

**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 TOF

**MISSION &
VISION:**

To carry out the works, words and devotion of St. Padre Pio through prayer and charitable works where we can touch lives and change souls.

Our vision is to create more Spiritual Children and lead souls to heaven.

**UPCOMING
EVENTS:**

Oct 10 -
Rosary Rally at noon,
Twinsburg Town
Square (see page 4)

Nov 7 -
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

OCTOBER 2020

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 10

Pray the Rosary Every Day

The Month of October is dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary. It was instituted to Honor the Blessed Virgin Mary in gratitude for the protection that she gives the church in answer to the praying of the rosary by the faithful. The Marian apparitions in Fatima took place between May 13 to October 13, 1917, when the Virgin Mary appeared to Francisco de Jesus Marto, his sister Jacinta de Jesus Marto, and their cousin Lúcia Santos. Our Lady told them of a coming upheaval in the world, linked especially to Russia, which would cause terrible suffering. She also reminded the children of the danger of hell, and asked them to pray the rosary and make sacrifices for sinners.

Mothers have the uncanny ability to show up just when their children most need them. This is true of our Blessed Mother, Mary, who makes herself visible to us in times of great human strife. Her message to those three shepherd children, the war-torn world of the twentieth century, and the world today is quite simple: PRAY. Most especially, pray the rosary every day specifically offering your prayers for peace in the world and for conversion of hearts to God. How appropriate and timely a message for us today! Are we not fighting a war against an invisible enemy, coronavirus, right now? They were fighting the Spanish Flu. Were not the people's hearts hardened? Is not that what we are experiencing now in the world?

Periodic supernatural appearances of the Mother of Our Lord Jesus in our

earthly reality are tangible reminders of our ultimate home: the heavenly Kingdom of God. It is our beloved, gentle, loving Mother arriving on the scene to remind us that her Son, Jesus, has already won for us an eternal victory. The suffering and pain endured in this life is but a momentary precursor to the peace and joy of the beatific vision. Pray the rosary today for our troubled world, for an end to the suffering attributed to the coronavirus, and for the salvation of souls.

Saint Jacinta and Saint Francisco are the youngest non-martyrs ever to be canonized on May 13, 2017. Their faith, love, prayerfulness and sacrifice offer a special witness to children, but people of all ages can be inspired by their example as we remember how Jesus urged us to be similarly lowly and "poor in spirit," saying, "Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:3, 18:3) In a particular way, like our young saints, we can look to the "Lady in white" as a sign and beacon showing us the way not only to pray for world peace every day, but also to seek the peace in our hearts which only Jesus can give. Do not let your hearts be troubled as Our Lady of the Rosary confidently declared, "My Immaculate Heart will triumph!"

**My God,
I believe,
I adore,
I hope,
I love Thee!
I ask pardon
for those
who do not
believe,
do not adore,
do not hope,
and do not
love Thee.
Amen.**





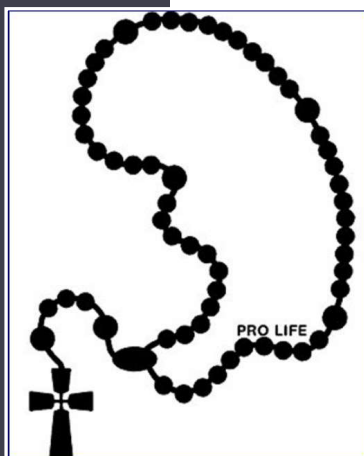
Live the
Gospel of *Life*

RESPECT LIFE MONTH
October 2020

Art: Anthony J. Bonello, ©2020. All rights reserved. All photographs, Christianity in the Americas, Pope Francis, by Thomas A. Brugh, 2017. The Catholic, P.O. Box 1, Houston, TX, 77001. Courtesy of the Office of Catholic Life, United States Conference of Bishops. All rights reserved.

Twenty-five years ago, on 25 March 1995 which is the Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord, Saint John Paul II wrote his famous encyclical *Evangelium Vitae* “The Gospel of Life,” promoting the dignity and respect that all human life is sacred and comes from God. In honoring Life, we honor God, who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This year’s theme for Respect Life Month 2020 is the above message: “Live the Gospel of Life.” How do we live the Gospel of Life? One way is to reflect on what the Sacred Scriptures tell us about life. Here is some reference on the respect for human life. There are many more, but here are a few of them.

