

March 2014

Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides. (Matthew 6:24-34)
Perform righteous deeds...when you pray...when you fast...Your Father who sees in secret will repay you. (Matthew 6:1-18)
Get away Satan! The Lord your God shall you worship and Him alone shall you serve. (Matthew 4: 1-11)
This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him. (Matthew 17: 1-9)
True worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and in truth... (John 4: 5-42)
While I am in the world, I am the light of the world. (John 9: 1-41)

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

How can we fail to rejoice when we find ourselves involved in many combats, knowing as we do that every victory achieved has a corresponding degree of glory?

2

May the thought of eternal bliss with Jesus and of being made similar to the Son of God encourage you and prevent you from yielding to the enemy's temptations.

3

You do well to desire the reconciliation ... and you will do better if you make efforts to bring it about.

4

Don't be unduly distressed.

5

Don't be daunted by the cross.

6

The surest test of love consists in suffering for the loved one.

7

If God suffered so much for love, the pain we suffer for Him becomes as lovable as love itself.

8

In the troubles which the Lord bestows on you, be patient and conform yourself gladly to the divine Heart in the knowledge that all is a continual game on the part of your Lover.

9

Tribulations and trials have always been the heritage and the portion of chosen souls.

10

The more Jesus intends to raise a soul up to perfection, the more he tries it by suffering.

11

The more you are afflicted, the more you ought to rejoice, because in the fire of tribulation the soul will become pure gold, worthy to be placed and to shine in the heavenly palace.

12

Take heart ... you are what you are in our Lord, your sadness will be in peace.

13

May love mitigate your suffering.

14

Are you not aware that Jesus is content with you and that you are very dear to his divine heart?

15

You should be busy about one thing only, namely, continual progress in holy charity.

16

(Jesus) wishes you to grow more and more in charity by perfecting your own soul, by bringing new souls to him all the time, and also by leading on to perfection those souls who are already in his sanctifying grace.

17

When aided by Jesus, what is the creature not capable of doing?

18

In contemplating the cross of his shoulders, I feel more and more fortified, and exult with a holy joy.

19

I feel within me the great need to cry out louder and louder to Jesus with the doctor of grace (St. Augustine): *Give me what you*

command and command what you will.

20

Do not allow the idea of my sufferings to cast a shadow on your spirits or to sadden your heart.

21

I desire to suffer more and more without the slightest consolation. In this consists all my joy.

22

Unfortunately, I am in need of courage, but Jesus will not refuse anything.

23

Jesus will not refuse anything. I can testify to this from long experience, as long as we do not stop asking him for what we need.

24

May Jesus always be the peaceful King of our heart, and may he grant you all the spiritual benefits you desire and earnestly wish for the souls of others. Amen.

25

May the heavenly Child always be at the center of your heart. May he sustain it, enlighten it, inspire it, and transform it to his eternal love!

26

May Jesus continue to grant his graces to all, especially to you, giving you courage and resignation up to the last day of your pilgrimage!

27

I recommend calm and resignation always to the divine will, being certain that, as it is Jesus' will that your soul should experience these terrible trials, in the end all will work out for the glory of God and your salvation.

28

If you have neither sufficient gold nor incense to offer our Lord, you will at least have the myrrh of bitterness. And I perceive that he willingly accepts this...

29

Jesus glorified is beautiful; but even though he is so in that state, he seems to me to be even more beautiful crucified.

30

In what sore straits does God place the soul that loves him ardently without ever growing weary!

31

So not say you are alone in climbing Calvary and that you are all alone as you struggle and weep, for Jesus is with you and will never abandon you.

Lenten Journey

Lord Jesus Christ, You call us to repent and believe the Gospel. Remove the barriers that keep us from you so that we might live fully the life we received at Baptism. You have given us Padre Pio of Pietrelcina as the living image of the Suffering Servant for our times. He bore the wounds of Your Passion, Lord Jesus Christ, and thus became a support and encouragement for us as we are called to carry our daily crosses. 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. We ask this of You who live with the Father and Holy Spirit, one God, forever. Amen.

Lord Jesus, may I walk this Way of the Cross with you, in the spirit of Padre Pio of Pietrelcina. May each step heighten within me a realization and love for all You endured for me. In the words of St. Alphonsus Liguori: *Grant that I may love You always, then do with me as you will.*

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 see 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 see that loving others and assisting them in their need is the surest way to find and recognize You in my life, as Simon 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.