

**THE PADRE PIO  
PRAYER GROUP  
of Cleveland**

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

**Chaplains:**  
Fr. William E. Browne  
Fr. Michael Petkosek  
Fr. Kevin C. Shemuga

**Group Leader:**  
Cindy Russo TOF

**UPCOMING  
EVENTS:**

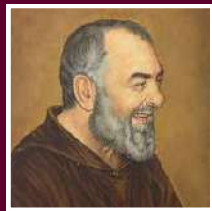
**Jul 7 -**

**Rhoda Wise Mass  
for the 73rd Anniversary  
of Her Death,  
6:00 PM, Saint Peter  
Catholic Church in  
Canton (see page 6)**

**Aug 7 -**

**Padre Pio Prayer  
Group Gathering  
beginning with  
Rosary at 8:00 AM  
and Mass at 8:30 AM,  
Our Lady of  
Guadalupe Church,  
9080 Shepard Rd,  
Macedonia**

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



# St. Padre Pio Prayer Group Newsletter

JULY 2021

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 7

## Precious Blood of Jesus

The Blood that coursed through the veins of Christ was a part of that Sacred Humanity made possible by the maternity of Mary. Our Lord's blood poured out on the Cross purchased our salvation, washed clean the robes of the martyrs, and gave birth to the Church as it flowed from his wounded side. The Precious Blood of Christ — now pulsing through his Mystical Body — continues its salvific work, preserving and purifying, repairing and providing nourishment for regeneration and renewal of its members. The Bible regards blood as the symbol and source of life. Leviticus 17:14 states, "For the life of every creature is its blood: its blood is its life." Blood plays a major role in the Old Testament. On the first Passover in Exodus 12:1-13, the blood of a lamb was posted on the top and sides of each door frame as a sign that death had already taken place, so the Angel of Death would pass over. Once a year on the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur), the high priest would enter the Holy of Holies to offer a blood sacrifice to atone for the sins of the people. The blood of a bull and of a goat was sprinkled on the altar. The life of the animal was poured out, given on behalf of the life of the people. When God cut a covenant treaty with his people at Sinai, Moses took the blood of oxen and sprinkled half of it on the altar and half on the people of Israel. (Exodus 24:6-8)

Because of its relationship to life, blood signifies the supreme offering to God. God's holiness and justice demand that sin be punished. The only penalty or payment for sin is eternal death. The offering of an animal and even our own death are not sufficient sacrifices to pay for sin. Atonement requires a perfect, spotless sacrifice, offered in just the right way. Jesus Christ, the one perfect God-man, came to offer the pure, complete and everlasting sacrifice to make payment for our sin. Hebrews chapters 8-10 beautifully explain how Christ became the eternal High Priest, entering heaven (the Holy of Holies), once and for all, not by the blood of sacrificial animals, but by his own precious blood on the cross.

Christ poured out his life in the ultimate atoning sacrifice for our sin and the sins of the world. In the New Testament, the blood of Jesus Christ, therefore, becomes the foundation for God's new covenant of grace. At the Last Supper, Jesus said to his disciples: "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood." (Luke 22:20)

**The Blood of Jesus Has Power To:**

**Redeem us** - In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace. (Ephesians 1:7)

**Reconcile us to God** - For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. (Romans 3:25)

**Pay our ransom** - For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And the ransom he paid was not mere gold or silver. It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God. (1 Peter 1:18-19)

**Forgive us** - Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins. (Hebrews 9:22)

**Justify us** - Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. (Romans 5:9)

**Cleanse our guilty conscience** - Under the old system, the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a young cow could cleanse people's bodies from ceremonial impurity. Just think how much more the blood of Christ will purify our consciences from sinful deeds so that we can worship the living God. For by the power of the eternal Spirit, Christ offered himself to God as a perfect sacrifice for our sins. (Hebrews 9:13-14)

**Give us peace** - For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, and through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross. (Colossians 1:19-20)

**May the Precious Blood of Jesus sustain us as we journey to our true home, with Mary and the angels as our companions on the way.**



*“Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father.  
But whoever denies me before others, I will deny before my heavenly Father.”*

Matthew 10:32-33

The month of July is the month in which we celebrate the founding of the United States of America. This year marks the two hundredth forty-fifth [245<sup>th</sup>] anniversary of our nation’s founding. As the Bill of Rights declares under the First Amendment:

*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.*

We have been given this divine right by our country. We have the right to the free exercise of our religion and the government is not allowed to prohibit this right. As Catholics, we are told by our Savior Jesus Christ that we are to:

*“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”* [Matthew 28:19-20].