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| <i>Genesis</i> 1:26-31: | God created man and woman in his image. |
| <i>Deuteronomy</i> 10:17-19: | God loves the orphan, the widow, and the stranger. |
| <i>Psalms</i> 139:13-16: | God formed each of us and knows us intimately. |
| <i>Proverbs</i> 22:2: | The Lord is the maker of both rich and poor. |
| <i>Luke</i> 10:25-37: | The good Samaritan recognized the dignity in the other and cared for his life. |
| <i>John</i> 4:1-42: | Jesus broke with societal and religious customs to honor the dignity of the Samaritan woman. |
| <i>Romans</i> 12: 9-18: | Love one another, contribute to the needs of others, live peaceably with all. |
| <i>1 Corinthians</i> 3:16: | You are holy, for you are God’s temple and God dwells in you. |
| <i>Galatians</i> 3:27-28: | All Christians are one in Christ Jesus. |
| <i>James</i> 2:1-8: | Honor the poor. |
| <i>1 John</i> 3: 1-2: | See what love the Father has for us, that we should be called Children of God. |
| <i>1 John</i> 4:7-12: | Let us love one another because love is from God. |



In this time where people are pitting themselves against each other because of the other’s differences, let us remember that all of us are made in the image and likeness of God, and through Baptism, we are also the sons and daughters of God. If we try to respect others by their differences, which is what makes us all unique human beings, then we have the chaos and riots that lead to suffering, destruction of property and lives, and a hatred for anyone that does not agree with what someone says, professes or believes. By respecting others because they are made in God’s image and likeness, then we will find what is common to all of us and we will show the respect, honor and love that they deserve, even if the other is not living in the image and likeness of God.

At the conclusion of *Evangelium Vitae*, Saint John Paul II wrote the following prayer. May we pray this prayer during this month dedicated to Respect Life and for the Holy Rosary, and whenever we may hear of situations that do not promote the *Gospel of Life*.

O Mary, bright dawn of the new world, Mother of the living, to you do we entrust the cause of life. Look down, O Mother, upon the vast numbers of babies not allowed to be born, of the poor whose lives are made difficult, of men and women who are victims of brutal violence, of the elderly and the sick killed by indifference or out of misguided mercy. Grant that all who believe in your Son may proclaim the Gospel of life with honesty and love to the people of our time. Obtain for them the grace to accept that Gospel as a gift ever new, the joy of celebrating it with gratitude throughout their lives and the courage to bear witness to it resolutely, in order to build, together with all people of good will, the civilization of truth and love, to the praise and glory of God, the Creator and lover of life. Amen.

Approach Precarious Times With Faith and Action

Most people would agree that we are living in very odd times. Why is this so? From a faith perspective, we can say that this is because God created the world; Adam and Eve handed the world over to Satan; and all of history has become an epic struggle between good and evil, between God and Satan. Satan as the tempter has the odd knack to convince us that the good is not so good and that evil is instead good.

What keeps us from giving in whole heartedly to seeing evil as good is our conscience, God's grace, and fear of the Lord. Throughout history, most every culture had a basic belief in the supernatural, a God or even many Gods, or a God of good and a God of evil. People believed that they either were accountable to these deities or at least had to please them. In Europe and the West, the Judeo-Christian ethic has been in place since the fall of Rome. There has been, and continues to be, a growing trend of atheism throughout the world. There is militant atheism such as Nazism, Fascism, and Communism. The milder form is secularism which either denies God totally or ignores Him. The result is that each person becomes his or her own God, determining for himself or herself what is good or evil.

Speaking in very broad terms, but not exclusive terms, secularism generally takes on the political form of socialism. Because secularists generally don't put much stock in an afterlife, many tend to "grab all the gusto you can" and insist on getting their way through power because life is short. Thus, we find that America in very broad general terms is politically caught in this power struggle between secularism/socialism and the Christian principles upon which our nation was founded by faith-filled people. The waters are muddied because it seems that extreme secularists and socialists have very heavily influenced one political party. This is all very fertile soil in which Satan acts. Politicians who claim very openly to be Catho-

lic uphold values which are in direct contradiction to Catholic values such as abortion and religious freedom. Tending toward socialism, their views would be forced upon all citizens



regardless of their religious beliefs. We witnessed with shock the proceedings for the nomination of our most recent Supreme Court justice. A politician running for office stated vehemently that his Catholic beliefs and his being a Knight of Columbus disqualified him from being a Supreme Court Justice!!!

Many of the violent movements currently causing unrest are Marxist inspired. The two founders of one movement clearly and publicly state that they are avowed Marxists. The intent is to destabilize the current social order and usher in a different radical form of government.

The scope of this article is spiritual. To get into more detail of political realities is not advised. Suffice it to say that we are living in very precarious times. Scripture states that "Satan goes about like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour." St. John Paul II stated that the church and the world is involved in the greatest showdown between good and evil in the history of the world and few people are aware of it. The upcoming election is extremely important. You are strongly urged to become involved and approach it with faith. As believers, the scripture quote applies to us: "Those to whom much has been given, much will be expected." St. John Paul II pray for us!

"Satan always aims at destroying this prayer, but he will never succeed. It is the prayer of her who prevails over each and all. It is She that taught it to us, as Jesus taught us the Our Father."

-St. Pio of Pietrelcina

More than ever, in 2020, join us to

PRAY THE ROSARY

At the 13th Annual Nation-wide Rosary Rally!

Be a part of over **20,000** locations throughout the United States that will be praying the Rosary at noon on this day; the Anniversary of The Miracle of the Sun at Fatima. Join us for 1 hour of Prayer, Music, & The Knights of Columbus.

Casual atmosphere in an outdoor setting. Bring your prayer requests!

Saturday, October 10 at NOON at Twinsburg Town Square

corner of Rt. 82 (E. Aurora Rd) & Rt. 91 (Darrow Rd)

Bring a chair or lawn blanket and your mask. Rain or Shine!

