



## **Feast of Charity**

### **Day for Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza**

May 5, 2022

*The Feast of Charity was established to link more closely the Prayer Groups of Padre Pio with Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza, the earthly work desired by our Founder. On May 5 (or another day agreed with the Spiritual Assistant) the Group meets to pray together with the Holy Mass, inserting prayer intentions for the Casa Sollievo and the Prayer Groups. The Eucharistic Celebration could end with the reading of the "Prayer for the Home Relief of Suffering"*

#### **THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

- For **Padre Pio's Prayer Groups** to follow the teachings of Jesus's living prayer and charity together, always enlightened by the Holy Spirit who opens our hearts to holiness and guides us on the path of Love for God and for our brothers and sisters. Let us pray
- For **Padre Pio's Prayer Groups**, so that they may be examples of fidelity to the Gospel and to the Church and to recognize Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza as a spiritual reference. Let us pray
- For **Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza**, work of Providence, so that it may be a sign of God's concern for people. Let us pray

#### **AT THE END OF THE HOLY MASS**

### **PRAYER FOR CASA SOLLIEVO DELLA SOFFERENZA (Home for the Relief of Suffering)**

O holy and glorious God,  
so full of love for your children  
that you sent your Son  
to give us life and salvation,  
we thank you because the Holy Spirit,  
poured out on the Church by Jesus  
continues to bring forth brothers and sisters  
who put their own existence at the service  
of the poor, the suffering and the needy,  
following the example of Christ.

Through the intercession of Padre Pio,  
who carried the signs of Jesus' love on his body,  
grant to his Work,  
the Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza,  
the grace to be faithful to the charisma of its founder,  
so that each one can bring  
your love to the bed of the sick:  
make of the Casa a temple of life,  
guiding hearts to loyalty and transparency in their actions.

Instill feelings of gratitude and love  
in the Prayer Groups and in the devotees of Padre Pio  
so that even today they may be the sign of that Providence  
which wanted this work as a testimony  
to all of the boundless  
trust in the Love and Mercy of God.



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On May 5, 1956, Padre Pio inaugurated Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza, the hospital that he himself defined on that occasion as "the creature that Providence, aided by you, has created".

Strongly felt was the presence of the Prayer Groups, "the pillars of the building", to which the Father entrusted his work, asking them to take care of it with prayer and charitable actions.

This is why the inauguration date of Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza was chosen as a symbolic date that marks the birth of the Prayer Groups.

On this day, groups from all over the world celebrate the Feast of Charity. It would be nice if, to commemorate their union with the Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza, they also promoted an official collection for the benefit of the Opera di San Pio.

This year, the charitable help of all groups will go to Casa Zeni, a small "creature" of the Opera of San Pio da Pietrelcina, built to welcome the families of children hospitalized in the Pediatric Oncology ward.

The structure is located in front of the "Giovanni Paolo II" Outpatient Clinic and contains 12 rooms, a games room and a common entertainment area.

The service, completely free, represents a support base and a point of reference for all the families who stay there to allow them to live in an atmosphere of friendship and solidarity.

May 5 may be a day for everyone that remembers our foundations: prayer and charity. Prayer for those in need, for those in suffering; Charity towards Casa Sollievo, a work that unifies and calls groups from all over the world to the attention of the sick and suffering.