

THE PADRE PIO
PRAYER GROUP
of Cleveland

Spiritual Director:
Rev. Fr. Edward J. Janoch

Chaplain:
Rev. Fr. William E. Browne

Group Leader:
Cindy Russo, OFS

UPCOMING
EVENTS:

Nov 30 -
Begin Christmas
Anticipation Prayer
(see page 8)

Dec 1 -
Padre Pio Prayer
Group Gathering
beginning with
Rosary at 8:00 AM
and Mass at 8:30 AM,
St. Barnabas Church,
9451 Brandywine
Rd., Northfield

Jan 8-18, 2019 -
Pilgrimage to the
Holy Land (see our
website for details)

Check the online
Community Bulletin
Board on our
website to view
upcoming events
in the area



NOVEMBER 2018

St. Padre Pio Prayer Group Newsletter

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 11

How Do You Become a Saint?

If "will it" is your answer, then you are on the right track. Perhaps what is needed is to readjust your thinking about sanctity. Saints are not people who never sinned. Saints are people who sinned but did not give into despair. They consistently repented, converted, and threw themselves upon the grace and mercy of God. The road to sainthood is not a rose-strewn path upon which one floats to God. The road is hard, rocky, and all uphill, with the cross on your back and the sacraments as provisions for the journey. Think of your stumbles and struggles as falling under the weight of the cross and resolve to keep calling on Jesus to lift you up again. Then, while you're stumbling and struggling, if you are able for the love of God to help others who are also trudging along the same path, you will be demonstrating the heroic virtue of a saint.

"The only real sadness, the only real failure, the only great tragedy in life, is not to become a saint." The Catholic Church believes that anyone can become a saint—that is, someone who makes it to heaven. Whether you are a priest, a lay man or woman, a religious sister, etc., the Catholic Church calls all of us, whatever our state in life, to seek holiness and sainthood.

We all have the potential for sanctity, for holiness, which is, simply stated, the full holy flowering of our personality. The path to holiness is to be the best version of yourself. Many people believe, if only discreetly, that to be holy is to be stifled, less free, less themselves. God desires to give you the "desires of your heart" (Ps. 37:4). What he is commanding you to be (holy) is in fact what you desire to be (actualized), and his commands, therefore, do not necessitate the repression or deflation of your deepest desires, but rather, call for their expansion.

You can become a saint. Absolutely no one and nothing can stop you. It is your free choice. "Be a saint! What else is there?" Our weaknesses are not there for us to "grief" (referring to take us down; they will discourage us of course, but we need to pass that); they are there to see for ourselves that

we need God. They help us be humble, after that we are not in a competition. God wants us to be saints.

Sainthood is just a word describing that you love truly God. This of course is difficult, but it is about trust and perseverance and to battle against what wants us to desist from the way. The saints learned to die to self, and thus to be content in whatever state they were in. This is a process which we cannot speed up, but can hold back by not surrendering to God's will in it.

This life is about learning to die to self, about preparing for death, the moment we enter eternity. If we allow God to lead us in this path, we will become free of the attachments which cause us to hold onto our wants, our desires, etc. Remember that Jesus did not want to go to the cross. He asked God three times to remove that cup from Him, but He always put God's will first and said "Not my will but thine be done". This is the model Jesus gave us in the trials we suffer in this life. Nothing



that we can suffer in this life can compare to what Christ suffered in His passion and crucifixion. And we do not go this path of suffering alone. Even Jesus was ministered to by angels in the Garden. God has given us Mary and the Saints to help us with their prayers. He has given us the Church and those who have walked this path to help us with guidance. Read about the lives of the saints. Frequent Confessions, visits to an Adoration chapel and finding a spiritual advisor can be very beneficial as well.

Dear God, We thank you for the examples of the Saints, the valiant men and women who accepted their call to bear witness to you in joy and in pain, in suffering, and even in death. We ask your grace to be as courageous as they even in the little things that befall us each day, that with joy we might radiate our convictions and our confidence in your presence with us. Help us to become Saints. Amen.