Dress for the weather! Families/Children encouraged!

For more information contact:

Deb Stanzak at: 800-513-1458

rosaryrallycaptain@gmail.com

Park at Giant Eagle Plaza across the street. Handicap parking on the square.

Spiritual Son on Path to Beatification

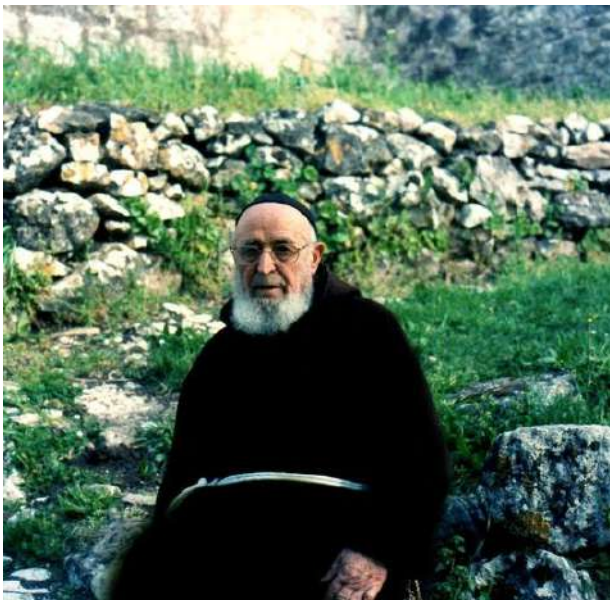
Growing up in Pietrelcina, Damiano Fucci heard much about Padre Pio. According to an article on the Italian edition of *Aleteia* by Don Marcello Stanzione, Damiano's "mother, Anna, was the same age and neighbor of St. Pio. The respective families had a small farm in Piana Romana, where Damiano's mother and Padre Pio often met as children."

As Anna grew and started to raise a family, Padre Pio would occasionally lend a helping hand at their farm, babysitting her younger children.

To help Anna, busy with the efforts in the fields, Padre Pio sometimes agreed to look after little Antonio, the first of the three children of the Fucci family.

When Damiano came along, he would hear many stories about Padre Pio, and eventually sought him out as a young adult.

The Catholic News Agency reports that, "In 1940, Damiano went to find the man he had heard so much about at the monastery in San Giovanni Rotondo. After Damiano made a confession, the stigmatic priest encouraged the 23-year-old Damiano to 'walk straight' and gave him his blessing."



Initially Damiano felt a call to become a Benedictine, but was warned by Padre Pio of a possible disaster.

Padre Pio told him it was not his calling to join the Order of St. Benedict. He added that the young man could go to Rome if he wanted, but predicted that a "very ugly disaster" would happen to him there. (Three years later, Padre Pio's prediction came true when the Benedictine abbot and a brother were killed by robbers.)



This led Damiano to become a Capuchin friar and adopt the religious name of Modestino. After the death of Padre Pio, Modestino was transferred to San Giovanni Rotondo and became the community's porter, where he would listen to all the visitors, receive their prayers and assure them of Padre Pio's heavenly intercession.

Modestino spent many hours in prayer before the tabernacle and offered his life and suffering for sinners. In many ways he sought to imitate the holy example of Padre Pio and was a true "spiritual son."

He later published an autobiography, "*Io ... Testimonie del Padre*," in which he related many stories about Padre Pio.

Br. Modestino da Pietrelcina died on August 14, 2011, at the age of 94. Archbishop Franco Moscone of Manfredonia-Vieste-San Giovanni Rotondo opened the cause for his beatification in July 2020, explaining that he had a "reputation of holiness."

SOURCE:

<https://aleteia.org/2020/09/23/spiritual-son-of-padre-pio-now-on-path-to-beatification/>

