

## April 2026

*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)

*Do not be afraid! I know you are seeking Jesus the crucified.*

*He is not here for He has been raised as He said. Go quickly and tell His disciples.* (Matthew 28: 1-10)

*Peter...went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths...*

*the other disciple also went in...and he saw and believed* (John 20: 1-9)

*Have you come to believe because you have seen me?*

*Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.* (John 20: 19-31)

*Then they recounted what had happened on the way and how*

*He was made known to them in the breaking of bread.* (Luke 24: 13-35)

*Whoever does not enter a sheepfold through the gate is a thief and a robber. I am the gate for the sheep.*

*Whoever enters through me will be saved. I came that they may have life.* (John 10: 1-10)

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*We adore You most Holy Lord Jesus Christ in all Your Churches throughout the world, and we praise You, for by Your holy Cross You have redeemed the world. My Resurrected Jesus, my Lord and my God, I join with all creation in celebrating the feast of Your victory over sin and death. The light of the Resurrection gives meaning to all life. Death and suffering no longer have the last word. You have conquered all that darkens our lives and have introduced us to the New Day. May the joy of the Resurrection fill the hearts of all whom you have redeemed in your Blood. May Your Holy Spirit, first Gift of the Resurrection, be with us always, that we may be renewed and filled with Life as we seek to be Heralds of the Great King proclaiming Your Resurrection and New Life to all the world.*

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- 1 May the good Jesus always console you and give you even strength to overcome and defeat our common enemy.
- 2 Do not fear him (satan) at all, trust more and more in the Lord, our Jesus Christ, who never leaves you alone.
- 3 Keep your spirit always raised on high; may your heart always be turned towards the heavenly Homeland and do not take your gaze from there.
- 4 May your way of life be totally heavenward; we are bound to this as Christians and also as children of the Seraphic Father, Saint Francis.

- 5 In imitation of our Seraphic Father let us love Jesus in the Passion more than anything else. Let us often meditate on the Passion of the God-Man.
- 6 (Meditating on the Passion of the God-Man) it will not be long before the great desire to suffer more for love of Jesus is awakened in us.
- 7 Love for the Cross has always been the distinctive sign of chosen souls.
- 8 Being burdened with the cross has always been a sign of predilection on the part of the heavenly Father for those souls.
- 9 Our Seraphic Father understood well that without love for the cross, one cannot make much progress in the ways of Christian perfection.
- 10 Saint Francis continually carried sculpted in his soul the Passion, Death and the whole mortal life of the Son of God made Man.
- 11 Jesus invites us to climb Calvary with him, so let us not refuse. Ascending the painful mount with Jesus will be a joy for us.
- 12 In the course of life mortifications will not be lacking for us either. Let us love them. Let us embrace them with a cheerful soul.
- 13 Let us always bless the good Lord in everything.
- 14 Let the grace of the heavenly Father possess your heart and those of all who want to belong to Jesus!
- 15 Satan's fury, by which you sometimes feel yourself to be threatened, must neither frighten nor surprise you at all.
- 16 (The evil one) persecutes to death all those who do not wish to listen to his dreadful insinuations, and as his hatred increases all the more, in accordance with the extent to which he sees his hope of possessing the soul disappear.
- 17 Continue to pay no attention to him; fortify yourself with prayer, humility, and unlimited trust in divine help.
- 18 Abandon yourself as a beloved child of the heavenly Father in his most loving arms and do not fear the war waged against you by Satan.
- 19 The evil one is powerless against the soul that places all its trust in God alone.
- 20 God will never permit you to be tempted beyond your strength. How could you ever doubt this?
- 21 The victory is for those who care about nothing except pleasing the Father in everything and who await victory and the fulfillment of the divine will.
- 22 The soul's greatest misery is when it does not feel weak, but feels strong: when it trusts in itself, when it is over-confident.
- 23 If only souls could experience such a holy weakness, we would not see many souls fall at every instant.
- 24 A soul who felt its weakness and had recourse to God for help, has never fallen.

