

**THE PADRE PIO
PRAYER GROUP
of Cleveland**

Spiritual Director:
Rev. Fr. Edward J. Janoch

Group Leader:
Cindy Russo

**MISSION &
VISION:**

To carry out the works, words and devotion of St. Padre Pio through prayer and charitable works where we can touch lives and change souls.

Our vision is to create more Spiritual Children and lead souls to heaven.

**UPCOMING
EVENTS:**

May 5 -

**** NEW TIME ****

Padre Pio Prayer Group Gathering beginning with Rosary at 8:00 AM and Mass at 8:30 AM, St. Barnabas Church, 9451 Brandywine Rd., Northfield

Check the online Community Bulletin Board on our website to view upcoming events in the area



St. Padre Pio Prayer Group Newsletter

APRIL 2018

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 4

Christ is Risen!

Alleluia! Alleluia! He is Risen!

On Easter Sunday we heard this proclamation "Christ is Risen!" Rejoice in Jesus' Resurrection and our Salvation from sin and death. We are celebrating the "good news" that Jesus continues to save people every single moment. We are celebrating His promise to be with us always until the end of time (Matthew 28:20). And, finally, we are celebrating his promise to come again in glory and bring us to be with Him in heaven. Easter is a celebration of the past, present and future all at once. Jesus Is Our Hope. When you are filled with hope, the future looks bright and promis-

ing. You are eager to tackle whatever obstacle lies before you. You can look back on your past with the sense of gratitude, both for all the good that you have experi-

enced and the challenges that have helped shape you. Think about the situation in which you feel there is no hope. You feel trapped. All your joy has been drained from your heart. When we are hopeful, we can see the Lord has been with us, blessing us in the good times and carrying us through the dark times.

So as we celebrate God's promise, may

you never lose sight of God's faithfulness and His promise to always be with us. St. Padre Pio said "pray, hope and don't worry!"



PRAYER TO ST. PADRE PIO

Glorious, humble and beloved Padre Pio, teach us, we pray, humility of heart, so that we may be counted among the little ones of the Gospel to whom the Father promised to reveal the mysteries of His Kingdom. Help us to pray without ceasing, certain that God knows what we need and never give up hope. Amen!

Mary, You Show Me the Way

According to the USCCB, "Since March 25, 2018 is Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, normally assigned to this date, is transferred to Monday, April 9, 2018."



Mary, in the midst of your life, you heard your call. In hearing it, you were told, "Do not be afraid." (Luke 1:30) In the busyness of your life, God offered you an invitation. On one ordinary evening, you were able to say "yes."

What about me, Mary? Will I be able to hear God's call in the midst of my life? Will God utter the same words of comfort delivered through another that the angel offered you? Will I be able to discern God's voice from all the others offering me invitations? Will I be able to say "yes" to God's invitation when it appears in the middle of my ordinary life?

Somehow your heart was tuned to the voice of God. Somehow the Holy Spirit enabled you to hear and say "yes" to what God put before you. While I do not understand it all, I do know that your ability to hear God through the angel Gabriel helps me know that I will be able to hear God speaking to me in the middle of my life. Your ability to say "yes" to something that frightened you at first helps me, too, say "yes" to the invitations God puts in my life that frighten me. You show me the way, Mary, to hear God's voice, to overcome my fears, and to do God's will.

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As we celebrate your ability to hear God's invitation and respond positively, I ask that you pray for us. Pray that we, too, may have hearts tuned to God's voice. Pray that we might be comforted the way the angel Gabriel comforted you. Pray that we, too, can respond to God's invitations in our lives so that we might continue to bring light into the world the way you did by offering us the greatest light, Jesus. Mary, Mother of God, pray for us.



REFLECTIONS FOR OUR
SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

Focusing on Resurrection

Many problems in our American society and the world in general can be reduced to the problem of focusing on the temporal rather than on the eternal. The media knows that the negative gets our attention. "If it doesn't bleed, it doesn't lead", on the news. How many TV programs are about eternal life and the joys of heaven? Many people lack hope because secularism has no room for God. We seem alone in the universe. More funerals have a Godless theme, being reduced to a mere "Celebration of Life" which is now over and done with. How empty!

