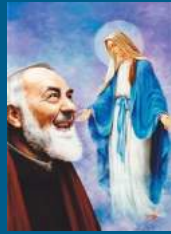


**THE PADRE PIO
PRAYER GROUP
of Cleveland**

**Spiritual Director:
Rev. Fr. Edward J. Janoch**

**Group Leader:
Cindy Russo**



St. Padre Pio Prayer Group Newsletter

MAY 2016

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 5

UPCOMING EVENTS:

May 22 -

Father Patrick Schultz's First Mass, a Mass of Thanksgiving (using St. Pio Chalice) at 5:30 PM, St. Mary Catholic Church, 340 North Main Street, Hudson

Jun 3 -

Mass of Reparation at 7:30 PM on the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, St. Bernadette Parish, 2256 Clague Road, Westlake

Jun 4 -

Padre Pio Prayer Group Gathering beginning with Mass at 8:30 AM, St. Barnabas Church, 9451 Brandywine Rd., Northfield

Jun 4 -

St. Anthony of Padua Novena starts (see website for details)

Renew Your Devotion to Mary

The month of May is an opportunity to renew our devotion to our mother Mary. Sadly in the world we live in, less and less time is devoted to her May crowning, the Rosary and other Marian devotions, and prayers are becoming a rarity. During apparitions, Her message is "Pray the Rosary for the Salvation of the world in the conversion of Souls." Signs and wonders from Her are not a coincidence. She is trying to get our attention. We have been asked to host the International Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima on July 14th. Padre Pio had a daily devotion to Our Lady. Let us re-consecrate ourselves to our Blessed Mother, and pray and share the Rosary with others.



Fr. Solanus Casey Pilgrimage



On April 22nd, eighty-five pilgrims attended the pilgrimage retreat to St. Bonaventure and Shrine of Fr. Solanus Casey. Mass, confessions, tours and talks were part of the day. Many favors were answered. Our next pilgrimage will be in the Fall. Visit our website to see photos from this most recent pilgrimage.

Pray for Our Priests

Pray for the five men being ordained as priests in the Diocese of Cleveland on May 21st. Deacon Patrick Schultz will use St. Pio's Chalice at his First Mass, a Mass of Thanksgiving (see Upcoming Events on the left).

Deacon Andrew Hoover of Our Lady Help of Christians Parish, Litchfield
Deacon Kevin Klonowski of St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Parma
Deacon James Kulway of St. Joseph Parish, Strongsville
Deacon John Mulhollan of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Wadsworth
Deacon Patrick Schultz of St. Mary Parish, Hudson



Happy Mother's Day



The ancient Ukrainian icon "Doors of Mercy," from the Polish city of Jaroslaw.

Mary, most holy,
Ora pro nobis! [Pray for Us!]
Theotokos, [Mother of God]
Hear our Prayer,
Ever-Virgin,
Regina Caeli [Queen of Heaven]

How do we honor the Mother of God in this month of May? Every culture influenced by the Catholic Church has some tradition or ritual to remember the Mother of God. Even secular cultures and civil entities remember mothers with a day in honor of them. Here in the United States we have May Crownings, Living Rosaries, Masses and Holy Hours to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The *Dictionary of the Liturgy* entry for "May, Month of Mary" says:

The month of May is the "month that the piety of the faithful has especially dedicated to our Blessed Lady," and it is the occasion for a "moving tribute of faith and love that Catholics in every part of the world pay to the Queen of Heaven. During this month Christians, both in church and in the privacy of the home, offer up to Mary from their hearts an especially fervent and loving homage of prayer and veneration. In this month, too, the benefits of God's mercy come down to us from her throne in greater abundance" (Bl. Paul VI: Encyclical on the Month of May – *Mense Maio*, #1).

This Christian custom of dedicating the month of May to the Blessed Virgin arose at the end of the 13th century. In this way, the Church was able to Christianize the secular feasts that were wont to take place at that time. In the 16th century, books appeared and fostered this devotion.

