

**THE PADRE PIO
PRAYER GROUP
of Cleveland**

Spiritual Director:
Fr. Edward J. Janoch

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

Group Leader:
Cindy Russo

**UPCOMING
EVENTS:**

May 2 -

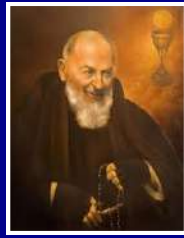
Live streaming Mass
for our Padre Pio
Prayer Group on our
Facebook page at
8:30 AM ([https://
www.facebook.com/
padrepioleveland/](https://www.facebook.com/padrepioleveland/)).

May 25 -

St. Padre Pio's
Birthday (1887)

Jun 6 -

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



St. Padre Pio Prayer Group Newsletter

MAY 2020

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 5

Mary Is the Reason of All My Hope

St. Padre Pio had an unconditional, unwavering love and devotion to the Virgin Mary, particularly through the Holy Rosary. He would call her in many different ways: Maria, Madonna, Mamma, Madre, Madonnella, etc. He knew the importance Our Lady plays in the life of every Christian. He called the Rosary a weapon, because that's exactly what it is. Our Lady herself said to Padre Pio: "With this weapon you will win." Padre Pio states that "It is the

'weapon' against Satan for these times, a weapon of defense and salvation." We know that the prayers of the Holy Rosary are more than just repetitious words. If we truly focus on the meditations of the mysteries, we examine deep into the heart of the Gospel of truth.



Some might still be thinking "Why the Rosary?" The simple answer is because it's powerful, and the very 'gates of hell' tremble when the Rosary is prayed fervently. It is a tangible sign that we are connected to Jesus Christ. When we touch our Rosary we know that Mary is connecting us to her Son. Padre Pio once said: "Some people are so foolish that they think they can go through life without the help of the Blessed Mother. Love the Madonna and pray the Rosary, for her Rosary is the weapon against the evils of the world today. All graces given by God pass through the Blessed Mother."

The Rosary was part of Padre Pio's love for the mother of Jesus. He used this prayer to maintain and nourish his love of Mary. But he also used it as a most powerful intercessory aid for obtaining from God the help that he needed for himself and that he sought for others. Padre Pio's devotion to the Virgin Mary was rooted in the truth that Jesus specifically wills such devotion. Jesus chooses that we come to

Him through her; for Her soul magnifies the Lord. Padre Pio said many times: "I wish I had a voice loud enough to tell all the sinners of the world to love Mary. She is the ocean across which one must travel in order to reach Jesus." Above Padre Pio's door were the words: "Mary is the reason of all my hope." In the cell Padre Pio prayed and suffered; here also his life ended to go to the house of the Father.

For us who face many trials these days in our world, St. Pio is one of the saints we must turn to for prayers and guidance. He faced his trials and sufferings head on through prayer, the Holy Eucharist, and the devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Catholic Church has only known the Rosary for about 800 years. Since then, the Catholic Church has encouraged all the faithful to pray the Rosary because it is the prayer of the Madonna, the one that triumphs on everything and everybody. The Rosary has been the seat belt that we need in these times of turbulence. If prayed devoutly in our families, it will certainly bring calmness and serenity; and will build bridges of understanding, friendship and fellowship in our troubled society.

God teaches all of us through the lives of His faithful servants. Many know Mary only with their minds. Padre Pio knew her with his heart. There is no doubt that if he could speak to us at this very moment, he would invite us to seek this same knowledge of the heart through the same simple means so dear to him: the Rosary.





OUR LADY OF CONSOLATION

As I write this reflection we have been separated from our sacramental life for 40 days. Jesus spent 40 days in the desert without many of the necessities of life. We have also been in our “desert” without many of the public expressions of our sacramental life. This may be a discouragement for some, but we have someone who is there to help us. She is Our Lady of Consolation. It is a “God Occurrence” that the State of Ohio is under the patronage of Our Lady of Consolation because of the National Basilica and Shrine to Our Lady of Consolation in Carey, Ohio. She can give us the much needed consolation as we struggle in this pandemic and this time of quarantine. A prayer to Our Lady of Consolation is provided below.

As we enter this month of May, dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, let us seek the loving consolation of our Mother, for us her children. Just as the State of Ohio is under the patronage of Our Lady of Consolation, our Country is under the patronage of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception. This year, it may be a good idea to

select one of the patronages of Our Blessed Mother for our homes and families. I have had a strong devotion to Our Lady of Lourdes, so this is the patronage of the Blessed Virgin Mary that I have selected for myself. Mary is under so many titles/patronages that there is something for everyone.

I personally want to say that I miss you all, especially the teasing that I get from my “Older Sister” Cindy. I also want to remind everyone that this time of pandemic and quarantine is our time of being “gold being tested in fire.” This time in our Country and the World is a time for us to be purified by the fires of God’s Merciful Love. Our Lady of Consolation will help us during this time. Mary knows what suffering is but she also now enjoys the immense Love of God for all eternity. Mary wants us to share in this Love and will help us and bring us to The Father, to Her Son and to her spouse, the Holy Spirit.

Our Lady of Consolation, Pray for us!

A PRAYER IN SPECIAL TIME OF NEED

Mary, Loving Mother of Consolation, I turn to you now in this time of need. I come to you confused and fearful, anxious as a little child.

I know you really are my Mother. You see me with eyes filled with love and understanding. Touch me through your prayers and hold me in your love, that I might continue strong and unafraid in these days of difficulty and hurt.

Gentle Mother, I now confide to you my greatest need (*pause and reflect*). Please pray that the loving will of Our Father may always come first in my heart and in my mind.

