

## PRAYER VIGIL FOR THE LITURGICAL FEAST OF SAINT PIO OF PIETRELCINA

September 23, 2026

«IF ANYONE IS THIRSTY, LET HIM COME TO ME AND DRINK » (Jn 7:37)

### Presentation

This prayer vigil is meant as a gesture of personal and communal adoration.

It is important to live these moments as one single experience: there should be spaces of prolonged silence for personal prayer, while also highlighting the value of a prayer of adoration made together as a Christian community that adores Christ present in the Eucharist and walks toward the Father with Jesus Himself. In this text we wish to experience with Saint Pio his thirst to encounter the Lord.

### ADORATION

EUCCHARISTIC HYMN

*Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament*

*From the writings of Padre Pio (Epist. I, 217)*

And this hunger and thirst, rather than remaining satisfied after having received Him in the sacrament, grows ever greater. When I am already in possession of this supreme good, then indeed the fullness of sweetness is so great that I can hardly keep myself from saying to Jesus: enough, for I can almost bear no more. I almost forget that I am in the world; my mind and heart desire nothing further, and for a long time, sometimes even willingly, I find no desire arising in me for other things.

*Silent adoration (we renew our faith in God present in the Eucharist, and also in our own presence before Him. Through Jesus we live a communion of love with the Triune God; our freedom becomes immense, because there are no longer the limits of sin and of our humanity. From these reflections arise our feelings of tenderness and joy before the Lord).*

**COMMUNAL PRAYER OF ADORATION (from the writings of Saint Pio)**

Long live divine mercy always!

How good is Jesus toward his creatures!

How many victories does this his servant count,  
all by His most powerful help! (*Epist. I, 512*)

Never may it be, O dear Jesus,  
that I lose so precious a treasure  
as You are to me.

O Lord,  
do not take pleasure in hiding Yourself.  
You have made me fall in love with You so deeply,  
infinite beauty  
and source of eternal happiness. (*Epist. I, 675 s*)

Blessed forever be Jesus,  
who even in showing His justice  
cannot forget that He is  
the Father of mercies. (*Epist. I, 490*)

All the torments of this earth,  
gathered together in a bundle,  
I accept them, my God,  
I desire them as my portion;

but I could never resign myself  
to being separated from You  
for lack of love. (*Epist. I, 675*)

My soul,  
full of gratitude toward God  
for the many victories it counts  
at every moment of life,  
cannot but pour forth hymns of blessing  
without end  
to a God so great and so generous. (*Epist. I, 654*)

O God,  
sovereign of my heart,  
O sole centre of all my happiness,  
how long must I still wait  
before I may behold unveiled  
Your ineffable beauties. (*Epist. I, 656*)

## LISTENING TO THE WORD

### ALLELUIA

#### ***From the Gospel according to John (7:37-45)***

On the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood up and cried out: "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me, and let whoever believes in me drink. As the Scripture says: From within him shall flow rivers of living water." He said this about the Spirit, which those who believed in him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus had not yet been glorified.

When they heard these words, some of the people said: "This truly is the prophet!" Others said: "This is the Christ!" But others said: "Surely the Christ does not come from Galilee? Does not Scripture say that the Christ will come from the descendants of David, and from Bethlehem, the village where David lived?" So there was a division among the people because of him. Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him.

The guards therefore went back to the chief priests and the Pharisees, who said to them: "Why have you not brought him?" The guards answered: "No man ever spoke like this man!" But the Pharisees retorted: "Have you also been led astray? Have any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed in him? But this crowd, which does not know the Law, is accursed!" Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus before, and who was one of them, said: "Does our Law judge a man without first hearing him and learning what he does?" They answered him: "Are you also from Galilee? Study, and you will see that no prophet arises from Galilee." And each one went home.

#### *Reflections of the celebrant*

*Silent meditation (we re-read the biblical passage in the light of the reflections we have heard. Use these three words: image, memory, listening. First of all, picture the scene; let your heart open itself to what Jesus is saying, to your own feelings, to your gratitude toward Him. Fix in your memory the most beautiful things you have perceived, and repeat them several times so as to remember. Finally, listen to what the Lord is saying to you at this moment; perceive His presence as Teacher and Shepherd).*

## EUCCHARISTIC HYMN

### COMMUNAL PRAYER ON THE WORD

You desired neither sacrifice nor offering, but a body you prepared for me. You took no pleasure in burnt offerings or sin offerings

- *Then I said: Behold, I come, for it is written of me: to do, O God, your will.*

Before I formed you in the womb of Your Mother; before you were born I consecrated you.

- *You seduced me, Lord, and I let myself be seduced.*

The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the one who is to be born will be holy and called the Son of God.

- *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.*

Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us - Philip said - Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.

- *Andrew said to Peter: «We have found the Messiah». And he brought him to Jesus.*

For this I was born and for this I have come into the world: to bear witness to the truth. Whoever is of the truth listens to my voice.

- *Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me. Yet not my will, but yours be done.*

As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you. Receive the Holy Spirit; if you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.

