

# April 2015

*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)

*It is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead ... You are witnesses of these things.* (Luke 24:35-48)

*I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.* (John 10: 11-18)

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*My Resurrected Jesus, my Lord and my God, I join with all creation in celebrating the feast of Your victory over sin and death. The light of the Resurrection gives meaning to all life. Death and suffering no longer have the last word. You have conquered all that darkens our lives and have introduced us to the New Day. May the joy of the Resurrection fill the hearts of all whom you have redeemed in your Blood. May Your Holy Spirit, first Gift of the Resurrection, be with us always, that we may be renewed and filled with Life as we seek to be Heralds of the Great King proclaiming Your Resurrection and New Life to all the world.*

*Padre Pio of Pietrelcina, pure father, you loved your Spiritual Children very much. How many of your children were acquired for God at the price of your blood offered with that of Jesus! 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.*

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1

Don't keep striving to find God. He is within you and with you, in your weeping and your seeking. He is like a mother who urges her little child to look for her ...

2

Do not let your heart be troubled in the hour of trial, because Jesus has promised His real assistance to those who follow Him.

3

In times of struggle, remember Jesus; turn to Him and you will always be victorious. Live tranquilly and don't be bewildered in the dark night through which your spirit is passing.

4

Be patient and resigned while awaiting the return of your divine Sun who will soon come to brighten the forest of your spirit.

5

You belong totally to Jesus. Therefore, let nothing detain you from abandoning yourself totally to the mercy of His Providence.

6

Stay amidst the darkness of the passion ... By all means, continue to cry out with the Apostle Paul, "I have been crucified with Christ," so that you will have to repeat, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit."

7

The most afflicted souls are those closest to the divine Heart. And you can be sure that Jesus has chosen your soul as that which is most dear to His adorable Heart.

8

You must hide yourself in this Heart (of Jesus); you must pour out your most ardent desires there, and in this Heart you must still live those remaining days which Providence grants you...

9

Don't ever fall back on yourself when the storm is raging. Place all your trust in the Heart of our most sweet Jesus ... Renew your faith continually and never give it up, for faith never abandons anyone, much less a soul that is yearning to love God.

10

Receive the Bread of angels (Holy Communion) with great faith and with a great flame of love in your heart.

11

In spirit, cling tightly all the time, to the divine will, then be at peace and serve the Lord with a joyful heart, for divine love will never grow less in your soul.

12

Continue to have boundless trust in the divine Mercy. I assure you that God loves you very much ... Say to God, "Yes, o

divine Lover. Lord of my life, Your love is better than wine.

13

How consoling it is to know you are always under the protection of a heavenly spirit (your Guardian Angel) who never abandons you, not even when you are actually offending God.

14

Who is to be feared, then, by the devout soul who is trying to love Jesus, when accompanied by such an illustrious warrior (as one's Guardian Angel)?

15

This good angel (Guardian Angel) is praying for you and offers to God all your good works and your holy and worthy desires.

16

When it seems to you that you are alone and abandoned, don't complain that you are without a friend to whom you can open your heart and confide your woes.

17

For goodness sake, don't forget this invisible companion (Guardian Angel) who is always there to listen to you, always ready to console you. "O delightful intimacy, oh, blessed companionship!"

18

Why are you so afraid of your adversary? Don't you know that Jesus is invariably with you?

19

The enemy of souls has no power over those who have resolved to belong entirely to God.

20

Take your mind off disturbing and tormenting thoughts. Open your heart with boundless confidence to the only One who is able to console and save you.

21

Have no fear for the future, for God is with you, and He is supremely faithful and will not allow you to be overwhelmed by your enemies.

22

This divine Lover will never allow a soul that is consecrated to Him in a most particular way to remain a victim of its enemies. No, no. the enemy will never obtain this victory.

23

I want you to have greater trust in the divine Mercy. Humble yourself continually before the mercy of our God and invariably give thanks to Him for all the favors He has granted you.

24

Trust God and thank Him continually for everything, for in this way you will challenge and defeat all the anger of hell. I repeat: you are not to be afraid.

25

The One who has helped you so far will continue His work of salvation.

26

Why do we live at all? As a result of your consecration at baptism, you belong to Jesus Christ.

27

You should be familiar with this saying of St. Paul: "For me, living is Christ and dying is gain."

28

Live for Christ, live for His glory, live to serve Him, live to love Him.

29

All those who love God are ready for anything for love of that same God, in the hope that all will work out for their good. Always be prepared to recognize in every event of life the most wise order of divine Providence.

30

Conform your will in all things at all times to the will of God. In this way you shall give glory to the heavenly Father, and everything will be to your advantage for eternal life.

## **April - Month of the Redemption**

*The Litany of the 14 Stations of the Cross can be recited until Holy Saturday (From April 4<sup>th</sup>). From April 5<sup>th</sup> (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]

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**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.