The Holy Rosary for Respect Life/October 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
O Mary, bright dawn of the new world, Mother of the living, to you do we entrust the cause of life. Look down, O Mother, upon the vast numbers of babies not allowed to be born, of the poor whose lives are made difficult, of men and women who are victims of brutal violence, of the elderly and the sick killed by indifference or out of misguided mercy. Grant that all who believe in your Son may proclaim the Gospel of life with honesty and love to the people of our time. Obtain for them the grace to accept that Gospel as a gift ever new, the joy of celebrating it with gratitude throughout their lives and the courage to bear witness to it resolutely, in order to build, together with all people of good will, the civilization of truth and love, to the praise and glory of God, the Creator and lover of life. Amen. <i>Evangelium Vitae</i> "The Gospel of Life", Saint John Paul II [Oct. 22 nd]	1 Lord, You are in control of my life, my sufferings, and my death. May I never forget that.	2 Send Your Angels, O Lord, to assist all who are tempted to abort, and to all who work to persuade them to choose life.	3 Lord, You love aborted children even more than we do. We entrust them to Your mercy.			
4 Saint Francis, pray for us, that we may have reverence for all creation.	5 The First Joyful Mystery The Annunciation of the Lord Inspire the hearts of all newly pregnant women with the joy Mary sang at the Annunciation.	6 The Second Joyful Mystery The Visitation Give us the joy of St. Elizabeth and her son whenever we meet the miracle of new life.	7 The Third Joyful Mystery The Nativity of the Lord Let the face of the newborn child proclaim the Gospel of Life.	8 The Fourth Joyful Mystery The Presentation of the Lord Gently guide new parents as they lead their little ones to your Son.	9 The Fifth Joyful Mystery The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple Guide those who work to find children who are lost.	10 Lord, bless the survivors of abortion and make them mighty witnesses for life.
27 TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Weekday St. Francis Xavier, Seeelos St. Faustina	Weekday St. Bruno Bl. Marie Rose Durocher	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday St. Denis and Companions St. John Leonardi	Weekday BVM
11 Come, God of Hope; lift up all burdened by their abortion. Make them whole again.	12 The First Luminous Mystery The Baptism of the Lord in the Jordan River Fill the heart of each unborn child with a love for your Son.	13 The Second Luminous Mystery The Self-manifestation of the Lord at the Wedding of Cana Be with all newly married couples.	14 The Third Luminous Mystery The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God Remember new parents confused or alone.	15 The Fourth Luminous Mystery The Transfiguration of the Lord Stand vigil with every expecting father.	16 The Fifth Luminous Mystery The Institution of the Holy Eucharist Bless all who shelter pregnant mothers.	17 Lord, thank You for the privilege of defending human life through the pro-life movement.
28 TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Weekday Columbus Day	Weekday	Weekday St. Callistus I	Weekday St. Teresa of Jesus	Weekday St. Hedwig St. Margaret Mary Alacoque	St. Ignatius of Antioch
18 Lord, may all doctors practice medicine to preserve life.	19 The First Sorrowful Mystery The Agony in the Garden Inspire all priests and deacons to preach the gospel of life.	20 The Second Sorrowful Mystery The Scourging at the Pillar Intercede for the suffering of the unwed mother.	21 The Third Sorrowful Mystery The Crowning with Thorns Comfort old people who are warehoused and forgotten.	22 The Fourth Sorrowful Mystery The Carrying of the Cross Inspire us to work for life, no matter the cost.	23 The Fifth Sorrowful Mystery The Crucifixion of the Lord Relieve the suffering of all women who aborted their children.	24 Lord, may we learn from what Mary did. Send us to help mothers and children in need.
29 TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Ss. John de Brebeuf and Issac Jogues and Companions	Weekday St. Paul of the Cross	Weekday	Weekday St. John Paul II	Weekday St. John of Capistrano	Weekday St. Anthony Mary Claret BVM
25 Lord, may we use wisely the freedom to elect our lawmakers.	26 The First Glorious Mystery The Resurrection of the Lord Remember those locked in their homes by fear that they may experience life.	27 The Second Glorious Mystery The Ascension of the Lord For the children who are lost, lead them home to those who love them.	28 The Third Glorious Mystery The Descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost Pray for all doctors that they may embrace a spirit of life.	29 The Fourth Glorious Mystery The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Pray that Mary will assist those who long for heaven.	30 The Fifth Glorious Mystery The Coronation of the Blessed Virgin Mary For those who have defended life and are now deceased. May they share God's glory.	31 Lord, raise up in our nation wise and virtuous voters, that we may have godly leaders.
30 TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Weekday	Weekday	SS. SIMON AND JUDE	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday BVM

Stories From a Fellow Citizen of Pietrelcina

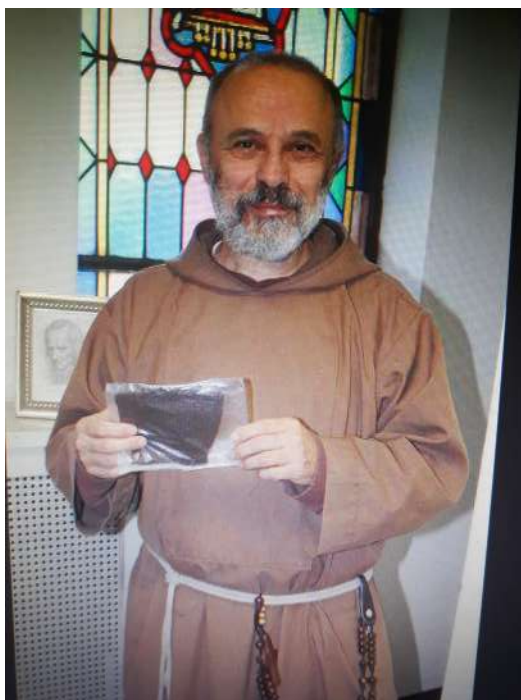
Pio Francesco Mandato, F.M.H.J., was born in Italy in 1956 to Graziella and Andre Mandato. His family lived in Pietrelcina, the same town where Padre Pio was born and raised. Pio Mandato's family and extended family, including his great-grandfather, received many graces through the years from their spiritual father, Padre Pio.

