

**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

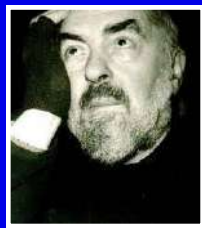
Group Leader:
Cindy Russo TOF

**UPCOMING
EVENTS:**

Sep 4 -
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

Sep 23 -
St. Padre Pio's Feast
Day (save the date)

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



St. Padre Pio Prayer Group Newsletter

AUGUST 2021

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 8

Marian Feast Days in August

Since the 16th century Catholic piety has assigned entire months to special devotions. The month of August is traditionally dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The physical heart of Mary is venerated (and not adored as the Sacred Heart of Jesus is) because it is united to her person and is the seat of her love (especially for her divine Son), virtue and inner life. Such devotion is an incentive to a similar love and virtue. Just as the Sacred Heart represents Christ's love for mankind, the Immaculate Heart represents the desire of the Blessed Virgin to bring all people to her Son. This devotion has received new emphasis in this century from the visions given to Lucy Dos Santos, oldest of the visionaries of Fatima, in her convent in Spain, in 1925 and 1926. In the visions, Our

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy, hail, our life, our sweetness and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve: to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears. Turn then, most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus, O merciful, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary! Amen.

If asked what other Marian feast days are in August, most Catholics would go blank. That is probably because the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a holy day of obligation in the United States, and so our attention is drawn to it because we are required to go to Mass that day. The Marian feasts in August give us glimpses into the life of Mary and her role as Mother of God and Mediatrix of graces. There are many ways to commemorate Mary's feasts — from attending Mass to making a holy hour or just saying an extra Rosary.

Aug. 02: Our Lady of the Angels
Aug. 05: Our Lady of the Snows
Aug. 13: Our Lady, Refuge of Sinners
Aug. 15: Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Aug. 22: Queenship of Mary

Whether we celebrate August's Marian Feast Days in a big way or small one, taking time to reflect on their history and meaning can help us to better understand Mary's vital role in our salvation. Spending time with Her in private reflection or formal prayer, can increase our love for Her and Her son and obtain for us graces for our sanctification.



Lady asked for the practice of the Five First Saturdays to help make amends for the offenses committed against her heart by the blasphemies and ingratitude of men.

“And he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with him.” (Matthew 17:2-3)

We see in this event the hypostatic union of Christ. Okay, now that I have caused confusion by using a theological term, that some may have never heard of before, it is simply stated, in *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*, that the hypostatic union is the union of the divine and human natures in the one divine person of the Son of God, Jesus Christ. [CCC, p. 882.] Jesus Christ is one person with two natures; the human and the divine. This event has been described as the hinge between Jesus’s Baptism and His Paschal Mystery [His suffering, death and resurrection]. He is preparing Peter, James, and John for what is going to take place in Jerusalem [Holy Week].



It would not be until Pentecost when the Apostles would finally receive the wisdom, understanding, fortitude, knowledge, counsel, piety, and the fear of the Lord that they needed to be transformed from fearful to faithful, from doubtful to hopeful Apostles. Jesus was preparing them to be transformed into the holy persons that they and all human beings were meant to be, which Adam and Eve had, before The Fall. Jesus the Christ shows His divinity to uplift

our humanity and takes our humanity to raise us up to the divine. The Second Person of the Blessed Trinity took on flesh so that fallen humanity could finally experience LOVE; for GOD is LOVE. This transformation, this transfiguration continues to this very day. We know that this is true because of our spiritual father, Padre Pio.

We know that in 1918, Padre Pio received the stigmata of Christ, the holy wounds of Christ’s Passion, which he bore for fifty years. He was already a holy friar, but God wanted him to be completely transformed into His Son, Jesus the Christ. Padre Pio was so transformed that he was also given many of the attributes, the gifts of the Son: bilocation, reading of hearts, healing, forgiving, preaching, etc. Padre Pio was transformed in body but also in spirit.

As his spiritual children, we are called to be transformed into being another Christ for others. Our transformation began at our Baptism when we died with Christ and rose with Him into a new Life; His Life. We have put on Christ and our whole life is now one of being transformed into the One we have put on. We are to become the One that we partake of in the Eucharist; the One that we eat. Our transformation, is not just for ourselves. Like the Apostles, once they were transformed, they went out to transform others; the World. We are transformed so that we can also transform those of our world, so that all followers of Christ will transform the World. Like the Apostles who were commissioned at Jesus’ Ascension, may we “Go and teach/transform all nations.”

Over the last decades, some say as many as five or six, the World was transforming more and more into a “playground” for the devil. Sadly, our Church has also been influenced by the worldly “playground.” More and more of those who are in authority in the Church have been more concerned about worldly issues than transforming the world into the Kingdom of God. Issues that are more political than moral are being endorsed by members of the hierarchy. I still remember as a child being told that the Church is to transform the world, not the world to transform the Church. At this time; however, we are in a moment of history where the Church is “off-track” about her mission of transforming the world. Should we be dismayed, fall into despair, or become discouraged by the events that are occurring now? We can, but what good is that. We are called, as I said earlier, by our baptism to transform ourselves and then the world. We need to be the witnesses/martyrs like those of England during the 1500-1600’s. Saints John Fisher and Thomas More are great examples of remaining faithful and persevering in the faith. We have been blessed to be in this time, place, and century to be witnesses of the Faith in the World and to transform the World into the Kingdom of God so that we can share in the divine life of Christ as he showed to Peter, James, and John.

