaries. Nor, had anyone

² Michalenko, Sr. Sophia. *The Life of Faustina Kowalska* (Cincinnati: St. Anthony Messenger Press, 1987).

³ *The Bible*. RSVCE.

⁴ *Ibid*.



REPARATIONS

"I recall that I have received most light during Adoration which I made lying prostrate before the Blessed Sacrament for half an hour everyday throughout Lent."

-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

Recommendations:

- Recite the Divine Mercy at the three o'clock hour daily
- Consecrate yourself to Mother Mary
- Read any of the Padre Pio books (see website for recommendation)
- Read scripture starting with the gospel of John
- Start a devotional book (see website for recommendation)
- Complete St. Ignatius *Examine* daily (app)

in my household. I called the company to ask. They had no record of them being sent.

I took that as a "Yes" from Padre Pio. The journey from that point has been adventurous. There are more stories to share about "The Padre" as I affectionately call him. This is what Pio's Corner is all about. I invite you to submit your stories, as we all have a story with The Padre.

"I want to see you as a living sacrifice of love, which only then carries weight before Me... and great will be your power for whomever you intercede."
Jesus to St. Faustina

"If we only knew how God regards this Sacrifice,
we would
risk our lives
to be present at a
single Mass.

-St. Pio of Pietrelcina

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