Help me to reflect on the needs in your own life, Mary, the days when you, too, knew concern, fear, loneliness and grief. You always turned to Our Father and gave yourself to Him completely. You knew His love and showed us how to live in it.

When I remember the love of your Blessed Son for me, I am less afraid. When I think of you, I can smile. Pray for me, Mary. Guide me always in your love, and lead me to your Son, Jesus. Amen.

A Life-Changing Experience

In the summer of 1957, Mario Bruschi was 23 years old. He traveled from their home in NYC to the town of Ponte Strambo, Italy to visit relatives with his mother Adele who just read a biography of Padre Pio. She then asked Mario to accompany her to San Giovanni Rotondo. His Catholic faith meant very little to him. He reluctantly went on a 12 hour drive and was in no mood to get up the following morning at 3 AM to attend Mass with Padre Pio.

When they finally arrived at the monastery of Our Lady of Grace, they went to get a ticket for Padre Pio's confessional. The wait for confession was 10 days. The thought of being stuck in San Giovanni for 10 long days was difficult for Mario to accept for there was nothing else to do in the area.

As the days passed, Mario and Adele learned the daily routine of the pilgrims in San Giovanni Rotondo. Everything revolved around the small church of Our Lady of Grace. Almost all of the visitors spent their days in the church because that was where they could find Padre Pio. When Padre Pio called for order in the church, everyone stopped talking at once. Mario and his mother attended Padre Pio's early morning Mass each day. For Mario, it was a test of patience. It was the longest weekday Mass that he had ever attended in his life. Because Padre Pio became deeply absorbed in prayer during the Holy Sacrifice, there were frequent and extended periods of silence. Mario found himself becoming annoyed with the time it took for



Padre Pio to say the Mass. He made sure to avoid making eye contact with Padre Pio. Having heard that he had the gift of reading hearts, the thought of direct eye contact with him made Mario feel uncomfortable. It was the custom for the Capuchins to invite the pilgrims who had traveled from a distance to serve at Padre Pio's Mass. Mario was asked if he would like to be an altar

server but he declined the invitation. Kneeling on the hard stone by the altar for such a long period of time was not something that he wanted to attempt. As the days passed, the annoyance that Mario had initially felt during Padre Pio's Mass vanished. Instead, he began to feel greatly uplifted. The Mass still lasted the same length of time, but for some reason, the time no longer seemed to drag but instead passed quickly. Mario watched Padre Pio's movements closely. Sometimes Padre Pio's eyes would twitch and he would stare upwards in a fixed spot and remain completely motionless. He seemed to be seeing something that no one else could see. His deep communion with God was very evident.

At noon, Mario and his mother attended the public recitation of the Angelus. Padre Pio blessed religious articles, and on occasion he also blessed automobiles and animals. In the late afternoon, Mario and his mother attended

the Rosary followed by the Benediction service in the church. In the evening, they joined the other pilgrims who made their way to an open field outside the monastery. With lighted candles, they waited for Padre Pio to come to the little window of his cell. All would wave to him and bid him goodnight.



Mario happened to be in the sacristy one day as Padre Pio was putting on his vestments in preparation for Benediction. Padre Pio first wrapped a short, white cloth called an amice, around his neck and shoulders. At that moment Mario perceived the beautiful fragrance of roses filling the

sacristy. Mario's attitude underwent a change as the days passed to peace and serenity. It seemed like "Heaven on earth."

The day for Mario to make his confession to Padre Pio finally arrived. He grew increasingly nervous as the time approached. He had heard about Padre Pio's gifts of discernment and dreaded the thought that Padre Pio might be able to read his soul. He was afraid that he might be able to see the sins in his life of which he was very much ashamed. Padre Pio, in a voice full of authority, reprimanded a man before Mario and ordered him out of the confessional. Mario told the man who was standing behind him in line that he could go in front of him as he was going to leave. The man said "But Padre Pio is pointing at you. He wants to see you." Padre Pio was looking directly at Mario and beckoning him to come into the confessional. The man standing behind Mario in line gave him a shove forward. After Mario closed the curtain and knelt down, Padre Pio patted his hand lovingly and said to him gently, "Be tranquil, my son. Calm yourself." The words seemed to be charged with power for at once Mario felt a great tranquility, a wonderful peace took possession of his soul. The trembling in his body stopped altogether. Padre Pio then asked him a number of questions. "Do you say your morning prayers?" Padre Pio asked. "No, I do not," he replied. "Do you say your night prayers?" Padre Pio asked. He had to say no. "Do you tell lies?" "Yes, I have told lies," Mario replied. It went on like that with more questions, more admissions. Padre Pio seemed to know exactly the right questions to ask. They were all related to Mario's areas of weakness. Mario had the feeling that Padre Pio knew the answers to the questions, even before he asked them. He had no need to tell his sins; Padre Pio was naming them for him. Padre Pio's face was



luminously beautiful. Mario felt like he was looking at goodness itself. Padre Pio's cheeks were rosy. He looked robust and healthy. Most impressive of all were his clear and penetrating eyes. He felt that Christ himself was there hearing his confession. Mario told Padre Pio that he did not know what to do

(Continued on page 9)



The Holy See

LETTER OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS TO THE FAITHFUL FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The month of May is approaching, a time when the People of God express with particular intensity their love and devotion for the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is traditional in this month to pray the Rosary at home within the family. The restrictions of the pandemic have made us come to appreciate all the more this “family” aspect, also from a spiritual point of view.

For this reason, I want to encourage everyone to rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home in the month of May. This can be done either as a group or individually; you can decide according to your own situations, making the most of both opportunities. The key to doing this is always simplicity, and it is easy also on the internet to find good models of prayers to follow.