The practice became especially popular among the members of the Jesuit Order—by 1700 it took hold among their students at the Roman College and a bit later it was publicly practiced in the *Gesu* Church in Rome. From there it spread to the whole Church.

The practice was granted a partial indulgence by Pius VII in 1815 and a plenary indulgence by Ven. Pius IX in 1859. With the complete revision of indulgences in 1966 and the decreased emphasis on specific indulgences, it no longer carries an indulgence; however, it certainly falls within the category of the First General Grant of Indulgences.

(Continued on page 5)

Ascending to Heaven with Jesus

There is a story told about three men who were working on a large edifice. When asked, "Why are you working on this building?", the first man replied, "I hate this job, but I have to earn money somehow." The second man replied, "I am working to feed my family." The third man, with his face beaming with joy, replied, "I am building a cathedral!!"

It is reported that in one century in the Middle Ages, the French people built 700 cathedrals in honor of Mary. What energy and love poured out upon Mary! The people had a deep longing to be spiritually in heaven with Jesus and Mary. How blessed they were! They saw the steeples reaching up to heaven. They heard the bells toll with their eternal sound here on earth. They felt their souls ascending to heaven when they were inside the high walls with the stained glass windows and the ceiling seeming to almost touch heaven. Their hearts were in heaven.

A recommendation for relieving stress is to mentally take little vacations throughout the day to favorite places. We Christians have a much more effective and lovely custom we can put into practice -- lifting our hearts and minds to heaven in spiritual communions with Jesus and the saints throughout the day. The French united themselves to God through the majestic cathedrals. We can do it mentally.

We tend to get bogged down with thoughts of this world -- worries and concerns about our country, our job, our health, how we are perceived by others, etc. A loving parent of a teenage girl obsessing over how she looks can gently keep encouraging her to let go of the negative thoughts and get her mind on other things and enjoy life more. God is our loving Father who sees us often worried and preoccupied about the cares of this world which tend to choke off his life within us as told in the parable of the seed sown among thorns. (Mark 4:18-19). He encourages us to "set your heart on what pertains to higher realms where Christ is seated at God's right hand. Be intent on things above rather than on things of earth." (Colossians 3:1-2). This is called, "practicing the presence of God." The classic book on the subject is "Practicing the Presence of God" by Brother Lawrence, who put into practice the words of Ephesians 6:18: "At every opportunity, pray in the Spirit using prayers and petitions of every sort."


Learning to practice the presence of God is not very difficult. It is very enriching for ourselves and delights God's heart. Some suggestions:

1. Ask yourself: Do my thoughts tend at times to be negative or non-productive? If so, this practice can help a lot. It is said that most of our thoughts are repetitive and useless. They go round and round like a merry-go-round. We can give them "holy direction".
2. Give yourself a limited time to reflect on problems and then turn to God, or bring God into your thoughts to help resolve the problem.
3. Are you unhappy? It is said that behind every unhappy thought is spiritual blindness or sin. Ask God to enlighten you as to the source of unhappiness, such as unforgiveness, lack of trust, willfulness, desire to control, etc. "Come Holy Spirit."
4. DECIDE to practice it. This is the most important aspect. Improvement starts in the will. It is said that three minutes was the longest span of time between thoughts of God for St. Therese of Lisieux. At the end of her life, a novice said to her, "You make the spiritual life seem so easy." St. Therese, who earlier in her life was spoiled by her father and was quite self-centered, responded, "It was not easy due to my nature, but I decided one day that I wanted to become a saint and God gave me the grace of perseverance." No matter what the state of our soul is currently, the practice of the presence of God begins with a DECISION.
5. Keep coming back to thoughts of God when your attention is not demanded elsewhere. Practice makes perfect, as was the case with St. Therese.
6. It is said that circumstances determine only ten percent of our happiness, if that. Bring Jesus into the circumstances. "Where there is no love, put love, and there will be love."
7. If you feel overwhelmed, close your eyes, take a deep breath, think of Jesus, even if only for a few moments, and think of the words of the psalmist, "Be still and know that I am God."
8. Recall a mystical experience or a time when you felt close to Jesus or Mary, or an experience on a pilgrimage.
9. Have "holy reminders" in your house and at work, if possible.
10. Have a holy "song on the brain". A ski instructor tells her students to "Get a rhythm" in their mind before they start



