

Padre Pio Prayer Groups

National Office

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Re: Italian "stigmatist" (?) Capuchin Generalate response

February 2015

Dear Spiritual Children and Friends of Padre Pio,

The Lord give you His peace!

Several months ago, some of the Prayer Group members from three different areas called regarding a person in Italy soliciting funds in the name of Padre Pio for orphanages under his care. He allegedly has the stigmata and received a miracle from Padre Pio. Recently it was reported that he came to the USA soliciting financial assistance for his work with the orphans. Matters such as these are rather serious, especially when mystical gifts such as the stigmata are presented as authentic, the authenticity of which is always the area of the Church's competency and authority to pronounce judgement. Furthermore, these "gifts" are used to encourage the charity of others to help finance private works. For the sake of truth and to save people from being "scammed", it was necessary to investigate.

The Order of Friars Minor Capuchin, with General Curia in Rome is the final word concerning the friars around the world. Since the person in question calls himself Br. David, with no surname, and states that he is a Capuchin friar, a phone call and email were sent to Rome requesting what to inform those who may ask regarding this person. The following is the response sent to us in July of 2014. Those who called were informed of the response. Until recently, nothing more was heard about "Br. David". Thinking the matter ended, not having heard from anyone anymore, I thought the matter was taken care of. Since it flared up recently now in the USA, I thought it best, though late, to get this notice out to all the Prayer Groups, and anyone else who reads our website:

18 July 2014

A new Capuchin stigmatic?

Two brothers have brought to my attention that a website operating in the United States claims to be raising money for "Fr. David", who, according to the site, is a Capuchin with the stigmata. According to the account on the website, when he was an infant "Fr. David" was cured by Padre Pio. He later entered the Capuchin Order and now runs two orphanages in Italy.

I have researched the matter thoroughly and can say with moral certainty that there is no such friar in the Capuchin Order. Here are the facts:

A check of the Order's database shows that none of the Italian provinces have anyone named David or Davide of an age consistent with the story presented on the website.

The postulation for the cause of Pio of Pietralcina claims to know nothing of this miraculous cure, nor of anyone bearing the stigmata.

To my knowledge, no Capuchin province runs an orphanage in Italy.

Both the current and former general ministers of the Order have denied knowledge of any living stigmatic in the Order.

Perhaps most telling is the fact that while there are many photographs of "Fr. David's" stigmata, there is never a clear photograph of his face. As a wise, holy friar told me, "i santi mostrano il loro volto luminoso e nascondono i doni mistici, come le stimmate. Questo fa il contrario" ("a saint will show the radiance of his face and hide mystical gifts, such as the stigmata. This person does the opposite").

Given the fact that Padre Pio's name is being used to solicit donations, it would be prudent to warn the Padre Pio prayer groups of your area against falling for the story of this modern-day stigmatic.

Forewarned is forearmed. There is no need to really say anymore. Be careful when solicited for anything in the name of the Church or people claiming to be particularly blessed by God with "mystical and miraculous gifts".

God bless you and your loved ones, and may Our Blessed Mother and Padre Pio intercede for us all. Have a Holy and Fruitful Lent!

Peace and Blessings
Fr. Francis A. Sario, OFM Cap
National Coordinator