



## Padre Pio of Pietrelcina Prayer Groups

*You must be thirsty for your brothers' health*

# Vigil for the liturgical feast of Saint Pio of Pietrelcina

22 september 2020

### Entrance hymn

### Silent Adoration

*Let us listen to Padre Pio speaking of the Eucharist with an incomparable veneration and let us open our hearts for an ever deeper Adoration, full of our grateful love for the Lord.*

### From a letter of Father Pio from Pietrelcina (Epistolary I)

My dearest father,

I should like to open up my chest for a moment to show you the wound which our tender Jesus has lovingly opened in this heart of mine! My heart has found at last a Lover so fond of it that it is incapable of upsetting Him anymore.

You already know this Lover. He is a lover who never gets angry with those who offend Him. My heart holds within itself an infinite number of His mercies. It knows that it doesn't have anything of value with which to glorify itself before Him. He has loved me and given me a special place among many other creatures.

When I ask him what I have done to deserve so much consolation, he smiles at me and answers that nothing is denied to an intercessor. He only asks me for love as a reward; but don't I owe this to him out of gratitude?

Oh my father, if only I could please him slightly in the same way that He pleases me! He is so much in love with my heart that He makes me burn with His divine fire, with the fire of His love. What is this fire that pervades my whole being? Dear Father, if Jesus makes us so happy on earth, what will heaven be like?

I sometimes wonder if there are souls who do not feel their breast burning with this divine fire, especially when they are before Him in the sacrament. This seems to me impossible, especially if it concerns a priest, a religious man. Perhaps those souls who say they do not feel this fire, do not feel it because of their larger heart. Only with this benign interpretation can I be associated with them, so as not to blame them of being liars.

### Silent Adoration

### Visit to the Most Blessed Sacrament, by Saint Alphonsus Maria de' Liguori

My Lord Jesus Christ, Who, for the love which Thou bearest to men, remainest night and day in this Sacrament full of compassion and of love, awaiting, calling, and welcoming all who come to visit Thee; I believe that Thou art present in the Sacrament of the Altar; I adore Thee from the abyss of my nothingness, and I thank Thee for all the graces which Thou hast bestowed upon me, and in particular for having given me Thyself in this Sacrament, for having given me Thy most holy Mother Mary for my advocate, and for having called me to visit Thee in this church. I now salute Thy most loving Heart; and this for three ends: first in thanksgiving for this great gift. Second to make amends to Thee for all the outrages which Thou receivest in this Sacrament from all Thine enemies. Third I intend by this visit to adore Thee in all the places on earth in which Thou art present in this Sacrament, and in which Thou art the least revered and the most abandoned. My Jesus, I love Thee with my whole heart. I grieve for having hitherto so many times offended Thine infinite goodness. I purpose by Thy grace never more to offend Thee for the time to come; and now, miserable and unworthy though I be, I consecrate myself to Thee without reserve; I give Thee and renounce my entire will, my affections, my desires, and all that I possess. From henceforward do Thou dispose of me and of all that I have as Thou pleasest. All that I ask of Thee and desire is Thy holy love, final perseverance, and the perfect accomplishment of Thy will. I recommend to Thee the Souls in Purgatory; but especially



## Padre Pio of Pietrelcina Prayer Groups

*You must be thirsty for your brothers' health*

those who had the greatest devotion to the Most Blessed Sacrament and to the Most Blessed Virgin Mary. I also recommend to Thee all poor sinners. Finally, my dear Saviour, I unite all my affections with the affections of Thy most loving Heart; and I offer them, thus united, to Thy Eternal Father, and beseech Him in Thy name to vouchsafe, for Thy love, to accept and grant them.

### Introductory hymn to the Word of God

#### Lets pray

O Father, You wanted to communicate with us in so many ways,  
but only in your Son Jesus have you placed the fullness of your revelation.  
Allow us to know how to listen to His word,  
to possess it in our hearts  
and to be able to pass it on to our brothers.  
You who live and reign for ever and ever.

### From the Acts of the Apostles (3,1-8)

One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer, at three in the afternoon. Now a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called "Beautiful", where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, "Look at us!" So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them. Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk!" Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple, walking and jumping, and praising God.

