

# March 2016

*We must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again...*(Luke 15:1-32)

*Let the one among you without sin, be the first to throw a stone at her.* John 8: 1-11)

*Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord.* (Luke 19: 28-40)

*My kingdom does not belong to this world...I was born...to testify to the truth.* (Passion according to John)

*Why do you seek the living one among the dead? He is not here, but He has been raised.* (Luke 24: 1-12)

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**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.**

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1  
Faith also guides us, and we follow securely in its light the way which leads to God.

2  
There are times when I am assailed by violent temptations against faith ... my will does not yield.

3  
(In the midst of temptations against faith) I tremble and do violence to myself, and am certain that by God's grace I don't fall.

4  
May the grace of the divine Spirit be more and more superabundant in your heart.

5  
How is it that when I am with Jesus I do not remember everything I had firmly resolved to ask him?

6  
The Lord only allows me to recall the persons and things he wants me to remember.

7  
When Jesus does not want to answer me, he makes me actually forget to pray for those persons for whom I had firmly decided and intended to pray.

8  
(Guardian Angel to Padre Pio) I am always hovering around you with the affection aroused by your gratitude to the Beloved of your heart.

9  
I know that your generous heart beats all the time for the One we both love; you would cross every mountain and every desert to search for him.

10  
Courage! ... This day of (God's coming) will not be long in coming ... This beautiful day is already on its way, and happy are those who will be able to shout with joy.

11  
This beautiful day (of God's coming) cannot be the work of anyone but God, and God will make it be for the resurrection of many and the triumph of his glory.

12  
My (child), you do not know the effects of obedience...For a single 'yes' ... to do God's will, Mary became the mother of the Most High.

13  
Thanks to this 'yes' pronounced by Mary Most Holy, the world obtained salvation, and humanity was redeemed

14  
Let us always do God's will and always say yes to the Lord.

15  
You will never complain about offenses, no matter where they come from, remembering that Jesus was saturated with ignominy from the malice of men he himself aided.

16  
You will excuse everyone with Christian charity, keeping before your eyes the example of the divine Master, who excused even his crucifiers before the Father.

17

Jesus wants (you) all for himself. Stir up (your) faith, then, and throw (yourself) with sublime abandonment into the arms of God, and God will carry out the plans he has for (you).

18

May God accept the homage of (our) gratitude.

19

May he be blessed and honored and glorified a thousand times, praised in heaven and on earth as he deserves.

20

How fine a thing it is ... to be able to live according to what the Lord disposes!

21

The spiritual combats are pressing on me relentlessly. Darkness is followed by darkness, and spiritual blindness has become pitch darkness for me ...

22

What we will give to the Lord in return for what he gives us?

23

May Jesus be thanked, loved, and blessed by heaven and earth. And may this most sweet God of ours always smile on your heart ...

24

The loving anxiety with which my soul rushes toward God ... leaps up to an enormous height in my soul ... it seems as if all my bones were dried up by this longing.

25

Let us keep before our minds what goes to make up real holiness.

26

Holiness means getting above ourselves; it means perfect mastery of all our passions.

***ALLELUIA! He is Risen! ALLELUIA!***

27

(Holiness) means having real and continual contempt for ourselves and the things of the world, to the point of preferring poverty rather than wealth, humiliation rather than glory, suffering rather than pleasure.

28

Holiness means loving our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God.

29

Holiness means loving those who curse us, who hate us and persecute us, and even doing good to them.

30

Holiness means living humbly, being disinterested, prudent, just, patient, kind, chaste, meek, and diligent, carrying out one's duties for no other reason than that of pleasing God ...

31

Cast aside worries, dismiss sinister judgments. God is in you and with you. What then do you fear?

## **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 intense ones for a Christian, but the next 40 days of Paschal time, from the Resurrection to the Ascension, should be the most joyful, ending an extra 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. May I 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, Acts 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. (\*)**  
[Acts 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 as you to the glory of the Resurrection. Intercede for me with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who is God for ever. Amen.**

