

**THE PADRE PIO
PRAYER GROUP
of Cleveland**

Spiritual Director:
Fr. Edward J. Janoch

Chaplains:
Fr. William E. Browne
Fr. Kevin C. Shemuga

Group Leader:
Cindy Russo, OFS

**UPCOMING
EVENTS:**

Jun 5-15 -

Pray for the pilgrims
on pilgrimage to
Poland and Italy

Jun 16 -

St. Padre Pio's
Canonization
Anniversary (2002)

Jul 6 -

NEW LOCATION

Padre Pio Prayer
Group Gathering
beginning with
Rosary at 8:00 AM
and Mass at 8:30 AM,
Our Lady of
Guadalupe Church,
9080 Shepard Rd,
Macedonia

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



St. Padre Pio Prayer Group Newsletter

JUNE 2019

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 6

God, Did You Enlarge My Heart?

God creates space in our Soul. God is unlimited. But we are not. We are confined by our smallness and our sinfulness, yet the Lord desires to pour Himself, more and more, into our hearts. In His desire that we experience life "to the full", there are two ways that God creates space for Himself. He empties us, and then He actually enlarges our hearts. The soul exerts much energy to clear away the clutter of worldly attachments in the purgative way. Then the Lord takes over during the awful, excruciating suffering of pain and loss in the night of the senses and the spiritual blindness in the night of the spirit, echoing the cry of Mary Magdalen: "They have taken my Lord and I do not know where they have put Him." Both nights serve to empty the soul of all attachments to even the purest and holiest desires: happiness, health, security, understanding, the sense of God's presence. God is chiseling away what is unnecessary and external, to describe God's powerfully creative work in the soul. But in time, as the ties to the world fall away, the Soul becomes almost exclusively interior, deeper and deeper each time, until the soul is perhaps surprised a little that there can be anything left. And yet God, so desiring to make a place for the immensity of His love, digs out new crevices and corners, smooths away imperfections and leaves us more and more interiorly free, gaping and open – an emptiness which is not a mere space but a hunger. As God is taking out debris from the great caverns of our soul, debris we could never move on our own, we suffer a difficult emptiness. The suffering gets more intense until He comes to fill us with the "ocean of His love."

St. Teresa of Avila tells us of another way in which God makes room for Himself. She de-

scribes this mysterious reality of a soul entering the fourth mansion, leaving behind the purgative way, quoting Psalm 119: "I have run the way of your commandments when you did enlarge my heart." How astonishing. Like a divine exhale, the Holy Spirit breathing into an empty place during the prayer of quiet to increase its capacity. She uses one of her favorite descriptors, water, to try to capture this mystery: "What an expansion of the soul is may be clearly understood from the example of a fount whose water doesn't overflow into a stream or because the fount itself is con-



structed of such material that the more water there is flowing into it the larger the trough becomes."

St. Benedict uses the phrase "enlargement of the heart" to describe how we grow in virtue.

"As we progress in our monastic life and faith, our hearts shall be enlarged, and we shall run with unspeakable sweetness of love in the way of God's commandments."

Let us pray that we have the gentleness to allow God to make the most space for Himself with each stripping and every expansion, growing our hearts exponentially and making them more and more like His own. Psalm 118 says, "When hard pressed, I cried to the Lord, He brought me into a spacious place." How humbling—and glorious—to think this spacious place we meet Him is the vast temple of our own emptied hearts!

**Dear God, Please enlarge our heart
each and every day, until we enjoy
your embrace in heaven. Amen.**



There are two devotions of our Faith that are related to each other and yet there are many people who like one of them and despise the other one. I have heard from faithful individuals that they love the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and yet when asked about the Divine Mercy devotion, they say why do we need this new devotion. There are others who love the

Divine Mercy Devotion, but ignore the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus because it is old or from the past and the Divine Mercy Devotion is new. I say that both are relevant and much needed for our times. They deal with two of the most needed virtues for our world today: LOVE and MERCY. These two words are the most commonly used words in Scripture. Many times, they are written in the same sentence. The Sacred Heart of Jesus is associated with the LOVE of God and the Divine Mercy is associated with the MERCY of God. I have used at different times the two words to describe God. God wants to give us his merciful love; his loving mercy. Both devotions were revealed at a time when love and mercy were greatly needed for the time of the revelation and still for us today. What helped me to see the connection of these two devotions was the depiction of the heart itself. In the Sacred Heart we see a heart that is pierced, where blood and water flowed at the crucifixion. The heart shows a flame that represents the merciful love that God wants to en-

flame [surround] us with. The Divine Mercy image does not show the heart of Jesus, itself, but it shows the outpouring of the pierced heart at the crucifixion. The rays of light, red and white, represent the loving mercy of God. These devotions go hand-in-hand with each other. They are not competing devotions but they help us to enrich our relationship with God.