#### The Word of God

**Thanks be to God.**

*The psalm is recited in two choruses, or you can use the following chorus:*

#### ***I will announce your salvation to all the people***

1. Do good to your servant, and I will live; I will obey your word.  
I am laid low in the dust; preserve my life according to your word.
2. I recounted my ways and you answered me; teach me your decrees.
3. Your word, Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens.  
Your faithfulness continues through all generations;  
you established the earth, and it endures.
4. Your laws endure to this day, for all things serve you.  
If your law had not been my delight,  
I would have perished in my affliction.
5. I will never forget your precepts: for by them you have preserved my life.  
Save me, for I am yours; I have sought out your precepts.
6. The wicked are waiting to destroy me, but I will ponder your statutes.  
To all perfection I see a limit; but your commands are boundless.
7. Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long.  
Your commands make me wiser than my enemies,  
for they are ever with me.



## Padre Pio of Pietrelcina Prayer Groups

*You must be thirsty for your brothers' health*

8. I have kept my feet from every evil path so that I might obey your word.
9. How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!
10. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

### Gospel acclamation

**Alleluia alleluia**

*Keep them in your love, so that they may be one just as We are*

**Alleluia**

### From the Gospel according to John (17,1a; 6-11; 15-19)

Jesus looked toward heaven and prayed: "Father, I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours, you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them."

And now I will no longer be in the world, but they are in the world, while I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one just as we are.

My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by[ the truth; your word is truth. I do not ask that you take them out of the worldj but that you keep them from the evil one.

They do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. Consecrate them in the truth. Your word is truth.

As you sent me into the world, so I sent them into the world.

And I consecrate myself for them, so that they also may be consecrated in truth.

### The Word of God

*Praise to You, O Christ*

### The Celebrant's Reflection

### Hymn

### Litanies for the Eucharistic Adoration

Bread of eternal life

we adore you, Lord Jesus Christ

Sanctifying food

we adore you, Lord Jesus Christ

Calling presence

we adore you, Lord Jesus Christ

Rejoicing presence

we adore you, Lord Jesus Christ

Fount of hope

we adore you, Lord Jesus Christ

Fount of peace

we adore you, Lord Jesus Christ

Fount of communion

we adore you, Lord Jesus Christ

Fount in weakness

we adore you, Lord Jesus Christ

Our Friend when we are lonely

we adore you, Lord Jesus Christ

Our trust when we are scared

we adore you, Lord Jesus Christ

Appealing love

we adore you, Lord Jesus Christ

Transforming love

we adore you, Lord Jesus Christ

Humble love

we adore you, Lord Jesus Christ

Faithful love

we adore you, Lord Jesus Christ

Free and endless love

we adore you, Lord Jesus Christ



## Padre Pio of Pietrelcina Prayer Groups

*You must be thirsty for your brothers' health*

### The topic for our future reflections

Like every year, our General Director, Father Franco Moscone, will introduce to us the topic that will inspire our reflections in our catechesis meetings. Let us listen together to his words of presentation for the pastoral year 2020-2021.

Dear brothers and sisters of Padre Pio's Prayer Groups,

Let us begin a new pastoral year, the third of a cyclical journey on the spirituality of Padre Pio. Our starting point for the first year (2018-2019) was his pressing invitation: "sanctify yourself and sanctify your neighbour". We then continued our journey in the second year (2019-2020), through meditation on the work of the Holy Spirit and the Christian virtues: "the operations of the Holy Spirit". We thus reached the third year 2020-2021 which is marked by the theme: "... you must thirst for the health of your brothers and sisters".

This sentence was taken from a letter that Padre Pio wrote to one of his first spiritual daughters, Margherita Tresca, in 1919. Originary from Barletta, in Puglia, she lived a long period of suffering and isolation, due to the obstacles put in her way by her family who were against her desire to consecrate herself to the Lord in religious life. In January 1919 she was admitted to the Roman novitiate of the Brigidine Sisters, the order of the Most Holy Saviour and St. Bridget, where Sister Pia, Padre Pio's own sister, had also entered a few years before. The commitment to conform to the new life and the movement of inner purification, which the Lord was carrying out in her, drove her to love impetuses very similar to those of her spiritual father: she wanted to detach herself from everything and unite herself definitively with Jesus, the heavenly Bridegroom. Padre Pio tried to mitigate her desire, making it more in line with her chosen vocational reality, and accompanies his spiritual daughter on the path of a total self-offering to God: "Your mission is not fulfilled yet and rather than being absorbed in God, you must thirst for the health of your brothers". Although the letter is now more than a hundred years old, Padre Pio's invitation and the context in which he writes these words are fully relevant and useful to today's spiritual life. As believers, and also as Prayer Groups, we often speak of missionary commitment, but we run the risk of stopping at low-cost initiatives that involve little of our personal history. In Margherita Tresca's time as well as in ours, the mission always begins from the depths of our heart, when we concretely experience the difficulty and loneliness of the journey: it is then that we fully share the thirst for Christ, and make the Lord's cry on the Cross our own: I am thirsty (Jn 19:28). Only by sharing His thirst do we empty ourselves of ourselves, and make the same sentiments that Christ Jesus felt as if they were our own' (Phil 2:5ff). By feeling this thirst we will be able to understand Padre Pio's advice to his spiritual daughter in depth: "to thirst for the health of our brothers" ... and we will feel this advice addressed today to each one of us, who receive motivation and help to live our faith in the Church to the full from Padre Pio himself.