**REFLECTIONS FOR OUR
SPIRITUAL DIRECTION**

Dear Spiritual Brothers and Sisters of Padre Pio,

October has been an amazing month. I cannot express my gratitude enough to all who attended and helped in the beautiful day of my profession of my permanent vows to become a Third Order Secular Franciscan. I am honored, very overwhelmed and still floating. It was a day of celebration I will never forget. Fourteen Prayer Group members attended a “Come and See” on October 17th to learn about Franciscan Spirituality. The next meeting will be November 29th at St. Barnabas Church at 7PM in Rectory Room 1.



On October 19th a new Padre Pio Prayer Group was opened which we sponsored at St. Raphael's in Canton, Ohio. Fr. Nicholas Mancini will be the Spiritual Director. I will assist until they appoint a group leader. It was very well attended. They will meet the third Friday of the month at 6:30 PM starting with Mass.

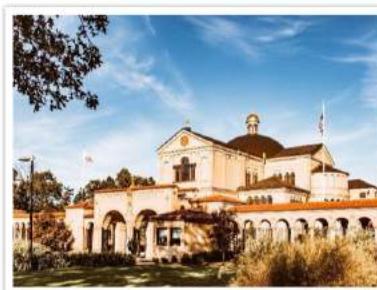
We had forty two pilgrims attend our Washington pilgrimage lead by Fr. Nicholas Mancini. There were some adventures along the way! Many graces and blessings were bestowed on our pilgrims, including a plenary indulgence with all requirements for visiting the Shrine of St. John Paul II on his feast day. We visited the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in which a pilgrim's personal statue of Our Lady of America was processed and blessed. Also in our travels, we visited the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in America and the National Shrine of Mother Seton.

Thanksgiving is around the corner and is a wonderful time to gather with family and friends and reflect on the blessings of the last year. Many of us experience renewed hope and faith during the Thanksgiving holiday because we turn our eyes onto what is most important. What if we spent time each day in giving thanks and prayer? How could God grow our faith and trust if we lived a life of thanks through all seasons and not just Thanksgiving time? When your heart is filled with gratitude, there is little room to worry or complain.

"Dear God, Thank you for your amazing power and work in our lives. Thank you for your goodness and for your blessings over us. Thank you for your great love and care. Thank you for your sacrifice so that we might have freedom and life. Forgive us for when we don't thank you enough, for who you are, for all that you do, for all that you've given. Help us to set our eyes and our hearts on you afresh. Renew us with the Holy Spirit, fill us with your peace and joy. We love you and we need you, this day and every day. We give you praise and thanks, for You alone are worthy! In Jesus' name, Amen."

Happy Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,



Spiritual Death in Our Culture

November is the month in which we pray for those who have died physically.

This article hopes to shed light on some causes and suggest some approaches to help prevent spiritual death in our secular culture.

Growing up in the fifties was a flourishing time. Patriotism was strong, divorces were few, church attendance was high. Neighborhoods were generally close knit, schools maintained discipline, news was generally true, abortion was rare and not talked about, movies and entertainment were generally family friendly, and chastity was a respected virtue. The culture helped form good people. People generally "put to death their flesh (lower nature)" so that their "higher nature" could flourish.

Then came Vietnam, civil rights unrest, riots in our major cities, the rejection of church authority against *Humanae Vitae* (against contraception), and the sexual revolution. The Supreme Court became more "activist" in its secularization of the constitution. People took the lid off and gave into their passions of anger, lust, selfishness, bickering, etc. The gradual evolution of these realities has led to what St. John Paul II called "the culture of death." We live in a world which calls God irrelevant and pushes him to the side. Jesus said "without me you can do nothing." No wonder the world is in chaos. What are some attitudes we can develop to counter this culture of death?