This command tells us that we are to go out into our neighborhoods, towns, and cities and “make disciples of all nations.” This means that our faith must be practiced and expressed in the public arena. Our faith is not just for our parish churches and homes. It is to be proclaimed to everyone we meet, whether by words, or more often, by actions. Our Founding Fathers were wise enough to include in the First Amendment the freedom of, not just religion, but also of speech and to peacefully assemble. At times we are called to publicly profess our faith in words [speech] or in action [to assemble]. When we are able to do this, then we acknowledge Christ to others and then Christ will acknowledge us to the Father. Lately, in the United States, we are being denied our Freedom of Religion, Speech and Assemble. When we stand before abortion clinics or courthouses to express grievances against unjust laws and actions done through the Federal, State or Local governments, our freedoms have been denied, suppressed, or limited in the scope and nature of what we can or cannot do. In debates on the



moral issues, we find it challenging to get our message out into the public media whether it is written in newspapers or spoken on the public airwaves. When we coherently express our moral beliefs and faith, others who are speaking through the “false one” [Satan], their only response is to ridicule, slander, or defame us using words like, “hater,” “racist,” and “---phobe” [whatever phobia someone wants to use] to try to silence us. This causes a number of Catholics to just give up on defending our faith in the public realm. However, if we deny Christ before others, then Christ will deny us to the Father. It should not matter what the outcome will be for us, we are to profess, protect and defend our Faith. On June 22<sup>nd</sup> we remembered the two Eng-

lish martyrs, Saints John Fisher and Thomas More. These men stood up for the Faith when it was being threatened by King Henry VIII. They stood their ground on the Faith and it caused them to be separated from their Church and family. It caused them to lose their jobs and their livelihood. It caused them hardships and pain, and eventually it caused them to lose their heads. We are called to do the same. It does not matter if it was back in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century, the 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> Centuries of the Early Church, or in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. We need to profess our

*(Continued on page 5)*

## The First Padre Pio Prayer Group

The first spiritual daughter who Padre Pio asked to start the first Padre Pio Prayer Group was Rachelina Russo. The members were her niece Rosinella Gisolfi, Lucietta Fiorentino, her sisters Giovanna and Paolina, her sister-in-law Filomena Fini, Vittorina Ventrella with her sisters Elena, Maria, and Filomena, their aunt Paolina and their friend Maddalena Cascavilla, Maria Anna Campanile (known as Nina), her friend Girolama Longo, Maria Pompilio and her sisters Maria Massa, Mariuccia Riccardi, Angelina Serritelli, Assunta di Tomaso, Esterina Merla, Rosinella Pagliara, Annina Della Croce, and Emanuela Tricario. The group started meeting in 1916, in the afternoon, on Thursdays and Sundays, mostly in the guestroom of the friary. Nina Campanile stated: "Padre Pio gave us talks about spiritual formation, usually taken from evangelical parables. Sometimes the meetings took place at one of our houses when Padre Pio couldn't come. Often Rosinella Gisolfi saw that Padre Pio was present (Bilocation) during our meetings and used to warn us: 'Padre Pio is here with us.'" Vittorina Ventrella said: "From the parables as a starting point Padre Pio would teach us of the detachment from earthly things and the mortification of the senses. The meetings began to slow down and were suspended completely during the epidemic of the Spanish flu. Later Padre Pio continued the spiritual formation through letters, individual meetings, and in the confessional. We would have liked him to spend the same amount of time for each of us, and we grumbled and felt upset when he stayed with someone longer." They also complained that Padre Pio "treated some more gently and others more harshly." Padre Pio said to Filomena Fini: "You must realize that I don't act by chance, but by God's will. To some souls it is necessary to give milk, and to others solid food." Nina Campanile stated: "For some daughters who had the quality to teach others, Padre Pio had special regard for them and called them teachers because they could pass on his teaching."