- *Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.*

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the Word of life, that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us.

- *My Lord and my God. My Lord and my God. My Lord and my God.*

## PROPITIATION AND OFFERING

### *From the writings of Padre Pio (Dolcissimo Iddio, p. 93)*

Let us imitate the holy Magi, who come from distant lands to adore the newborn Messiah and to offer Him their gifts. We shall be their perfect imitators if we offer gold to the newborn King of heaven and earth, striving to shine before Him with love of Christian wisdom.

We shall offer Him incense if, by means of assiduous prayer - as a mysterious fire kindled on the altar of the heart - we strive to extinguish carnal thoughts, giving free rein to heavenly desires, so that they may rise toward God like a fragrant and sweet perfume

We offer Jesus also, and continually, myrrh - and this by means of Christian austerity, exercising ourselves in crucifying our flesh. My daughter, it is proper to myrrh to prevent the putrefaction of bodies, and the body that truly rots is precisely the one that abandons itself to every kind of lust. In this sense the prophet Joel said: "like vile beasts of burden they have rotted in their own dung." And truly the carnal man who spends his life in the foul mud of lust is nothing more than a vile animal rotting in its own filth. We therefore truly offer Jesus the myrrh when, through Christian continence - as through a precious aromatic - we preserve our body from the putrefaction of lust and keep it intact and chaste.

## EUCCHARISTIC HYMN

### OFFERING OF OURSELVES

*Moment of silence. (Jesus is the propitiation; in communion with the Church, we once again present before the Father His merits so that He may be our mediator of grace and salvation. Jesus is the one victim who offers Himself to the Father; we welcome His invitation to follow Him in this offering, asking Him to make us capable of carrying our own daily crosses as well).*

### CANTICLE (Phil 2:6-11)

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, \*

did not count equality with God

a thing to be grasped;

but emptied himself, †

taking the form of a servant, \*

being made in human likeness;

and being found in human form, he humbled himself †  
by becoming obedient to the point of death, \*  
even death on a cross.

Therefore God has highly exalted him \*  
and bestowed on him the name  
that is above every name,  
so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, †  
in heaven and on earth \*  
and under the earth,  
and every tongue confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord, \*  
to the glory of God the Father.

### **RESOLUTION**

*Before concluding our prayer or our visit to Jesus in the Sacrament, let us pause for a moment and resolve upon one small thing to live out during the day or the week.*

### **PRAYER OF INTERCESSION**

*Let us invoke the Virgin Mary, Saint Pio, and the other holy patrons, repeating "pray for us," and then present through their intercession our prayers for the Church, for peace, for those in need, for the departed, and for our personal intentions.*

*Reader: Virgin Mary, who received the Son of God in your womb, intercede for us so that we may adore His presence in our midst and allow our hearts to be completely free from all that does not belong to Him.*

*All: **Holy Mary, pray for us.***

*Reader: Saint Pio, who were a master in the encounter with Christ present in the Eucharist, obtain for us the grace of being a community that is a living Host, an offering of peace and reconciliation; teach us through your life to give ourselves as Jesus did on Calvary.*

*All: **Saint Pio, pray for us.***

*Reader: Saint Francis of Assisi, who were father of the poor and of those who suffer, invoke with us divine Providence so that it may supply with its grace and mercy the many situations of poverty and pain created by our selfishness.*

*All: **Saint Francis, pray for us.***

*Reader: Saint John Paul II, who were Pastor and Guide of the Church, invoke with us the gift of the Spirit upon our pastors so that they too may be attentive and generous guides, and upon the whole people of God so that it may follow them with sentiments of obedience and charity.*

*All: **Saint John Paul II, pray for us.***

### **Our Father**

#### **PRAYER TO PADRE PIO FOR PEACE**

Padre Pio,  
our brother and guide,  
together with you, with the Virgin Mary  
and with all the saints of heaven,  
we wish to adore the mysterious presence  
of Jesus our Lord  
in the Most Blessed Sacrament of the altar.

You who were united to the sufferings of Christ  
through the gift of sharing  
in an extraordinary way in His passion,  
look upon the pain of this humanity,

oppressed by selfishness, by injustice  
and by evil.

Hear and present to the Most Holy Trinity  
the cry of pain of all those who at this moment  
suffer from hunger, from injustice, from the wounds of war.

We pray that through your intercession  
the Lord may grant the world a true and lasting peace;  
may the power of the Gospel  
be the true word of hope  
for the oppressed and for all who suffer.

Bless with your wounded hand  
the Church and our society;  
grant to all people  
the grace to be builders of solidarity and peace.

EUCCHARISTIC HYMN

### **EUCCHARISTIC BENEDICTION**

#### **AN ACCOUNT OF THE PASSING OF PADRE PIO OF PIETRELCINA**

*by Father Pellegrino Funicelli*

(to be read after the Vigil or after Holy Mass in those places where it is customary)

After 9 p.m. on September 22, 1968, when Father Mariano had already left cell no. 4 and I had entered it, Padre Pio called me to his room through the intercom. He was in bed, lying on his right side; he asked me only what time the alarm clock on his bedside table showed. From his reddened eyes I dried a few small tears, and returned to room no. 4 to remain listening at the intercom, which was always on.