Suggestions:

- Our world is fractured and divided. Jesus came to restore the fractured relationship between his Father and us and his children with each other. Jesus related to all people and broke taboos. We need to relate to all people as did Mother Teresa and the saints.
- Don't be swept up by the media's emphasizing all the fracturing in the world. Constantly return to Jesus, the center of all things and people, so that you can be one with him and promote oneness with others. Think more about Jesus than the media.
- The two sacraments tailor-made for our fractured times is Reconciliation and Eucharist. Who doesn't feel relieved, refreshed, put back together, more in union with Jesus and motivated to



forgive and be in union with others after Confession? In Eucharist, Jesus holds us close to himself in love as a mother holds and comforts her child who has faced bullying and challenges in the sometimes hostile environment of school.

- Our culture has replaced the Ten Commandments with pleasure. "I want what I want when I want it on my terms" -- especially in the sexual realm -- is the unspoken mantra. We need to counter this with penance and reparation which gives us mastery over ourselves and makes up for the sins of others.
 - Hollywood will make movies of inspiration but is very reluctant to make movies of faith. Be willing to gently and joyfully share your faith with others -- an insight from prayer, sacred scripture, a homily, etc. "Don't hide your light under a bushel basket."
 - America has become an addictive society. Advertisers use psychology extremely well, appealing to our lower nature -- food (gluttony), pride (Excel! Produce!), greed ("you have to have this product"), vainglory (look younger, sexier). Notice your reaction to the enticements of advertising and ask the Holy Spirit how it squares with the Gospel.
- Depression is a growing reality. Our cultural outlook causes depression and death. It has been shown that girls reading a fashion magazine will often be depressed within 30 seconds afterward. They cannot measure up. Jesus offers us love and acceptance. We complicate our lives by idealizing worldly values which promise us happiness but leave us empty. What values do I chase? If I feel depressed, what do I feel I lack? Have I replaced the simplicity of the Gospel with idols? "Unless you turn and become like little children, you cannot enter the kingdom of God."
- Karl Menninger wrote a great book, Whatever Became of Sin? Our culture does not like the term "sin" because it sounds too moralistic or religious. Unresolved guilt due to sin is very common and can cause deep psychological problems which psychology alone cannot heal. How many women agonize for years over their abortions? The only remedy for guilt due to sin is to admit it, face it, go through it (not around it), and always deal with it in the context of the love and forgiveness of Jesus. Guilt without Jesus is deadening. This deadening is very evident in our culture.
- In the month of November, Pray earnestly for your deceased relatives in terms of "healing the family tree" so "the sins of the fathers will not be visited upon their children for generations." Also pray for all the souls in purgatory because many people dying today in our secular culture have no one to pray for them.

Remember: Christ has died, Christ has risen for us! St. Pio, pray for us!