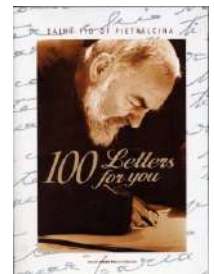


The first tasks were to prepare children for the First Communion, distribute money to the needy, help with the correspondence. As time went on the number of spiritual children grew greatly. One day Cleonice Morcaldi asked: "How big is your flock?" Padre Pio said: "It's immense." He was a great recruiter.

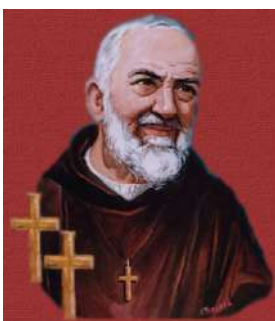
As an adult, Mary Pyle converted to Catholicism and desired to grow in the ways of the Spirit. She had a great longing to find a spiritual director, and made a novena to the Blessed Mother with that intention. Shortly after completing the novena, a friend told her about Padre Pio and asked Mary to join her on a visit to his monastery. In 1923 at the age of 35, Mary and her friend went to San Giovanni Rotondo. Their visit and meeting with Padre Pio had a tremendous effect on her. Mary said that when she first met Padre Pio, she was overcome with emotion. His eyes appeared to penetrate her soul. Mary said, "We just looked at each other at first, then I fell to my knees and said, 'Father' and he placed his wounded hand on my head."

Mary knew at once that in Padre Pio, she had found her spiritual director. Mary was unable to sleep that first night, thinking to herself, "There is a saint living in this world and it saddens me not to be near him. I wish to see him again." Mary took Dr. Montessori with her for the second visit. Again Padre Pio asked Mary to remain in San Giovanni Rotondo and so she made the decision to stay for the rest of her life. After living in San Giovanni Rotondo and serving Padre Pio for 45 years, Mary passed away in 1968.

A book recommended to read is "100 Letters for You" to learn more of the heart of Padre Pio. It contains many letters that Padre Pio wrote to his spiritual director and his spiritual daughters, giving personal direction and sharing what he went through throughout his life. Copies will be available at the Padre Pio Prayer Group Meeting in July for purchase.



## The Calvary of Love



All his life, St. Padre Pio experienced "The Calvary of Love." This means, first of all, to die to oneself. Secondly, it means to nail everything to the cross, as St. Paul told us. Third, it means to climb on to the cross and become one with Jesus as Padre Pio did. Many times we do not want this Calvary Love. We are just like the giant in "Gulliver's Travels." While the giant was sleeping, the little people tied him down and he was unable to move. We are giant sleepers. What ties us down is when: We fight Calvary Love as in the three examples above. We do not apologize when we are wrong. We look at the speck in another's eye. Our religion is based on fear and not faith. We get easily offended. We seek the first place. We do not control our thoughts of pride, envy, and lust. We do not help others and do not take the initiative. We do not listen to the Holy Spirit and do not change. We do not bury our pride. (St. Francis de Sales said that pride will die one hour after we are buried.) We should do great deeds like Padre Pio did and always make the effort to help others. Let us climb the road of Calvary. Let us radiate Christ to all!