Fr. Mandato's grandmother, Maria DeNunzio once asked a friend who was going to San Giovanni Rotondo to deliver a letter to Padre Pio for her. She fixed her friend a cup of espresso and then left for the monastery. He was able to talk with Padre Pio briefly and when it was time to say good-bye, Padre Pio surprised him by saying, "Aren't you forgetting something?" "Not that I can think of," Maria's friend replied. "Not only did you enjoy a cup of coffee and a visit with Maria, but you promised her that you would give me the letter that is in your back pocket!" At once he remembered and quickly placed the letter in Padre Pio's hands.

In Pietrelcina, everyone called Padre Pio, Il Monaco Santo, "the holy friar." Everyone felt very proud that the "holy friar" was a fellow citizen of Pietrelcina. The people from Pietrelcina were characteristically simple, devout, hard-working, and strong in their Catholic faith. Many people in the area were related or distantly related to each other. Pio Francesco's mother was related to Padre Pio through her paternal grandmother. Padre Pio never forgot the town from which he had come. He loved Pietrelcina and he loved the people who lived there. Padre Pio once wrote a letter to his brother Michael Forgione, who still resided in their hometown and said, "Pietrelcina is totally in my heart." Regarding his spiritual life, Padre Pio once said, "Everything happened in Pietrelcina. Jesus was there." It was in Pietrelcina that the Lord began to pour out his graces on the young Capuchin. Padre Pio once made the prophetic statement, "During my life I have cherished San Giovanni Rotondo. After my death I will cherish and favor Pietrelcina." How fitting that today he is known as St. Pio of Pietrelcina. During World War II, the people of Pietrelcina were worried about their safety. "Do not worry," Padre Pio said. "Pietrelcina will be protected." History bears out the truth of his statement. Padre Pio was transferred to the Capuchin monastery of Our Lady of Grace in San Giovanni Rotondo in

1916 and remained there until his death in 1968. A number of the residents of Pietrelcina moved to San Giovanni Rotondo to be closer to their spiritual father.

Once Paris DeNunzio, Pio Francesco's grandfather, made a trip to San Giovanni Rotondo from Pietrelcina to see Padre Pio. The road that led up to the monastery was steep and dangerous. Paris' companion, who was driving, fell asleep at the wheel and the car swerved and veered off the road. Paris, who was very frightened, began praying, "Padre Pio, helps us!" At the last moment, the driver was able to gain control of the car. When they arrived at the monastery and went to Padre Pio's cell, Paris told his spiritual father about the near accident. "And were you frightened, Paris?" Padre Pio asked. "Yes, I was frightened," Paris replied. "Well, don't you know who was driving?" Padre Pio asked. Paris asked him what he meant. "I was driving the car," said Padre Pio, "and you all arrived safely!"



Paris used to pray daily to Padre Pio, recommending to him his wife, his daughter, his son and other family members. Once when he was talking to Padre Pio, he asked him to pray for his family and began to name them. Padre Pio said to him, "You do not need to tell me their names. I hear their names every day in your prayers." Another time, Paris was experiencing pain in his chest and was worried that perhaps

he had heart trouble. He told Padre Pio about it and Padre Pio replied that there was nothing wrong with his heart. "Of course there is something wrong," Paris said. "If there wasn't something wrong, I would not be in so much pain." Padre Pio told him to stop talking about it. "If you don't stop, I will give you a punch," Padre Pio said. He then gave Paris a light punch on his chest. From that moment on, he never experienced another pain in his chest.

Pio Francesco's mother, Graziella, met Padre Pio for the first time when she traveled to the monastery with her father, Paris DeNunzio. Graziella was ten years-old at the time. When they arrived, they found Padre Pio inside the friary church of Our Lady of Grace, surrounded by a large group of people. Being small, Graziella was unable to get close to him.

(Continued on page 9)

Dear Spiritual Brothers and Sisters of Padre Pio

The September prayer gathering was amazing! I was very pleased to see the number of devotees who attended our 1st Saturday Holy Mass. We thank Tamara Klapatch for sharing her passion for the devotion of the Holy Face of Jesus and the Servant of God Padre Dominico. Being live-streamed has been such a blessing for all those who can't attend. We are grateful for Juliann Stoklas for taking the responsibility of making this happen.



My six month retreat from doing speaking engagements has come to an end. I had the privilege on September 13 to speak via live-stream at St. Raphael Church in Bay Village. The topic was "My Encounter, Mary and the Rosary." It is very difficult speaking to an empty church. I can only imagine the pain our priests endured celebrating Mass privately when the pandemic quarantine occurred. I thank Kathy and her team for coordinating this event.

I received an invitation for September 20 (the anniversary of Padre Pio receiving the stigmata) to attend a dedication of a St. Pio

chapel at St. Sebastian Church from Pastor Fr. John Valencheck. He has a devotion to our beloved Padre. Fr. David Bline was the main celebrant. No coincidence that he has a devotion and shared a miracle story of how Padre Pio intervened for the healing of his sister. Also present was Fr. Simone who also had a deep devotion to St. Padre Pio. After Holy Mass we were allowed to venerate a 1st class relic of St. Pio.

