

March 2013

I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish ... (Luke 13: 1-9)

We must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again...(Luke 15:1-32)

Let the one among you without sin, be the first to throw a stone at her. John 8: 1-11)

Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord. (Luke 19: 28-40)

My kingdom does not belong to this world...I was born...to testify to the truth. (Passion according to John)

Why do you seek the living one among the dead? He is not here, but He has been raised. (Luke 24: 1-12)

St. Pio of Pietrelcina, spiritual father of countless souls who seek a deeper relationship with God, your resignation to the Father's Will, often manifested through the decisions of the Church and your religious superiors, teach us humility. Pray that we may be among those humble souls to whom the Eternal Father, through His Incarnate Son Jesus, promised to reveal the mysteries of His Kingdom. Through your love and concern for those who suffer in mind and body, teach us to recognize with the eyes of faith the face of our Lord Jesus Christ Who makes Himself known in the poor and suffering.

1

Faith also guides us, and we follow securely in its light the way which leads to God.

2

There are times when I am assailed by violent temptations against faith ... my will does not yield.

3

(In the midst of temptations against faith) I tremble and do violence to myself, and am certain that by God's grace I don't fall.

4

May the grace of the divine Spirit be more and more superabundant in your heart.

5

How is it that when I am with Jesus I do not remember everything I had firmly resolved to ask him?

6

The Lord only allows me to recall the persons and things he wants me to remember.

7

When Jesus does not want to answer me, he makes me actually forget to pray for those persons for whom I had firmly decided and intended to pray.

8

(Guardian Angel to Padre Pio) I am always hovering around you with the affection aroused by your gratitude to the Beloved of your heart.

9

I know that your generous heart beats all the time for the One we both love; you would cross every mountain and every desert to search for him.

10

Courage! ... This day of (God's coming) will not be long in coming ... This beautiful day is already on its way, and happy are those who will be able to shout with joy.

11

This beautiful day (of God's coming) cannot be the work of anyone but God, and God will make it be for the resurrection of many and the triumph of his glory.

12

My (child), you do not know the effects of obedience...For a single 'yes' ... to do God's will, Mary became the mother of the Most High.

13

Thanks to this 'yes' pronounced by Mary Most Holy, the world obtained salvation, and humanity was redeemed

14

Let us always do God's will and always say yes to the Lord.

15

You will never complain about offenses, no matter where they come from, remembering that Jesus was saturated with

ignominy from the malice of men he himself aided.

16

You will excuse everyone with Christian charity, keeping before your eyes the example of the divine Master, who excused even his crucifiers before the Father.

17

Jesus wants (you) all for himself. Stir up (your) faith, then, and throw (yourself) with sublime abandonment into the arms of God, and God will carry out the plans he has for (you).

18

May God accept the homage of (our) gratitude.

19

May he be blessed and honored and glorified a thousand times, praised in heaven and on earth as he deserves.

20

How fine a thing it is ... to be able to live according to what the Lord disposes!

21

The spiritual combats are pressing on me relentlessly. Darkness is followed by darkness, and spiritual blindness has become pitch darkness for me ...

22

What we will give to the Lord in return for what he gives us?

23

May Jesus be thanked, loved, and blessed by heaven and earth. And may this most sweet God of ours always smile on your heart ...

24

The loving anxiety with which my soul rushes toward God ... leaps up to an enormous height in my soul ... it seems as if all my bones were dried up by this longing.

25

Let us keep before our minds what goes to make up real holiness.

26

Holiness means getting above ourselves; it means perfect mastery of all our passions.

27

(Holiness) means having real and continual contempt for ourselves and the things of the world, to the point of preferring poverty rather than wealth, humiliation rather than glory, suffering rather than pleasure.

28

Holiness means loving our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God.

29

Holiness means loving those who curse us, who hate us and persecute us, and even doing good to them.

30

Holiness means living humbly, being disinterested, prudent, just, patient, kind, chaste, meek, and diligent, carrying out one's duties for no other reason than that of pleasing God ...

31

Cast aside worries, dismiss sinister judgments. God is in you and with you. What then do you fear?

ALLELUIA! He is Risen! ALLELUIA!