# Patriotic Christian Quotes about America/July 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Psalm 33:12 <i>Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, The people whom He has chosen for His own inheritance.</i></p>						
<p>4 July 4th ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance by solemn acts of devotion. John Adams <b>14<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b> Independence Day</p>	<p>5 Christianity is the only true and perfect religion. Benjamin Rush <b>Weekday</b> St. Anthony Zaccaria St. Elizabeth of Portugal</p>	<p>6 ... to cause the benign religion of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ to be known, understood, and practiced among all the inhabitants of the earth. John Hancock <b>Weekday</b> St. Maria Goretti</p>	<p>7 America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves. Abraham Lincoln <b>Weekday</b></p>	<p>8 If we ever forget that we are One Nation Under God, then we will be a nation gone under. Ronald Reagan <b>Weekday</b></p>	<p>9 Religion [is] the basis and foundation of Government. James Madison <b>Weekday</b> <b>St. Augustine Zhao Rong and Companions</b></p>	<p>10 ... it is the duty, as well as the privilege and interest of our Christian nation, to select and prefer Christians for their leaders. John Jay <b>Weekday</b> BYM</p>
<p>11 I just want to do God's will. Martin Luther King <b>15<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b></p>	<p>12 No truth is more evident to my mind than that the Christian religion must be the basis of any government: intended to secure the rights and privileges of a free people. Noah Webster <b>Weekday</b></p>	<p>13 The man who is right is a majority. We, who have God and conscience on our side, have a majority against the universe. Frederick Douglass <b>Weekday</b> St. Henry</p>	<p>14 Is it not that, in the chain of human events, the birthday of the nation is indissolubly linked with the birthday of the Saviour? John Quincy Adams St. Kateri Tekakwitha</p>	<p>15 All must admit that the reception of the teachings of Christ results in the purest patriotism, in the most scrupulous fidelity to public trust, and in the best type of citizenship. Grover Cleveland St. Bonaventure</p>	<p>16 Each day millions of our citizens approach our Maker on bended knee, seeking His grace and giving thanks for the many blessings He bestows upon us. George W Bush <b>Weekday</b> Our Lady of Mount Carmel</p>	<p>17 The highest glory of the American Revolution was this: it connected in one indissoluble bond the principles of civil government with the principles of Christianity. John Quincy Adams <b>Weekday</b></p>
<p>18 It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great Nation was founded, not by religionists, but by Christians; not on religions, but on the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Patrick Henry <b>16<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b></p>	<p>19 You can't divorce religious belief and public service... I've never detected any conflict between God's will and my political duty. If you violate one, you violate the other. James Earl Carter, Jr. <b>Weekday</b></p>	<p>20 Here is my Creed. I believe in one God, the Creator of the Universe. That He governs it by His Providence. That He ought to be worshipped. Benjamin Franklin <b>Weekday</b> <b>St. Apollinaris</b></p>	<p>21 Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other. John Adams Frederick Douglass</p>	<p>22 I love the religion of Christianity - which cometh from above - which is a pure, peaceable, gentle, easy to be entreated, full of good fruits, and without hypocrisy Frederick Douglass ST. MARY MAGDALENE</p>	<p>23 The rights of man come not from the generosity of the state but from the hand of God. John F. Kennedy <b>Weekday</b> St. Bridget</p>	<p>24 Before any man can be considered as a member of civil society, he must be considered as a subject of the Governor of the Universe. James Monroe <b>Weekday</b> St. Sharbel Makluf BYM</p>
<p>25 This is a Christian nation. Harry Truman <b>17<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b></p>	<p>26 The God who gave us life, gave us liberty at the same time. Thomas Jefferson Ss. Joachim and Anne, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary <b>Weekday</b></p>	<p>27 We must recognize the fundamental rights of man. There can be no true national life in our democracy unless we give unqualified recognition to freedom of religious worship and freedom of education. Franklin Delano Roosevelt <b>Weekday</b></p>	<p>28 I have carefully examined the evidences of the Christian religion, and if I was sitting as a juror upon its authenticity, I would unhesitatingly give my verdict in its favor. Alexander Hamilton <b>Weekday</b></p>	<p>29 A thorough knowledge of the Bible is worth more than a college education. Theodore Roosevelt St. Martha</p>	<p>30 It is impossible to rightly govern a nation without God and the Bible. George Washington <b>Weekday</b> St. Peter Chrysologus</p>	<p>31 The whole inspiration of our civilization springs from the teachings of Christ and the lessons of the prophets. To read the Bible for these fundamentals is a necessity of American life. Herbert Hoover St. Ignatius of Loyola</p>

