

March 2020

One does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

(Matthew 4: 1-11)

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased. Listen to him. (Matthew 17: 1-9)

Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father ... in spirit and truth, and indeed the Father seeks such people to worship him. (John 4: 5-42)

I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see might see, and those who do see might become blind. (John 9: 1-41)

I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die...

I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world.

(John 11: 1-45)

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.

1

May the Spouse of our souls increase the ardor of the flames of His love in your heart.

2

May He (Jesus) always smile on you and on all those whom He loves.

3

May Jesus' Mother and ours obtain for you the necessary strength to fight and win all the battles God has decreed for (you).

4

May your good angel remain watchful at your side, may he protect and support you.

5

Praised be to God in the highest heavens! He is my strength He is the salvation of my soul.

6

In (God) I hope, in Him I trust, and will fear no evil.

7

Don't say you are all alone in climbing Calvary, Jesus is with you and will never abandon you.

8

Do not doubt that the One who has sustained you so far will continue to support you.

9

May Mary enable you to understand all that is contained in the great secret of suffering borne with a Christian spirit.

10

Great strength is needed, but take heart, for the Savior will never leave you alone or without His help.

11

Let us make haste to join and mingle with all those pious and faithful souls who follow the Divine Master.

12

You are very dear to the heart of the Divine Father.

13

Be docile in shouldering (your) crosses with humility.

14

Seek comfort in the sacrament of the Eucharist.

15

In the midst of great desolation let your soul never cease to sing to God the hymn of gratitude and praise.

16

Keep far away from profane assemblies, corrupt and corrupting entertainment, from all ungodly company.

17

Recollect yourself continually and may your whole life be hidden in Jesus.

18

Don't be frightened by the dark night of humiliation and solitude or mortifications.

19

Go forward all the time, go forward, and don't let the torrent of mortifications stop you.

20

Don't let persecutions of the worldly deter you from following the road trodden by the saints.

21

Run up the steep slope of the mountain of holiness and don't let the rough path dismay you.

22

Continue to walk close to Jesus.

23

If following (Jesus) means protection against every mishap, you will most certainly win through in all things.

24

Remember the goodness with which the Lord has treated you up to the present.

25

(The Lord) will continue His work of perfecting you which will be to your advantage.

26

Show docility beneath the Lord's divine action.

27

Open the door of your heart to (Jesus) with trustful abandonment.

28

You must learn how to suffer in a Christian manner.

29

Don't be afraid.

30

No suffering will go unrewarded in eternal life.

31

Trust and hope in the merits

Lenten Journey

Lord Jesus Christ, you gather your people during this holy season of Lent, and you call us to repent and believe the Gospel. Remove any barriers that keep us from you so that we might live fully the life we received at Baptism and carry our cross each day. You have given us Padre Pio of Pietrelcina as a modern image of the Suffering Savior, our Lord Jesus Christ. Through his intercession and your divine grace, may we turn to you in our need, thank you in our abundance, and share your love with the world around us. Amen.

Litany of the Stations of the Cross

I Lord Jesus, ***condemned unjustly by Pontius Pilate***, grant that I may see the people in my life through your eyes, and not the eyes of a Pontius Pilate, who washed his hands of responsibility, ***through Your life-giving Sacrifice, and the intercession of Padre Pio, grant me this grace.*** (at each station repeat *through your life-giving...at the sign of **)

II Lord Jesus, ***willingly accepting your cross***, grant that I may embrace the crosses of my life, so that in recognizing my weaknesses I may discover Your strengths, (*)

III Lord Jesus, ***falling the first time under the cross***, grant that I may always trust in Your loving care for me, even when I fall, (*)

IV Lord Jesus, ***meeting your loving Mother on the road to Calvary***, grant that I may see how often You love me through the people in my life, as Mary loved you, and that I may always keep our Blessed Mother Mary, who accompanies me in life's journey, in my heart, (*)

V Lord Jesus, ***assisted by Simon of Cyrene in carrying your cross***, grant that I may see that loving others and assisting them in their need is the surest way to find and recognize You in my life, as Simon did, (*)

VI Lord Jesus, ***comforted by Veronica wiping your face***, grant that I may have a deeper and more courageous faith to be unafraid to reach out to others, as Veronica did to You, (*)

VII Lord Jesus, ***falling the second time under the weight of the cross***, grant that I may never hide behind pride, and that I may be ready and willing to begin again after my repeated falls, (*)

VIII Lord Jesus, ***speaking to the women of Jerusalem weeping at your suffering***, grant that I may show compassion to others in their sorrow or need, and place my sorrow or need second to theirs for a while, (*)

IX Lord Jesus, ***falling exhausted under the burden of the cross***, grant that I may recognize how much I need You, and rely on Your strength in the many difficulties and pit-falls of life, (*)

X Lord Jesus, ***stripped of your garments***, grant that I may let go of those things that prevent me from growing closer to You, (*)

XI Lord Jesus, ***cruelly fastened to the wood of the cross with nails***, grant that I may see Your cross as the great sign of Your love for me, as did our Spiritual Father, Padre Pio of Pietrelcina, and that I may willingly be fastened by grace to “my cross” as an act of supreme love, gratitude, and trust in the Father’s Will, (*)

XII Lord Jesus, ***dying on the cross after hours of excruciating pain***, grant that I may remember your words of forgiveness, compassion, total abandonment, and love so that as I accept my crosses Your love may grow in me and I may be no longer I who live but You Who live in me, (*)

XIII Lord Jesus, ***pierced with a lance then taken down from the cross and entrusted to the arms of Your Sorrowful Mother***, grant that I may learn to place my life in Your hands, and not fear seeming unimportant, useless, helpless...as You allowed Your lifeless body to be placed in the hands of Mary; that I may die to myself, (*)

XIV Lord Jesus, ***placed in the tomb***, grant that I may always believe in Your closeness and loving presence, especially when You seem distant from me and all seems lost, (*)

Concluding Prayers

Lord Jesus, help me to walk with You each day of my life, even to Calvary. The sorrow and joy, the pain and healing, the failures and triumphs of my life are truly small deaths and resurrections that lead me closer to You. Give me the faith and trust I need to walk with You always.

Mary, Mother of our Redeemer and our most Blessed Mother, be with us through life’s journey. As you comforted Jesus on the road to Calvary by your silent and loving presence, as 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 upon me as you looked at Jesus. See His marred image in

my frail nature. Hold me close to your mother's heart in my moments of temptation and sin. Pray for me that I may be for God what I was created to be, a LIVING IMAGE OF JESUS. Amen.

Padre Pio of Pietrelcina, loving Father and Spiritual Guide, in this most holy season of Lent, be with us. 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 us, that like you, and through your loving intercession, we may remain one with Christ in his Passion so as to joyfully come with you to the glory of the Resurrection. Intercede for us with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who is God forever and ever. Amen.