(Continued on page 7)

Rosary Gems: Daily Wisdom on the Holy Rosary May 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Let's say the rosary! Ven. Solanus Casey	2 During the month of May, we used to recite the rosary as a family every day. Lucia Dos Santos	3 No normal mind yet has ever been overcome by worries or fears who was faithful to the rosary. Ven. Fulton J. Sheen	4 The rosary should be recited reverently. Frank Duff	5 We exhort all Catholic families to introduce this devotion into their lives, and to encourage its propagation. Bl. Pope Paul VI	6 Do you pray the rosary every day? Pope Francis	7 Love Our Lady and help others to love her. Always recite the rosary. St. Pio of Pietrelcina
6 TH SUNDAY OF EASTER	St. Athanasius	SS. PHILIP & JAMES	Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday First Friday	Easter Weekday First Saturday
8 The flowers of the rosary never perish. Ven. Pope Pius XII	9 The rose is the queen of flowers, and so the rosary is the rose of all devotions and it is therefore the most important one. St. Louis de Montfort	10 The rosary, a simple and easy prayer, helps me to be a child. Pope John Paul I	11 When we feel weary of life and all its problems, let us pick up the rosary. Rafael Cardinal Merry del Val	12 The rosary should be said with great devotion because you are speaking to the Most Holy Virgin, Mother of God. St. Paul of the Cross	13 Say the Rosary every day. Our Lady of Fatima	14 Let us live the rosary and we shall live the Gospel! St. Luigi Orione
ASCENSION OF THE LORD	Easter Weekday	St. Damien de Veuster	Easter Weekday	Ss. Nereus & Achilleus St. Pancras	Our Lady of Fatima	ST. MATTHIAS
15 This mystic crown not only is found in and glides through the hands of the poor, but it also is honored by citizens of every social rank. Pope Pius XI	16 What fruits the world and the Church owe to the rosary. Fr. Joseph Kentenich	17 The single richest treasure in the Vatican is the rosary. Bl. Pope Pius IX	18 You've got to pray to Our Lady. When you lose devotion [the rosary] to Our Lady, you're out there with the wolves. Mother Angelica	19 Pray the holy rosary. Blessed be that monotony of Hail Marys which purifies the monotony of your sins! St. Josemaria Escriva	20 I carry my testament [the rosary] in my pocket. Bl. Pier Giorgio Frassati	21 The rosary is the scourge of the devil. Pope Adrian VI
PENTECOST	[7 th Week in Ordinary Time]	24 I'll say as many rosaries as you want! Bl. Francisco Marto	St. John I	26 St. Philip Neri walked the streets of Rome with the rosary in his hand; he sought out wayward souls and, by means of the rosary, inspired them to repent. Bl. James Alberione	St. Bernardine of Siena	St. Christopher Magallanes & Companions BVM
22 When I was in the fifth grade, I promised the Virgin to pray the rosary every day. Ven. Faustino Perez-Manglano	23 The rosary helps us to be conformed ever more closely to Christ until we attain true holiness. St. John Paul II	24 I'll say as many rosaries as you want! Bl. Francisco Marto	25 It is impossible to meditate with devotion upon the mysteries of the rosary and live in a state of sin. St. John Vianney	27 The rosary relates the Christian life to that of Mary. Ven. Fulton J. Sheen	28 Consider the rosary as a joyful song dedicated to the Queen of Heaven, and affectionately recite it. St. John Paul II	
THE MOST HOLY TRINITY	[8 th Week in Ordinary Time]	31 I urge you all to recite the rosary every day, abandoning yourselves with trust in Mary's hands. Pope Benedict XVI	St. Bede the Venerable St. Gregory VII St. Mary Magdalene de Pazzi	St. Philip Neri	St. Augustine of Canterbury	BVM
29 The origin of this form of prayer is divine rather than human. Pope Leo XIII	30 The rosary is a very profitable kind of prayer, provided that you understand how to say it properly. St. Francis de Sales			In this month of May, I would like to recall the importance and beauty of the prayer of the holy rosary. Reciting the Hail Mary, we are led to contemplate the mysteries of Jesus, that is, to reflect on the key moments of his life, so that, as with Mary and St. Joseph, he is the center of our thoughts, of our attention, and our actions. It would be nice if, especially in this month of May, we could pray the holy rosary together in the family, with friends, in the parish, or some prayer to Jesus and the Virgin Mary!		
THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST	[9 th Week in Ordinary Time] Memorial Day	THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY				Pope Francis