(Continued from page 2)

Faith as Christ has asked us to and to defend it when it is being threatened. Our nation needs people of Faith to keep our nation alive. Our foundation, as a country, depends on a people who have and rely in faith in God. The benefits of a religious people for their country have been proven throughout history. When a nation loses faith in God, then the nation falls. The Roman Empire is one example that highlights how a great nation died because of their godless actions. The Church, on the other hand, has shown that, even with weak human beings involved in Her mission, the Church has survived. This is because She has acknowledged Christ to others and Christ has acknowledged the Church to the Father. Pray and defend our Faith and the Freedom to express our Faith in our Country and the World.

There is also a phrase that has been going around to suppress our efforts to proclaim Christ to the world; that phrase being: "Cancel Culture." If something is not to one's liking, to one's choices in life, to one's actions, then there is a demand that that aspect of the culture is to be "canceled." The Church is one of the institutions that the culture wants to cancel. We do not fit the view of what some in our world, society, culture wants to promote. However, if we look at Christ and His Bride, the Church, we were the original "cancel culture." We were/are the ones to cancel out sin, death, and evil from the world, society, culture and we are to do it in Love/God. The Church is to transform the world, society, culture into a reflection of the Kingdom of God. However, there are elements of our world, society, culture that is transforming the Church into itself. Even members of our own Church are caught-up in moving the Church to reflect more of the world, society, culture than the Church transforming the world into the Kingdom of God.



A letter written by Fr. Francis A. Sariego, O.F.M. Cap., the National Coordinator of the Padre Pio Prayer Groups for the United States in July 2013 articulated:

***"When Pope Pius XII urged groups of Catholics to gather in prayer, it was not to form a devotional group of individuals who are aloof from the world's realities, and are immersed in the good feelings of a personal religious high. He wanted prayers who wanted to make a difference in the world. He realized that when the soul is in harmony with God and people are in harmony with each other, peace, order and the progress that follows are inevitable. Faith that is merely theoretical or solely personal is worth little if anything. Jesus reminds us that we are called to be aware of our sister and brother in all areas of life. He even praises the one who gives his own life for the sake of another. There is no self-centeredness in true Catholicism. There is no silent cowering behind prayerful words empty of loving deeds in Catholicism. There is no "passing the buck" in Catholicism. We are called to be a people who live with our feet well-grounded in the realities of life, and with our hearts and souls centered in God Who leads us to live more deeply the morals and values that are a fruit of them.***

***Padre Pio took up the torch of Pope Pius XII and established the Prayer Groups. He realized that only those who are centered on God and God's Will can truly make a difference in this society in which we live. We are not an association whose members get lost in pious practices that "make them feel good". We are men and women who accept the challenge to be a people called to live in the freedom and the joy of the children of God, in a world hungering to see Him."***

Our Padre Pio Prayer Group is to continue this mission of our Spiritual Father and of Christ, Himself. Freedom's cost was paid for by many lives and our lives are to be included. Heed Christ's words found in the Gospel of Saint Matthew. Acknowledge Christ and He will acknowledge us to the Father, if not, we will be denied Heaven and an eternity without the Father. It is our choice; choose wisely.

Striving to acknowledge Christ always.