I am also providing two prayers to Our Lady that you can recite at the end of the Rosary, and that I myself will pray in the month of May, in spiritual union with all of you. I include them with this letter so that they are available to everyone.

Dear brothers and sisters, contemplating the face of Christ with the heart of Mary our Mother will make us even more united as a spiritual family and will help us overcome this time of trial. I keep all of you in my prayers, especially those suffering most greatly, and I ask you, please, to pray for me. I thank you, and with great affection I send you my blessing.

*Rome, Saint John Lateran, 25 April 2020
Feast of Saint Mark the Evangelist*

Pope Francis

Below you can find the full text of the prayers shared by Pope Francis:

First Prayer:

O Mary, You shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who, at the foot of the cross, were united with Jesus' suffering, and persevered in your faith.

"Protectress of the Roman people", you know our needs, and we know that you will provide, so that, as at Cana in Galilee, joy and celebration may return after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the will of the Father and to do what Jesus tells us. For he took upon himself our suffering, and burdened himself with our sorrows to bring us, through the cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God; Do not despise our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us always from every danger, O Glorious and Blessed Virgin.

Second Prayer:

"We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God".

In the present tragic situation, when the whole world is prey to suffering and anxiety, we fly to you, Mother of God and our Mother, and seek refuge under your protection.

Virgin Mary, turn your merciful eyes towards us amid this coronavirus pandemic. Comfort those who are distraught and mourn their loved ones who have died, and at times are buried in a way that grieves them deeply. Be close to those who are concerned for their loved ones who are sick and who, in order to prevent the spread of the disease, cannot be close to them. Fill with hope those who are troubled by the uncertainty of the future and the consequences for the economy and employment.

Mother of God and our Mother, pray for us to God, the Father of mercies, that this great suffering may end and that hope and peace may dawn anew. Plead with your divine Son, as you did at Cana, so that the families of the sick and the victims be comforted, and their hearts be opened to confidence and trust.

Protect those doctors, nurses, health workers and volunteers who are on the frontline of this emergency, and are risking their lives to save others. Support their heroic effort and grant them strength, generosity and continued health.

Be close to those who assist the sick night and day, and to priests who, in their pastoral concern and fidelity to the Gospel, are trying to help and support everyone.

Blessed Virgin, illumine the minds of men and women engaged in scientific research, that they may find effective solutions to overcome this virus.

Support national leaders, that with wisdom, solicitude and generosity they may come to the aid of those lacking the basic necessities of life and may devise social and economic solutions inspired by farsightedness and solidarity.

Mary Most Holy, stir our consciences, so that the enormous funds invested in developing and stockpiling arms will instead be spent on promoting effective research on how to prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future.

Beloved Mother, help us realize that we are all members of one great family and to recognize the bond that unites us, so that, in a spirit of fraternity and solidarity, we can help to alleviate countless situations of poverty and need. Make us strong in faith, persevering in service, constant in prayer.

Mary, Consolation of the afflicted, embrace all your children in distress and pray that God will stretch out his all-powerful hand and free us from this terrible pandemic, so that life can serenely resume its normal course.

To you, who shine on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope, do we entrust ourselves, O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary. Amen.

