

December 2014

Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know the hour when the time will come. (Mark 13: 33-37)

I send my messenger before you to prepare your way. (Mark 1: 1-8)

Rejoice always! ... In all circumstances give thanks. (1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24)

Make straight the way of the Lord. (John 1: 6-8, 19-28)

You shall bear a son ... called Son of the Most High ... for nothing is impossible with God. (Luke 1: 26-38)

The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. (John 1: 1-18)

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon him. (Luke 2: 22-40)

Father in heaven, You sent Saint Pio of Pietrelcina, as once You sent the Baptist of old, to come into the spiritual wilderness of our world. You sent him as a messenger to prepare people's hearts for the Lord to enter them. Through Padre Pio's intercession grant that I may be fertile ground in which Your Word may enter and live. As Spiritual Children of Your elected soul, Saint Pio of Pietrelcina, grant that we may live in Your most holy will and graces. May Your Son Jesus, Whose signs of His loving acceptance of Your most Holy Will Padre Pio bore with love, be for us always the Way to walk, the Truth to speak, and the Life to live. As we joyfully celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus, may we follow the prompting of the Holy Spirit, live more fully the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, and thus come to You, the Father and Source of all Life, Whose love for us endures for ever and ever. Amen.

1

Do not let the persecutions from the world and all those who live without Jesus Christ deter you from following the road trodden by the saints.

2

Continue to run up the steep slope of the mountain of holiness and don't let the rough path dismay you.

3

Continue to walk close to Jesus, and if following Him means protection against every mishap, you will most certainly win in all things.

4

Before breathing your last on the cross, you still have to agonize in the Garden with Jesus Christ.

5

The Lord will continue to pour out upon you not only the oil of His gladdening mercy, but the oil of His virtue which will strengthen you and make you successful in the combat.

6

Carry on tranquilly, for the Divine Mercy will not be lacking ... if you show docility beneath the Lord's divine action.

7

Do not fear ... He who has helped you up to now will continue His work of salvation.

8

Be sure that the hand that has sustained you up to now ... that same hand will continue to sustain you until the point when your soul will hear itself invited by the heavenly Bridegroom.

9

Have boundless trust in the Lord, for your reward is not far away.

10

Be consoled in the Lord ... Jesus is with you. He has helped you up to now. He cannot and does not want to abandon you.

11

It is about time you rid yourself, once and for all, of so many foolish and unfounded fears which pass through your mind, weigh upon your heart, and keep it bound with harsh chains.

12

Do you entertain doubts about the future? But have I not assured you that the Lord is always with you?

13

Is not the future the same as the present in the sight of the Lord?

14

Be quite at peace, for the ever-present grace of Jesus will take good care to save you from being unfaithful.

15

Calm your immediate fear ... Grace will not be lacking.

16

How exceedingly the Son loves us, and at the same time what excessive humility is His in asking the Father to allow Him to remain with us (in the Eucharist) until the end of the world!

17

What exceeding love has the Father for us, when He has seen Jesus subjected to such dreadful treatment and still permits this beloved Son of His to remain with us (in the Eucharist), to be the target of fresh insults every day!

18

Do not say that you are all alone ... as you struggle ... for Jesus is with you and will never abandon you.

19

I beg you to calm your anxiety and apprehension ... Remain at peace.

20

Remain at peace, continue to go forward, and don't let your holy course be stopped ... You are already halfway to the summit.

21

May the thought of a bright dawn and a more brilliant noontime sustain you, cheer you, and induce you to keep moving forward.

22

Do not doubt that the One who has sustained you so far will continue with ever greater patience and divine kindness to support you ... on your journey.

23

I understand that your enemies are very strong, but when you fight along with Jesus, how can you have any doubt about winning the battle?

24

The person who sins through disbelief and lack of trust is a madman.

25

Without divine grace, could you have been victorious in all the crises, and spiritual battles you have faced?

26

Open your soul to divine hope, and trusty in divine Mercy.

27

God is always ready to raise you up if ... you acknowledge your nothingness before Him.

28

You have profound determination to serve God, and this indicates that you will be faithful to devout practices and to the constant effort to acquire virtue.

29

Do not be upset, whatever your state. Let yourself be guided lovingly by divine Providence.

30

Be guided lovingly by divine Providence ... whether He wants you to walk on land, in the desert, or through the waters of sensitive and spiritual consolations.

31

Live humbly, docile and in love with our unique heavenly Spouse, and may He alone be the Master of your heart.