## Rhoda Wise Mass

**Wednesday, July 7, 2021**

**6:00 PM**

Saint Peter Catholic Church

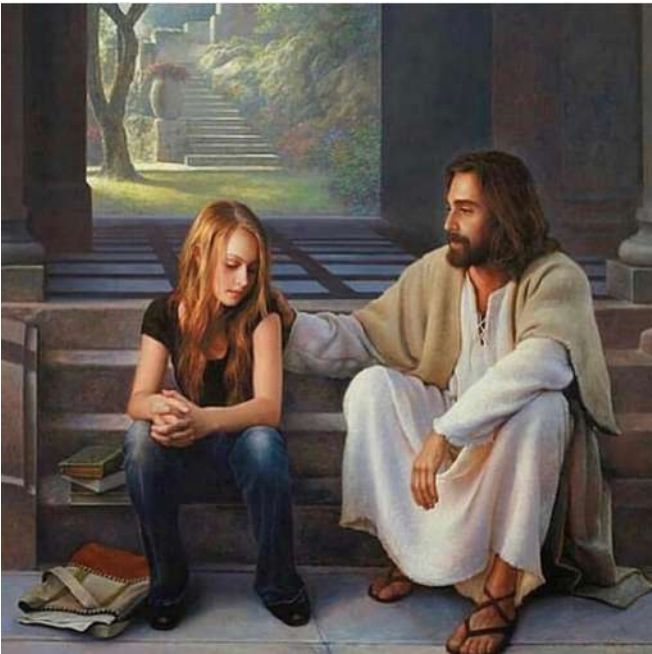
726 Cleveland Avenue NW

Canton, Ohio

This Mass will be held on the 73rd anniversary of Rhoda Wise's death. Our new bishop, *Most Reverend David J. Bonnar*, will be the celebrant with our own, *Very Reverend John E. Sheridan, S.T.L.* as concelebrant.

There will be an update on Rhoda's Cause for Beatification at this Mass and light refreshments will be served in Saint Peter Parish Hall afterward.

## God Hears Your Heart



Your life with Jesus is a journey: exciting and adventurous, but also filled with obstacles and challenges. Prayer can help you stay close to God through it all, even when you are not sure if God was hearing you. Know that through each challenge that God always hears you and knows what is on your heart. Challenging circumstances can often drive you to your knees. Try to find assurance that you are safe in God's hands, no matter what. Then start to ask for guidance. He is always faithful to give you wisdom and point you in a direction that glorifies Him and honors Jesus.

You need to listen. Sometimes you can be speechless, not knowing how to pray or what to say. Have you ever felt so heavy and burdened that words just wouldn't come? Or have you ever found yourself helpless, discouraged, or even angry at God? If you have, it's okay. King David was not afraid to express these feelings, saying things such as, "Awake, Lord! Why do you sleep? Rouse yourself! Do not reject us forever. Why do you hide your face and forget our misery and oppression?" (Psalms 44) Regardless of how we feel, the truth is plainly stated for us: "In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for

us with groans that words cannot express." (Romans 8:26)

Isn't that amazing? He cares for you so much that even if you don't know what to say to God, or when you're too sad or distraught to even be able to figure out on your own exactly how you're feeling, the Holy Spirit intercedes for you on your behalf with things that would not ever be possible to express if you tried. God doesn't intend for you to do anything on your own, even prayer. Know that God hears your heart and knows you better than you know yourself. If you believe this it will completely change your perspective on prayer. Instead of letting confusion or pain drive you away from God, you may feel closer to God because of the truth found in Romans 8:26. I rest in the knowledge that any suffering I endure on this earth is nothing compared to what my Savior, Jesus, endured when he died on the cross for your sins, and that He always has your best in mind. 2 Timothy says that if we die, we live with him; and if we endure, we will also reign with him. That is surely good news!

The next time you have trouble knowing what to pray, ask the Holy Spirit to intercede for you. God says that He will, and you don't have to do anything special for that to happen. Just trust Jesus. God cares about you and He loves you more than you could ever begin to imagine.

Thank you God for always hearing me. I know you can hear my heart. Help me to love you, know you and honor you all the days of my life. Amen.

# Prayers for Priests and Religious

## OUR BLESSED MOTHER: MYSTICAL ROSE



Every thirteenth of the month is to be commemorated as a Marian day, consecrated to prayer and penance for offenses committed by priests and religious against our Lord. July 13 has a special importance. Religious congregations and institutes will honor this day through the Mass, Communion, rosary and an hour of adoration. Mary links special prayer intentions to the three

roses she wears: the **white rose** stands for prayer for perseverance of religious vocations; the **red rose** indicates prayer and sacrifice in penance for offenses committed by religious/priests; the **golden rose** symbolizes prayers of penance in favor of the Judas-priests, traitors to the cause of Christ. Let us under the title of the Mystical Rose, or Rosa Mystica, whose Feast Day is July 13, offer these prayers to Jesus and Mary.