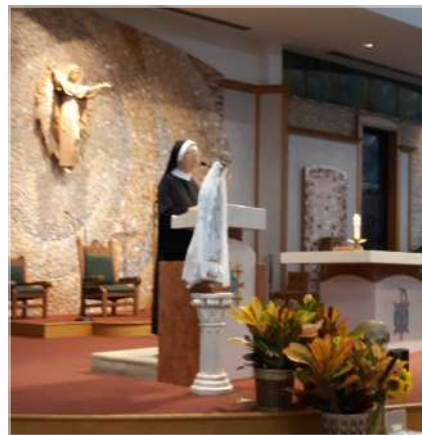
And if that is not enough in the month, we celebrated the Feast Day of Padre Pio on September 23 at Our Lady of Guadalupe. The church was full. Pastor Fr. Kevin Shemuga was our main celebrant. Fr. Bill Browne concelebrated and led us in the enrollment of becoming a Spiritual Child of Padre Pio. Our speaker for the night was Sister Gertrude Gillette. She was accompanied by her Benedictine nuns from North Carolina. Her message was "Be Prepared." No one knows the hour when the Lord will call us. Only God does.

I can't imagine having a better day on the 10th anniversary of my encounter with St. Padre Pio. Distributing Holy Water bottles to everyone from all the holy shrines from our Pilgrimages that we traveled around the world was an added highlight for me. Throughout St. Pio's Feast Day the scent of roses followed me. I am grateful for the Lord to allow Padre Pio to appear to me. My soul was in grave danger. I am full of gratitude for all the blessings and graces that have been bestowed on me and sharing my love for Jesus, Mary, the Saints and Angels through our Prayer Group.

On October 10 at noon we will be meeting at Twinsburg Town Square for the America Needs Fatima Rosary Rally. Have a Blessed October and pray the rosary!

Pray, Hope and Don't Worry!

Cindy Russo TOF
Group Leader



(Continued from page 7)

She could only see the top of his head. When Padre Pio saw Graziella, he extended his arm over the people, and allowed her to kiss his hand. His eyes made a profound and lasting impression on her. In 1946, a few days before Christmas, Graziella and her brother made a visit to see Padre Pio. He blessed Graziella by placing his hands on her head. Then in his paternal way, he gave her a fatherly embrace. At once, she became aware of the beautiful scent of roses. She believed that the fragrance was coming from the wound in his side.

One time Graziella told Padre Pio that she had met a man she was thinking of marrying. "Don't do it. He is not for you. You don't know what kind of coat he wears," Padre Pio said to her. She and her father did a little research and found out that the man was a communist. When she inquired about a second suitor, the answer was again a firm "no." When she finally named a third man, Andre Mandato, Padre Pio said, "The angel of God has passed. Do it with the blessing of God." She married Andre in 1955.

Because of the popularity of Padre Pio's confessional, a booking system had to be put in place at the monastery. People would take a ticket and wait for their number to be called. It sometimes required a wait of eight days or more. Once, Graziella had a tremendous desire to speak to Padre Pio. The way to speak to him was by booking a confession but she did not want to wait that long. She somehow had the courage to approach the confessional without a ticket. The woman at the front of the line told her she could go ahead of her. Just as she stepped into the confessional, Padre Pellegrino, Padre Pio's assistant, whose job it was to check tickets, told Padre Pio that Graziella had just entered without a reservation. Graziella was permitted to make her confession regardless and she told her spiritual father that she and her husband were expecting their first child. "You will have a son," he said. "Name him Pio Francesco." When her baby boy arrived on July 6, 1956, she was delighted that he shared not only Padre Pio's baptismal name, Francesco, but also his name in religion, Pio. Padre Pio sent his blessing as well as a medal with the Blessed Virgin on one side and St. Michael the Archangel on the other.

Pio Francesco Mandato was four years old when his grandfather, Paris, took him for the first time to see Padre Pio in his cell. Padre Pio blessed little Pio Francesco and embraced him. Little Pio came just up to the middle of Padre Pio's waist. Afterward, he told his mother, "Padre Pio has perfume on his tummy." Graziella told her son that Padre Pio did not wear perfume. The fragrance was a spiritual gift that the Lord

had given him, one among many gifts. It was a sign of grace for those who perceived it.

Paris took little Pio Francesco with him a number of times to the monastery to visit Padre Pio. The men were allowed to go into a gathering area and converse with Padre Pio. Women were not allowed. Pio Francesco remembers what joyful occasions they were for all concerned. In the presence of a number of Capuchins and laymen, Padre Pio enjoyed the fellowship and he loved to tell jokes and to make his friends laugh.



Pio Francesco and his brother Vincent

Seven year-old Pio Francesco and his younger brother Vincent received their first Holy Communion from Padre Pio on October 3, 1964, on the feast of the Transitus of St. Francis of Assisi (the feast of the death of St. Francis of Assisi). Af-

terward Padre Pio said to the young boys, "I pray that your last Holy Communion will be even more beautiful than your first." Pio Francesco remembers the solemnity and the great devotion with which Padre Pio celebrated Mass. Although his Mass was long, the time seemed to pass very quickly.