Baptist of old, into the spiritual wilderness of our world. You were a messenger sent to prepare people's hearts for the Lord to enter them. Pray that I may be a fertile ground in which God's Word may enter and live. Padre Pio, you want your Spiritual Children to live in God's Will and graces. Pray that we accept His Way to walk, His Truth to speak, and His Life to live. As we joyfully await and celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus, pray that we may follow the prompting of the Holy Spirit, live more fully the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and thus come to the Father, Source of all Life, Whose love for us endures for ever and ever. Amen.

TO THE BLESSED TRINITY

Most Blessed Trinity whom I adore, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Help me to be firmly rooted in Your Will today, as if my soul were already in eternity. May nothing be able to trouble my peace or make me leave you. Stay with me, Lord, and lead me more deeply into your Mystery. Grant me peace and serenity today. In the love you bore our Father, Padre Pio, make our hearts your dwelling place that we may never abandon You. As Spiritual Children of Padre Pio, who bore the marks of Jesus' saving Sacrifice, make us vigilant in faith, constant in hope, and undying in our love for You and all people. You live and reign forever. Amen.

(The following Antiphons are read as brief intercessions every day. The Antiphons are titles given to the long-awaited Messiah. The Church prays them during the week before Christmas in the Liturgy of the Hours and as the alleluia verse at Mass. We use them in prayer this month as our daily invocation for the Savior to bless and protect us.)

PREPARATORY PRAYER

Lord Jesus, you came to save your people. Blessed are we who celebrate Your wonderful Incarnation. Hear us as we pray with the prophetic titles that Israel of old offered in hopeful anticipation of Your coming:

ANTIPHONARY INTERCESSIONS
(everyday)

Wisdom of our God most high,
teach us to walk in the paths of
knowledge

Leader of Ancient Israel,
rescue us with your mighty power.

Flower of Jesse's Stem,
save us without delay.

Key of David,
free those imprisoned in the darkness of
ignorance.

Radiant Dawn:
shine on those lost in the darkness of
spiritual death.

King of all nations:
save humanity, your own creation.

Emmanuel,
you are God's presence among us,
save us, your people

OUR LADY, MOTHER OF THE REDEEMER:

Holy Mother Mary, ever-virgin yet fruitful woman, in the name of all humanity, your availability to the Father's Will offered the Eternal God a dwelling place in time. I thank you for your openness to the Divine challenge to become the Mother of the redeemed, as You trustingly accepted to be the Mother of the Redeemer. With hopeful heart, you awaited the fulfillment of the Father's Will. You gazed with awe at the Eternal Love you held in your arms and faithfully accompanied Jesus in His life through His ministry even to the Cross. Be with me today and every day, that I may await the Lord in joyful expectation of His coming in glory. May I gaze with awe at His Hidden yet Real Presence in the Mystery of the Eucharist, where He is enfleshed in those who receive him. Mother of the Redeemer and redeemed, the Christ and the Christian, lead me to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Who lives for ever. Amen.

Holy Father, St. Pio of Pietrelcina, lover of the Eucharist, pray for us.

Holy Father, St. Pio of Pietrelcina, lover of Our Lady, pray for us.

Holy Father, St. Pio of Pietrelcina, lover

of Christ's Mystical body, the Church,
pray for us.

***** Christmastime *****

Father, you gave the human race eternal salvation through the motherhood of the Virgin Mary. May we experience the help of her prayers in our lives, for through her we received the very source of life, your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

(Prayer following Antiphon everyday):

The Word was enfleshed in humanity and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the only begotten Son, Jesus, the Christ.

(Conclude with the following prayers):

God of time and of eternity, with Christmas joy we praise you for the year gone by and for all that lies ahead. The Birth of Jesus opens our eyes and our hearts to the beginning of a new year of salvation. Your Son comes among us to bring glad tidings to the poor and to proclaim peace to all people of good will. May Jesus whom I adore as my Lord and Savior help me to live in The Word, Who leads me to you who lives with Him and the Spirit, for ever.

Holy Mary, Mother of God and my Mother, pray to God for me, who have recourse to you. Pray that one day I may enter the fullness of eternity, as Jesus, through You, became one with us in all things but sin, entering into time. Amen.

Padre Pio of Pietrelcina, Father and Guide for many who seek a deeper encounter with Jesus and Mary, as we celebrate Jesus' birth in time, pray for us that we may be worthy to have Him come into our hearts. The Christ Child of Bethlehem calls us to that spiritual childhood that you never lost. Pray for us that we may be the children of God we were created to be. Be our guide and advocate as we strive to live in the Father's will, through Jesus His Son, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.