<https://udayton.edu/imri/mary/r/rosa-mystica-devotion.php>

## PRAYER TO THE IMMACULATE VIRGIN, ROSA MYSTICA

Immaculate Virgin, Mother of Grace, Rosa Mystica, in honor of thy Divine Son, we prostrate ourselves at your feet to implore God's mercy.

We beg for help and grace, not relying on any merit of ours, but on the kindness of your motherly heart, and confident that you will grant our urgent requests.

*Hail Mary...*

Rosa Mystica, Mother of Jesus, Queen of the Holy Rosary and Mother of the

Church, Mystical Body of Christ, we implore the gifts of unity and peace for the world parched by discord, and the graces to convert the souls of all your erring children.

*Hail Mary...*

Rosa Mystica, Queen of the Apostles, let flourish around the Eucharistic Altars many religious and priestly vocations which, with the holiness of lives and their burning zeal for the salvation of the souls, will spread throughout the world the Kingdom of your Jesus! Fill us with your heavenly graces!

*Hail Holy Queen...*

Rosa Mystica, Mother of the Church, pray for us.

## LORD, GRANT YOUR PRIESTS

Lord, grant your priests a pure heart, able to love only You; a pure heart, that knows no evil, but is able to distinguish it, to fight against it and to flee it; a pure heart, like that of a child, inspired and longing for God, Lord, grant your servants a big heart, open to Your thoughts and closed for any malicious ambition, and for any regrettable human competition

Lord, grant your priests a strong heart, prepared to cope with every difficulty, every temptation, every weakness, every boredom, every fatigue.

A heart, Lord, that is truly capable to love, to understand, to welcome, to serve, to sacrifice, blessed with a heart that palpitates for Your feelings and thoughts. Because the world needs hearts who save and love souls like Christ does.

Amen.

**Lord,  
grant your  
priests a  
pure heart**



# Dear Spiritual Brothers and Sisters of Padre Pio

Our June prayer meeting was amazing. Over 50 couples renewed their vows and were blessed by Fr. Bill Browne during Mass. What a great witness for all of us to experience. Mike and Francine Costantini gave a beautiful testimony on their journey led by Christ.

It has been a very busy month working on the Fall pilgrimage; final details will be coming soon.

Reminder about the “Pray It Forward 2021 Challenge”: Does your love, care and concern for others extend to their eternal salvation? I'm sure your answer would be a resounding YES!!! Let me support your thoughts with confirmations from our Popes and The Church Triumphant,

and meditate on their words: "By our baptism we have been commissioned by the Lord Jesus Christ to fulfill the mission of saving souls." (Pope Benedict XVI) "Know that the greatest service that a man can offer to God is to help convert souls." (St Rose of Lima) In St Faustina's Diary (742) our Lord put it this way: "I am giving you three ways of exercising mercy toward your neighbors: the first-by deed, the second by word, the third by prayer. In these three degrees is contained the fullness of mercy and it is an unquestionable proof of love of me."



These three ways of exercising Mercy can be found in the Brown Scapular Rosary! \*By Deed we are giving forward the rosary scapular to others, \*By Word we are conveying the meaning behind this Sacramental, \*By Prayer we consecrate ourselves to

Her Immaculate Heart and pray the rosary. **PRAY IT FORWARD 2021 CHALLENGE!** 1. Keep purchasing scapulars but with increased regularity (benefits fundraising efforts). 2. Set a personal goal for the year by committing to buy at least a monthly rosary to share with others (benefits evangelization). 3. Reap the benefits of your actions by transforming this disordered world to one of Peace (benefits tranquility of soul). 4. Repeat steps 1-3.

**In honor of the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel this month July 16, the rosary scapulars will be available at the Prayer Group meeting. The sale will be 2 rosary scapulars for \$16.**

Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July!

Pray, Hope and Don't Worry.

Sincerely,

Cindy Russo TOF  
Group Leader

## PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN (Never known to fail)

O Most Beautiful Flower of Mt. Carmel, Fruitful Vine, Splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to Thee (three times).