St. Padre Pio Reflections for Every Day for November 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>O God of all spirits and of all flesh, who have destroyed death, overcome Satan, and have given life to the world: grant O Lord, to the souls of all those who have left this life, a place of light, happiness, and peace, where there is no pain, no grief, no sighing. And, since You are a gracious God and love all humanity, forgive the sins of those for whom we pray, for there is no one who lives and does not sin. You alone are without sin, your righteousness is everlasting, and Your word is true. You are the Resurrection and the Life, and the repose of all those whom we command to Your Love and Mercy, O Christ our God, and we send up glory to You, together with Your eternal Father and Your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and always and forever and ever. Amen. (Adapted from the Byzantine Liturgy for the Deceased)</i></p>	<p>4. You must by no means fear that the Lord will leave you at your enemy's mercy.</p>	<p>5. God is faithful, and He never allows you to be tempted beyond your strength.</p>	<p>6. You must be strong and cheerful in the spirit.</p>	<p>7. The Lord is in the depths of your heart: He will fight along with you and for you.</p>	<p>8. Who is stronger than (God)? Who will hold out against the King of the heavens?</p>	<p>9. What is hell itself in front of the Lord?</p>
<p>11. Jesus is totally yours ... You must believe that you possess Him.</p>	<p>12. Listen to God who says ... "Do not be afraid."</p>	<p>13. What do you seek on earth if not God? Well then, I tell you in the name of God Himself, that you possess Him.</p>	<p>14. Be firm in your resolutions, stay in the boat in which Jesus has placed you, and let the storms come ... You will not perish.</p>	<p>15. He appears to be sleeping, but awaken you to restore your calm ... Why are you afraid?</p>	<p>16. Divine love ... is the honey which must sweeten all your weaknesses, feelings, and actions.</p>	<p>17. Under obedience to God and to His realm (within you), He does not allow serious sins to dwell.</p>
<p>18. God allows (sins) to arrive at your mind and senses so that, in the combat, the virtues may be practiced and strengthened.</p>	<p>19. (God) even allows the master spies -venial sins and imperfections- to circulate freely in His Kingdom, but that is merely to show you that, without Him, you would be prey for your enemies.</p>	<p>20. Humble yourself deeply and confess that if God were not your breastplate and shield, you would at once be pierced by every kind of sin.</p>	<p>21. The eternal Father decreed that all creatures be subject to Him.</p>	<p>22. Your infirmities, temptations ... aridity and desolation all come from His infallible love ... He wants you to be similar to His beloved Son.</p>	<p>23. Divine grace is with you, and you are very dear to the Lord.</p>	<p>24. Let (Satan) create an uproar; let him even threaten to swallow you up; it doesn't matter, for he can achieve nothing against your soul, which Jesus has now clasped to Himself and sustains in a mysterious manner by His ever-present grace.</p>
<p>25. Don't fear the gloomy wrath of the evil one ... It is a good sign when he ... roars around your will. This shows he is not within you.</p>	<p>26. May Jesus bless you and save you from the roaring lion!</p>	<p>27. The divine Lover reserves great glory in heaven for those souls who continue steadfastly to do His will at all times.</p>	<p>28. What else do you desire, if not that God's plan be fulfilled in you?</p>	<p>29. Go forward on the path of divine Love.</p>	<p>30. The more fully your own will becomes united and conformed to God's will, the more you will advance toward perfection.</p>	

Praying for the Holy Souls

How many of us had grandparents who had their stack of holy cards in their prayer book? These favorite saints were their friends, their prayer warriors! How many of our ancestors knew to pray for the holy souls in purgatory, especially the souls of family and friends? The holy souls would then, in deep gratitude, return many prayers for those who cared to pray for them. This is why our ancestors never faced evil alone or prayed for anything or anybody alone — they had their comrades in the heavenly realm, their Holy Alliance of Saints and Holy Souls, with them at all times. The devil never stood a chance against this united force! What is stopping us from building upon the great example of our ancestors who called upon the saints to pray with them for the poor souls in purgatory? If they recruited their handful of favorite saints, what's stopping us from building an enormous personal Holy Alliance of Saints each day to pray with us?

Pray with your Saint for your Holy Soul in purgatory by choosing one of the "Big Four" (Rosary, Stations, Scripture, or Adoration) that allow for a plenary indulgence. Be sure the conditions are present for receiving a plenary indulgence. By elevating certain prayers and good works to the level of gaining an indulgence, Mother Church is identifying which of these she most highly values and, therefore, which ones she urges us to prioritize. Remarkably, Holy Mother Church has elevated only four activities for which a plenary indulgence can be gained on any day (though, as we said, only once a day). Highlighting these four reveals the great esteem in which Mother Church holds them, and, therefore, she urges us to rank these as highest among our daily devotions.

1. Adoring the Blessed Sacrament for at least one half hour
2. Devoutly reading Sacred Scripture for at least one half hour
3. Devoutly performing the Stations of the Cross

4. Reciting the Rosary with family or in a church, oratory, religious community, or pious association

The greatest significance of the "Big Four" is that Mother Church has provided a way for us to gain that one plenary indulgence every day for ourselves or for a poor soul in purgatory. This then raises the question: Why would we squander this incredibly generous gift? Why wouldn't we accept Mother Church's gracious provision and seek this plenary indulgence every day? After completing this indulged prayer, ask today's grateful holy soul, today's saint, and all

those in your Holy Alliance to join you as you all pray together a Divine Mercy Chaplet for a living loved one you believe needs to receive God's grace to grow in faith, hope, and love — in her diary, Divine Mercy in My Soul, Saint Faustina Kowalska recorded that she received a private revelation regarding intercessory prayer from Jesus who told her to "Call upon My mercy on behalf of sinners; I desire their salvation. When you say this prayer, with a contrite heart and with faith on behalf of some sinner, I will give them the grace of conversion." This is the prayer: **"O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fount of Mercy for us, I trust in You."**

