

March 2024

The hour is coming when true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and in truth; and indeed the Father seeks such people to worship him. (John 4: 5-42)
God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. (John 3: 14-21)
While I am in the world, I am the light of the world. (John 9: 1-41)
Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat. When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself. (John 12: 20-33)
I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live... Lord I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world. (John 11: 1-45)
Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! (Mark 11: 1-10)
I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do. (John 13: 1-15)
It is finished. And bowing his head, he handed over the spirit. (John 18: 1- 19:42)
You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. But, go and tell his disciples, and Peter. (Mark 16: 1-7)
So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb. The one who had arrived at the tomb first, he saw and believed. (John 20: 1-9)

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 Jesus and Mary make you holy and taste the sweetness of the cross more and more.
Amen.

2

The good Jesus give you more strength to overcome and defeat our common enemy.

3

Do not fear him (devil), trust more and more in Jesus, who never leaves you alone when confronted by (satan).

4

Keep your spirit always raised on high...

5

May your heart always be turned towards the heavenly homeland.

6

Do not take your gaze from there (heaven) except in order to check where you are walking.

7

Let us love Jesus in the Passion more than anything else.

8

Often meditate on the suffering of the God-Man.

9

Love for the cross has always been a distinctive sign of chosen souls.

10

Without love for the cross, one cannot make much progress in the ways of Christian perfection.

11

The good that awaits me is so great that all suffering is my delight. (P.Pio quotes St.Francis)

12

Let us show ourselves to be worthy children of such a great Father.

13

In the course of life, mortifications will not be lacking. Let us love them...

14

Let us embrace them (mortifications) with a cheerful soul, and bless the good God in everything.

15

Satan's fury must neither frighten nor surprise you. He persecutes all who refuse to listen to him.

16

Abandon yourself as a beloved (child) of the heavenly Father, in his most loving arms.

17

(Satan) is powerless against the soul that places all its trust in God alone.

18

God will never permit you to be tempted beyond your strength.

19

The victory is His (God's) for all those who care about nothing except pleasing Him (God) in everything.

20

The soul's greatest misery is when it trusts in itself, when it is over-confident.

21

Have greater confidence in divine mercy.

22

Humble yourself before the mercy of our good God and thank Him.

23

Fortify yourself with prayer.

24

Wait with a happy soul for the will of God to be accomplished in you.

25

Divine grace often strikes us manifesting our unworthiness, but it is always the light of a Father who loves and saves.

26

Be consoled in the Lord. Jesus does not want to abandon you.

27

Do not forget to pray fervently to this dear Mother (Mary) with greater fervor.

28

Draw close to the throne of our good Lord with filial abandonment.

29

Give complete freedom to the working of the Holy Spirit.

30

Make every effort to practice the Christian virtues, above all, holy humility and Christian charity.

31

Constantly try to grow in charity, which is the bond of Christian perfection We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

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, 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

I

Jesus is condemned to death by Pilate - (*) *We adore You o Christ and we bless you, because by Your holy Cross You have redeemed the world* 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, **(**) through Your life-giving Sacrifice, grant that I may love You always, then do with me as you will.**

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, that I may always trust in Your loving care for me, even when I fall, (**)

IV

Jesus meets His Most Holy Mother – (*) Lord Jesus, 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

Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry the cross – (*) Lord Jesus, 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

Veronica wipes the face of Jesus – (*) Lord Jesus, that I may 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, that I may never hide behind pride, and that I may be ready and willing to begin again after my repeated falls, (**)

VIII

Jesus meets the Women of Jerusalem – (*) Lord Jesus, 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

Jesus falls the Third time – (*) Lord Jesus, that I may 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, that I may let go of those things that prevent me from growing closer to You, (**)

XI

Jesus is nailed to the cross – (*) Lord Jesus, that I may see Your cross as the great sign of Your love for me, as did our Spiritual Father, Padre Pio of Pietrelcina, (**)

XII

Jesus dies on the cross – (*) Lord Jesus, that I may willingly accept the crosses of my life as ways of personally sharing in the Paschal Mystery of your love for me, and that I may learn more perfectly how to die to myself and live in You. (**)

XIII

Jesus is taken down from the cross and placed in the arms of His Sorrowful Mother – (*) Lord Jesus, 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, (**)

XIV

Jesus is placed in the tomb – (*) Lord Jesus, that I may 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. 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; and pray for me that I may be for God what I was created to be a-LIVING IMAGE OF JESUS. Amen.