We really need to focus on Eastertime which we are currently in and the hope which it provides. The reason why Jesus spent so much time in prayer was to keep his eternal focus. At the last supper, in John chapters 14-17, He spoke about his death with great purpose, hope, and optimism. He showed forth his divinity in the transfiguration to give the apostles hope, focus, and direction. Many of his parables were about heaven: "The kingdom of heaven is like..."

Some suggestions for focusing on resurrection:

- Tune in on Catholic and Christian programs which lift our minds and hearts to God. EWTN Radio is on 1260 AM in the Cleveland area and 1060 AM in the Akron area during daytime hours.
- Keep the Lord's day Holy. Senior citizens remember how good it was in the 1950's when stores were closed on Sundays. People got out of the rat-race. We were reminded that there is more to life than work. Visit Holy places like The Sorrowful Mother's Shrine in Bellevue, Our Lady of Consolation in Carey and Our Lady of Lourdes in Euclid.
- Go on pilgrimages.
- Keep the end (Heaven) in view at all times. Offer up sufferings to give them an eternal perspective.
- "Divinize" our crosses. St. Therese the Little Flower said that God allows great suffering because he visualizes us already enjoying in heaven the fruits of our suffering. Our crosses are stepping stones to Heaven. We need to keep the big picture--the Divine picture--in mind.
- A good antidote to worry is to not focus mainly on the problem or suffering, but to look beyond it. It would be foolish for an expectant mother to think for nine months only about labor pains. She joyfully tells others: "I'm go-


ing to go through labor." Look past temporary trails to joy. In this way it is easier to put into practice Padre Pio's words: "Pray, hope, and don't worry."

- Meditate on Heaven. Picture yourself being in Heaven with loved ones, your favorite saints, resting in the arms of Jesus the Good Shepherd, rejoicing at having suffered well.
- Face your fears head on, surrendering to God like Dr. Martin Luther King. In the midst of his tense civil rights campaign, he received death threats. He woke up one morning at 2 am terrified. He finally got down on his knees and surrendered himself to God and found great relief and courage. He is no doubt a great saint in heaven now.



- Remember: "True strength is not holding on, but letting go." Surrender. "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit."
- Have a sober, eternal outlook on life. It's so easy to go off on tangents if we fall for the world's recipes for happiness – power, prestige, possessions, fashions, excitement, etc. Just as a parent needs to rein in a child who feels deprived because he doesn't have the latest gadget, so we need to let the Holy Spirit rein us in.
- Slow down. Satan tries to get us to rush. Rushing produces the same toxins in our bodies that anger produces. There will be no rushing around in heaven. Live contemplatively. "Eternal rest grant until them, O Lord."
- The most peaceful place in the world is in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament with Christ the King of peace. Spend time, even short times before the Blessed Sacrament.
- Finally: Pray, hope and don't worry!

