

PPPG NEWSLETTER

The Journey Home from Rome

(*The Relic of Saint Padre Pio*)

When I presented the plan to invite keynote speakers for our monthly prayer meeting back in November 2018 to Fr. Gabriel de Chadarévian, O.P. (*Fr. Gabriel*) the Spiritual Director of St. Mary's Padre Pio Prayer Group (PPPG), I learnt that Fr. David Bellusci, O.P. (*Fr. David*) works in Rome during Summertime. Fr. David's name came up during the meeting as he would be one of the priests that I would invite to give presentation for PPPG.

After the initial meeting with Fr. Gabriel, I begin to send out the invitations, including an invite to Fr. David. He was quite responsive, and we then settled on a date for him to come to give a talk to our prayer group on May 4, 2019. When Fr. Gabriel mentioned the city of Rome, I immediately thought about the Relic of Padre Pio.

Let's back up a little to the era when Fr. Pierre Leblond, O.P. (*Fr. Pierre*) was still the pastor of St. Mary's and the Spiritual Director of our PPPG, we started the initiative to request for the first-class Relic of Saint Pio from the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin (Latin: *Ordo Fratrum Minorum Capuccinorum*). We discovered that there are certain requirements that must be fulfilled and upon approval, that the Relic will only be released in person and to be picked up from the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin headquarters in Rome. The initiative later had to be put on hold due to the news of Fr. Pierre's sabbatical.

I had seen Fr. David around at St. Mary's parish, and I attended several of the Masses he celebrated but I had never spoken to him. During our email exchanges before we settled for May 4, 2019 PPPG, I wanted so much to raise the topic of the Relic, I was hoping he would help us obtain the Relic on our behalf since he would be in Rome in Summer 2019. I then decided to exercise patience and wait until

after May 4, 2019 PPPG and prayed that the prayer meeting would go well and there would be the opportunity to talk about the Relic and the big favour I was about to ask him.

I could not wait for May 4th to come. And when the day finally arrived, I felt so blessed to have the opportunity to talk to Fr. David about the Relic. He said "Yes" to go to the Capuchin headquarters to bring the Relic home. Praise God!

Then, there was a problem. I had found the Special Messenger, but the process to request the Relic - which had once been put on hold - was yet to be activated and I had no idea how long this would take. If the approval came after September 2019, Fr. David would have left Rome and returned to Vancouver. The requirement to have someone physically pick up the Relic in Rome was non-negotiable.

One of Padre Pio's famous quotes reminded me to "*Pray, hope and don't worry*". Indeed I should not worry, the smooth process of obtaining all the necessary documents and approvals from our Pastor and the Archdiocese came easy and soon after a letter came from the General Postulator of the Order Friars Minor Capuchin in Rome granting our request, and they were expecting Fr. David to stop by for the retrieval of Saint Pio's relic. I truly believe in Padre Pio's intercession in this matter and that this was what he would have wanted for our prayer group.

On August 13th, 2019 the first-class Relic of Saint Padre Pio was released to the hands of Fr. David. On September 1, 2019 the Relic landed safely here in Vancouver, and on September 7th, 2019 the Relic was venerated publicly for the first time in a beautiful Mass and this coincided with the celebration of the 3rd anniversary of our prayer group. All my beloved Dominican priests; Fr. Pierre - *founder and the first Spiritual Director*, Fr. Gabriel - *our current Spiritual Director* and Fr. David – *the Special Messenger of our*

prayer group celebrated this special Mass together. How wonderful!

The Relic is now venerated at every prayer meeting, every first Saturday of the month.

Written on Jan 11th, 2020 at 4:30am by *Lucy Rodjito*

PRAYER INTENTIONS

February 2020

1 | Ministry of Confession

Father God, you shower your graces upon us “like the dewfall,” yet we refuse to receive time and again. When we turn our backs to you, when we fail to love our neighbor as ourselves, when we mortally sin, beckon us back to the confessional, Lord. Only You have the power to forgive our sins through the administration of your faithful priests. Help us to reconcile regularly that we may receive mercy and thereby give mercy freely to others.

St. Padre Pio, please pray for us!

the faithful from across the Lower Mainland seek you out as did the Wise Men and the shepherds. We long to be with you, Lord. We long to adore You.

St. Padre Pio, please pray for us!

4 | Priests

You have ordained bishops and priests to serve your people and to offer unto You the perfect sacrifice. Protect them, Lord. Protect them from temptation and envy, from discord and burnout, from constant criticism and the heartbreaking lack of participation from their parishioners. Guard our priests, oh God. Guard their

2 | Parish Missions

Lord, Jesus Christ, through Baptism and Confirmation, you called each of your sons and daughters to mission. Help us to heed your call, specifically through parish missions tailored to meet the unique needs of each parish community. Pour your Spirit on invited speakers, protect the volunteer workers, and unite attendees so that together we may “arise from our slumber” and eagerly prepare for Your second coming.

St. Padre Pio, please pray for us!

UPCOMING PRAYER MEETING

March 7, 2020 | Church Hall | 09:30AM

Keynote Presenter: Fr. Anthony Ho

hearts and minds that they may guide the faithful along the narrow way.

St. Padre Pio, please pray for us!

5 | Spiritual Directors

For the men and women who dedicate their days to prayer and spiritual direction, we pray a special blessing for favour and discernment. Holy Spirit, breathe life into their words and thoughts, their every gesture and response, that those under their guidance hear directly from you, Lord God of hosts. Grant that more souls answer your call to serve and cover each lay and pastoral spiritual director, Lord, from the inevitable attacks of the evil one.

St. Padre Pio, please pray for us!

Do you want us to pray for you? Email us: **PPPG.Prayer.Request@gmail.com**