The Mandato family emigrated to the United States in 1964 and settled in New Jersey. Naturally, they missed Padre Pio immensely. Father Alessio Parente, Padre Pio's secretary, relayed a message to Graziella from Padre Pio. He said, "Tell Graziella that I always have her present in my prayers and I am united to her whole family." On September 22, 1968, Graziella had a vivid dream of Padre Pio. "I come to say goodbye to you," he said. She said to him, "Don't leave," and he replied, "The Lord is calling me." The next day Graziella learned that he had passed away in the early morning hours.

Pio Francesco Mandato was ordained to the priesthood in Hoboken, New Jersey in 1985. He and his family made a trip to Italy so that he could celebrate his first Mass in Pietrelcina at the Madonna Della Libera altar (Our Lady of Liberty), at Our Lady of the Angels parish. It was the very same church

(Continued on page 10)

Prayer for Priests and Vocations



**Give us
priests
who are
on fire**

In this month of October, let us implore the Little Flower of Jesus, St. Therese, and our Blessed Mother to be with our priests and those intended for Holy Orders.

PRAYER FOR PRIESTS AND VOCATIONS by St. Therese

O Holy Father, may the torrents of love flowing from the sacred wounds of Thy Divine Son bring forth priests like

unto the beloved disciple John who stood at the foot of the Cross; priests who as a pledge of Thine own most tender love will lovingly give Thy Divine Son to the souls of men.

May Thy priests be faithful guardians of Thy Church, as John was of Mary, whom he received into his house.

Taught by this loving Mother who suffered so much on Calvary, may they display a mother's care and thoughtfulness towards Thy children.

May they teach souls to enter into close union with Thee through Mary who, as the Gate of Heaven, is specially the guardian of the treasures of Thy Divine Heart.

Give us priests who are on fire, and who are true children of Mary, priests who will give Jesus to souls with the same tenderness and care with which Mary carried the Little Child of Bethlehem.

Mother of sorrows and of love, out of compassion for Thy beloved Son, open in our hearts deep wells of love, so that we may console Him and give Him a generation of priests formed in thy school and having all the tender thoughtfulness of thine own spotless love.

O MY GOD, help those priests who are faithful to remain faithful, to those who are falling, stretch forth YOUR Divine Hand that they may grasp it as their support.

And for those poor unfortunate souls who have fallen, lift them up in the great ocean of YOUR Mercy, that being engulfed therein, they may receive the grace to return to YOUR Great Loving Heart. Amen.

(Continued from page 9)

and altar where Padre Pio had celebrated his first Mass on August 14, 1910. Today, Father Pio Francesco Mandato, F.M.H.J., belongs to the Franciscan Missionary Hermits of St. Joseph and lives in Eastern Pennsylvania. He continues to live out his priestly vocation in the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi. He feels that Padre Pio is still guiding him and helping him on his spiritual journey. "More than anything else, I remember Padre Pio as a very loving man, like a loving father," Father Pio Francesco said. The words that Padre Pio said to his

mother so many years before remain a consolation to him, "Tell Graziella that I always have her present in my prayers and I am united to her whole family." His mother wrote a memoir, *Padre Pio: Encounters With a Spiritual Daughter From Pietrelcina*. The book was originally written in Italian and Fr Mandato translated it into English. Father Pio Francesco Mandato continues to carry on the work of the Lord. Please pray for him.

P.S. Fr. Pio said he will be coming soon to visit our Prayer Group once the COVID-19 pandemic is under control.

Ten Reasons to Pray the Rosary

1. Peace. We live hectic lives in a chaotic world. All this can lead to a confusion that fogs the mind, unsettles the soul, and leads to poor decisions. Amidst all this chaos and confusion our souls yearn for peace and clarity. There is just something about the Rosary that settles our hearts and minds. It reaches deep down into our souls and puts us at ease, creating a peace that is rare and beautiful.

2. Perspective. Do you ever feel like stepping back from the world? Do you ever feel like taking a nice, long, extended break from the daily commitments and responsibilities? The Rosary is a great way to do that. It allows us to leave the world behind for a little while and get some perspective. By praying the Rosary we get to step back from who we are, where we are, and what we're doing, and reassess who we are and what on earth we are doing.

3. Always What We Need. The Rosary is ever fresh, ever new, and deeply personal. Every time we pray it, we can have a completely different experience than we did yesterday or last week. Of course, the Rosary doesn't change, but we do. Our questions change. Our struggles and concerns change. Our faith and doubts change. Where we are in our journey with God changes. The Rosary provides the context, the format, and the process for God to speak to us about all these things.

4. Blessed Mother Mary. Nobody sees the life of a child the way that child's mother does—not even the father. This is Mary's perspective of Jesus' life. She has a unique perspective. It seems that every genuine Christian, not just Catholics, should be interested in that perspective—and not just interested, but fascinated. In the Rosary we ponder the life of Jesus through the eyes of his mother. This is an incredibly powerful experience if we enter into it fully.