### Missionary prayer

Blessed be God, who called us to a holy vocation, and with Him we exalt his Divine Son who by his death has opened the doors of heaven to us, and the Holy Spirit who daily makes us his messengers of hope and peace.

### Send your spirit, Lord, to renew the earth.

L. I am the vine and you are the branches.

**Stay with us, Lord, that our thoughts may be your thoughts and our words may be your words.**

L. Only one thing you lack if you want to be perfect, go and sell all your possessions and give them to the poor, then come and follow me.

**Give us the grace to know how we can follow you with Franciscan joy and full availability, in the footsteps of Saint Pio of Pietrelcina, to be missionaries with our life and our heart.**

L. He who welcomes you, welcomes me, he who welcomes me, welcomes the one who sent me.



## Padre Pio of Pietrelcina Prayer Groups

*You must be thirsty for your brothers' health*

**Guard the young people who are preparing for Confirmation and Marriage, and let them know how to welcome the gift of your Grace in order to live and proclaim the Gospel faithfully.**

L. He who does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.

**Assist our sick brothers and sisters with your mercy and grant us to know how to surround them with our affection.**

L. Go into the whole world and preach the Gospel to every creature:

**Bless, O Lord, the missionary work we are about to live and make us holy so that we may proclaim your Word first of all with our lives.**

### Our Father

#### Eucharistic hymn

I adore you

You are here before me, O my Lord, you are in this breeze that restores my heart, a Bush that will never be consumed, a presence that fills the soul.

*I adore Thee, source of Life, I adore Thee, Trinity infinity.*

*I will lift up my shoes on this holy ground,*

*In Your presence I will prostrate myself.*

You are here before me, O my Lord, in Your grace I find my joy.

I praise, give thanks and pray that the world may return to live in You.

### Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament.

I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally,

come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

(Saint Alphonsus Maria de' Liguori)

#### Eucharistic hymn

### Let us pray

*Lord Jesus Christ, who in the blessed sacrament of the Eucharist left us the memorial of your Passover, let us adore the holy mystery of your Body and Blood with living faith, so that we may always feel the benefits of redemption in us. You are God...*

Blessed be God.

Blessed be His Holy Name.

Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true Man.

Blessed be the Name of Jesus.

Blessed be His Most Sacred Heart.

Blessed be His Most Precious Blood.

Blessed be Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.

Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete.

Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most Holy.

Blessed be her Holy and Immaculate Conception.

Blessed be her Glorious Assumption.



## Padre Pio of Pietrelcina Prayer Groups

*You must be thirsty for your brothers' health*

Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.

Blessed be St. Joseph, her most chaste spouse.

Blessed be God in His Angels and in His Saints. Amen.

### Hymn to Padre Pio

Image of Christ,  
marked with His Blood,  
effigy of the Cross  
in the body of the Church!

You know, good Cyrenean,  
what it is to perform in you  
the trials and sufferings of our Savior;

You know, good Cyrenean,  
what it is to carry the weight  
on the shoulders of your many brothers.

The Father, who is moved,  
celebrates the prodigal son.  
Relive again, Padre Pio,  
beside those who are far away,  
and the Father who is in heaven  
and does mercy,  
for you faithful servant  
gives peace to those who return.

### Let us pray

*Lord Jesus Christ, who in the blessed sacrament of the Eucharist left us the memorial of your Passover, let us adore the holy mystery of your Body and Blood with living faith, so that we may always feel the benefits of redemption in us. You who live and reign for ever and ever.*

Amen

### Acclamations

Blessed be God.

Blessed be His Holy Name.

Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true Man.

Blessed be the Name of Jesus.

Blessed be His Most Sacred Heart.

Blessed be His Most Precious Blood.

Blessed be Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.

Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete.

Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most Holy.

Blessed be her Holy and Immaculate Conception.

Blessed be her Glorious Assumption.

Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.

Blessed be St. Joseph, her most chaste spouse.

Blessed be God in His Angels and in His Saints. Amen.

### Closing Hymn to the Virgin Mary