

March 2022

*Take care not to perform righteous acts to be seen...
your Father Who sees in secret will repay you. (Matthew 6:1-18)*
One does not live on bread alone...You shall not put the Lord your God to the test. (Luke 4: 1-13)
This is my chosen Son; listen to Him. (Luke 9: 28-36)
If you do not repent you will all perish...leave it...it may bear fruit in the future. (Luke 13: 1-9)
The hour is coming when true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth. (John 4: 5-42)
*We must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come back to life again;
He was lost and has been found. (Luke 15: 1-31)*
I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see might see. (John 9: 1-41)

Father, in Padre Pio of Pietrelcina, You have given us a modern image of the Suffering Savior, our Lord Jesus Christ. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina, pure father, you always expressed your deep love for all your spiritual children. How many of your children did God bring to conversion of heart and life through your prayers and sacrifices to Him for them. In the holy Stigmata you shared in the sufferings of the Passion of our Savior. You made yourself a gift of expiation for sinners. Your blood and sufferings, offered in reparation for the sins of humanity, especially the hardened sinners, was a silent means by which many wayward souls found their way back to the Father. 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 at the moment of our death, may we encounter you waiting for us at the Gates of Paradise to accompany us to a loving and merciful God. He gave you to us that we might see the living image of Jesus, His Son, and thus be ever aware of the Divine Love in Jesus Who died that we might have the fullness of life.

- 1
Never undertake any work or action without first raising your mind to God and directing to Him the action you're about to do.
- 2
Examine yourself as to whether you have done everything with the right intention.
- 3
You must not be discouraged or dejected if your actions have not succeeded as ...you planned.
- 4
We are made of clay and not every soil yields the fruits expected by the one who tills it.
- 5
Let us humble ourselves and acknowledge that we are nothing if we lack divine assistance.
- 6
To be worried because something we have done (has not succeeded) shows a lack of humility.
- 7
May the ever-present grace of the Lord prevent you from being a prey to (the) evil spirit even to the slightest extent.
- 8

Never let your mind become so absorbed in your work or in other matters as to make you lose the presence of God.

9

Never eat more than you really need and endeavor to practice moderation all the time.

10

Let everything be regulated by prudence which should be the rule in all our actions.

11

Never lie down to sleep without first examining your conscience on the way you have spent the day.

12

Never lie down to sleep without first turning your thoughts to God.

13

Offer and consecrate your whole person and that of every Christian to God.

14

Never forget your Guardian Angel who is always close to you, who never leaves you no matter how badly you treat him.

15

Try to have some thought concerning the painful Passion of Jesus before you fall asleep.

16

The Holy Spirit will give you such great strength that you will be able to endure and overcome all opposition.

17

Keep looking forward and never call a halt.

18

All will be done as God wills. Be at peace, then, and let vain fears be far from your mind.

19

You should calm yourself and yield more and more to the love of our divine Spouse.

20

We have a sure sign that people really love God when we observe their readiness to keep God's holy law.

21

We have a sure sign that people really love God when we observe their constant watchfulness so that they may not fall into sin.

22

We have a sure sign that people really love God when we observe their habitual desire to see the heavenly Father glorified.

23

(They desire to see the Father glorified) while losing no chance to spread the kingdom of God as far as lies in their power.

24

God has a very deep love for you.

25

Make an effort to bear with steadfast patience.

26

Oh, how good Jesus is... with all, but how good He is showing Himself to us in particular!

27

Let us open our hearts trustfully to Him and allow Him to work on us.

28

Rejoice, when you least expect it, the Lord will make light shine in the darkness.

29

Arm yourself with the beautiful virtue of trust in the Lord and take heed of the assurances which God gives you ...

30

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

31

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

Reflecting on the Passion of Christ

Lord Jesus Christ, You call us to repent and believe the Gospel. Remove the barriers that keep us from you so that we might live fully the life we received at Baptism. You have given us Padre Pio of Pietrelcina as the living image of the Suffering servant for our times. He bore the wounds of Your Passion, Lord Jesus Christ, and thus became a support and encouragement for us as we are called to carry our daily crosses. 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. We ask this of You who live with the Father and Holy Spirit, one God, forever. Amen.

Lord Jesus, may I walk this way with you, in the spirit of Padre Pio of Pietrelcina. May each step heighten within me a realization and love for all You endured for me. In the words of St. Alphonsus Liguori: Grant that I may love You always, then do with me as you will.

Litany of the Stations of the Cross

At the sign of (*), repeat the words:

through Your life-giving Sacrifice, and the intercession of Padre Pio, grant me this grace.

I - ***Jesus condemned to death by Pilate*** - Lord Jesus, 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 and sent you to the cross, (*)

II - ***Jesus takes up His cross*** - Lord Jesus, that I may embrace the crosses of my life, so that in recognizing my weaknesses I may discover Your strengths, (*)

III - ***Jesus falls the first time*** - Lord Jesus, may I always trust in Your loving care for me, even when I fall, (*)

IV - ***Jesus meets His sorrowful Mother*** - Lord Jesus, may I recognize how often You love me through the people in my life, as Mary loved you, and may I always keep our Blessed Mother Mary, who accompanies me in life's journey, in my heart, (*)

V - ***Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry the cross*** - Lord Jesus, may I realize and fulfill in deed 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 - ***Veronica wipes the face of Jesus*** - Lord Jesus, may I have a deeper and more courageous faith to be unafraid to reach out to others, as Veronica did to You, (*)

VII - ***Jesus falls the second time*** - Lord Jesus, may I never hide behind pride, and always be ready and willing to begin again after my repeated falls, (*)

VIII - ***Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem*** - Lord Jesus, may I show compassion to others in their sorrow or need, and place my sorrow or need second to theirs for a while, (*)

IX - ***Jesus falls the third time*** - Lord Jesus, may I recognize how much I need You, and rely on Your strength in the many difficulties and pit-falls of life, (*)

X - ***Jesus is stripped of His garments*** - Lord Jesus, may I let go of those things that prevent me from growing closer to You, no matter how challenging the detachment can be, (*)

XI - ***Jesus is nailed to the cross*** - Lord Jesus, may I see Your cross as the great sign of Your love for me, and be willing to bear whatever suffering is mine to bear, as our Spiritual Father, Padre Pio of Pietrelcina, willingly did, (*)

XII - ***Jesus dies on the cross*** - Lord Jesus, may I see my crosses as ways of loving You and dying to myself, (*)

XIII - ***Jesus pierced with a lance and taken down from the cross is placed in His Mother's arms*** - Lord Jesus, may I 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, (*)

XIV - ***Jesus is placed in the tomb*** - Lord Jesus, may I always believe in Your closeness and loving presence, especially when You seem distant from me, (*)

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. Grant me the faith and trust I need to walk with You always. In Your cross may *I live no longer I who live but You Who live in me.*

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; and 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, 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 living and reigning forever and ever. Amen.