This year we celebrate the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on Friday, June 28th. Normally the next day, Saturday, June 29th would be the celebration of the obligatory memorial of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This year, the Immaculate Heart of Mary is replaced with the higher celebration of the Solemnity of Ss. Peter and Paul. Some may be upset by this, but I am not, because Mary's loving heart is revealed in this Solemnity. Mary is known by the title of Queen of Apostles. She is still honored by the celebration of the Saints, who faithfully followed her Son, Jesus Christ. What mother would not be honored by those who honor her Son.

I also have a personal connection with the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Divine Mercy. For so long I had found it hard to express love. Not having the examples of expressions of love shown by my family, I did not learn how to express my love and the feelings and emotions attached to them. Food and material things replaced my expressions of love. These may have helped when I was a child, but not now as an adult. I have been discovering that God already loves me by sending His Son to me [and us]. I felt that I had to earn God's love instead of accepting what is freely given to me. The devotions of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Divine Mercy are showing me God's love for me and my love for God and others. I pray this short prayer when I fall into my "pity party" of not believing that I am being loved or when I wrongly feel that I have not done enough to earn God's love. I say: "I love you Lord, help me to love you even more."

St. Padre Pio has an intense love for his spiritual sons and daughters. This love is due to the love that he has experienced through the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The love that we have received, we must give to our neighbor. As Jesus said: "As the Father has loved me, so I love you. Live on in my love."

In God's merciful love, loving mercy.

Living a Heartfelt Life

Many people in our modern world are abandoning religion and atheism is on the rise. In the wake of all this, is it any wonder that suicide, hopelessness, violence, hate crimes and the coarsening of culture is on the rise? What is the solution to this: Living by the heart, and more precisely, living by and in the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The devotion to the Sacred Heart was given by Jesus appearing to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque in 1673 in France in a time much like ours, when the hearts of many people had become cold and devotion was at a low ebb. This year, the feast of the Sacred Heart is on June 28 and June is the month of the Sacred Heart.

The devotion is mistakenly treated by some as mere sentimentality—a big mistake. Rather, it has profound meaning. To live life well is to live it with heart. When our hearts are wounded as children, we can feel a deep void and we feel unloved. Harvard University once did a study and found that 95 percent of men who did not have a good relationship with their mothers became seriously ill in their 50's: they had a "mother wound". Ninety-five percent of men in prison either have no father or a very poor father-son relationship: they have a "father wound". Most militant atheists have a deep father wound as did Adolph Hitler. Teenage girls and women who lead promiscuous lives have wounds of the heart which they try to fill in all the wrong ways. As family life continues to break down, there are more young people with heart wounds manifested by empty looking eyes, pierced noses and lips, and tattoos, all of which seem to cover wounds of the heart, which seem to shout: "I am not lovable in myself, I am not lovable as I am."

This is precisely the reason why Jesus wants us to have a devotion to his Sacred Heart so that our hearts can bond with his heart, so that we can feel and experience his love, so that our hearts can be healed.

Most of us live in a place of reactions to covered over wounds of the heart with attitudes such as: "I have been

cheated by life. Life is not fair. God doesn't love me. The world is a mess." The remedy to this is to go on a long journey—the journey from the place of reactions to covered over wounds of the heart to the heart of Jesus. How do we do this? First, we get honest with Jesus by telling him exactly how we feel, not being afraid of expressing our negativity to him. (This is what many of the psalms are all about. Jesus himself quoted the psalm, "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?") Second, listen to how Jesus will speak to you over time—through scripture, a loving person or memory, a talk with a trusted spiritual friend, and perhaps best of all, through an honest and open confession with a gifted and understanding confessor. Confession in one of its most profound meanings is opening your wounded heart to the wounded heart of Jesus on the cross, nestling there totally loved and caressed by Him in all your negativity, and feeling your heart restored.






