

April 2014

I am the resurrection and the life. (John 11: 1-45)
Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. (Matthew 21: 1-11)
As I have done for you, you should also do. (John 13: 1-15)
It is finished. (John 18:1 - 19:42)
Do not be afraid! ... He has been raised just as he said. (Matthew 28: 1-10)
He saw and believed. (John 20: 1-9)
Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed. (John 20" 19-31)

Padre Pio of Pietrelcina, pure father, you loved your Spiritual Children very much. How many of your children were acquired at the price of your blood! Pray that we who have not known you personally, may also be numbered among your Spiritual Children. Through your fatherly protection, saintly guidance, and the spiritual strength you gain for us from God, at the moment of our death may we encounter you waiting for us at the Gates of Paradise.

- 1 Do not say that you are alone in climbing Calvary... for Jesus is with you and will never abandon you.
- 2 Live in holy joy.
- 3 Give spiritual comfort kindly and graciously.
- 4 Be tender, mild, and amiable.
- 5 Love with a cordial...love ... and you will be all things to all people.
- 6 The Lord ... will give you the help, strength, courage, and love you require.
- 7 To (the Lord) alone be honor, glory, and blessings at all times.
- 8 Live completely inn Jesus, for he loves your soul very much.
- 9 May Jesus continue to be totally yours.
- 10 May (Jesus) comfort you in your every affliction and render you always more worthy of his divine embraces.
- 11 I exhort you not to doubt divine pleasure in your regard.
- 12 Confide, therefore, and humble yourself always under the hand of the divine craftsman, and let yourself be guided as he pleases.
- 13 What else can we desire than God's will?
- 14 What else do you desire, then, if not that God's plan be fulfilled in you?
- 15 Take courage, therefore, and go forward on the path of divine love...
- 16 (Have) the firm conviction that the more fully your own will becomes united and conformed to God's will, the more you will advance toward perfection.
- 17 Let us keep our thoughts continually fixed on heaven, our true homeland, of which this earth is merely an image.
- 18 Jesus is and will always be yours.
- 19 Don't abstain from working for the good of others, but neither should you neglect your own spiritual betterment.
- 20

Jesus will always sustain you in everything.

21

What a good thing it is to stay close to (Jesus)!... We must place all our desires and affections there.

22

Raise our heart always to heavenly heights, and do all you can to attain that eternal beatitude which awaits us.

23

This present life should be lived in the light of eternal life.

24

The children of God touch this truth (to live the present in light of eternity) with their very hands their whole lives.

25

May the heavenly Child always be at the center of your heart; may he govern it, enlighten it, and transform it to his eternal love!

26

Take care to render (your heart), daily, more and more pleasing to our most sweet Savior.

27

We must redouble our courage and raise our spirit to God, serving him with greater diligence in everything that our vocation and Christian perfection require of us.

28

We should always keep before our mental gaze our (Christian) state and not stop advancing in this beautiful virtue (of simplicity).

29

But we will never advance even a single step in this virtue (simplicity) if we do not strive to live in a holy and immutable peace.

30

Jesus' yoke is easy and his burden light, so we should not allow the enemy to creep into our hearts and rob us of this peace.

April - Month of the Redemption

*(From April 1st until April 19th (Holy Saturday) included, continue to use the Prayers and Stations of the Cross suggested for the month of March. ... From April 20th (Easter Sunday) until the end of the month, recite the Prayers and Litany of the Stations of Joy suggested for the Easter Season. **Please, remember that these devotional prayers and practices are only suggestions. How and when you recite them, if you choose to do so, are not requisites of being associates in the Padre Pio Prayer Groups.)***

The 15 "Stations of Joy"

From Resurrection to Pentecost

(The "Stations of Joy" each commemorate one of the passages in Scripture when the Resurrected Jesus tried tenderly to convince us of His Resurrection, to change our sorrows into joys. A sad Christian is not a convincing Christian... let us try to pray and live these "Stations of Joy" during the glorious Paschal time, from Easter Sunday to Pentecost. The 40 days of Lent are the most devoted ones for a Christian, but the next 40 days of Paschal time, from the Resurrection to the Ascension, should be the most joyful, ending 10 days later with the glory of Pentecost...the Scriptural citations after each Station of Joy are offered for anyone who might desire to use a Station a day as a personal point of meditation)

Litany of the Stations of Easter Joy

(*) Indicates the refrain to be said after each Station: ***THROUGH YOUR GLORIOUS RESURRECTION, GRANT ME THIS GRACE, LORD JESUS.***

I Lord, through Your glorious *Resurrection*, may I live in the gift of Your love, joy and peace, and witness the NewLife You offer those who believe in You. (*) [Mt.28, Mk.16, Lk.24/28, Jn.20-21]

II Lord, through Your encounter with *Mary Magdalene* after Your Resurrection, may I hear You speak my name each day in the depths of my heart and respond by proclaiming Your love to others in my life. (*) [Jn.20, Mt.28, Mk.16]

