

To All National and International Padre Pio Prayer Groups

Dear Spiritual Assistants, Animators and Members of the Prayer Groups of Padre Pio of Pietrelcina,

on 5 May 1966, while celebrating the tenth anniversary of the inauguration of the “Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza”, Padre Pio offered a paternal reflection to all the Prayer Groups spread throughout the world. Padre Pio reminded them that they were associated with the Casa Sollievo and that they, then as now, constituted “*the advance guard of this Citadel of Charity, gardens of faith and hearths of love, in which Christ Himself is present every time you gather for prayer and the Eucharistic Agape*”. Padre Pio continued affirming that: “*Prayer is the uniting force of all good souls, that moves the world, renews consciences, sustains the “Casa”, comforts the suffering, heals the sick, sanctifies work, elevates healthcare, gives moral strength and Christian resignation to human suffering, spreads the smile and blessing of God on the weak and weary*”. He concluded saying: “*Pray much, my children, pray always, without tiring, because I entrust to prayer this Work that God has wanted and that will continue to sustain itself and prosper through the assistance of Divine Providence and the spiritual and charitable contribution of all the souls that are praying*”.

For these reasons, the **Padre Pio Prayer Group of the Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza**, with the encouragement and blessing of the General Director (Fr Franco Moscone), Vice Director (Dr. Leandro Cascavilla) and the General Secretary (Fr. Luciano Lotti) **invites all the Padre Pio Prayer Groups throughout the world to gather, each in their own area, on June 16, 2019** (17th anniversary of the canonization of St. Pio), **united in common prayer** to implore the Lord, through the intercession of Our Lady of Grace and St. Pio of Pietrelcina, for the following prayer intentions:

- Prayer for Pope Francis, the Catholic Church, for the poor and all persecuted Christians throughout the world;
- Prayer for peace and conversion of hearts, of families of the whole world, and for those who govern the nations;
- Prayer for Fr Franco Moscone, so that the Lord, Our Lady of Graces and Saint Pio may assist him constantly in his new pastoral mission and fill him with graces and heavenly blessings;
- Prayer that all the Prayer Groups of Padre Pio become “*beacons of light to the world, and gardens of faith, and hearths of love*”, as St. Pio desired;
- Prayer for the Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza, so that it may continue to grow as a “*temple of prayer and science*”, for the administrators and medical personnel;
- Prayer for the spiritual and physical well-being of all the sick and infirm;
- Prayer for religious vocations;
- Prayer for souls in purgatory;
- Prayer for the particular intentions of each group.

On 16th June 2019, every Padre Pio Prayer Group can organize the common prayer moment (with the Holy Mass or the Chaplet or the Adoration etc.) raising to the Lord the prayer intentions mentioned above.

The Prayer Groups who this year too would like to join with us in this common prayer initiative are kindly asked to inform the Centro Gruppi di Preghiera of their participation no later than 14th June 2019.

We are confident that our unanimous and heartfelt prayer to the Lord, offered with faith and total trust in the intercession of Our Lady of Grace and St. Pio of Pietrelcina, will be the forerunner of abundant graces and heavenly blessings for all of us and the whole world.

Fraternally, Peace and Blessings to all.

Padre Pio Prayer Group “Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza”

San Giovanni Rotondo, 22nd May 2019