Day by Day with Mary: May 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>31 O Mary, you bring us the love of God through the Holy Spirit. Make me acutely aware of the Holy Spirit and grant me the grace to follow His promptings and grow in His love.</p> <p>PENTECOST</p>		<p>O MARY! WE CROWN THEE WITH BLOSSOMS TODAY, QUEEN OF THE ANGELS, QUEEN OF THE MAY, O MARY WE CROWN THEE WITH BLOSSOMS TODAY, QUEEN OF THE ANGELS, QUEEN OF THE MAY.</p>				
<p>3 O Mary, you are all beautiful in both soul and body. I praise you as the Queen of heaven and earth. Let me appreciate your beauty and spiritual might ever more each day.</p>	<p>4 O Mary, grant me the graces God intends for me this day. Then offer to your Divine Son all the good works that I do as a result of these graces.</p>	<p>5 O Immaculate Heart of Mary, may my heart be ever united with yours. Grant that I may hate sin, love God and my neighbor, and reach eternal life together with those I love.</p>	<p>6 O Mary, your Divine Son has placed His own mighty power into your hands. By that power, help me to flee all sin and practice my faith conscientiously day after day.</p>	<p>7 O Mary, I offer you deep thanks for your great love for all those redeemed by your Divine Son. Help me to respond to that love by loving my neighbor for the love of you and Jesus.</p>	<p>8 O Mary, inspire me to come to you in all my difficulties. Help me to be ever devoted to you and to receive the graces I need to be with you and your Divine Son in heaven.</p>	<p>9 O most powerful Advocate, "help the helpless, strengthen the fearful, comfort the sorrowful, pray for the people, plead for the clergy, intercede for all women consecrated to God, and assist all those devoted to you."</p> <p>St. Athanasius First Saturday</p>
<p>4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER</p> <p>10 O Mary, you are more devoted to the salvation of your children than any earthly mother can be. I thank you for your loving concern for me, which will only rest when I am in heaven with you.</p>	<p>11 O Mary, you are the mold of Christ. Form us into the image of your Divine Son. Help me to be like Jesus, so that I may be forever a true child of God.</p>	<p>12 O Mary, you are the Refuge of Sinners. Help me to receive the Sacrament of Penance worthily, so that my sins will be forgiven and I will sing you praises forever.</p> <p>Easter Weekday Ss. Nereus and Achilleus St. Pancras</p>	<p>13 O Mary, you always listen to our prayers. Help me to remain united with you in prayer despite the many activities that cry for my attention at every moment of the day.</p> <p>Easter Weekday Our Lady of Fatima</p>	<p>14 O Mary, you magnify the Lord by your life as well as your words. Obtain for me the grace to glorify the Lord and rejoice in Him by the purity of my life.</p> <p>Easter Weekday ST. MATTHIAS</p>	<p>15 O Mary, you meditated continually on the things God sent into your life. Help me to meditate daily on the events that touch my life and to discern God's hand and will in them.</p> <p>Easter Weekday St. Isidore</p>	<p>16 O Mary, most wise, help me to contemplate the science of salvation found in your Immaculate Heart. Grant that I may imitate you in all things, for you were the perfect follower of Jesus.</p> <p>Easter Weekday</p>
<p>5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER Mother's Day</p> <p>17 O Mary, you were forever working for the Christian apostolate. Teach me to work with you so that I may obtain the best fruits from this activity, which Jesus commanded us to do.</p>	<p>18 O Mary, you are the Book of Life for your servants. Help me to be so devoted to you that I will remain free from serious sin and deserve to have my name written in that Book.</p>	<p>19 O Mary, you are the first among the believers in Christ. Increase my faith in your Divine Son. Make it so alive that it will shine out even in the slightest things I do.</p> <p>Easter Weekday St. Nereus and Achilleus St. Pancras</p>	<p>20 O Mary, you are the Mediatrix of all Graces. Let me ask you each day for the graces I need to lead a truly Christian life, and obtain them for me from your Divine Son.</p> <p>Easter Weekday St. Bernardine of Siena</p>	<p>21 O Mary, you are our Advocate with God. Grant that I may call upon your intercessory power and so be able to bring forth the fruits that your Divine Son expects from me.</p> <p>Easter Weekday St. Christopher Magallanes and Companions</p>	<p>22 O Mary, you are entrusted with our salvation. Keep me safe from the snares of the devil. Help me to say often: "Immaculate Heart of Mary, be my salvation."</p> <p>Easter Weekday St. Rita of Cascia</p>	<p>23 O Mary, you bring Jesus to us in a way we can understand. Let me come to know Jesus more deeply, love Him more dearly, and follow Him more closely.</p> <p>Easter Weekday</p>
<p>6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER</p> <p>24 O Mary, you lead us unfailingly to Jesus, you ascended Son. Help me to follow your inspiration in all things and to radiate your Divine Son to the whole world.</p>	<p>25 O Mary, in accord with the will of your Divine Son, you are the Refuge of Sinners. Beg Him to forgive my past sins and help me to avoid sin in the future.</p> <p>Easter Weekday St. Bede the Venerable St. Gregory VII St. Mary Magdalene de Pazzi Memorial Day</p>	<p>26 O Mary, you obtain the grace of final perseverance for your children. Help me to be a devoted child of yours, so that I may remain in the state of grace until death and join you with your Son in heaven.</p> <p>Easter Weekday St. Peter Neri</p>	<p>27 O Mary, you are the Co-Redemptrix with your Divine Son. Help me to unite all my words and actions with your Heart and the Sacred Heart of Jesus for the salvation of the world.</p> <p>Easter Weekday St. Augustine of Canterbury</p>	<p>28 O Mary, you bore Christ in your heart as well as your body. Help me to hear Him always within my heart by doing the things that are pleasing to Him.</p> <p>Easter Weekday</p>	<p>29 O Mary, intercede even for the most hardened souls. Convert them back to Jesus.</p> <p>Easter Weekday</p>	<p>30 O Mary, teach me to unite myself with the Church in the Liturgy of the Hours/Christian Prayer each day. Let me recite your magnificent hymn of praise often.</p> <p>Easter Weekday</p>
<p>THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD</p>						<p>Easter Weekday [May 31st Upper Left]</p>

In the End, My Immaculate Heart Will Triumph

The triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary is not based on any condition. It is an absolute declaration and it is based on God's infallible word about the Woman who will crush the head of the serpent (Gen 3:15) and the Woman clothed with the sun (Rev 12). From all that we have seen thus far, it is clear that the triumph of

it, who is preparing a second Pentecost. She is calling all of us to Her Immaculate Heart as our place of refuge. Our Blessed Mother is the refuge of sinners—that is, each of us. Despite our sins, frustrations and failings, She does not detach herself from us, but rather intercedes for us with loyalty and love in Heaven.



The Immaculate Heart of Mary and Sister Lucia

the Immaculate Heart will prepare the way for the triumph of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. It could not be otherwise. God has ordained that the mediation of the Woman, of Her Immaculate Heart, should be a fundamental component in the ultimate victory over sin and death. There is no question, then, about the ultimate triumph of the Immaculate Heart. The only question is when, and that is a question that we can help determine. To the extent that we accept and live those moral obligations connected with the message of Fatima, which Sister Lucia refers to as the "Calls" of the Message of Fatima, we will hasten that triumph. That is our insertion into the "Alliance of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary", the Two Hearts devotion. Sister Lucia puts it this way: Mary was chosen by God to be the Mother of his Son—the Mother of Jesus Christ—and the Mother of His Mystical Body, the Church, which is Her spiritual offspring. When He was dying in agony on the cross, Jesus gave Her to us all as Mother, in the person of St. John: "Behold your Mother" (Jn 19:27). We are the children of the suffering and bitterness of the heart of Jesus Christ, and of the heart of His Mother, and ours. It is for this reason that all suffering united with His, completes our dedication and commitment to God and contributes to the salvation of our brothers and sisters who have gone astray.