(Continued from page 2)

This pious practice has been especially recommended by the Popes. Ven. Pius XII made frequent references to it and in his great Encyclical on the Sacred Liturgy (*Mediator Dei*) characterized it as one of the “other exercises of piety that although not strictly belonging to the Sacred Liturgy are nevertheless of special import and dignity and *may be considered in a certain way to be an addition to the liturgical cult*: they have been approved and praised over and over again by the Apostolic See and by the Bishops.

In his encyclical, Bl. Paul VI used the Month of Mary devotion as a means of obtaining prayers for peace. He urged the faithful to make use of this practice which is “gladdening and consoling” and by which the Blessed Virgin Mary is honored and the Christian people are enriched with spiritual gifts.” (*Mense Maio*, #2).

There are no official prayers or rites for this practice. Many churches have a daily recitation of the Rosary in public or some other prayers in honor of Mary, including the crowning of our Lady’s statue. For private use, one can follow the format of a Liturgy of the Word: entrance chant, opening prayer, Scripture reading, and brief reflection or homily, with a concluding prayer of invocation. The only *necessary element* is that Mary be honored in a special way.



Lang, OFM, Rev. Jovian P., *Dictionary of the Liturgy*, Catholic Book Publishing Co., New York, 1989, pp 420-421.

What are we planning to do to honor Our Mother? Some of the things that we can do are to attend public events that honor the Blessed Virgin Mary. This includes May Crownings, Living Rosaries, Masses for the Blessed Virgin, Holy Hours, and Processions. Parishes throughout the Diocese will be having public liturgical and devotional celebrations to honor Mary. We can also do our own private devotions. These can include the recitation of the Rosary, setting up a May Altar in our home, spend some quiet time in meditation on the Blessed Virgin Mary, find a “Day by Day” prayer book that has reflections on Mary [this month’s calendar is a Day by Day of quotes about the Rosary from the Saints], cleaning up our outdoor shrine to Mary and planting new flowers around her statue, or any other devotion that has been a family tradition. The activities are endless what we can do to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary.



“Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.”

St. Pio's Devotion to the Mother of God

Our Patron, St. Pio of Pietrelcina had a great devotion to the Mother of God. There are endless quotes from him about Mary. Here are a few of them.

LOVE THE MADONNA AND PRAY
THE ROSARY, FOR HER ROSARY
IS THE WEAPON AGAINST THE
EVILS OF THE WORLD TODAY.
SAINT PADRE PIO



1. "Let us bind ourselves tightly to the Sorrowful Heart of our Heavenly Mother and reflect on its boundless grief and how precious is our soul."

2. "May the Mother of Jesus and our Mother, always smile on your spirit, obtaining for it, from her Most Holy Son, every heavenly blessing."

3. "Go and keep company with Jesus in His Passion, and with His Sorrowful Mother."

4. "...It is enough for you to know that Mary is the Mother of Jesus...She loves us so much that she offered to God the Father His only natural Son to save His adopted sons...She is a

great and inestimable treasure who encloses in herself an infinite treasure, the Son of God."

5. "...If we do what we have always done, what our fathers did before us, we cannot go wrong. Satan wants to destroy this prayer, but in this he will never succeed. The Rosary is the prayer of those who triumph over everything and everyone. It was Our Lady who taught us this prayer, just as it was Jesus who taught us the Our Father."