Reflections from St. Padre Pio April 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 HE IS RISEN! ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA! EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD	2 HE IS RISEN! ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA! MONDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER	3 HE IS RISEN! ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA! TUESDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER	4 HE IS RISEN! ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA! WEDNESDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER	5 HE IS RISEN! ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA! THURSDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER	6 HE IS RISEN! ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA! FRIDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER	7 HE IS RISEN! ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA! SATURDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER
8 HE IS RISEN! ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA! 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY	9 Reflect upon and keep before your mental gaze the great humility of the Mother of God, our Mother. THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD	10 We don't commit a sin without first being aware of it. Easter Weekday	11 May it please Jesus ... to console you ... in every tribulation. St. Stanislaus	12 Turn your back on matters which torment you ... and set your mind at rest. Easter Weekday	13 Remember that spiritual peace can be maintained even in the midst of all the storms of this life. Easter Weekday St. Martin I	14 The proof that we are at peace with God is our moral certainty of not having any mortal sin on our conscience. Easter Weekday
15 Peace consists in having achieved victory over the world, the devil, and our own passions.	16 Let us keep our gaze fixed on the heavenly home reserved for us.	17 Let us aim at it (our heavenly home) with the greatest care. Easter Weekday	18 Let us withdraw our gaze from ... worldly goods ... (that) prevent us from keeping our eyes fixed on our heavenly home. Easter Weekday	19 Pray to the Lord that all may work out for His glory and for the good of souls. Easter Weekday	20 Offer your own sufferings to the divine Father along with the sufferings of Jesus. Easter Weekday	21 Take care not to heed the evil one if he suggests anything to you ... you know he is a liar. Easter Weekday St. Anselm
22 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER Listen to Jesus alone who comes to you in His own name, and that is enough.	23 This is the finest grace that can be asked by and on behalf of those who aspire to the spiritual life ... increase in heavenly light. Easter Weekday St. George St. Adelbert	24 When a righteous soul obtains this light, it comes to know and love its God and eternal things. Easter Weekday St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen	25 We must ask the Spirit, the Comforter, to enlighten us. ST. MARK	26 (We ask the Spirit) to make us increasingly aware of the excellence of our Christian vocation. Easter Weekday	27 Let us pray that (the Spirit) may enlighten us more and more as to the immensity of the eternal inheritance reserved for us by the ... Father. Easter Weekday	28 Pray to the Father ... to enable us to penetrate more deeply into the mystery of how sinners like ourselves have been led to salvation. Easter Weekday St. Peter Chanel St. Louis Grignon de Montfort
29 In the silence of your heart ... offer your praises, blessings, contrite humble heart and your entire self to the heavenly Father.	30 If we could only perceive that which still amazes the heavenly spirits...the state to which God's grace has raised us ... His children. Easter Weekday St. Pius V			<i>St. Pio of Pietrelcina, by a singular grace you were blessed to participate in the mystery of the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. Through your ministry, God revealed the marvels of His mercy to numberless souls. Pray for me, that like you, and through your loving intercession, I may remain with Christ in His Passion so as to joyfully attain as you to the glory of the Resurrection. Intercede for me with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who is God for ever. Amen.</i>		
5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER						

Saint Faustina and Divine Mercy

Although she is well known for her devotion to Jesus and His Divine Mercy, Saint Faustina also experienced incredible visions and continued to foster a love of Christ in the Eucharist during her time at the convent. Here are some things you might not know about Saint Faustina.

1. Saint Faustina saw visions of Heaven. In addition to Saint Faustina's visions of Christ's Divine Mercy, the saint was also granted visions of the final resting place of Heaven. Writing about her experience viewing Heaven, the saint wrote: "I saw how all creatures give ceaseless praise and glory to God. I saw how great is happiness in God, which spreads to all creatures, making them happy; and then all the glory and praise which springs from this happiness returns to its source; and they enter into the depths of God, contemplating the inner life."

2. In her visions of Purgatory, Saint Faustina saw the mercy of the Blessed Virgin Mary of God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, whom they will never comprehend or fathom. During a vision, Saint Faustina spoke with souls in Purgatory. She wrote about her experience, saying, "I asked these souls what their greatest suffering was. They answered me in one voice that their greatest torment was longing for God." In the vision, Saint Faustina also saw something beautiful – Our Lady tending to the souls in Purgatory. In her diary, she wrote, "I saw Our Lady visiting the souls in purgatory. The souls call her 'The Star of the Sea.' She brings them refreshment."

3. In a vision of souls suffering in Hell, Saint Faustina saw seven kinds of suffering. In a vision, Saint Faustina was led by an angel into the depths of Hell. She writes about being surprised how large Hell was. She went on to describe the seven types of suffering and torture she witnessed: "The first torture that constitutes hell is the loss of God; The second is perpetual remorse of conscience; The third is that one's condition will never change; The fourth is the fire that will penetrate the soul without destroying it – a terrible suffering, since it is a purely spiritual fire, lit by God's anger; The fifth torture is continual darkness and a terrible suffocating smell, and, despite the darkness, the devils and the souls of the damned see each other and all the evil, both of others and their own; The sixth torture is the constant company of Satan; The seventh torture is horrible despair, hatred of God, vile words, curses and blasphemies."