Do you believe that all the Refuges being prepared by Our Lady and the Holy Spirit are the literal, existing-with-us "Immaculate Heart of Mary"? Our Lady has told us many times and in diverse places that She desires us to draw closer to her Immaculate Heart, a place where we will find refuge and peace. In these most difficult times that are coming to the Church and to all of mankind, She has always been the front-runner for Her Son Jesus. Unfortunately, a huge segment of mankind has turned their face from God. We must not become discouraged by this depressing fact, but instead, we must look to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the Spouse of the Holy Spir-

it, who is preparing a second Pentecost. She is calling all of us to Her Immaculate Heart as our place of refuge. Our Blessed Mother is the refuge of sinners—that is, each of us. Despite our sins, frustrations and failings, She does not detach herself from us, but rather intercedes for us with loyalty and love in Heaven.

The Holy Spirit and Mary prepares the way for us...Many of us wonder, what is happening to the world.... "What on earth is going on?" We are seeing all the natural disasters that are taking place all over the world, pandemics, economic collapse in many countries, the state of world governments, depression, terrorism, nations in upheaval, and widespread evil. How will we prepare ourselves for the warnings and calamity that are coming and will visit mankind? We must prepare first and foremost spiritually. Our physical preparations will and must develop from our spiritual preparation and direction—a course found only through fervent prayer. Through prayer, we must seek Our Lady and the Holy Spirit. They are our hope and Jesus is our salvation. Our Blessed Mother wants to bring all of us to Her Son, Jesus. Her prayer and cry is for each of us to come to Jesus and open our hearts to Him. She is preparing the Church for the Second Coming of Jesus. The world must be the Ark of Covenant, free from all sin. The chastisement is a cleansing of all sin in this world. Then, Our Lord and Savior will reign as King and Lord of all creation. The closer we are to Our Blessed Mother, the closer we are to her Spouse, the Holy Spirit, and the closer we are to God. Our Lady leads us to God, so that when we have the Blessed Virgin Mary in our souls, the Holy Spirit comes to us.

Memorare

Remember,
O most gracious Virgin Mary,
that never was it known
that anyone who fled to thy protection,
implored thy help,
or sought thine intercession
was left unaided.

Inspired by this confidence,
I fly unto thee,
O Virgin of virgins, my mother;
to thee do I come,
before thee I stand,
sinful and sorrowful.
O Mother of the Word Incarnate,
despise not my petitions,
but in thy mercy hear and answer me.
Amen.



St. Augustine Church

Est 1898

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April 24, 2020

Dear Friends that are greatly missed:

Pray, Hope, and Don't Worry, sure seem like words we need to embed in our souls today. But, we just need to look a little past the headlines to see all the selfless people fighting this outbreak with courage and virtue.

Philosophers have wondered if the challenges we face make us the person we become or if we already have within us the power/gifts to overcome these challenges. I think it certainly is both. Let us reflect on the words of Michelangelo:

"The greater danger of most of us lies not in setting our aim too high and falling short; but in setting our aim too low and achieving our mark."

April 7 was to be "Chrism Day" at the Cathedral in Cleveland. It is a glorious time when all of the priests get together with our Bishop/Administrator and He blesses The Holy Oils. Because of the pandemic, we couldn't celebrate it together and I went to my cottage on the lake to pray and meditate on the upcoming Triduum on Holy Thursday thru the Easter Vigil.

With so much thought/prayers about The Pandemic, I, and all of us wondered when we can worry less/or be delivered from something else. The something else happened just five minutes into Wednesday, 12:05am when a tornado hit where I was, knocking down eight trees, some 70 feet tall and taller and dropped two of them on the cottage less than 10 feet from where I was sitting. All power was knocked out.

Trying to bring some humor into an escape from death, I thought: "Gee Lord, I did want to stop thinking about the Coronavirus for a minute, but did you have to use a level four tornado and 70 foot trees dropped next to my chair to get my attention?" Too many things like this have happened to me throughout life for it to be a coincidence or accident.

God's Providence is about trusting that he will take care of us so that we can serve Him without hindrance. This was a Holy Week I will never forget.

Sincerely,

Fr. Bill Browne

(Continued from page 3)

with his life. "I don't know what career to pursue," Mario said. "Could you give me some advice?" "Preghiamo figiu mi," (Pray, my son) Padre Pio answered. Padre Pio was so kind, so gentle. "Go in peace, my son," Padre Pio said as Mario kissed his hand. He gave Mario a blessing. The confession was over but Mario did not want to leave the confessional. He wanted to stay with Padre Pio forever. The thought came to him that if Padre Pio had asked him to stay, he would have agreed to it in an instant. He would gladly be willing to do any work, no matter how small or menial, just to be able to be near Padre Pio.

Later on in the afternoon, Mario saw Fr. Giovanni Battista who asked him how his confession to Padre Pio had gone. Mario shared that it had been a true gift, a truly "heavenly" experience. "Did Padre Pio say the words, Ego te absolvo?" Fr. Battista asked. "No, he did not," Mario replied. "That means that you received a blessing from Padre Pio but not absolution." "Don't worry about it, though. Padre Pio on occasion withholds absolution. Believe me. He knows very well what he is doing." But Mario was deeply disappointed. Fr. Battista later absolved Mario, but he still wanted absolution from Padre Pio. The shock of not receiving absolution often wakes you up and brings about the spiritual change that is needed. Fr. Battista gave Mario an opportunity to be by Padre Pio's cell. He said "Stand right by his door and wait for him and ask him for the absolution that he did not give you." But Mario didn't think that he had the courage to ask Padre Pio for absolution. Padre Pio walked out of his cell and saw Mario standing in the hall. As he drew closer, Mario knelt down. "What is it you want?" Padre Pio asked. "I think that you forgot to give me absolution when I made my confession to you and if it is possible, I would like to receive it at this time" said Mario. Padre Pio placed his hands on Mario's head in a blessing, just as he had done before. Mario once again kissed his hand and waited, but the words, "Ego, te absolvo," were not spoken. Padre Pio then started to walk down the corridor but before he had gone even ten steps, he stopped and looked back at Mario. He stared at him in silence and raised his eyes upward and remained motionless for some moments. He then turned and continued to walk down the corridor.

