

## PPPG NEWSLETTER

### BRINGING OUT THE BEST IN OTHERS

For almost fifty years, I turned to our Blessed Virgin Mary for all my needs. Then I had an intimate encounter with our Lord Jesus. After that, I continued to pray the Rosary, but it was Jesus with whom I most related.

One day when I was praying in front of the tabernacle, I felt a desire to go to the statue of our Lady. It was as though Jesus was telling me, 'Go to her.' On doing so I experienced peace and a great comfort. After a while I felt a desire to go before the statue of St. Joseph. This time it was as though Mary was telling me to visit with him. From then on my triangular relationship was with Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

I recall that throughout my life while I showed reverence to other saints, I hardly ever kept a devotion to or actively sought out their intercession. Encouraged under the guidance of our parish priest, I developed an admiration for St. Therese of Lisieux, Blessed Mother Teresa of Kolkata and St. Jean Marie Vianney.

In 2016 my wife and I went to Rome for the canonization of Mother Teresa and, by God's providence, we happened to visit San Giovanni Rotondo where the uncorrupt body of St. Padre Pio is on display. On both sides of the walls of the spiral walkway leading to the crypt are mosaics narrating the lives of St. Francis and St. Padre Pio. I was both amazed and captivated by their life stories.

Upon our return to Vancouver, we heard that St. Mary's was starting a Padre Pio Prayer Group and were excited to be a part of it. After a few months of regular attendance at these prayer meetings, I

was asked to be part of a team who would write the monthly Rosary prayer intentions.

A strange confidence came over me and I agreed. As I pondered the task ahead of me, I recalled that when I pray words flow from the depths of my heart. Years before I had read that Our Lady wanted us to pray from the heart and how I desired to be able to do so! She had granted my desire and was now asking me to help others pray. I realized that I had already joined a few communities that interceded for others and PPPG was now one more.

I began my blog by telling you of my encounter with the Lord. During this encounter I asked the Lord how I could serve Him and was convinced that he wanted me to bring out the best in others. "The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger and abundant in steadfast love." (Psalm 103:8). How true!

After fifteen years I realized that what the Lord wanted was for me to permit Him to use me to bring out the best in others. This I realized as I worked with the team of prayer intention writers. It reminded me of how St. Francis mistook our Lord when He said 'build my Church.' Francis and his friars rebuilt the dilapidated church building while Jesus was asking him to revitalize the body of the Church. I credit Padre Pio for pointing out my wrong notions for I can do nothing on my own but with the Lord I can do all things.

Thank you, Jesus, and thank you Padre Pio for reminding me to be humble. All glory belongs to God!

By : Edward Livera

#### **Editor notes:**

*The PPPG Team was formed in January 2018. So, this month marks the second anniversary of the Team. Thank you for your contribution and your loves for PPPG.*

# PRAYER INTENTIONS

January 2021

## 1 | Ministry of Confession

Lord, call us to repentance. Break us, mold us, fashion us into your image. May we listen intently for your voice that we may be transformed in 2021 through God's tender mercy.

With all the angels and the saints, we pray in Jesus' most holy name. Amen.

*St. Padre Pio, please pray for us!*

## 2 | Year of Saint Joseph

Righteous man, honorable spouse, foster father to our Lord, St. Joseph, teach us piety. Intercede for all workers and for the dying that they too may be held in the loving embrace of Mary and Jesus.

We pray in the name of the Lord through the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Amen.

*St. Padre Pio, please pray for us!*

## 3 | Keeping Sundays Holy

Though the rhythms of life have been disrupted by COVID-19, Christ Jesus, jolt us to love the Mass more completely and to keep holy the day of the Christian Sabbath. Guard us against complacency, Lord. Protect us during the week and lead us to deepened prayer every Sunday that we may partake of you spiritually.

In eager anticipation of you sacramentally, we pray all these things in the most powerful name of Jesus. Amen.

*St. Padre Pio, please pray for us!*

## 4 | For those who do not believe, adore, hope and love God

Revealed to children by the Angel of Peace, we pray for pardon as was divinely instructed at Fatima. Pardon us who fail to trust, who neglect to worship, who slide into despair, and who fail to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

Lord Jesus, increase our faith. We pray in your most merciful name. Amen.

*St. Padre Pio, please pray for us!*

## 5 | For those suffering from the Pandemic

Holy Spirit, Advocate and Giver-of-Life come renew the face of the earth. Hover over those gripped by fear, desolation, pain and financial heartache. May the fire of your love bring hope and perseverance on this pilgrim journey.

*St. Padre Pio, please pray for us!*

Do you want us to pray for you? Email us: [PPPG.Prayer.Request@gmail.com](mailto:PPPG.Prayer.Request@gmail.com)