

April 2019

Has no one condemned you? Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin any more. (John 8: 1-11)

I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me...will come to life...will never die (John 11:1-45)

Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord. Peace in heaven and glory in the highest. (John 19:28-40)

I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do. (John 13:1-15)

It is finished. And bowing His head, he handed over the spirit. (John 18:1 – 19:42)
Why do you seek the living one among the dead? He is not here, but he has been raised. (Luke 24:1-12)

(Peter arrived at the tomb and the other disciple.

They) ***bent down and saw the burial cloths...and saw and believed.*** (John 20:1-9)
Do not be unbelieving but believe. My Lord and My God!

Blessed are those who have not seen and believed. (John 20: 19-31)

Father, we thank You for this time of prayer and fasting. These Forty Days of Lent help us to withdraw from whatever we have allowed to possess us, leading us away from You. Our yearly Lenten journey to Calvary and the empty tomb rekindles the fire and energy You offer us in the strength of the Holy Spirit. We are called and challenged to live the Paschal Mystery more deeply. Through the intercession of Padre Pio who lived the Mystery of the Cross his entire life, may we know the joy of that new life in grace Jesus attained for us in His Resurrection. With Padre Pio as our guide, may we never fear the crosses you allow in our lives. The Cross of Jesus is a sign of Life not death, of Love not hate for those who believe. May we always embrace It as Padre Pio did with total abandonment to Your most Holy Will. May we also become a living image of Jesus in Whose Name we live, and move and are restored to the image of the One Who created us. With gratitude and trust we lovingly surrender to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, God living and reigning forever and ever. Amen

1

The cross will not be as heavy as the one carried by the Only Begotten Son of the heavenly Father.

2

Jesus never leaves you even for an instant.

3

God Himself tells us that He will be with those who are afflicted or in distress.

4

Do not be inclined to believe that you are forsaken by the Lord. Cast this thought far from you.

5

Arm yourself with the beautiful virtue of trust in the Lord.

6

Take heed of the assurances God gives you through me.

7

Do not let the mass of your infidelities frighten you, for the Lord ... has pardoned and forgotten all.

8

Be docile and obedient and do not give way to sadness.

9

Just obey and you will never be mistaken.

10

Jesus is yours and you belong entirely to Him ...

11

(Jesus) is well pleased with you and provided you remain faithful to Him you are destined to go to enjoy Him.

12

The Lord who is so very good will not fail to lighten the cross from time to time.

13

Be quite sure that all will turn out for God's glory for your own sanctification and edification of many.

14

Thank the divine Master for the deep love He has for you.

15

... in spite of your un-worthiness He is pleased to hold you up to others as an example of His favors

16

It is good to guard the secret of the king, but we should gloriously reveal the works of God.

17

Don't worry ... You are loved in turn by Him in His fatherly mercy.

18

Take courage, then, and go straight on, for it won't be long before the sun shines through the darkness.

19

As long as you are afraid of falling into pride and vainglory you will never be a victim to them.

20

When a person no longer feels this holy fear or tries to rid himself of it, take care that the Lord does not leave him.

21

May your soul always be the temple of the Holy Spirit.

22

One can never take too much trouble for the sanctification of a soul.

23

Consider Jesus' act of acceptance in the Garden and how much it cost Him

24

Don't be upset and don't worry

25

Virtue is recognized by its opposite.

26

Between assent and refusal there is and there can be no middle course.

27

If your will flees from rebellion ... it has tacitly or expressly submitted to God's will.

28

See to it, at the same time, that you combine external with internal submission to the best of your ability (to God's holy will).

29

All that is good in me I have received from God on loan and I should be a fool to boast of what is not mine.

30

Serve the Lord cheerfully, trust and abandon yourself to Him at all times.

April - Month of the Redemption

*(From April 1st until April 20th (Holy Saturday) included continue to use the Prayers and Stations of the Cross suggested for the month of March. ... From April 21st Easter) 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.

1 Lord, through Your glorious *Resurrection*, may I live in the gift of Your love, joy and peace, and witness the New Life You offer those who believe in You. (*) [Mt.28, Mk.16, Lk.24/28, Jn.20-21]

2 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]

3 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]

4 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]

5 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]

6 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]

7 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]

8 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]

9 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]

10 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]

11 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]

12 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]

13 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]

14 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]

15 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]

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.