5. Awareness. This is a giant benefit from praying the Rosary, and it is central to a rich and vibrant spiritual life. Being aware of what is happening inside, around us, and to us, is one of the most incredible gifts God can give us. One of the rarest gifts that awareness freely gives us is the ability to see things as they really are. This extraordinary clarity tends to make those who possess it very good decision makers. The many ways we can pray and reflect with the Rosary help us grow in awareness.

6. Epic Moments. When we pray the Rosary, we reflect on some of the most epic moments in history. For example, the Annunciation, Mary's moment, the moment when her "yes" changed the world. Imagine the monumental courage that would have required. Think about it. Everything hung in the balance. What would have happened if Mary had said no? And there are 20 of these moments in the different mysteries of the Rosary. Imagine what we can learn.

7. Slow Down. Praying the Rosary regularly encourages us to slow down, which in turn should encourage us to live life at a different pace than the rest of the world. We learn from Mary how to look at an experience, hold it in our hearts, and ponder what it means for our lives. This slower pace also allows us to be present.

8. Community. When we come together, great things can happen. When we come together to pray the Rosary, even greater things can happen. The Rosary has the power to impact the lives of our loved ones, our communities, and our nation. What can we pray for? We can pray for the needs of our families and friends. We can pray for our communities, for our cities and neighborhoods, for our schools and churches, and for the hungry, lonely, and sick. We can pray for our nation, our leaders, and our troops. Praying the Rosary can bring peace to a troubled world, healing to broken hearts, and clarity to those in chaos.

9. The-Best-Version-of-Ourselves. Praying the Rosary helps us look at who we are, and challenges us to become a-better-version-of-ourselves. We become intimately familiar with the better person we know we can be—a better friend, a better parent, a better spouse, a better child and sibling, a better employer and leader, a better citizen of this country, and a better member of the human family.

10. Healing. Who doesn't need their history healed? Who doesn't want to be rescued from the turbulence and anxiety of modern life? Who doesn't want their soul healed? Every time you pray the Rosary, Jesus welcomes you into his life and you welcome him into your life. Bring him your deepest pains and struggles, and let him heal the hurt. Only great things can happen when you invite Jesus into your life.

There is just something about the Rosary that settles our hearts and mind. It reaches deep down into our souls and puts us at ease, creating a peace that is rare and beautiful. The benefits of praying the Rosary are countless. Develop a habit of praying the Rosary, and it will change your life in unimaginable ways. It will lead you to the path of Holiness.



KEEP OUR SICK SISTERS & BROTHERS IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS

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

Bobby	Michele Ferrara	Mark Magda
Bernie Antonino	Marty Franck	Joe Morici
Jan Boczek	Bob Garcar	Eleanor Phillips
Mario Bruschi	Kathy Hlad	Judy Purdy
Jane Dahlhausen	Kyle Hrabusa	Anthony Rossi
Virginia DeJesus	Michael Hurley	Abbot C. Schwartz OSB
Roy Evans	Tony Kazmierczak	
Margie Ferfolia	Jonathan Lipreads	

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

† OUR CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF OUR RECENTLY DECEASED †

Rita Roman, Prayer Group member



Jake's Corner

For October, I am writing about one of my very favorite

Saints and that is Saint Therese of the Child Jesus. She was the last of nine children born on January 2, 1873 to Saints Louis and Marie-Azelie Martin. Saint Marie-Azelie died when she was four years old leaving Saint Louis Martin to care for the rest of the family. When she was a young girl, Saint Therese was spoiled by her father, Saint Louis and as a result, she had a slight temper and wanted everything. Saints Louis and Marie-Azelie instilled in their children a great love of God and neighbor. When Therese was fourteen years old on Christmas day, she had a conversion. She no longer wanted worldly things, but to love God and to serve neighbor. She felt the call to enter Carmel and at age fifteen, she entered the Carmelite Convent of Lisieux and she received the name of Sr. Therese of the Child Jesus and of the Holy Face.

In Carmel, Therese's childish sweetness mellowed and she learned to accept criticism. When she was criticized, she never complained, even if she was falsely criticized. Saint Therese had a great love for priests and she fervently prayed for them. Her spirituality increased and



she desired to become a little soul who simply wanted to love God and do everything with extraordinary love. This became known as the little way. Many people have been touched by Saint Therese's little way. Saint Therese was asked to write an autobiography, which is the famous "A Story of a Soul." She was diagnosed with tuberculosis and she died on September 30, 1897. After her death Saint Therese promised "I will spend my heaven doing good on earth. I will let fall a shower of roses." She was Canonized on May 17, 1925 by Pope Pius XI and was Declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Saint John Paul II on October 19, 1997.

Saint Therese is one of my favorite Saints. I love how Saint Therese is so relatable. She was not a great vision or a great mystic. She simply entrusted herself to God and desired to do His Will. She was a nun who simply did her tasks with extraordinary love. We too can find holiness in our daily tasks. During this month of October, may we become like Saint Therese and bring the light of Christ to others through the ordinary things we do every day.

SOURCES:

<https://mycatholic.life/saints/saints-of-the-liturgical-year/october-1-st-therese-of-lisieux-religious-and-doctor-of-the-church/>

<https://www.littleflower.org/therese/>

Written by: Jake Snyder

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

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