4. Saint Faustina pitied those who do not believe in God or the possibility of Heaven. After her visions of Heaven, Hell, and Purgatory, Saint Faustina wrote in her diary: "O my God, how I pity those people who do not believe in eternal life; how I pray for them that a ray of mercy would envelope them too, and that God would clasp them to His fatherly bosom."



5. Saint Faustina tried to create the image of Diviner Mercy herself. Even though she didn't know how to paint, Saint Faustina attempted to sketch the vision of Christ with charcoal and canvas, but she didn't have much success. She turned to Our Lord for help and He told her that he would send her "visible help" with the task of creating the image. Shortly afterward, she was sent to a convent in Vilnius to work as a gardener. While at Vilnius, she met Father Michael Sopocko, who had been recently appointed as a confessor for the nuns in the convent. He listened to Faustina's story about the vision of Divine Mercy and her desire to create an image of Christ. He contacted the artist Eugene Kazimierowski, who painted the first image of Divine Mercy for Saint Faustina. Though it's not the most popular image of Divine Mercy, the image (left) is the painting originally based on Saint Faustina's vision from 1931. Christ is shown raising his hand in blessing, while also pointing to the two rays that flow from his chest. One of the rays is red, which symbolizes the blood of Jesus. The white ray symbolizes the water that saves souls. The entire image brings to mind charity, forgiveness, and God's incredible love for His children. Saint Faustina describes God's love as a "Fountain of Mercy."

6. Souls that venerate the image of Divine Mercy will not perish. Saint Faustina recorded the words of Christ regarding the image. She wrote: "I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish. I also promise victory over its enemies already here on earth, especially at the hour of death. I myself will defend it as My own glory." (Diary 48)

7. Within 13 years of Saint Faustina's death, there were 150 religious centers dedicated to Divine Mercy in Poland. After Saint Faustina's death, the Divine Mercy devotion spread quickly. By 1951, over 150 religious centers dedicated to Divine Mercy could be found in Poland. In 1955, a Polish bishop even started a religious congregation dedicated to the spreading of the Divine Mercy devotion.

8. A Cardinal tried to suppress devotion to Divine Mercy. Not everyone in Rome approved of the devotion to the Divine Mercy. The head of the Holy Office – Cardinal Alfredo Ottaviani – petitioned Pope Pius XII to sign a condemnation of Saint Faustina's work and visions, but he was denied.

9. Saint Pope John Paul II called Saint Faustina "the great apostle of Divine Mercy in our time." On Divine Mercy Sunday, 2000, Saint Pope John Paul II canonized Saint Faustina. He approved of the message of Divine Mercy and declared that the Catholic Church would celebrate the Second Sunday of Easter as "Divine Mercy Sunday." During his homily, he said, "By this act of canonization of Saint Faustina, I intend today to pass this message on to the third millennium. I pass it on to all people, so that they will learn to know ever better the true face of God and the true face of

(Continued on page 7)

**Saint
Faustina,
intercede
for those
called by
God for
His Service
and give
them the
courage
and trust
to say,
“YES” and
to pray,
“Jesus, I
trust in
you”.**

Prayers for Priests, Seminarians and Vocations

The Holy Priesthood

Jesus, Himself, instituted the holy priesthood on Holy Thursday. In this time of Easter Joy and Divine Mercy, let us remember the words of St. Faustina:

“O Jesus, give us fervent and holy priest! Oh, how great is the dignity of the priest, but at the same time, how great is his responsibility! Much has been given you, O priest, but much will also be demanded of you....” St. Faustina’s Diary, 941