When our hearts are in the process of being healed, then we can reach out to others as wounded healers. With eyes of the heart, we can see through the angry words of a person, the rebellion of a teenager, etc. After all, most people simply want a chance to be listened to and to be valued in a world in

which people are shouting at one another and few are listening. As a wise marriage counselor asked a husband who frequently argued with his wife trying to set her straight, "Do you love your wife?" "Of course, I do." "Then show her that. When you have a 'discussion' with her in your reactive mode, interiorly pause, get hold of yourself, and move from your reactive mode to your heart. Hold her hands, look

lovingly in her eyes and tell her, 'Honey, I love you with all my heart.'" He did this. She cried, her heart melted, he followed up on her simple requests and their marriage was transformed. He was Jesus (minus his reactive mode). We are the wife, with all our fears and negative emotions assuaged. This is the heartfelt relationship which we celebrate by a devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.



Reflections for June 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
EFFICACIOUS NOVENA TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS [Pray the following prayers every day for nine days beginning on June 20 th ending on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on June 28 th .] [Padre Pio recited this novena every day for all those who requested his prayers.]	I. O my Jesus, you have said: "Truly I say to you, ask and you will receive, seek and you will find, knock and it will be opened to you." Behold I knock, I seek and ask for the grace of..... <i>(here name your request)</i> Our Father...Hail Mary...Glory Be to the Father... Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place all my trust in you.	II. O my Jesus, you have said: "Truly I say to you, if you ask anything of the Father in my name, he will give it to you." Behold, in your name, I ask the Father for the grace of..... <i>(here name your request)</i> Our Father...Hail Mary...Glory Be to the Father... Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place all my trust in you.	III. O my Jesus, you have said: "Truly I say to you, heaven and earth will pass away but my words will not pass away." Encouraged by your infallible words I now ask for the grace of..... <i>(here name your request)</i> Our Father...Hail Mary...Glory Be to the Father... Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place all my trust in you.	O Sacred Heart of Jesus, for whom it is impossible not to have compassion on the afflicted, have pity on us miserable sinners and grant us the grace which we ask of you, through the Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, your tender Mother and ours. Hail, Holy Queen... and add: St. Joseph, foster father of Jesus, pray for us.		1 Lord Jesus, let my focus be on You and Your will rather than on my sinfulness.
2 Lord, I am not worthy of Your great love but I humbly accept it.	3 Heavenly Father, thank You for showing me a better way of life.	4 Lord Jesus, I admit my sin to You; assist me in my desire to be like You.	5 Jesus, be bold with me so I never return to my former way of life.	6 Christ Jesus, may joy accompany me on my journey forward each moment of each day.	7 Holy Spirit, be an advocate for me when I am weak and tempted so I may stand firm.	8 Jesus, reveal Your face to me in those who are suffering.
THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD	St. Charles Lwanga and Companions		St. Boniface			St. Justin Martyr
9 Christ Jesus, renew my journey with a firm resolve to follow You and to love You.	10 Come Holy Spirit, renew me from within and mold me into the person You call me to be.	11 Lord, many times I have tried to be good on my own and I have failed. Help me!	12 Lord Jesus, send Your Holy Spirit so I can see You and live as You lived.	13 St. Michael, guard me from missteps and from those who would lead me astray.	14 Lord, stay with me as I reach out to others and give them support.	15 Paraclete, comfort me as I often need to be reminded of Your love and guidance.
PENTECOST SUNDAY	[10th Week in Ordinary Time]	St. Barnabas	Weekday	St. Anthony of Padua	Weekday	Weekday BVM
16 Jesus, give me hope in the midst of my struggles and trials on earth.	17 Jesus, may You always be my first choice when I seek refuge.	18 Lord God, help me not to lose faith in the midst of my searching of You.	19 Lord, I am weak and know my weakness. I rely on You for all things.	20 Lord, make up in my life what You find lacking. I trust in You. <i>[Begin the Sacred Heart of Jesus Novena]</i>	21 Lord, allow me to step back and listen to the wisdom of people You have put in my life.	22 Lord, may my inner and outer scars remind me that You still want me here.
THE MOST HOLY TRINITY	[11th Week in Ordinary Time]	Weekday	Weekday	St. Romuald	St. Aloysius Gonzaga	St. Paulus of Nola Ss. John Fisher & Thomas More
23 Jesus, thank You for Your saving presence in my life.	24 God of surprises, open my eyes to the possibilities that lay ahead of me.	25 Lord, who do I need to forgive? Give me the grace to forgive them.	26 Jesus, I'll rely on You even when I seem lost and don't feel Your presence.	27 Lord, stay with me and keep me on the road to recovery.	28 Christ Jesus, may my heart beat to the rhythm of Your Sacred Heart.	29 Loving Lord, heal me from any anger or resentment I may have toward my family.
THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST [CORPUS CHRISTI]	THE NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST	[12th Week in Ordinary Time]	Weekday	St. Cyril of Alexandria	THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS	SS. PETER & PAUL
30 Lord, keep my ears and spirit attuned to Your voice.	TANTUM ERGO Tantum ergo Sacramentum Veneremur cernui, Et antiquum documentum Novo cedit ritui; Praesent fides supplementum, Sensuum defectui.	Genitori Genitroque Laus et tubilatio, Salus, honor, virus quoque Sit et benedictio: Procedenti ab utroque Compar sit laudatio. Amen.				
13TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME						

