

## The day of fidelity

22nd January - Anniversary of the Religious Dressing of Saint Pio of Pietrelcina

*Every year our Prayer Groups are called to confirm their commitment of fidelity to the Gospels, following the spirituality of Padre Pio of Pietrelcina, their founder.*

### THE RITE OF THE OATH OF FIDELITY

*The rite of this commitment of fidelity is celebrated on the day we commemorate the dressing of Padre Pio of Pietrelcina, January 22 (or another day agreed upon with the Spiritual Assistant). If Holy Mass is celebrated, this rite can be performed after the homily or before the final blessing.*

#### Song

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

the Lord is with you.

**and with your spirit**

Let us open our spirit to his voice, and in remembrance of our Baptism and in prayer we show our gratitude to the Lord for the gift of faith.

**We give thanks to the Lord, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.**

Jesus says: "I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness". ( John 12:46 )

**Lord Jesus, our light, make it possible for us to walk in the light of your Word and live in the light of your friendship.**

#### ***Psalm 143***

Listen to my prayer, Lord!  
Because of your faithfulness, hear my requests for mercy!  
Because of your righteousness, answer me!  
Please don't bring your servant to judgment,  
because no living thing is righteous before you.  
The enemy is chasing me,  
crushing my life in the dirt,  
forcing me to live in the dark  
like those who've been dead forever.  
My spirit is weak inside me—  
inside, my mind is numb.  
I remember the days long past;  
I meditate on all your deeds;  
I contemplate your handiwork.

I stretch out my hands to you;  
my whole being is like dry dirt, thirsting for you.  
Answer me, Lord—and quickly! My breath is fading.  
Don't hide your face from me  
or I'll be like those going down to the pit!  
Tell me all about your faithful love come morning time,  
because I trust you.  
Show me the way I should go,  
because I offer my life up to you.  
Deliver me from my enemies, Lord!  
I seek protection from you.  
Teach me to do what pleases you,  
because you are my God.  
Guide me by your good spirit  
into good land.  
Make me live again, Lord, for your name's sake.  
Bring me out of distress because of your righteousness.  
Wipe out my enemies because of your faithful love.  
Destroy everyone who attacks me,  
because I am your servant.

**Amen**

O God, good and faithful, You create the existence of man and renew him, look with love at the people you have chosen and call incessantly new generations to establish their friendly relationship with You, so that, according to your promise, they can joyfully receive as a gift the dignity of children of God. For Christ our Lord.

### ***Meditations from the writings of St. Padre Pio***

*Most beloved daughter of Jesus,*

*(...) Knowing that you are always resigned to the will of Heaven fills my souls with superlative joy. Well, continue to hope and confide more in the Lord, and even in the midst of extreme spiritual desolation, he will know how to console you and alleviate the suffering which certain crosses render unbearable*

*(...) So when you feel oppressed by temptation, the means to oblige God to come to your aid is through humility of spirit, contrition for God to be displeased with this demonstration; impossible for Him not to come to our aid and give in. It is true that God's power triumphs over everything; but humble and suffering prayer triumphs over God Himself! It lowers His arm; extinguishes His lightning, disarms Him, overcomes Him, appeases Him and makes Him, I would almost say, a friend and dependant.*

*(...) But let us take heart, Annita, let us glance at the divine Master who prayed in the Garden and we will discover the true ladder which unites the earth to the heavens. We will discover that humility, contrition and prayer make this distance between man and God disappear, and act in such a way that God descends to man, and man ascends to God, so that they end up understanding loving and possessing one another.*

## **THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES**

*Where possible, those who have chosen to be part of the Prayer Group arrange themselves around the altar.*

Brothers and sisters, through Baptism, in Jesus's Passover we were buried with him in death to rise to new life. In various ways, the Lord has led us to learn about the spirituality of Padre Pio and to look at him as a model in following and imitating Christ poor and obedient to the Father. Following his example, we renew the promises of our Baptism, committing ourselves to recognise the voice of Jesus who calls us by name and invites us to follow Him.

Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?

***I do***

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried, rose again from the dead and is seated at the right hand of the Father?

***I do***

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting?

***I do***

God and Father of Jesus, who freed us from sin and made us to be reborn from water and from the Holy Spirit, through the intercession of St. Pio of Pietrelcina may He protect us with His grace, in the Lord Jesus, for eternal life.

**Amen**

Let us invoke together the intercession of Mary Most Holy, of Saint Pio of Pietrelcina and of all the saints, so that with their help we can be persevering in our purposes:

Holy Mary, Mother of God	<b>pray for us</b>
Saint Michael, Gabriel and Raphael	<b>pray for us</b>
St. John the Baptist	<b>pray for us</b>
St. Joseph	<b>pray for us</b>
Holy apostles and evangelists	<b>pray for us</b>
St. Peter	<b>pray for us</b>
St. Paul	<b>pray for us</b>
St. Mary Magdalene	<b>pray for us</b>
Saint Benedict	<b>pray for us</b>
St. Dominic	<b>pray for us</b>
Saint Francis of Assisi	<b>pray for us</b>
Saint Clare of Assisi	<b>pray for us</b>
Saint Pio of Pietrelcina	<b>pray for us</b>
St. John Paul II	<b>pray for us</b>
Saint Teresa of Calcutta	<b>pray for us</b>
Saints of God	<b>pray for us</b>

## **FIDELITY COMMITMENT**

Brothers and sisters, the Church invites us to live in the spirit of St. Pio of Pietrelcina, the charism of prayer and help to the suffering, living our fidelity to the Gospel to be salt of the earth and light of the world, we now publicly renew that commitment of fidelity that many times, on a personal level, we presented to Padre Pio, invoking his protection.

O Father,  
you have chosen and called us to be  
*«nurseries of the faith, the fertile soil of love»*,  
we commit, here in front of our community,  
to be ministers of prayer and service to the sufferings;  
to renounce sin with serious commitment;  
to grow in virtues, especially within our families;  
to share our journey in this Prayer Group,  
following the spirituality of Saint Pio of Pietrelcina and the teachings of the Church.  
We promise fidelity to the Pope, to our pastors  
and to the commitments we take on the common journey with the brothers and sisters of our Group.  
In the footsteps of Saint Francis of Assisi,  
we choose to welcome the needy,  
to support the poor and be loving and respectful of creation.  
Virgin Mary, You who guided the journey of St. Pio of Pietrelcina,  
welcome our holy desires and accompany us on our journey towards holiness.  
Amen.

## **Our Father...**

the Lord is with you  
***and with your spirit***

May Almighty God, through Whom You we were born to a new life from the water and the Holy Spirit, bless you all, so that wherever you will be, you may be living members of his Church: in Christ Jesus our Lord.

***Amen***

May the Almighty God give you His peace: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

***Amen***