The next day, Mario and his mother would be leaving. They were standing at the stairs where Fr. Battista had indicated to receive a blessing from him. Padre Pio gave them a final blessing and said, "May the angel of God accompany you on your journey." Mario reflected many times on every detail of his trip. It had been a painful experience for him to realize that Padre Pio had not given him absolution. It caused him to do some very deep soul-searching. He knew that he had been negligent in the practice of his Catholic faith for a long time. Before visiting Padre Pio, Mario

had been fully engrossed in worldly pursuits. He was completely indifferent to the state of his soul. The only reason he went to Mass on Sundays was because his mother expected it of him. Other than that, it meant nothing to him. Although he went to confession on occasion, he knew he would go right back to committing the same sins that he had previously confessed. He did not want to give them

up. If Padre Pio had not denied him absolution, he would have never realized that his soul was in grave danger.

For the last 50+ years, Mario has dedicated his life to the saving of souls through Padre Pio charism. He has organized the annual Padre Pio Mass every August at the shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Washington, New Jersey. Our Prayer Group was privileged to attend. Mario has initiated numerous Padre Pio Prayer Groups throughout



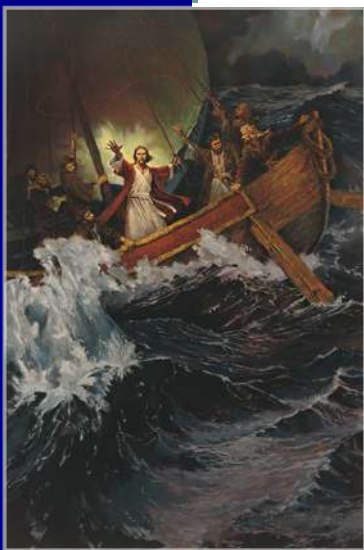
the United States and the world including a Padre Pio Shrine in Sri Lanka. He lives his life devoted to God and our Blessed Mother.

My encounter with Mario Bruschi was a life changing experience. I met Mario through phone conversations in the beginning of 2011. When he spoke, I knew what a holy man he was. If it was not for him, my soul would have been in grave danger. He commanded me to go to confession after being absent from the sacrament for over 20 years. We agreed to meet in May 2011 in NYC. When I met him, he said nothing, but rolled out a picture of Padre Pio. When I had seen the eyes of St. Pio, I began to weep. He said "From this day forward I will always introduce you as the woman Padre Pio appeared to in Rome." This picture I treasure and I bring everywhere when I speak. He also told me that I was supposed to start a Padre Pio Prayer Group. "Padre Pio chose you!" Mario said. All of this has come true. Mario arranged a procession to Times Square of 52 Icons of the Blessed Mother that weekend. I marched with an icon of Blessed Mother "Maddonna della Libera" and prayed my first public rosary. Later I found out Padre Pio had a devotion to Madonna della Libera from a young child. I also donated a chalice I received from the Knights of Columbus when my husband died to The Padre Pio Shrine that Mario built in Sri Lanka. Afterwards I discovered Mario was friends with one of the former Group Leaders of our prayer group, Steve Wasko. During Steve's time, our group donated the statue of Padre Pio at the Blue Army Shrine in Washington, NJ. He also introduced me to one of the holiest priests I have ever met, Fr. Andrew Apostoli. Mario had guided me throughout this holy journey. I had the privilege to visit him and his wife in NYC this summer. What a blessing Padre Pio orchestrated for two of his spiritual children to build a beautiful friendship that will last for eternity!

—Written by Cindy Russo



Dear Spiritual Brothers and Sisters of Padre Pio



**We are
all in the
same
boat,
and now
in a
great
storm.**

I know this has been the most unusual Lent and Easter we have ever experienced. In this unprecedented time of tremendous uncertainty and varying degrees of fear and anxiety about the well-being of our family and friends, our health and our work, our church, our country and our world, we prayed in ways like never did before. I am sure many of you spent Easter by yourself, just like me. We prayed in our homes and have been reminded

that the early Church was a Church that prayed in homes. And while in our homes, we encountered the breadth of the Church through the Internet, as we discovered beautiful, inspiring services across our diocese and our world, and with Pope Francis in Rome, especially the Good Friday service at the Vatican. We found it very difficult to not be in Church on Easter, but we were reminded that seeing Mass in empty churches connected us with the first Easter and the empty tomb.

Our world is seeing that we are all in the same boat, and now in a great storm. We have come to know more deeply our need for one another, and we have seen remarkable acts of care and courage as people

reach out to serve others in countless ways. Never have we witnessed the long lines at hunger centers in our Country. We long for the real presence of the Eucharist, and the real presence of family and friends, and our communities of worship. The yearning to be back at Mass and receive the Holy Eucharist and the sacraments is intense.

I cannot wait to see each and every one of you again. When Fr. Michael Petkosek had our virtual Mass on April 4th, I cried seeing all of you tuning in. We had over 750 engaging during the Mass. I think we all needed to be connected. Many souls have been lifted with all of the sacrifices we have endured during this quarantine. We will never be the same again. We cannot have our May crowning at our prayer meeting this month, but you can do it privately in your home. We will have another virtual Mass on Saturday, May 2nd at 8:30AM. Go to The Padre Pio Prayer Group Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/padrepioCLEVELAND/>).