Consecration of Our Marriage to the Sacred Heart of Jesus Through the Immaculate Heart of Mary

O, Immaculate Heart of Mary, sure refuge of sinners and firm anchor of salvation, to you do we wish to consecrate today our marriage. In these times of great spiritual battle, of struggle between authentic family values and a worldly mentality of permissiveness, we ask you, our Mother and Teacher, to show us the way of true love, of



commitment, of fidelity, of sacrifice and of service. By consecrating ourselves to you today, we beseech you to receive us into your Heart, to cover us with your Pure Mantel, to keep us in your maternal arms and to lead us on the sure path to the Sacred Heart of your Son, Jesus Christ.

You who are the Mother of Christ, we ask you to form and mold us so that we can both be living images of Jesus in our marriage, in our family, in the Church and in the world. You who are Virgin and Mother, pour upon us and upon our marriage, the spirit of purity of heart, of mind and of body. You who are our Spiritual Mother, help us to grow in the life of grace and of holiness. Do not permit us to fall into mortal sin nor to waste or misuse the graces won for us by your Son on the Cross. You who are the Teacher of Souls, teach us to be docile like you. May we receive with obedience and gratefulness the Truth revealed by Christ in His Word and in the Church. You who are the Mediatrix of all graces, be the Pure channel through which we receive in our lives and in our marriage, the graces of conversion, of love, of peace, of communication, of unity and of comprehension. You who are the Intercessor before

your Son, keep your merciful gaze upon us and upon our marriage. Draw close to your son imploring from Him, as You did in Cana, for the miracle of wine which we may lack. You who are the Coredematrix, teach us to be faithful to each other in moments of suffering and of cross. In times of trial, may we not seek our own well-being but rather the good of the other, remaining ever faithful to the commitment which we have received from God. May we always live these moments of sacrifice and struggle united to your Crucified Son.

In virtue of the union of the Immaculate Heart of Mary with the Sacred Heart of Christ, we pray that our marriage may be strengthened in unity, in love, in responsibility to our duties and in the generous self-offering of one to the other and to the children we will receive from Our Lord. May our home be a domestic sanctuary where we pray together and where we communicate with each other with joy and enthusiasm. May our marriage be for others, a visible sign of love and fidelity. We beseech you O Mother, in virtue of this consecration, that our marriage may be protected from all spiritual, physical or material evil. May your Immaculate Heart reign in our home so that Jesus Christ may be loved, heard and obeyed in our family. Sustained by His love and His grace, may we dispose ourselves to construct daily, the civilization of love: the Reign of the Two Hearts. Amen.



Prayers for Priests and Vocations in the Church

Litany of Prayers for Priests



For all Priests:

- Give them Your wisdom, Lord.
- Give them virtues.
- Give them patience and charity.
- Give them obedience and kindness.
- Give them a burning zeal for souls.
- Give them an intense love for the Eucharist.
- Give them loyalty to the Pope and their Bishops.
- Give them respect for their dignity.
- Give them a great love for Mary.
- Give them rectitude for justice.
- Give them the gift of counsel.
- Give them strength in their labors.
- Give them peace in their sufferings.
- Give them humility and generosity.
- Let them be the light of souls.
- Let them be the salt of the earth.
- Let them practice sacrifice and self denial.
- Let them enkindle hearts with the love of Mary.
- Let them be other Christs.

- Let them be holy in body and soul.
- May they be men of prayer.
- May faith shine forth in them.
- May they be faithful to their priestly vocation.
- May their hands know only how to bless.
- May they burn with love for You and for Mary.
- May all their steps be for the glory of God.
- May the Holy Spirit possess them, and give them His gifts and fruits in abundance.