- 25 The soul is only defeated and overcome when, trusting in what it believes to be its abundant strength, thinks it can always sustain and bear temptations.
- 26 Do not fear. Have great confidence in Divine Mercy. Humble yourself before the mercy of our good God and thank Him for all the favors He has granted you up to the present.
- 27 We could never worthily show our gratitude to Him Who has enriched us with so many favors.
- 28 I give heartfelt thanks to the Lord for you, because he makes you persevere in holy meditation. Continue to meditate as best you can, with or without the help of good books.
- 29 Fortify yourself with prayer and wait with a happy soul for the will of God to be accomplished in you.
- 30 Have courage to sustain the battle to fight with Jesus against the enemy of our health.

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*The following prayers could be recited from April 1st until the Vigil of Easter, Holy Saturday, April 4*

### ***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 P 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**

- I** 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, and the intercession of Padre Pio, grant me this grace.** (\*)
- II** Lord Jesus, that I may embrace the crosses of my life, so that in recognizing my weaknesses I may discover Your strengths, (\*)
- III** Lord Jesus, that I may always trust in Your loving care for me, even when I fall, (\*)
- IV** 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** 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** 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** 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** 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** 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** Lord Jesus, that I may let go of those things that prevent me from growing closer to You, (\*)

**XI** Lord Jesus, that I may see Your cross as the great sign of Your love for me, as did our Spiritual Father, Padre P of Pietrelcina, (\*)

**XII** Lord Jesus, that I may see my crosses as ways of loving You and dying to myself, (\*)

**XIII** 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** 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.

**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 for ever and ever. Amen.

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*From April 5th (Easter) until the end of the month, recite the Prayers and Litany of the Stations of Joy suggested for the Easter Season. Please, remember that these devotional prayers and practices are only suggestions. How and when you recite them, if you choose to do so, are not requisites of being associates in the Padre Pio Prayer Groups.*

**The 14 "Stations of Joy" From Resurrection to Pentecost**

*(The "Stations of Joy" each commemorate one of the passages in Scripture when the Resurrected Jesus tried tenderly to convince us of His Resurrection, to change our sorrows into joys. A sad Christian is not a convincing Christian... let us try to pray and live these "Stations of Joy" during the glorious Paschal time, from Easter Sunday to Pentecost. The 40 days of Lent are the most devoted ones for a Christian, but the next 40 days of Paschal time, from the Resurrection to the Ascension, should be the most joyful, ending 10 days later with the glory of Pentecost...the Scriptural citations after each Station of Joy are offered for anyone who might desire to use a Station a day as a personal point of meditation)*

### ***Litany of the Stations of Easter Joy***

(\*) Indicates the refrain to be said after each Station:

***Through Your glorious Resurrection, grant me this grace, Lord Jesus.***

I Lord, through Your glorious ***Resurrection***, may I live in the gift of Your love, joy and peace, and witness the new life You offer those who believe in You. (\*) [Mt.28, Mk.16, Lk.24/28, Jn.20-21]

II Lord, through Your encounter with ***Mary Magdalene*** after Your Resurrection, may I hear You speak my name each day in the depths of my heart and respond by proclaiming Your love to others in my life. (\*) [Jn.20, Mt.28, Mk.16]

III Lord, through Your encounter with the other ***Holy Women on their way to anoint your body*** and instruction to tell the good news to the disciples of Your Resurrection, may I be fearless in proclaiming my Faith in You to everyone. (\*) [Mt.28,8-10; Lk.24, 10-11]

IV Lord, through Your encounter with ***Two Disciples on the road to Emmaus*** who were enlightened on the road and recognized You in the Breaking of the Bread, may I hear Your Word with an open heart and always acknowledge You truly present in the Sacrament of the Altar. May I joyfully acknowledge without hesitation as the two of Emmaus. (\*) [Lk.24: 13-35]

V Lord, through the ***Peace, Pardon, and the Paraclete's*** grace You offered as the first gifts of Your Resurrection, may I cooperate with God's grace and be a source of forgiveness and peace to others. (\*) [Jn.20: 21-23]

VI Lord, through Your manifestation to the ***Doubting Thomas***, may I come to recognize You in the wounds and scars of those who suffer in any way, and acknowledge You before all people as My Lord, and my God. (\*) [Jn.20: 24-28]