Lenten Journey

Lord Jesus Christ, you gather your people during this holy season of Lent, and you call us to repent and believe the Gospel. Remove any barriers that keep us from you so that we might live fully the life we received at Baptism and carry our cross each day. You have given us Padre Pio of Pietrelcina as a modern image of the Suffering Savior, our Lord Jesus Christ. Through his intercession and your divine grace, may we turn to you in our need, thank you in our abundance, and share your love with the world around us. Amen.

Litany of the Stations of the Cross

I Lord Jesus, that I may see the people in my life through your eyes, and not the eyes of a Pontius Pilate, who washed his hands of responsibility, **through Your life-giving Sacrifice, and the intercession of Padre Pio, grant me this grace.** (*)

II Lord Jesus, that I may embrace the crosses of my life, so that in recognizing my weaknesses I may discover Your strengths, (*)

III Lord Jesus, that I may always trust in Your loving care for me, even when I fall, (*)

IV Lord Jesus, that I may recognize how often You love me through the people in my life, as Mary loved you, and that I may always keep our Blessed Mother Mary, who accompanies me in life's journey, in my heart, (*)

V Lord Jesus, that I may acknowledge that loving others and assisting them in their need is the surest way to find and recognize You in my life, as Simon of Cyrene did, (*)

VI Lord Jesus, that I may have a deeper and more courageous faith to be unafraid to reach out to

others, as Veronica did to You, (*)

VII Lord Jesus, that I may never hide behind pride, and that I may be ready and willing to begin again after my repeated falls, (*)

VIII Lord Jesus, that I may show compassion to others in their sorrow or need, and place my sorrow or need second to theirs for a while, (*)

IX Lord Jesus, that I may recognize how much I need You, and rely on Your strength in the many difficulties and pit-falls of life, (*)

X Lord Jesus, that I may let go of those things that prevent me from growing closer to You, (*)

XI Lord Jesus, that I may see Your cross as the great sign of Your love for me, as did our Spiritual Father, Padre Pio of Pietrelcina, (*)

XII Lord Jesus, that I may see my crosses as ways of loving You and dying to myself, (*)

XIII Lord Jesus, that I may learn to place my life in Your hands, and not fear seeming unimportant, useless, helpless...as You allowed Your lifeless body to be placed in the hands of Mary, (*)

XIV Lord Jesus, that I may always believe in Your closeness and loving presence, especially when You seem distant from me, (*)

Concluding Prayers

Lord Jesus, help me to walk with You each day of my life, even to Calvary. The sorrow and joy, the pain and healing, the failures and triumphs of my life are truly small deaths and resurrections that lead me closer to You. Give me the faith and trust I need to walk with You always.

Mary, Mother of our Redeemer and our most Blessed Mother, be with us through life's journey. As you comforted Jesus on the road to Calvary by your silent and loving presence, as you held his lifeless body close to your immaculate heart, as you offered the sadness and suffering that only a mother can feel when she sees the suffering of her child, look upon me as you looked at Jesus. See His marred image in my frail nature; hold me close to your mother's heart in my moments of temptation and sin; and pray for me that I may be for God what I was created to be, a **LIVING IMAGE OF JESUS**. Amen.

Padre Pio of Pietrelcina, loving Father and Spiritual Guide, in this most holy season of Lent, be with us. By a singular grace you were blessed to participate in the mystery of the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. Through your ministry, God revealed the marvels of His mercy to numberless souls. Pray for us, that like you, and through your loving intercession we may remain one with Christ in his Passion so as to joyfully attain come with you to the glory of the Resurrection. Intercede for us with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who is God for ever and ever. Amen.

(On Easter Sunday, if you pray these prayers remembering the Passion and Death of our Savior, add the following as closing prayer in praise of the Resurrection))

Lord Jesus Christ, my Savior and Redeemer, in Whose Passion-Death-Resurrection I have been given the gift of New Life, through Your glorious Resurrection, may I live in the gift of Your love, joy and peace, and witness the New Life You offer all those for whom you underwent your cruel Passion and who believe in You as their Lord and Savior, living and reigning with the Father

**and the Holy Spirit, one God,
for ever and ever. Amen.**