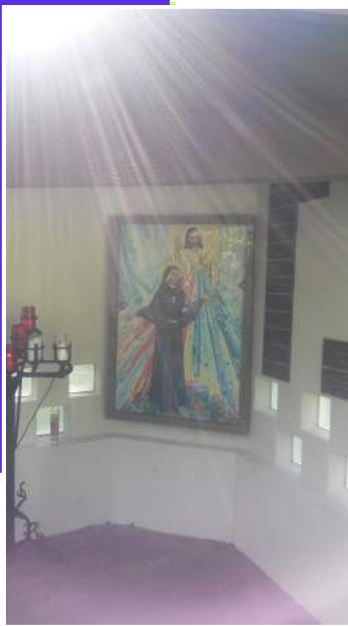
Prayer for Priests

“O my Jesus, I beg You on behalf of the whole Church: Grant it love and the light of Your Spirit, and give power to the words of priests so hardened hearts may be brought to repentance and return to You, O Lord. Lord, give us holy priests; you yourself maintain them in holiness. O Divine and Great High Priest, may the power of Your mercy accompany them everywhere and protect them from the devil’s traps and snares which are continually being set for the souls of priests. May the power of Your mercy, O Lord, shatter and bring to naught all that might tarnish the sanctity of priests, for You can do all things.” St. Faustina’s Diary, 1052

Prayer for Priests and Religious

“Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon the company [of chosen ones] in Your vineyard-upon the souls of priests and religious; and endow them with the strength of Your blessing. For the love of the Heart of Your Son, in which they are enfolded, impart to them Your power and light, that they may be able to guide others in the way of salvation, and with one voice sing praise to Your boundless mercy for ages without end. Amen.” St. Faustina’s Diary, 1231

Remember to pray for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated religious life. Pray the Chaplet of Mercy for this intention. We pray for men and women to make this courageous response to the Lord. Here is a prayer of St. Faustina:



*O My God,
When I look into the future, I am frightened,
But why plunge into the future?
Only the present moment is precious to me,
As the future may never enter my soul at all.
It is no longer in my power to change, correct or add to the past;
For neither sages nor prophets could do that.
And so what the past has embraced I must entrust to God.
O present moment, you belong to me, whole and entire.
I desire to use you as best I can.
And although I am weak and small,
You grant me the grace of Your omnipotence.
And so, trusting in Your mercy,
I walk through life like a little child,
Offering You each day this heart
Burning with love for Your greater Glory.
— From her Diary: Divine Mercy in My Soul, Notebook I (1)*

Prayer of St. Faustina While in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament



- Blessed Host, our only hope in all the sufferings and adversities of life.
- Blessed Host, in whom is contained the testament of God's mercy for us, and especially for poor sinners.
- Blessed Host, in whom is contained the Body and Blood of the Lord Jesus as proof of infinite mercy for us, and especially for poor sinners.
- Blessed Host, in whom is contained life eternal and of infinite mercy, dispensed in abundance to us and especially to poor sinners.
- Blessed Host, in whom is contained the mercy of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit toward us, and especially toward poor sinners.
- Blessed Host, in whom is contained the infinite price of mercy which will compensate for all our debts, and especially those of poor sinners.
- Blessed Host, in whom is contained the fountain of living water which springs from infinite mercy for us, and especially for poor sinners.
- Blessed Host, in whom is contained the fire of purest love which blazes forth from the bosom of the Eternal Father, as from an abyss of infinite mercy for us, and especially for poor sinners.
- Blessed Host, in whom is contained the medicine for all our infirmities, flowing from infinite mercy, as from a fount, for us and especially for poor sinners.
- Blessed Host, in whom is contained the union between God and us through His infinite mercy for us, and especially for poor sinners.

- Blessed Host, in whom are contained all the sentiments of the most sweet Heart of Jesus toward us, and especially poor sinners.
- Blessed Host, our only hope in the midst of darkness and of storms within and without.
- Blessed Host, our only hope in life and at the hour of our death.
- Blessed Host, our only hope in the midst of adversities and floods of despair.
- Blessed Host, our only hope in the midst of falsehood and treason.
- Blessed Host, our only hope in the midst of the darkness and godlessness which inundate the earth.
- Blessed Host, our only hope in the longing and pain in which no one will understand us.
- Blessed Host, our only hope in the toil and monotony of everyday life.
- Blessed Host, our only hope amid the ruin of our hopes and endeavors.
- Blessed Host, our only hope in the midst of the ravages of the enemy and the efforts of hell.