## KEEP OUR SICK SISTERS & BROTHERS IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS

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

Barbara Bilinovich	Oscar Fonseca	Jonathan Lipreads	Regis Schilling
Mario Bruschi	Marty Franck	Mark Magda	Joseph Wojtyla
Sarojini Bruschi	Bob Garcar	Fr. Cory Mayer	
Gia Cefaratti	Rose Gullo	Joe Morici	
Virginia DeJesus	Kathy Hlad	Molly O'Leary	
Roy Evans	Kyle Hrabusa	Eleanor Phillips	
Margie Ferfolia	Michael Hurley	Judy Purdy	
Michele Ferrara	Helen Husky	Anthony Rossi	
Cynthia Fonseca	Tony Kazmierczak	Phyllis Schilling	

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



### † OUR CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF OUR RECENTLY DECEASED †

Silvana Colantuono  
Irene Kovar, Prayer Group member

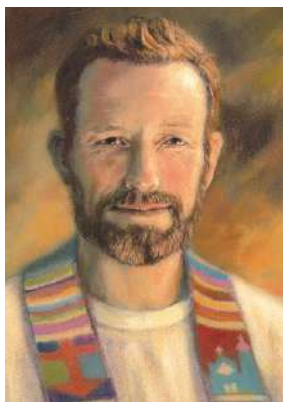
## Corner

Jake's

For July, I am writing about Blessed Stanley Rother. Blessed Stanley Rother was born on March 27, 1935, in Okarche, Oklahoma, and was the oldest child of

the Rother family. Blessed Stanley Rother lived on their family farm. Additionally, he attended Holy Trinity Catholic Church and School. He was a hard worker on the farm and enjoyed his small-town environment. Blessed Stanley Rother discerned a priestly vocation during his high school years. He was sent to Assumption Seminary in San Antonio, Texas and finished his studies at Mount Saint Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Blessed Stanley Rother struggled during his seminarian years, especially in the study of Latin. He was ordained to the priesthood on May 25, 1963.

Blessed Stanley Rother sought to join and received permission to work with the staff at the mission parish in



Written by: Jake Snyder

Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala. He ministered to the Tz'utujil tribe, learned their language, said Mass in their local language, and helped translate the New Testament into the local language. Blessed Stanley was surrounded by poverty while he worked among the Tz'utujil tribe. He was always willing to help the villagers and they always came to him for help. Since Blessed Stanley grew up on

a farm, he was able to help the villagers in the fields and helped build an irrigation system.

During his ministry in Guatemala, there was a civil war between militarist government forces and the guerrillas. The Church was caught in the middle of the conflict due to the desire to continue to catechize and educate. As a result, many Catholics were killed. Eventually, his name appeared on the death list. Blessed Stanley was concerned with his safety and returned home to Oklahoma. However, Blessed Stanley felt called to go back to Guatemala. So, Blessed Stanley returned to Guatemala willing to give his life for his sheep.

On July 28, 1981, around 1 a.m., three armed men entered the rectory where Blessed Stanley was sleeping and killed him. Many were shocked by his Martyrdom. On December 16, 2016, Pope Francis promulgated the Decree of Martyrdom, stating that Stanley Rother was killed in hatred for the Faith and died a Martyr's death. He was Beatified as a Martyr on September 23, 2017. He is the first United States Martyr and the first U.S.-born priest to be Beatified.

Blessed Stanley Rother was not afraid to give his life for his sheep. He was a shepherd after the Heart of Christ. Furthermore, Blessed Stanley chose to leave his native country to follow the Will of God. In doing so, Blessed Stanley had to learn two new languages when he already struggled with Latin and lived amid extreme poverty. Blessed Stanley Rother had a great desire to bring Christ to others. May we strive to imitate Blessed Stanley and bring Christ to as many people as possible.

**BEST WISHES to our Spiritual Children celebrating birthdays and special occasions in the month of July, especially Cindy Russo, our Group Leader, celebrating a birthday this month!**

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