VII Lord, through Your appearance and concern for the needs of the ***Apostles who went fishing*** and Your eating with them as a sign that it was truly You alive, grant that I recognize You in the ordinary moments of life and trust that You assist me in my needs. Let my faith in You be proof enough for me. (\*) [Jn.21,1-14]

VIII Lord, through Your loving encounter with ***Peter on the Shore and Entrusting to Him the Responsibility to Shepherd Your Flock***, may I always be faithful to the Church and those called to Shepherd Your people, that I may never forget that where there is Peter, there is the Church, and where there is the Church, there are You Who guide guard and protect us through our shepherds. (\*) [Jn.21: 15]

IX Lord, through Your loving encounter with ***Mary Your Mother after Your Glorious Resurrection***, may I always foster a deep love and devotion for our Heavenly Mother. May I celebrate her exalted place in the mystery of our salvation, and confide in Her almighty intercession for all God's children. (\*) [Jn.20, Act.1]

X Lord, You commanded Your followers to ***Go and Preach the Gospel to all Creation***. May I be a living Gospel of peace and blessings to all that through my words and actions others may come to know, love and serve You. (\*) [Mt.28: 19-20]

XI Lord, through the ***Five “Signs” of a Christian***, may I cast out the demons of addiction and inappropriate life; speak the language of love, joy and peace; be fearless before the serpents of hatred, jealousy and unfaithfulness, remain unharmed by the poison of slander, injustice, sickness; be a healing touch for those who find life wearisome and lonely.(\*) [Mk.16: 17-1]

XII Lord, You ***Promised to Remain Always With Us***. May I trust in Your Presence and find strength and courage in knowing that You are always with me, to guide, guard and protect me. (\*) [Mt.28: 19-20]

XIII Lord, through Your ***Glorious Ascension*** to the Right Hand of the Father, may I look to the heavens for strength and protection as I confidently keep my feet well-grounded on earth fulfilling whatever the Will of the Father entrusted to me for His glory, my salvation and the good of others.(\*) [Jn.6:53; Mt.6:11]

XIV Lord, through Your Promise that Your ***Followers would be Baptized in the Holy Spirit*** to be witnesses of the Resurrection to all the world, may I be truly wise and always follow the Father’s Will through the guidance and inspiration of the Holy Spirit in my life (\*) [Act.1:4-8; 12-15]

XV Lord, through the ***Descent of the Holy Spirit*** on the Early Christian Community gathered in the Upper Room together with Mary, may my heart burn with an inner fire of love and enthusiasm for the Faith, that in the gifts and the fruits of the Holy Spirit, I may fearlessly proclaim that You are Jesus, Son of God, Lord and Savior, in Whose Name we find salvation.(\*) [Act.2]

***Lord Jesus***, help me to walk with You each day of my life. The sorrow and joy, the pain and healing, the failures and triumphs of my life are small personal deaths and resurrections that lead me closer to You. Give me the faith and trust I need to walk with You in the new life Your Resurrection brings. May I journey with You to Calvary and beyond, that I may share in the fruits of Your Glorious Resurrection. With Padre Pio to accompany me, I patiently and joyfully confide and trust in You, my Lord and Risen Savior, in Whose Name I find salvation and eternal Life. You live forever. Amen.

***Mary, Mother of our Redeemer*** and our most Blessed Mother, be with me always. You comforted Jesus on the road to Calvary by your silent and loving presence; 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 on me as you looked at Jesus. Hold me close to your mother’s heart in my moments of temptation and sin, that His marred image in my frail nature, may not succumb to temptation and sin. Pray for me that I may be a LIVING IMAGE OF JESUS alive and well in the heart of one who believes and loves Him. Dear Mother, You were a constant support and strength to our Father, Padre Pio throughout his lifelong Calvary, until he came to the promised reward offered all God’s faithful children. Accompany me that I also may share in the graces and joys of the Resurrection.

***Padre Pio of Pietrelcina***, 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 me, that like you, and through your loving intercession I may remain with Christ in His Passion so as to joyfully attain with you to the glory of the Resurrection. Intercede for me with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who is God for ever. Amen.