- Blessed Host, I trust in You when the burdens are beyond my strength and I find my efforts are fruitless.
- Blessed Host, I trust in You when storms toss my heart about and my fearful spirit tends to despair.
- Blessed Host, I trust in You when my heart is about to tremble and mortal sweat moistens my brow.
- Blessed Host, I trust in You when everything conspires against me and black despair creeps into my soul.
- Blessed Host, I trust in You when my eyes will begin to grow dim to all temporal things and, for the first time, my spirit will behold the unknown worlds.
- Blessed Host, I trust in You when my tasks will be beyond my strength and adversity will become my daily lot.
- Blessed Host I trust in You when the practice of virtue will appear difficult for me and my nature will grow rebellious.
- Blessed Host, I trust in You when hostile blows will be aimed against me.
- Blessed Host, I trust in You when my toils and efforts will be misjudged by others.
- Blessed Host, I trust in You when Your judgments will resound over me; it is then that I will trust in the sea of Your mercy.

Most Holy Trinity, I trust in Your infinite mercy. God is my Father and so I, His child, have every claim to His divine Heart; and the greater the darkness, the more complete our trust should be. Amen.

(Continued from page 5)

their neighbor. In fact, love of God and love of one's neighbor are inseparable."

10. Saint Faustina prayed a litany to the Sacred Host during the last hours of 1934. During the last hours of 1934, St. Faustina prayed a litany to Christ's true presence in the Eucharistic host.

Jesus, I
Trust in
You!



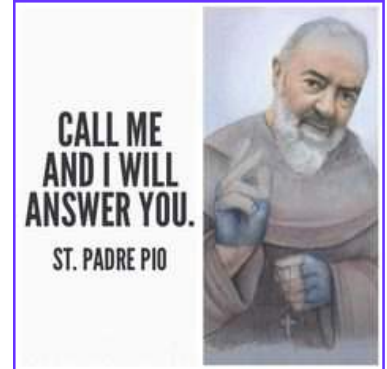
KEEP OUR SICK SISTERS & BROTHERS IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS

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

Mike Bradley
Tom Bruno
Christine DeMauro
John Donahue
Bob Dodds
Tim Doherty
Steve Fiata
Deacon Joe Fiorillo
Louise Frein
Richard Frein

Kathleen Graham
Helen Husky
Fr. Edward Janoch
Larry Janowicz
Pat Jones
Bishop Richard Lennon
Carol Liming
Dave Liming
Carol Machi
Jennifer Minniti

Kyle O'Malley
Abbot C. Schwartz OSB
Bernadette Suich
Rudy Tan
Barbara Wilson
Yoli Wright
SPECIAL INTENTION



† OUR CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF OUR RECENTLY DECEASED †

Karen Flechler (sister-in-law of Spiritual Children Norma Davis and Therese Harper)
Frank Sack (Spiritual Child and husband of Maria Sack)
Ted Slarb (father-in-law of Spiritual Child Charles Phillips)

FOR ALL THE INTENTIONS IN OUR ONLINE PRAYER BASKET, LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.

Pilgrimages with the Padre Pio Prayer Group of Cleveland

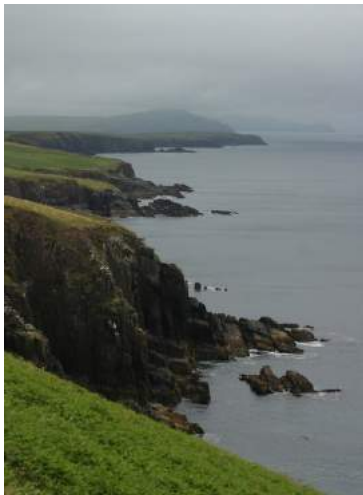
See our website (<https://www.padrepiocleveland.org/pilgrimages.html>) for more information.

Ireland

August 10-19, 2018

\$3,700.00

(includes airfare from anywhere in the U.S.)



Holy Land

January 8-18, 2019

\$3,499.00

(includes airfare from anywhere in the U.S.)



BEST WISHES to our *Spiritual Children* celebrating birthdays and special occasions in the month of April!

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FACEBOOK: WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/PADREPIOCLEVELAND TWITTER: [@PADREPIOCLEVEOH](https://twitter.com/PADREPIOCLEVEOH)