

Feast of Charity

Day for Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza

May 5, 2026 – Seventieth anniversary of the Home for the Relief of Suffering.

The Feast of Charity was established to strengthen the connection between the Padre Pio Prayer Groups and the Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza, the earthly work envisioned by our Founder. On May 5 (or another day agreed upon with the Spiritual Assistant), the Group gathers to pray together during Holy Mass, offering prayer intentions for the Casa Sollievo and the Prayer Groups. The Eucharistic Celebration may conclude with the reading of the "Prayer for the Home Relief of Suffering."

THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

- For **Padre Pio's Prayer Groups**, which celebrate their foundation on this day, that, following the example of Saint Pio of Pietrelcina they may always live in full communion with the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. **Let us pray**
- For **Padre Pio's Prayer Groups**, so that they always be at "the frontline" of faith and charity in the Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza, City of Charity established out of the love of Saint Pio of Pietrelcina for the needy. **Let us pray**
- For **Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza**, which every year "opens its arms to many thousands of suffering bodies and spirits", so that it is always a sign of God's concern and love for humanity. **Let us pray**

AT THE END OF THE HOLY MASS

PRAYER FOR CASA SOLLIEVO DELLA SOFFERENZA (Home for the Relief of Suffering)

O holy and glorious God,
so full of love for your children
that you sent your Son to give us life and salvation,
we thank you because the Holy Spirit,
poured out on the Church by Jesus
continues to bring forth brothers and sisters
who put their own existence at the service
of the poor, the suffering and the needy,
following the example of Christ

Through the intercession of Padre Pio,
who carried the signs of Jesus' love on his body,
grant to his Work, the Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza,
the grace to be faithful to the charisma of its founder,
so that each one can bring your love to the bed of the sick:
make of the Casa a temple of life,
guiding hearts to loyalty and transparency in their actions.

Instill feelings of gratitude and love
in the Prayer Groups and in the devotees of Padre Pio
so that even today they may be the sign of that Providence
which wanted this work as a testimony to all of the boundless
trust in the Love and Mercy of God.

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On May 5, 1956, Padre Pio inaugurated Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza, the hospital that he himself defined on that occasion as "the creature that Providence, with your help, has created". The presence of the Prayer Groups, "the pillars of the building" was deeply felt and the Father entrusted his work to them, asking them to take care of it with prayer and charitable actions.

This is why the inauguration date of Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza was chosen as a symbolic date that marks the birth of the Prayer Groups too.

On this day, groups from all over the world celebrate the Feast of Charity. It would be wonderful if, to commemorate their union with the Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza, they also promoted an official collection for the benefit of the Opera di San Pio.

This year, the charitable support of all your Groups will be dedicated to the purchase of an operating table for the ophthalmic surgery room. Modern equipment allows the surgeon to operate under optimal conditions, ensuring the correct positioning of the head and body, reducing the risk of involuntary movements, and providing maximum comfort even during complex and lengthy procedures such as cataract, glaucoma, retinal detachment, or corneal transplant surgeries. This important support translates into a more reassuring experience for the patient and increasingly precise and lasting surgical outcomes.

May this day remind to everyone our foundations: Prayer and Charity. Prayer for those in need, for those in suffering; Charity towards Casa Sollievo, a work that unifies and calls groups from all over the world to the attention of the sick and suffering.