

March 2015

This is my beloved Son. Listen to him. (Mark 9: 2-10)

Stop making my Father's house a marketplace (John 2: 13-25)

The hour is coming ... when true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth. (John 4:5-42)

God so loved the world that He sent his only Son,

so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but have eternal life. (John 3: 14-21)

While I am in the world, I am the light of the world. (John 9: 1-41)

When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself. (John 12: 20-33)

I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live ... (John 11: 1-45)

Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! ... Hosanna in the highest! (Mark 11: 1-10)

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

You see yourself to be abandoned, but I assure you that Jesus is holding you more tightly than ever to his divine Heart. Even our Lord on the cross complained of the Father's abandonment.

2

God's will be done! Pronounce this *fiat* with resignation whenever you are in a state of trial, and do not fear.

3

How could Jesus possibly permit the destruction of the whole, long, loving, indescribable work of His grace in you? This is impossible, for He always remains the God of goodness, omnipotence and love.

4

I feel in my soul a holy joy by reason of God's great love for you. The storm which rages around you is a sure sign of this love.

5

Jesus chose the cross as His standard, so He wants all His followers to tread the path of Calvary, carrying the cross ... Only this way do you reach salvation.

6

Remember that the children of Israel were in the desert for forty years before reaching the promised land ... It was not right for them to question the reason why God led them through rough and winding paths.

7

All those who complained did not set foot in the promised land ... Courage, I beg you! Pay no attention to the path of trial ...

8

Keep your eyes fixed on Him who guides you to the heavenly homeland. Our sweet Savior will grant you the enlightenment to follow the true path.

9

You must only have courage. Your desire to serve God is a sure sign that you will tightly embrace this service.

10

Serve God with a joyful spirit because God is the God of joy.

11

Just imagine how beautiful is the face of Jesus ... Try to see a certain lovable majesty in His presence, a certain pleasant authority in His manner of speaking, a certain dignity in His walking ... a certain sweet serenity of face.

12

Imagine the extremely composed and sweet expression with which He drew the crowds, making them leave cities and castles, leading them to the mountains, the forests, the solitude, and to the deserted beaches of the sea, totally forgetting food, drink, and their domestic duties ...

13

Do your utmost to be, as far as possible, similar to Him on this earth, in order to be more perfect and more similar to Him for the whole of eternity in the heavenly Jerusalem.

14

What are you afraid of with regard to your soul? Don't you know that Jesus is with you and is doing everything within you? Calm yourself.

15
Calm yourself and do not heed those vain and useless fears. Fill up your heart with ardent love for God.

16
Humble yourself beneath God's powerful hand and always accept cheerfully and humbly the trials He sends you, so that at the time of His visitation He may raise you up by His grace.

17
Cast all your cares upon Him, for He is more concerned about you than a mother is for her little child. Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus ...

18
Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus who climbs the hill of Calvary loaded with His cross ... see Him followed by an immense throng of holy souls carrying their own crosses ... Look to the end of the journey and don't separate yourself from the ... Refuse to follow another way.

19
How happy you must consider yourself to be, if you make the effort to live there on Mount Calvary, faithfully and lovingly, in order to adore Jesus Crucified in this life.

20
The inhabitants of that hill (Mount Calvary) must be stripped of all worldly affections, just as their King was stripped of the clothes He wore.

21
It was right that our divine Master be stripped. To show you that nothing profane must be brought to this hill, and to show that Calvary, that mystical stairway to paradise, is not for those who do otherwise.

22
May Jesus and the most holy Virgin make you worthy of eternal glory.

23
Place your unlimited trust in the divine goodness.

24
The more violent the enemy becomes, the more you should abandon yourself trustfully on the heart of our most tender heavenly Spouse, who will never allow you to be overcome.

25
Our enemy wants to persuade you that the opposite is true, but despise him in the name of Jesus and laugh heartily at him. This is the best way to make him retreat.

26
God is with you, and hell, the world, and the flesh will one day relinquish their weapons and admit they are powerless against the soul that possesses and is possessed by God.

27
Do not fear, because God is both inside and outside of you. By pouring Himself into your interior, He will surround your 'walls'.

28
Admire the goodness of our Lord, who has come so promptly to your aid to remove you from the path you were treading so heedlessly and which ended in a precipice ... Jesus' grace was so powerful ... He drew you to Himself by the power of love without encroaching in the slightest on your own free will.

29
(Jesus) is always close to you; He rules, protects, and sustains you, so that your will may not be overcome by your enemies.

30
May Jesus continue to be the supreme King of your heart. I say continue, because He already is such, and this must comfort you in the terrible crisis through which you are passing. Be resigned, and if possible, at peace.

31
You are suffering, yes, but don't be afraid, because He who keeps you stretched out on the cross loves you and is giving you the strength to bear the unbearable. Live happily and at peace, and be clothed in Jesus Christ.

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 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.

March - Month of St. Joseph

Prayer to Saint Joseph

(adapted form of the Prayer composed by Pope Leo XIII invoking the protection of Saint Joseph over the Church)

To you we come, O blessed Joseph, in our time of need. After seeking the assistance of your most blessed spouse, we confidently implore your assistance as well. As you were mindful of the love and responsibility which bound you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God and of the fatherly love with which you cherished the Child Jesus, watch with loving care the Family which Jesus Christ purchased with His own blood. Guardian of the Holy Family, protect the chosen race of Jesus Christ; drive away from us all error and sin. From your place in heaven, watch over us and come to our aid as we strive to live the Gospel life and struggle against

the powers of evil that so often assail us. As you protected and delivered Jesus from the danger of death during His childhood years, so now defend us, the Church, His Mystical Body, from any adversary who would seek to hinder our growth in His Spirit. Keep us in your loving care, so that following your example, and lifted up by your faith-filled courage and strength, we may be able to live a holy life, die a happy death, and come to the everlasting life of heaven. Amen.

Closing Prayer to Our Lady

Loving Mother of the Redeemer and loving wife of Saint Joseph, your faithful and loving husband, guide, guard and protect us, your children. Together with your blessed husband, St. Joseph, keep us, your children, safe from spiritual and bodily harm. Lead us all close to Jesus Your Son, that one day, we may rejoice eternally with you and your beloved husband for all eternity, praising and glorifying God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, for ever. Amen.