Let us pray, O God, Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. You are the soul and the life of the Church. Hear the prayers we offer for priests. We ask this through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, their protector and guide. Amen.

— *Richard Cardinal Cushing*

Prayer for Vocations

Lord Jesus,
 you promised to send the Holy Spirit,
 and you kept your promise that first Pentecost! Thank you!
 We believe the Holy Spirit continues to live within our hearts,
 prompting us to follow you faithfully.
 May your Holy Spirit inspire vocations to the priesthood,
 consecrated life as sisters and brothers, deacons,
 and in lifelong, loving, faithful, life-giving sacramental marriage.
 Give us the priests we need to carry on your mission of preaching,
 serving, and sanctifying.
 We count on the intercession of your Mother and ours,
 who was with your apostles that first Pentecost.
 You are Christ our Lord. Amen.

— *Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Archbishop of New York, Foundation of Prayer for Priests*
 (www.foundationforpriests.org)

**Come
 Holy Spirit,
 come, by
 means
 of the
 powerful
 intercession
 of the
 Immaculate
 Heart of
 Mary,
 your well
 beloved
 Spouse.**

Dear Spiritual Brothers and Sisters of Padre Pio



I would like express our gratitude to Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish Staff for their effort and hospitality in the transition of moving. Also, thank you to the Knights of Columbus for turning out for the procession of May Crowning. Their presence is always greatly appreciated. The live drama of the "Life & Times of Mother Angelica" was perfection. God bless Joan Kuczek for using the gifts that God has given

her for evangelization. It was the 4th largest attendance we had in the last 12 months! We now have 662 registered members.

During the gathering I mentioned the amazing story of the St. Michael the Archangel Sculpture. It came from the Rockefeller Estate Auction. Coincidentally, Mary Pyle was indirectly from the Rockefeller family. Our vision is to have an outdoor Pilgrimage Shrine of St. Padre Pio on the Our Lady of Guadalupe Church grounds. We will be hosting a fundraiser in the Fall to help this vision come true. We are also investigating a GoFundMe page as well.



Please keep in your prayers the pilgrims going to Poland and Italy from June 5 -15. All the prayer petitions collected during our Masses will be accompanying us. We are finalizing the details for the pilgrimage to EVTN in October.

During this month Fr. Browne and I visited the Holy Name Society at St. Columbkille Church in Parma to share the relics and stories of St. Padre Pio. I was also the guest speaker at the Altar & Rosary Society at St. Joseph Church in Cuyahoga Falls.

While I was visiting St. Ignatius Church in Florida, to my surprise, an image of St. Pio was on the wall of the church. They are now in discernment about starting a Padre Pio Prayer Group at the church!

So much goodness! I will end with a message from the Father Superior of San Giovanni Rotondo:



Dear Padre Pio's Spiritual Children, Thousands of Spiritual Children of Padre Pio are located all over the world. From his earliest years as a Franciscan Friar, Padre Pio's God-given gifts enabled him to discern the sins of mankind, particularly those whom he confessed. Over the years he kept up continuing spiritual relationships with people guiding their souls to a fuller, more meaningful spirituality in union with Our Lord and His Blessed Mother. These were his Spiritual Children. He promised them that once lifted, he would not let them falter along the road to salvation, for this is the essence of our lives here -- to do the will of the Father, to purify our souls for a lasting union with Him in Heaven. Before his departure from this earth, Padre Pio promised, "I will stand at the gates of Heaven and will not enter until all my Spiritual Children have entered." Padre Pio's love for the Blessed Mother was such that he consecrated his life to Her. When you become a Spiritual Child and comply with his request of rosary, scapular etc., and make every effort to improve your own soul, you will please not only Padre Pio, but certainly Our Lord and Blessed Mother. We are pleased to accept you and the members of the group as one of the Spiritual Children of St. Pio of Pietrelcina. You will be remembered in our prayers and Masses as we beg God to bestow on you great spiritual benefits and a final Heavenly Reward.

Pray, hope and don't worry.