III Lord, through Your encounter with the other *Holy Women* and instruction to tell the Good News to the disciples of Your Resurrection, may I be fearless in proclaiming my Faith in You to everyone. (*) [Mt.28,8-10; Lk.24, 10-11]

IV Lord, through Your encounter with *Two Disciples from Emmaus* who were enlightened on the road and recognized You in the Breaking of the Bread, may I hear Your Word with an open heart and always acknowledge You truly present in

the Sacrament of the Altar. May I joyfully acknowledge You without hesitation as the two of Emmaus did. (*) [Lk.24: 13-35]

V Lord, through the *Peace, Pardon, and the Paraclete's* grace You offered as the first gifts of Your Resurrection, may I cooperate with God's grace and be a source of forgiveness and peace to others. (*) [Jn.20: 21-23]

VI Lord, through Your manifestation to the *Doubting Thomas*, may I come to recognize You in the wounds and scars of those who suffer in any way, and acknowledge You before all people as *My Lord, and My God*. (*) [Jn.20: 24-28]

VII Lord, through Your appearance and concern for the needs of the *Apostles who went fishing* and Your eating with them as a sign that it was truly You alive, grant that I recognize You in the ordinary moments of life and trust that You assist me in my needs. Let my faith in You be proof enough for me. (*) [Jn.21,1-14]

VIII Lord, through Your loving encounter with *Peter on the Shore and Entrusting to Him the Responsibility to Shepherd Your Flock*, may I always be faithful to the Church and those called to Shepherd Your people, that I may never forget that where there is Peter, there is the Church, and where there is the Church, there are You Who guide guard and protect us through our shepherds. (*) [Jn.21: 15-17]

IX Lord, through Your loving encounter with *Mary Your Mother after Your Glorious Resurrection*, may I always foster a deep love and devotion for our Heavenly Mother. May I celebrate her exalted place in the mystery of our salvation, and confide in Her almighty intercession for all God's children. (*) [Jn.20, Act.1]

X Lord, You commanded Your followers to *Go and Preach the Gospel to all Creation*. May I be a living Gospel of peace and blessings to all that through my words and actions others may come to know, love and serve You. (*) [Mt.28: 19-20]

XI Lord, through the *Five "Signs" of a Christian*, may I cast out the demons of addiction and inappropriate life; speak the language of love, joy and peace; be fearless before the serpents of hatred, jealousy and unfaithfulness, remain unharmed by the poison of slander, injustice, sickness; be a healing touch for those who find life wearisome and lonely. (*) [Mk.16: 17-18]

XII Lord, You *Promised to Remain Always With Us*. May I trust in Your Presence and find strength and courage in knowing that You are always with me, to guide, guard and protect me. (*) [Mt.28: 19-20]

XIII Lord, through Your *Glorious Ascension* to the Right Hand of the Father, may I look to the heavens for strength and protection as I confidently keep my feet well-grounded on earth, fulfilling whatever the Will of the Father entrusted to me for His glory, my salvation, and the good of others. (*) [Jn.6:53; Mt.6:11]

XIV Lord, through Your Promise that Your *Followers would be Baptized in the Holy Spirit* to be witnesses of the Resurrection to all the world, may I be truly wise and always follow the Father's Will through the guidance and inspiration of the Holy Spirit in my life. (*) [Act.1:4-8; 12-15]

XV Lord, through the *Descent of the Holy Spirit* on the Early Christian Community gathered in the Upper Room together with Mary, may my heart burn with an inner fire of love and enthusiasm for the Faith, that in the gifts and the fruits of the Holy Spirit, I may fearlessly proclaim that You are Jesus, Son of God, Lord and Savior, in Whose Name we find salvation. (*) [Act.2]

LORD JESUS, help me to walk with You each day of my life. The sorrow and joy, the pain and healing, the failures and triumphs of my life are small personal deaths and resurrections that lead me closer to You. Give me the faith and trust I need to walk with You in the new life Your Resurrection brings. May I journey with You to Calvary and beyond, that I may share in the fruits of Your Glorious Resurrection. With Padre Pio to accompany me, I patiently and joyfully confide and trust in You, my Lord and Risen Savior, in Whose Name I find salvation and eternal Life. You live forever. Amen.

MARY, MOTHER OF OUR REDEEMER and our most Blessed Mother, be with me always. You comforted Jesus on the road to Calvary by your silent and loving presence; 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 on me as you looked at Jesus. Hold me close to your mother's heart in my moments of temptation and sin, that His marred image in my frail nature, may not succumb to temptation and sin. Pray for me that I may be a LIVING IMAGE OF JESUS alive and well in the heart of one who believes and loves Him...Dear Mother, You were a constant support and strength to our Father, Padre Pio, throughout his lifelong Calvary, until he came to the promised reward offered all God's faithful children. Accompany me, that I also may share in the graces and joys of the Resurrection.

PADRE PIO OF PIETRELCINA, 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 me, that like you, and through your loving intercession I may remain with Christ in His Passion so as to joyfully attain with you to the glory of the Resurrection. Intercede for me with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who is God for ever. Amen.