The Father called me again five or six more times, until midnight. His eyes were always red from weeping, but from a sweet, serene weeping.

At midnight, like a frightened child, he implored me: "Stay with me, my son," and began asking me the time very frequently. He looked at me with eyes full of pleading, holding my hands tightly. Then, as if he had forgotten the time he had been asking for continuously, he said to me: "Son, have you said Mass?" I answered, smiling: "Spiritual Father, it is too early now for Mass." And he replied: "Well, this morning you will say it for me." And I: "But every morning I say it according to your intentions."

Shortly afterward he wished to go to confession, and when his sacramental confession was over, he said: "My son, if today the Lord calls me, ask forgiveness on my behalf from the brethren for all the trouble I have given them, and ask the brethren and my spiritual children for a prayer for my soul." I answered: "Spiritual Father, I am certain the Lord will make you live much longer; but if you should be right, may I ask you for one last blessing for the brethren, for all your spiritual children and your sick?" And he: "Yes, I bless everyone; in fact, ask the Superior to give this last blessing for me." "And to Pia, Ettoruccio" (nephews and nieces) "and their families and to Sister Pia, what shall I say?" "They know how much I have loved them," he answered, bursting into tears, "I bless them all, I bless them all." Finally he asked me to renew the act of his religious profession.

It was one o'clock when he said to me: "Listen, my son, I cannot breathe well here in bed. Let me get up. I shall breathe better in the chair." One, two, three in the morning were usually the times at which he rose to prepare for Holy Mass, and before sitting in the armchair he would take a few steps along the corridor. That night I noticed to my great surprise that he walked straight and briskly like a young man - so much so that there was no need to support him. Having reached the door of his cell, he said: "Let us go a little way out onto the terrace."

I followed him, holding his hand under his arm. He himself switched on the light and, having reached the armchair, sat down and looked around the terrace, peering about - he seemed to be searching for something with his eyes. After five minutes he wished to return to the cell. I tried to lift him, but he said: "I cannot

manage it." Indeed he had grown heavy. "Spiritual Father, do not worry," I told him, encouraging him and immediately taking the wheelchair, which was two steps away. I lifted him from the armchair by the armpits and sat him in the wheelchair. He himself lifted his feet from the ground and rested them on the footrest. In the cell, once I had settled him in the armchair, he pointed with his left hand and his gaze to the wheelchair and said: "Take it outside."

Having returned to the cell, I noticed that the father was beginning to turn pale. On his forehead there was a cold sweat. I became frightened, however, when I saw that his lips were beginning to turn livid. He kept repeating: "Jesus, Mary!" with an ever weaker voice.

I moved to go and call a confrere, but he stopped me, saying: "Do not wake anyone." I set off nonetheless and, running, had gone only a few steps from his cell when he called me back again. And I, thinking he was calling me back to say the same thing, returned. But when I heard him repeat: "Do not call anyone," I answered with a gesture of pleading: "Spiritual Father, now let me act." And running I made my way toward Father Mariano's cell; but seeing the door of Brother Guglielmo's room open, I entered, switched on the light and shook him: "Padre Pio is unwell!" In an instant Brother Guglielmo reached the father's cell and I ran to telephone Doctor Sala. He arrived about ten minutes later and, as soon as he saw the father, prepared what was needed to give him an injection. When everything was ready, Brother Guglielmo and I tried to lift him, but failing to do so, we had to lay him on the bed. The doctor gave the injection and then helped us to settle him back in the armchair, while the father repeated with an ever fainter voice and with lip movements ever more imperceptible: "Jesus, Mary!"

Called by me, Father Guardian, Father Mariano, and other confreres arrived at once; while, summoned by telephone by Doctor Sala, Mario Pennelli - Padre Pio's nephew - the Medical Director of Casa Sollievo, Doctor Gusso, and Doctor Giovanni Scarale began to arrive one after another.

While the doctors administered oxygen, first through a cannula and then through a mask, Father Paolo of San Giovanni Rotondo administered the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick to the Spiritual Father, and the other confreres, kneeling around him, prayed.

At about 2:30 a.m., he gently bowed his head upon his chest. He had passed away.

### **LAST MASS — HYMN TO SAINT PIO**

From the Cross you drew your strength,  
From the wounds of Christ your joy,  
You are crucified for love,  
You are a witness of charity.

Priest who offers up your life  
To redeem the world from sin,  
Humble servant of grace,  
Faithful herald of the Truth.

*Father of the suffering, father of sinners,  
Guide our hearts in charity.*

You dispense the joy of forgiveness  
Revealing the heart of the Lord,  
In the sign of penance  
You mould your children in the Truth.

Strengthened by the Body of the Lord,  
Inflamed by the fire of His Blood,  
You are a priest of Love,  
Sure guide for all who entrust themselves to you.