I miss you all so much and I am praying for all of you. We are family! Pray, Hope and Don't Worry!

Sincerely,
Cindy Russo, Group Leader

Consecrating Two Nations to Mary

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, has announced the U.S. bishops will join the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops May 1 in consecrating the two nations to the care of the Blessed Mother under the title "Mary, Mother of the Church." "This will give the church the occasion to pray for Our Lady's continued protection of the vulnerable, healing of the unwell and wisdom for those who work to cure this terrible virus," said Gomez in a letter to the U.S. bishops. Each year, the church seeks the special intercession of the Mother of God during the month of May. "This year, we seek the assistance of Our Lady all the more earnestly as we face together the effects of the global pandemic," he said.



Sacred Space at Home

Within our homes, we designate places for cooking, eating, socializing, sleeping, and bathing. Do we have a special spot for God within our home? Designate a special prayer space in your home. Some people actually have a prayer room. You may use a small table, mantle, or bookshelf. Gather sacramental or sacred objects to place in your sacred space. For instance, a cross or crucifix, holy medals, holy water, rosaries and religious statues may be used for a prayer altar. You might add natural objects such as seashells, rocks, plants and flowers to show the beauty of God's Creation. Change your colors and sacred objects as we enter different times of the liturgical



year. Get out the white cloth for Easter. Provide light such as candles, to remind us that



Jesus is our light that shines in the darkness. Having a May altar adorned with flowers for our Blessed Mother is a wonderful idea. Keep a Bible near so you can read Scripture. What you will find with creating sacred space is that you will increase your relationship with God. It helps keep God on your mind throughout the day. It can be your safe haven, a time for comfort throughout these long days at home. It will keep you on the right path. But more than anything, it reflects your priorities. Because let's face it, our living and work spaces show what we really treasure. Let's make sure what we treasure most is our relationship with God and that all we have and do point to Him.

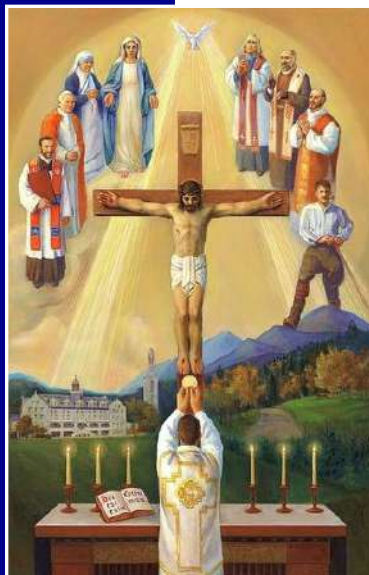
God Is Good All the Time!

Dear Cindy,

"I just wanted to thank you and the Padre Pio Prayer Group from the bottom of my heart, for keeping Janelle in your prayers. At the February Mass, you and Fr. Michael Petkosek prayed over my pregnant sister during Mass along with the entire Prayer Group. She was given very bad news about her pregnancy. She had very serious complications and the doctors did not feel the baby would survive. Thankfully she delivered a healthy baby boy on Divine Mercy Sunday. Maverick Grant Kyker, 9lbs. 3oz, is a healthy baby. I must tell you when you introduced Fr. Michael Petkosek from St. Columbkille Parish, I knew it was a sign from God. That is my parish. I just wanted to share the good news. God is good."



Prayers for Priests



**Hold
them
and
shelter
them in
the palm
of Your
Hand.**

In this month of May dedicated to Our Blessed Mother, we lift our priests up to her and ask Mother Mary to hold them in the love and protection of her Immaculate Heart. We ask Our Lady to present them at the Throne of Grace and Divine Mercy to preserve their souls and their sacred call to Holy Orders.

PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

O Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we adore You and we love You with all our hearts.

We come before You, humbly and prayerfully, to intercede for all Your holy priesthood.
(We lift up all the priests who reside in our diocese and those special to us.)

Father, we give You thanks with grateful hearts for the faithful witness of so many priest-sons. Bless and protect them, Father, hold them and shelter them in the palm of Your Hand.

Jesus, Eternal High Priest, we lift up to You those priests who suffer and struggle, those who are heavy-burdened, and those who have lost their way. Bless and heal them, Jesus,

You Who have said,
"Come to Me all you who find life burdensome...
and I will give you rest."

Holy Spirit, Eternal Love of the Father and the Son,
pour out Your Love, Your Gifts, and Your Graces on every priest of God.
Strengthen them, Holy Spirit,
fill them and assure them of our love.

O Mary, Mother of Jesus, Queen and Mother of all priests,
intercede for these special sons of Yours. Hold them in Your Immaculate Heart, cradle them in Your arms, protect them from every evil bent against them, teach them to love, and lead them at last into the arms of Your Son in Heaven. Amen.

—By: Monsignor Peter Dunne

MARY QUEEN OF THE CLERGY

Most Holy Virgin, Mother of the Church and Queen of Priests, support these chosen sons of the Lord, and Your own special sons, with Your motherly presence, protection and intercession. Obtain for them from the great High Priest, Christ the Lord, the fullness of His mercy and grace that they may faithfully live out their calling all the days of their lives. Pray, too, that we – who depend on Priests continuously and so greatly – may never fail to keep them in our prayers and in our sacrifices. Our Lady, Queen of Priests, pray for them. Amen.

A Prayer During the Coronavirus Pandemic

O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Mother Mary
We, your children of every nation
turn to you in this pandemic.

