

## PPPG NEWSLETTER

### GRACE ABOUND ALL THE MORE

“How long, O Lord?”. After seven months of lockdowns, quarantines, masking, distancing, and various other restrictions, it seems that the opening line of Psalm 13 might have been (and/or still is) on millions and billions of peoples’ minds – mine for sure! St. Paul lets us in on a hopeful and inspiring message which could be read as a wise response to this question in Romans 5:20: “where (evil) abounds, grace abounds all the more!”; adapting this hopeful quote to our present circumstances: where pandemics abound, Grace abounds all the more! Great way to shift our perspectives on the trials stemming from the pandemic, huh? It sure ain’t easy to make that shift, though! Padre Pio could help: he once said: “Our Lord sometimes (allows) you (to) feel the weight of the cross. This weight seems unbearable, but you carry it because in His love and mercy, the Lord helps you and gives you strength.” He lavishes us with His Grace.

#### Alone but Not Lonely

Living in isolation has been tough. As Christians, we are each one of us one part of a larger Family and thrive on connection; having all this separation imposed on us has been tricky to deal with -and that is an understatement! In Padre Pio’s words these circumstances have sometimes seemed “unbearable”.

Despite the heaviness of the trial we face, what has fuelled me is spending more time with our Lord. I have had numerous opportunities to just sit with Him in prayer, meditation, reading/contemplating Scripture, devotions, the Rosary, reading or

watching Spiritual books or movies, or in blessed silence.

In San Giovanni Rotondo, Padre Pio lived in remoteness/isolation – maybe not quarantine per se but still far from his loved ones/family; he never reported feeling lonely though... He knew he was always being embraced by our Loving Father, by Blessed Mama Mary, and his Guardian Angels; I am slowly realizing (often having to remind myself) that the same is true for me – for all of us. Although it has seemed like a lonely time (missing Mass, Adoration, the Sacraments, and our brothers and sisters), we have been being hugged all along... And we always will be – until the end of time. Jesus promised us that and His promises are forever true.

In a way, this time of pandemic has provided us all with many chances to strengthen our relationship with our Saviour. To “hear” His words of comfort and mercy, to feel the tender embrace of his enduring promises. For myself, this has helped me to see things differently. I recognize the scary reality of the risks of infection and transmission yet that is pacified when I turn toward my God. Similar to when Jesus was carrying His burdensome and unbearable cross up to Calvary, through the Providential Love and Mercy of God, the whole situation was transformed when Simon of Cyrene came on scene to help. It wasn’t Simon that was helping of course: by the Grace of God (and Jesus’ surrender in the Garden), what could have been a horrific journey was transformed. Not to an easy scenic hike but a bearable journey. Still scary yet manageable. By the Grace of God.

By: *Andrea Dasilva*

# PRAYER INTENTIONS

November 2020

## 1 | Ministry of Confession

Lord, we pray that Your Divine Presence fills the hearts and minds of our faithful confessors. May Your Divine Mercy and healing Graces pour forth from Your faithful ordained Ministers in order that Your repentant prodigal sons and daughters may be healed and redeemed and, ultimately, be reunited with Your eternal love.

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

## 2 | The Dying

Father in heaven, You have promised that You will never abandon or forsake us on our journeys through life. During this time of pandemic, we pray for all those who have died alone without the presence of their loved ones because of visiting restrictions. We confidently pray that they will be embraced by the loving arms of our Father who will wipe away every tear and bring them into His light.

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

## 3 | Pro-Life

Most merciful and loving Father, Your awesome and powerful Hands formed dust into Your human creatures and Your breath brought life to dried bones. By the miracle of creation, You knit each of us together in our mother's womb and nourish us

for 9 months until we are ready to be delivered into this world. We pray that all souls created and formed by You will be brought into this world for Your praise and glory and to fulfill Your Providential plans.

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

## 4 | Health Care Workers

By the Grace and Mercy of our loving God, we pray that all the brave and dedicated Health Care Workers caring for and saving the injured or ill be filled with the strength and perseverance they need for their vocation. Especially during the COVID-19 global health crisis, may the hands of our Blessed Divine Physician protect and embolden them as they strive to preserve the lives of those in their care.

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

## 5 | End of Pandemic

Dear Heavenly Father, 2020 has been a challenging year in which we have been facing numerous changes and losses; by your saving Grace, a lot of doors have been opened to new opportunities, as well. We humbly beseech that one of the doors opened is that which leads to a vaccine for the CORONAVIRUS; a vaccine which could reunite us all to our work and families and places of worship.

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

Please continue to pray the prayer intentions **daily**, may God bless us!

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