Cindy Russo OFS, Group Leader

Congratulations to Our Spiritual Sister



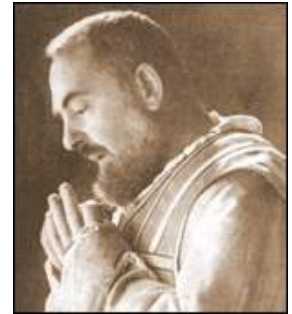
Congratulations to our Spiritual Sister, Clarice DeJesus, in heading the newly formed Diocese of Cleveland Sodality of Catholic Nurses! They had their inaugural Mass on May 10. For more information go to <https://tinyurl.com/yxkrso6x>.



KEEP OUR SICK SISTERS & BROTHERS IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS

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

Bernadine Antonio	Christine DeMauro	Heather Gunde	Bishop Richard Lennon	Beth Whelan
Carol Basek	Vincent DeVentura	Valerie Hawkins	Carol Limming	
Jack Bolton	Kelly Morici Diaz	Helen Husky	Dave Limming	
Dr. Biagio Boytim	Bob Dodds	Ray King	Jennifer Minniti	
Mike Bradley	Tim Doherty	Virginia Kovacina	Joe Morici	
Tom Bruno	Steve Fiata	Carol Kriebel	Peggy Pongracz	
Florence Catafumo	Louise Frein	Cookie Laba	Abbot C. Schwartz OSB	
Sue Cleary	Richard Frein	Lori Landfear	Rita Slivka	
Catlin Dean	Kathleen Graham	Laura Lang	Joe Trapani	



† OUR CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF OUR RECENTLY DECEASED †

C. Bernard Ruffin III, 11/22/1947—05/04/2019, author of "Padre Pio: The True Story"

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

Jake's Corner

For the month of June, I am writing about Saint Hannibal Mary di Francia. He was born on July 5, 1851, in Messina, Italy. His father, Francis, was a knight of the Marquises of St.

Catherine of Jonio, and the Papal Vice-Consul and Honorary Captain of the Navy. His mother, Anna Toscano, was from an Aristocratic family. He lost his father when he was fifteen months old. That experience had a profound experience for Hannibal. As a child, Hannibal developed a great love for the Eucharist, so much that Hannibal could receive Holy Communion daily. When he was seventeen while in prayer before the Eucharist, he was given a "revelation of rogate". This meant that Hannibal felt that vocations can only come through prayer. In Matthew 9:38 Hannibal saw that Our Lord asked: "[...] so ask (Rogate) the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest." Hannibal treasured those words forever and he dedicated his life to the increase of vocations.

Hannibal was a smart student and had incredible reading skills. Soon, he felt the call to enter the Holy Priesthood. Hannibal was ordained a Priest on March 16, 1878. Some weeks beforehand, he met a blind beggar, Francesco Zancone, in the poor town of Case Avignone outside of Messina. It was that



moment that lead Hannibal to have a great love for the sick and poor. With the approval of his local Bishop, Father Hannibal made his home the Avignone ghetto so he could do all his work with the poor. Father Hannibal saw those who lived in Case Avignone "sheep without their shepherd." (Numbers 27:17)

In 1882 Father Hannibal founded many orphanages, he called the "Anthonian Orphanages" because he placed them under the patronage of Saint Anthony of Padua. Father Hannibal did not just care for their temporal well-being, but also their spiritual well-being. He made sure that the children of the Anthonian Orphanages grew up to be moral and religious people. To furthermore carry out his apostolic ideals, Father Hannibal founded two congregations, The Rogationist of the Heart of Jesus and the Daughters of Divine Will.

He wanted the members of the two congregations to live the Rogate (prayer for vocations) as a fourth vow. Father Hannibal created associations to pray for vocations like the Pious Union of the Evangelical Rogation. He died in the odor of Sanctity on June 1, 1927, in Messina, Italy. Father Hannibal Mary di Francia was proclaimed Blessed at the Vatican on October 7, 1990, by His Holiness, Pope Saint John Paul II, and Canonized at the Vatican on May 16, 2004, by the same Pope.

Saint Hannibal Mary di Francia had a great love for the Holy Priesthood and worked tirelessly for vocations and for the poor. I believe Saint Hannibal Mary di Francia is the perfect model of a priest. The feast day of Saint Hannibal Mary di Francia is on June 1st.

Written by: Jake Snyder

SOURCE: *Biography of Saint Hannibal Mary Di Francia*, The Hours of the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ, 2009-2019, www.passioiesus.org/en/anibal/biografia.htm.

BEST WISHES to our Spiritual Children celebrating birthdays and special occasions in the month of June, and God Bless all the fathers!

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