

**THE PADRE PIO
PRAYER GROUP
of Cleveland**

Spiritual Director:
Rev. Fr. Edward J. Janoch

Chaplain:
Rev. Fr. William E. Browne

Group Leader:
Cindy Russo

**MISSION &
VISION:**

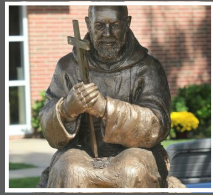
To carry out the works, words and devotion of St. Padre Pio through prayer and charitable works where we can touch lives and change souls.

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

**UPCOMING
EVENTS:**

Oct 6 -
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

FEAST DAY 2018

SPECIAL EDITION

The Pope Commemorates Two Anniversaries

Pietrelcina, Italy, Mar 17, 2018 / 04:40 am (By Hannah Brockhaus, CNA/EWTN News).

Speaking Saturday in Pietrelcina, the town where St. Padre Pio was born, Pope Francis encouraged devotion to Holy Mother Church, explaining how despite the imperfection of its members, it was beloved by Padre Pio.

"Here [in Pietrelcina, Padre Pio] began to experience the motherhood of the Church, of which he was always a devoted son," the Pope said March 17.

"He loved the Church, he loved the Church with all its problems, with all its troubles, with all our sins. Because we are all sinners, we are ashamed, but the Spirit of God has called us into this Church that is holy."

"And he loved the holy Church and sinful children, all of them. This was Saint Pio."

Pope Francis spoke to faithful during his day-long visit to the town of Pietrelcina in the Archdiocese of Benevento, Italy during a day trip to the two towns where Padre Pio lived.

Francis made the visit to the towns of Pietrelcina and San Giovanni Rotondo to mark the 100th anniversary of Padre Pio receiving the visible stigmata and the 50th anniversary of the saint's death.

Upon arriving in Pietrelcina, the Pope greeted the archbishop of Benevento and the mayor of

Pietrelcina. He then stopped to pray in the Chapel of St. Francis, which holds the "elm of the stigmata," a tree under which Padre Pio used to pray, and where his stigmata appeared for the first time.

In his speech, Francis spoke about the spiritual torments Padre Pio underwent during his time in Pietrelcina. This was the town where the saint was born, but he also spent time there during a period of bad health.



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"This was not an easy time for him," the Pope said. "He was strongly tormented in his heart and he feared falling into sin, feeling assaulted by the devil."

Departing from his prepared speech, Pope Francis asked those present if they believe that the devil exists, adding that, if they are not so convinced, he will ask the bishop to do some catechesis on the subject.

"Does the demon exist, or does he not exist?"

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he asked, the crowd responding, “yes!” He continued, saying that the devil “torments us, he deceives us,” and that Padre Pio “was afraid that the devil would attack him, push him to sin.”

Francis noted that in the face of these fears, however, what Padre Pio did was pray: “In those terrible moments Padre Pio drew vital life from the continuous prayer and trust he placed in the Lord.”

When these temptations from the devil would come, Padre Pio said he would confidently abandon himself into the arms of Jesus and they would disappear, the Pope said.

“Here is all theology!” he continued. “You have a problem, you are sad, you are sick: abandon yourself in the arms of Jesus.”

He pointed out how prayer was vital to Padre Pio for discernment of God’s will, and how he especially loved the Mass and the sacraments.

“Padre Pio immersed himself in prayer to adhere ever better to the divine designs. Through the celebration of Holy Mass, which was the heart of every day and the fullness of his spirituality, he reached a high level of union with the Lord,” he said.

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After his speech, the Pope spent a period greeting faithful before departing by helicopter for San Giovanni Rotondo.

Excerpts from the Homily of the Holy Father at Mass in San Giovanni Rotondo, Mar 17, 2018 (© Libreria Editrice Vatican)

“Saint Pio, fifty years after he went to heaven, helps us because he wished to leave us the legacy of prayer. He recommended, ‘Pray a lot, my children, pray always, never tiring’ (*Words to the Second International Congress of Prayer Groups, 5 May 1966*).”

“Who will intercede, who will take care to knock on the heart of God to open the door to humanity in need? For this, Father Pio left us the prayer groups. He said to them, ‘It is prayer, this joined force of all good souls, that moves the world, that renews consciences ... that heals the sick, that sanctifies work, that raises healthcare, that gives moral strength ... that spreads God’s smile and blessing on every languor and weakness (*ibid*).’ Let us safeguard these words, and ask ourselves again: do I pray? And when I pray, do I know how to praise, do I know how to worship, do I know how to take my life, and that of all people, to God?”

“True wisdom does not lie in having great qualities and true strength is not in power. Those who show themselves to be strong and those who respond to evil with evil are not wise. The only wise and invincible weapon is charity inspired by faith, because it has the power to disarm the forces of evil. Saint Pio fought evil throughout his life and fought it wisely, like the Lord: with humility, with obedience, with the cross, offering pain for love. And everyone admired him, but few do likewise. Many speak well, but how many imitate?”

“Saint Pio offered his life and innumerable sufferings to enable his brothers to meet the Lord. And the decisive way of meeting Him was Confession, the sacrament of Reconciliation. There, a wise life begins and starts over, loved and forgiven; there begins the healing of the heart. Father Pio was an apostle of the confessional. Today too he invites us there; and he says to us: ‘Where are you going? To Jesus or to your sadness?’ ”

The Padre Pio Prayer Group of Cleveland



Monthly Prayer Group Gatherings are held on the first Saturday of each month. Our Gatherings consist of Mass, Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Guest Speakers and Refreshments. You can read the Mission & Vision of our Prayer Group on the front page of this newsletter. As a catalyst to pass on the work and words of St. Padre Pio, our goal is to pray, support those in need, and carry out charitable works to lead others back to Christ and the Church, just as St. Pio did in his days on earth, and become his Spiritual Children, something that he hopes to obtain in us all as followers of Jesus Christ. We look forward to seeing you at one of our Upcoming Events listed on the front page of this newsletter.

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