Our troubles are numerous, our fears are great.
Grant that we might deposit them at your feet, take refuge in your Immaculate Heart and obtain peace, healing, rescue, and timely help in our needs.
You are our Mother, pray for us to your Son!
Amen.



Jake's Corner

For the month of May, I have chosen to write about Blessed

Pier Giorgio Frassati. Pier Giorgio was born on April 6, 1901, in Turin, Italy to Adelaide Ametis and Alfredo Frassati. Alfredo founded the Italian newspaper "La Stampa" and was very influential in politics. Pier Giorgio was very holy from a young age. He joined the Apostleship of Prayer and the Marian Sodality. Pier Giorgio was granted permission to receive Holy Communion daily, a rarity at that time.



was also a very active member of the Catholic Action.

Pier Giorgio was a very social Saint. He liked to go to the operas, mountain climbing, skiing, and even party with his friends. Eventually, Pier Giorgio entered the Third Order of Saint Dominic and took the name, Girolamo. Pier Giorgio Frassati died at the age of 24, on July 4, 1925, of Polio. His funeral was crowded with people, especially all the people he helped during his life. On May 20, 1990, His Holiness, Pope Saint John Paul II declared him Blessed.

I think Blessed Pier Giorgio is a great model for Holiness for all people. Even though I wrote about him last year, I really think he is a great inspiration for us during the pandemic. Also, I think we can imitate Blessed Pier Giorgio's life by doing some small act of charity, and strive to be humble. Furthermore, I believe that Blessed Pier Giorgio teaches us to live a happy and a good life. Also, he shows us by his life that we too are called to be happy by living the Beatitudes like Pier Giorgio did. I encourage all of you to really focus on living the Eight Beatitudes.

SOURCE: Some information was taken from www.frassatiusa.org

Written by: Jake Snyder

Pier Giorgio had developed a deep life with God and he was never afraid to share it with others. It was from his close relationship with God that Pope Saint John Paul II called him the "Man of the Eight Beatitudes." He had a great love for the Eucharist and for Our Blessed Mother. Pier Giorgio loved to serve the poor and he is very well known for his service to the poor. Pier Giorgio

May Crowning



The entire month of May is devoted to the Blessed Mother. For us Catholics who have grown up within the traditions of the Church, there is one ritual that remains dear to our hearts – May crowning. It honors Mary as Mother of God and as our Queen of Heaven and Earth. The celebration, with deep roots in the history of the

Church, is a procession of young children dressed in their First Holy Communion finery, placing flowers at the feet of a statue of the Blessed Mother, and one child, specially chosen, crowns the statue of Mary with a wreath of flowers as they all sing, "Hail, Holy Queen enthroned above, O Maria!"

The devotion is inspired by the Coronation of Mary in the Book of Revelation, "A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head" (12:1). Images of Mary wearing a crown are found in the earliest forms of religious iconography. Our heart rejoices at the thought of the moving tribute of faith and love which will be paid to the Queen of Heaven in every corner of the earth. Offer this month to the Virgin Mary, our Mother, more loving acts of honor and veneration. Promise her you will pray the rosary everyday as a spiritual bouquet to her and the whole world. This year we will not be able to have our May crowning at our Prayer Group's Mass, but you can be the special child of God chosen to crown Mary in your own home. It is not a coincidence that Mother's Day falls in the Month of May.

Loving God, We thank you for our Heavenly Queen Mother and for all the Mothers in the World. Bless them so they may always give life and nourishment to their children through their firm faith and generous selfless love. We lift them up to you O Lord. We ask you to bless them with your own special love, today and always. Amen.

KEEP OUR SICK SISTERS & BROTHERS IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS

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

Bobby
Jan Boczek
Virginia DeJesus
Roy Evans
Margie Ferfolia
Marty Franck
Kathy Hlad
Kyle Hrabusa

Mark Magda
Joe Morici
Eleanor Phillips
Judy Purdy
Richard Russelo
Abbot C. Schwartz OSB

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

† OUR CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF OUR RECENTLY DECEASED †

Joseph Depalo
Louise Frein
Charles Snyderburn (husband and father of multiple Prayer Group members)



**“Pray, hope and
don’t worry.
Worry is
useless. God is
merciful and
will hear your
prayer.”**

– St. Padre Pio



We Need Our Church Back

No, we are not talking about simply opening the doors and going about things as normal. We need our Church back in a way that we haven’t seen in many years. We need our priests on fire with the Holy Spirit. We need families praying together, especially reciting the Rosary daily. We need Jesus Christ as the head of every household. We need all our families consecrated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. We need everyone to thirst for the Sacraments and be devoted to Eucharistic Adoration. We need to pray with the saints. We need the protection of St. Michael the Archangel, and we need to entrust ourselves to our guardian angels. We need a Church that is vibrant and leading the whole world to Jesus Christ and the glory of eternal life. We need strong marriages – couples who pray together and sacrifice together for the greater glory of God and for the good of others.

We need to encourage our sons and daughters, grandsons and granddaughters to follow and believe that Jesus Christ is the one True Savior of the world, and help them discern their vocation in life. And when one of them says that they sense Jesus Christ calling them to consider the religious life, we should be elated, and begin to pray and help them learn more about the religious life, encouraging them to seek what God wills for them. Then we will see our Churches packed every week, like it is on Easter Sunday and Christmas. Now is the time we can get our lives back on the right track with Christ and his Church.



BEST WISHES to our Spiritual Children celebrating birthdays and special occasions in the month of May, HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our Beloved Saint Pio, and GOD BLESS all the mothers!

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FACEBOOK: WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/PADREPIOCLEVELAND TWITTER: [@PADREPIOCLEVELAND](https://twitter.com/PADREPIOCLEVELAND)**