6. "Some people are so foolish that they think they can go through life without the help of the Blessed Mother."

7. [When asked if the Blessed Virgin is present during the Holy Mass], "Yes, she places herself at a side, but I can see her, what a joy. She is always present. How can it be that the Mother of Jesus, present in Calvary at the foot of the Cross, who offered her Son as a victim for the salvation of our souls, not be present in the mystical Calvary of the altar?"

8. "Let us endeavor, like so many elect souls, to follow this blessed Mother, to walk always close to Her, not following any other path that leads to life, except the one trod by our Mother."

9. "Always stay close to this Heavenly Mother, because she is the sea to be crossed to reach the shores of Eternal Splendor."

10. "Love the Madonna and pray the Rosary, for her Rosary is the weapon against the evils of the world today. All graces given by God pass through the Blessed Mother."



Like St.

Padre Pio,

let us also

love our

Heavenly

Mother.

St. Pio of

Pietrelcina,

pray for us.

(Continued from page 3)

down the hill so that they "flow" gracefully down the hill to the rhythm of the song. This sets a positive foundation and momentum which can overcome and sweep aside fears etc. She uses the song "I'm Pretty" from "West Side Story". Choose a spiritual song and sing it aloud early in the day so that it goes into your unconscious mind and heart, and sing it aloud or mentally at times throughout the day providing a "holy rhythm" and positive momentum throughout the day.

11. Play Christian music at home, sometimes at the regular sound and sometimes softly like beautiful soft music in an Italian ristorante.

12. Say "Hail Mary's" or ejaculations throughout the day, such as "By your holy and Immaculate Conception, O Mary, deliver us from evil" to Our Lady of America.
13. Listen to Catholic radio -- 1260 AM and 1060 AM, or Christian radio. Watch EWTN.

We celebrate the feast of the Ascension on Sunday May 8th. The reality of heaven is such a beautiful concept: "Eye has not seen, nor has ear heard, nor has it even entered into the mind of humans what God has prepared for those who love Him." (1Corinthians 2:9). Let's be to some degree like our beloved Padre Pio whose countenance always manifested his practice of the presence of God.

What Gifts of the Holy Spirit Do You Have?

Spiritual gifts are endowments which may be given by the Holy Spirit. These are the supernatural graces which individual Christians need (or did in the days of the Apostles need) to fulfill the mission of the church. They are described in the New Testament, primarily in 1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12, and Ephesians 4. 1 Peter 4 also touches on the spiritual gifts. The gifts are related to both seemingly "natural" abilities and seemingly more "miraculous" abilities, empowered by the Holy Spirit. Spiritual gifts are distinguished from other graces of the Holy Spirit, such as the fruit of the Spirit and the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, in that the charismata are to be used for the benefit of others while the fruit of the Spirit and other gifts result in personal sanctification.



We believe that the charismata (Spiritual Gifts) were foretold by the Prophet Joel (2:28) and promised by Christ (Mark 16:17,18). This promise was fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost and elsewhere as the church spread. In order to correct abuses concerning the spiritual gifts at Corinth, Paul devoted much attention to spiritual gifts in his First Epistle to the Corinthians (chapters 12-14). In 1 Corinthians 12, two Greek terms are translated as "spiritual gifts". In verse 1, the word pneumatika ("spirituals" or "things of the Spirit") is used. In verse 4, charisma is used. This word is derived from the word charis, which means "grace". In verses 5 and 6, the words diakonia (translated "administrations", "ministries", or "service") and energemata ("operations" or "inworkings") are used in describing the nature of the spiritual gifts. In verse 7, the term "manifestation (phanerosis) of the Spirit" is used.