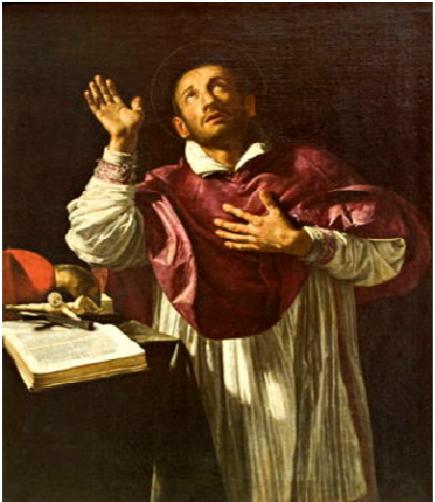
Also, one of the most popular prayers for the Souls in Purgatory is that of Saint Gertrude the Great. She received many visions of Our Lord during her lifetime and expressed to Jesus her great desire to pray for the deceased. In return, Jesus taught Saint Gertrude the following prayer. It is piously believed that 1,000 souls are released from purgatory by praying this prayer with the heart: **"Eternal Father, I offer You the most Precious Blood of Your Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the Holy Souls in Purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal Church, those in my own home and within my family. Amen."**



Prayers for Priests and Seminarians

St. Charles, of the noble family Borromeo, was born on October 2, 1538 in Italy. Among his many contributions to the Church, he encouraged the proper training of priests by founding several seminaries and colleges. His feast day is November 4.

Prayer for Holy Priests by St. Charles Borromeo



O Holy Mother of God,
pray for the priests
your Son has chosen to serve the church.
Help them by your intercession,
to be holy, zealous and chaste.
Make them models of virtue
in the service of God's people.
Help them to be prayerful in meditations,
effective in preaching,
and enthusiastic in the daily offering of
the holy sacrifice of the Mass.
Help them to administer the sacraments with joy.
Amen.

Daily Prayer for Our Seminarians

Make
them
models of
virtue in
the service
of God's
people.

O Lord Jesus, great High Priest,
we entrust our seminarians to You.
Enlighten the faculty in their guidance,
spiritual directors in molding them,
and professors in instructing them.
Lead our seminarians daily in Your footsteps;
so that they may become priests
who are models of purity, teachers of wisdom,
and heroes of sacrifice.
Fill them with humility and love for God and man.
Transform them into apostles of Your glory
and sanctifiers of souls.
Holy Mary, Queen of the Clergy,
pray for them and obtain for us many more.

*Remember to pray daily for the Seminarians in our Cleveland
Diocesan Seminaries of Borromeo and St. Mary's.*

Visited by a Soul from Purgatory

He was alone in prayer when a man appeared out of nowhere. Padre Pio is known for his many mystical experiences during prayer, often piercing the heavenly veil while on earth. One such experience involved an unexpected encounter with a soul from purgatory.

One day while praying alone, Padre Pio opened his eyes to see an old man standing there. He was surprised by the presence of another person in the room and explained in his testimony, "I could not imagine how he could have entered the friary at this time of night since all the doors are locked." Seeking to unravel the mystery, Pio asked the man, "Who are you? What do you want?" The man responded, "Padre Pio, I am Pietro Di Mauro, son of Nicola, nicknamed Precoco. I died in this friary on the 18th of September, 1908, in cell number 4, when it was still a poorhouse. One night, while in bed, I fell asleep with a lighted cigar, which ignited the mattress and I died, suffocated and burned. I am still in purgatory. I need a holy Mass in order to be freed. God permitted that I come and ask you for help." Pio comforted the poor soul by saying, "Rest assured that tomorrow I will celebrate Mass for your liberation." The man left and the next day Pio did some investiga-

work and discovered the veracity of the story and how a man of the same name died on that day in 1908. Everything was confirmed and Padre Pio celebrated a Mass for the repose of the old man's soul. This was not the only appearance of a soul from purgatory

asking Padre Pio for prayers. Pio claimed, "As many souls of the dead come up this road [to the monastery] as that of the souls of the living." Many times the souls would ask for a Mass to be said for them, highlighting the spiritual weight of a Mass and how it can lessen the time a person spends in purgatory before embracing the glories of heaven.



