

## February 2017

*You are the salt of the earth ... You are the light of the world.*

(Matthew 5: 13-16)

*If you bring your gift to the altar ... go first to be reconciled with your brother.*

(Matthew 5: 17-37)

*Love your enemies, pray for those who persecute you.*

(Matthew 5: 38-48)

*No one can serve two masters ... Do not worry ... Let tomorrow take care of itself.*

(Matthew 6: 24-34)

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*We adore You, Most Holy Lord, Jesus Christ, in all Your Churches throughout the world, and we praise, because by Your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.*

(St. Francis of Assisi)

**Padre Pio of Pietrelcina, pure father, you loved your Spiritual Children very much. How many of your children were acquired at the price of your blood! 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, assist us through life and lead us ever closer to Jesus, Who lives with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever. Amen.**

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1

Renew your faith in the truths of Christian doctrine, especially at times of conflict.

2

Renew your faith in the promises of eternal life which our most sweet Jesus makes to those who fight energetically and courageously.

3

Be encouraged and comforted that we are not alone in our sufferings

4

All the followers of the Nazarene ...are all exposed to the trials and tribulations of life.

5

God, the author of all grace and every gift ... has decreed that glory will be ours on condition that we endure suffering with a Christian spirit.

6

Let us lift up our hearts full of confidence in God alone.

7

Let us humble ourselves beneath His powerful hand .

8

Let us cheerfully accept the trials to which the mercy of the heavenly Father subjects us, so that He may raise us up at the time of His visitation.

9

Let all our concern be 'to love God and be pleasing to Him'.

10

God will always take more care of us than we can say or imagine.

11

Let us follow the divine Master up the steep slope of Calvary loaded with our cross ...

12

To be on the cross with Jesus is infinitely more perfect than merely contemplating Jesus Himself on the Cross.

13

Peace, mercy, and grace be with you always and with all who sincerely love our Lord Jesus Christ.

14

Souls cost too much to God, and one can never do too much to save them.

15

I beseech you by the meekness of Jesus and by the mercy of the heavenly Father, never to slacken on the path of virtue.

16

To stand still on this path (of virtue) is equivalent to retracing one's steps.

17

Don't neglect the grace which was bestowed on you at baptism and has been increased in great measure by means of the other sacraments.

18

Be watchful ... and never place too much trust in yourself or count excessively on your own strength.

19

Practice charity more and more.

20

Charity is the bond of Christian perfection.

21

Throw yourself confidently into the arms of the heavenly Father with childlike trust ...

22

Open wide your heart to the charism of the only Spirit who is only waiting for a sign from you in order to enrich you.

23

Let us do good. Now is the time for sowing (goodness).

24

It is not necessary to sow a lot of seed as to scatter it in good ground.

25

How good our God is who lavished so many graces upon us and loves us so dearly although we do not deserve it.

26

Let us draw near to (Jesus) with hearts free from sin, that we may discover how sweet and delightful it is to love Him.

27

Never undertake any work or any action without first raising your mind to God and directing to Him with a pure intention (what) you are about to perform.

You must not be discouraged or let yourself become dejected if your actions have not succeeded as perfectly as you intended.

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## Praying the Month of February

dedicated to the Hidden Life of Jesus

(Pray this paraphrase of the Our Father, composed by our Seraphic Father St. Francis of Assisi, and let the words and reflection you recite each day help you to appreciate and pray more confidently and lovingly this beautiful prayer that Jesus Himself taught us)

Our Father most holy: Our Creator, Redeemer, Consoler, and Savior:

Who are in heaven: In the angels and the saints, enlightening them to know, for You, Lord, are light; inflaming them to love, for You, Lord, are love; dwelling in them and filling them with happiness, for You, Lord, are Supreme Good, the eternal Good, from Whom all good comes without Whom there is no good.

Holy be Your Name: May knowledge of You become clearer in us that we may know the breadth of Your blessings, the length of Your promises, the height of Your majesty, the depth of Your judgments.

Your kingdom come: That You may rule in us through Your grace and enable us to come to Your kingdom where there is clearer vision of You, perfect love of You, blessed companionship with You, eternal enjoyment of You.

Your will be done on earth as in heaven: That we may love You with our whole heart by always thinking of You, with our whole soul by always desiring You, with our whole mind by always directing all our intentions to You, and by seeking Your glory in everything, with all our whole strength by exerting all our energies and affections of body and soul in the service of our love and of nothing else; and we may love our neighbor as ourselves by drawing them all to Your love with our whole strength, by rejoicing in the good of others as in our own, by suffering with others at their misfortunes, and by giving offense to no one.

Give us this day: in remembrance, understanding, and reverence of that love which our Lord Jesus Christ had for us and of those things that He said and did and suffered for us.

Our daily Bread: Your own beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Forgive us our trespasses: through Your ineffable mercy through the power of the passion of Your beloved Son and through the merits and intercession of the ever blessed Virgin and all Your elect.

As we forgive those who trespass against us: And what we do not completely forgive, make us, Lord, forgive completely that we may truly love our enemies because of You and we may fervently intercede for them before You, returning no evil for evil and we may strive to help everyone in You.

And lead us not into temptation: hidden or obvious, sudden or persistent.

But deliver us from evil: past, present, and to come

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## Prayer to our Heavenly Mother

Hail, O Lady, holy Queen, Mary, holy Mother of God, who are the virgin made Church, chosen by the most Holy Father in heaven whom He consecrated with His most holy beloved Son and with the Holy Spirit the Paraclete, in whom there was and is all fullness of grace and every good.

Hail, His Palace!

Hail, His Tabernacle!

Hail, His Dwelling!

Hail, His Robe!

Hail, His Handmaid!

Hail, His Mother! ...

Blessed are You, Lord, our God!

You are God alone.

To you, Almighty Father,

Creator of the Universe and all Humanity,

through Christ, the Living One,

Lord of time and history,

in the Spirit who makes all things holy,

be praise and honor and glory.

I place my life in Your hands.

Never let me be parted from you;

do with me as You please...

Your will be done for ever. Amen.

## Prayer to St. Pio of Pietrelcina and God's Will

Padre Pio of Pietrelcina, loving spiritual father and guide of souls, pray that we may seek always and only to live the Will of the Father. Like Jesus, may we always say: Father, Your will, not mine, be done. Pray for us that we, your Spiritual Children, like you, may abandon ourselves to the love of the Father, Whose love is everlasting, and in that eternal Love, find the fullness of Life. Present our prayer to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, Who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.