From these scriptural passages, Christians understand the spiritual gifts to be enablements that are divinely bestowed

upon individuals. Because they are freely given by God, these cannot be earned or merited. Though worked through individuals, these are operations or manifestations of the Holy Spirit—not of the gifted person. They are to be used for the benefit of others, and in a sense they are granted to the church as a whole more than they are given to individuals. There is diversity in their distribution—an individual will not possess all of the gifts. The purpose of the spiritual gifts is to edify (build up), exhort (encourage), and comfort the church. It is generally acknowledged that Paul did not list all of the

gifts of the Spirit, and many believe that there are as many gifts as there are needs in the body of Christ. The gifts have at times been organized into distinct categories based on their similarities and differences to other gifts. Some divide them into three categories using Old Testament offices. "Prophetic" gifts include any gift involving teaching, encouraging, or rebuking others. "Priestly" gifts include showing mercy and care for the needy or involve intercession before God. "Kingly" gifts are those involving church administration or government. Others categorize them into "gifts of knowledge" (word of wisdom, word of knowledge, distinguishing between spirits), "gifts of speech" (tongues, interpretation, prophecy), and "gifts of power" (faith, healing, miracles). The gifts have also been categorized as those that promote the inner growth of the church (apostle, prophecy, distinguishing between spirits, teaching, word of wisdom/knowledge, helps, and administration) and those that promote the church's outer development (faith, miracles, healing, tongues, interpretation of tongues). Roman Catholics continue to believe in and make use of all of the spiritual gifts.

COME HOLY SPIRIT!

KEEP OUR SICK SISTERS & BROTHERS IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS

Call Helen Husky 440-232-3462 to add a member to the list.

Mary Bacon
Sue Brand
Sharon Brickman
Terri Briggs
Tom Bruno
James Candeletti
Bernie Cermak
Bob Dodds
Sean Doherty
Tim Doherty
Stephanie Fiata
Steve Fiata
Marty Franck
Louise Frein
Richard Frein
Sr. Jeanne Marie Glorioso
Herman Graziolli
Jim Green
Pat Jones
Amy Kerico
Jeff Kerico
Joanne Kowalski

Barbara Krawiec
George Landfear
Carole Liming
Dave Liming
Pauline Lubey
Baby Joseph Angelo Martyn
Evelyn McCarthy
Parker Monhollan
Joe Morici
Marilynn Murphy
JoAnn Paciotti
Eleanor Phillips
Robin Richards
Valerie Rutherford
Marianne Sandy
Phyllis Schilling
George Schuck
Judy Semple
Lorraine Seriano
Linia Staab
Donna Stasse
Norma Vaccarina

Christine Wagner
Gilbert Ziegler



“Remember, our suffering is brief but our reward is eternal.”

-- St. Padre Pio

OUR CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF OUR RECENTLY DECEASED

Shirley Boysko, spiritual sister
Dolores DiLeone, spiritual sister

NAME BADGES

Pick up your name badge when you enter the Cafeteria after Mass ...



... and drop off your name badge in the box when you leave.

Thank you!

Let us pray: Blessed Mother Mary, Beloved Spouse of the Holy Spirit, help enlighten us with the knowledge of our Spiritual Gifts. We ask also for courage to use the gifts we are given for the goodness of God. Amen.

Spiritual Gifts

Apostle
Prophet
Evangelist
Pastor
Teacher
Service
Exhortation

Giving
Leading
Mercy
Word of wisdom
Faith
Gifts of healings
Working of miracles

Visions
Discerning of spirits
Tongues
Interpretation of tongues
Helps
Administration

Other spiritual gifts: While not specifically defined as spiritual gifts in the Bible, other abilities and capacities have been considered as spiritual gifts by some Christians, such as: **Celibacy, Hospitality, Intercession, Marriage, Effective witnessing, Craftsmanship, Interpretation of dreams, or Composing spiritual music, poetry, and prose**

What is the difference between a gift and a talent? To summarize the differences between spiritual gifts and talents: 1) A talent is the result of genetics and/or training, while a spiritual gift is the result of the power of the Holy Spirit. 2) A talent can be possessed by anyone, Christian or non-Christian, while spiritual gifts are only possessed by Christians. By discerning what Spiritual gifts you have, you can utilize them throughout your day.