At the December gathering, we will be collecting for the homeless under the bridges. Blankets, warm clothing, gloves, hats, jackets, toiletries, water, etc. are appreciated.

Chaplet for the Holy Souls

It is prayed on the Rosary. Make the "Sign Of The Cross" on the Cross. Then say **Apostle Creed**, 1 **Our Father**...3 **Hail Mary**...1 **Glory Be**...For each decade, proceed as follows: On the large bead prior to 10 small beads, say "**O Holy Souls draw the fire of God's love into my soul, to reveal Jesus Crucified in me here on earth, rather than hereafter in Purgatory.**" On each of the small beads, say: "*Crucified Lord Jesus, have mercy on the souls in Purgatory.*" When you have completed all 5 decades, say **3 times the Glory Be**...Finish with the Sign of the Cross.

KEEP OUR SICK SISTERS & BROTHERS IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS

Call Helen Husky 440-232-3462 to add a member to the list.

Mike Bradley
Fr. Bill Browne
Tom Bruno
Michael Catalfumo
Catlin Dean
Christine DeMauro
Vincent DeVentura
Kelly Morici Diaz
John DiNato
John Donahue
Bob Dodds
Tim Doherty

Audrey Dzwonar
Lorie Evans
Steve Fiata
Marty Franck
Louise Frein
Richard Frein
Kathleen Graham
Frank Grippo
Bernie Hovan
Helen Husky
Fr. Edward Janoch
Larry Janowicz

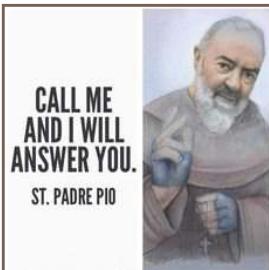
Chuck Jones
Ray King
David Kopowski
Irene Kovar
Fred Kramer
Laura Lang
Bishop Richard Lennon
Carol Liming
Dave Liming
Carol Machi
Jennifer Minniti
Joe Morici

Fr. Terry O'Connell
Kyle O'Malley
Christopher Phillips
Eleanor Phillips
Anton Picinic
Peggy Pontracz
Mary Scanlon
Abbot C. Schwartz OSB
Samantha Shumer
Michael Skebakis
Bernadette Suich
Rudy Tan

Anna Trapani
Joe Trapani
Joe Wantz
Barbara Wilson
Yoli Wright
SPECIAL INTENTION

† OUR CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF OUR RECENTLY DECEASED †

Paul Behneman
Charles Masetta
Ann Tripani



FOR ALL THE INTENTIONS IN OUR ONLINE PRAYER BASKET, LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.

LET US PRAY FOR THE DECEASED SOULS THIS YEAR

Fr. Andrew Apostoli
Monsignor Michele Castoro
Edward Costello
Mary DiDonato
Mark DiFranko
George Ducic
Patricia Dye
Karen Flechler
James Green Jr.
Michael Hart
Joseph Herbert
Gertrude Lang
Guiseppe Mannarino
Frank Sack
Stella Salvati
Nancy Spera
Ted Slarb
Barbara Weisinger
Mathew Wisniewski
Edward Ziemczonek
Helen Ziemczonek

Christmas Anticipation Prayer



Beginning on St. Andrew the Apostle's feast day, November 30, the following beautiful prayer is traditionally recited fifteen times a day until Christmas. This is a very meditative prayer that helps us increase our awareness of the real focus of Christmas and helps us prepare ourselves spiritually for His coming.

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires, [here mention your request] through the merits of Our Saviour Jesus Christ, and of His blessed Mother. Amen.

BEST WISHES to our Spiritual Children celebrating birthdays and special occasions in the month of November!