We hear the Father mention about His Son at Christ’s Baptism and Transfiguration, when He said: “This is my beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased.” May we also hear those words when we enter into God’s presence at our judgement: “You are my beloved child in whom I am well pleased, enter the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.” May we the transformed, transform the world.

Your brother in Christ.

The Priest Prophet

Just a few people know about all the holy men and women on the way to sainthood. One of those holy men is a priest prophet who earned this by his works and sacrifices. His name is Padre Don Dolindo Ruotolo an Italian priest who lived from 1882-1970 who was, according to St. Padre Pio, a Saint. St. Padre Pio once said, "No word can be lost from what came under the Padre Dolindo pen. He's a holy priest." On another occasion, St. Padre Pio said to a group of pilgrims from Naples: "Why do you come here, if you have Don Dolindo in Naples? Go to him, he's a saint!" The priest prophet wrote many books, helped many people, and bestowed his everything to the poor. He also gave unforgettable speeches and homilies, and for the majority of his life, was banned from serving the Holy Mass.

Later, the priest prophet was known for not just his work, but now, when he is in the process of beatification, we know about his conversations with Jesus and Mother Mary. The priest prophet also predicted the downfall of communism by St. John Paul II. "I ask God for what I need. A lot. Sometimes I feel like I run through a continuous strain of Lord, please give me this or I need that from morning to night. My needs sometimes spill over into conversations with friends too, when I ask them to pray on my behalf for a variety of intentions. Although I try not to let my own needs be the exclusive focus of my prayer, they're a big part of the reality. So much so that sometimes, as I hear my own thoughts and petitions, I wonder if I sound too needy. I wonder if I am too needy." We're all needy: It's part of the human condition. Making peace with that reality and learning how to respond to it is an important step in recognizing who God wants to be for us. While our neediness might make us feel a little vulnerable and weak, God sees it differently. He knows our needs before we know them ourselves. Our needs glorify him, giving him the opportunity to overwhelm us with his goodness and mercy. Don Dolindo Ruotolo deeply understood the relationship between our neediness and God's goodness. He spent his life in prayer, sacrifice and service. He heard confessions, gave spiritual guidance and cared for those in need.

The simple friar is becoming most known for his spirituality of surrender. Well aware of the depth of human weakness and neediness, Don Dolindo saw this as a way of fostering

continual union with God. While inviting us to continually bring our worries and concerns to the Lord, Don Dolindo teaches us that the focus doesn't stay on our needs. He encourages us to bring our needs to God and then be at peace, leaving God free to care for us in his wisdom. Don Dolindo tells us that the Lord has promised to fully take on all the needs we entrust to him. In the words of Jesus to Don Dolindo: "Why do you confuse yourselves by worrying? Leave the care of your affairs to me and everything will be peaceful. I say to you in truth that every act of true, blind, complete surrender to me produces the effect that you desire and resolves all difficult situations. (...) A thousand prayers do not equal one act of abandonment; don't ever forget it."

There is no better novena than this: O Jesus, I abandon myself to you. Jesus, you take over. The many healings and favors obtained by people who went to Don Dolindo and followed his advice, as well as those that have been attributed




to his intercession, give witness to the power of grace that can be unleashed through such abandonment to Divine Providence. Don Dolindo wrote what Our Lord revealed to him about divine abandonment from the perspective of Jesus addressing the soul. The prayer of surrender can be read in its entirety, or prayed in nine shorter segments as a daily novena.

Fr. Don Dolindo Ruotolo is currently a Servant of God; his cause for beatification is open.

Pray "The Surrender Novena" by Fr. Don Dolindo on page 6 of this newsletter.

Quotes from Saint Pio of Pietrelcina/August 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
1 Protest before God that you seek nothing except Him and what leads you to Him.	2 Don't let the difficulties you encounter stop you from doing good. <i>Weekday</i> St. Eusebius of Vercelli St. Peter Julian Eymard	3 Jesus is with you, and you have nothing to fear.	4 Blessed be the fear that you have of yourself. St. John Vianney	5 The knowledge of your interior unworthiness is an extremely pure divine light. <i>Weekday</i> The Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major	6 The great mercy of God...positions souls sheltered from feelings of vanity and pride.	7 The great mercy of God (consolidates) humility, the foundation of true virtue and Christian perfection. <i>Weekday</i> St. Sixtus II and Companions St. Cajetan BVM First Saturday	
18 TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9 Breathe these holy words: My beloved is mine and I am his. <i>Weekday</i> St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross	10 Let (the) divine Love of our hearts inflame and consume us with its grace.	11 Be cheerful and tranquilly rest in the arms of Jesus.	12 Mitigate your fears with the greatest confidence in Jesus.	13 It is from (Jesus) alone that you should expect many blessings.	14 It is time to confess it: We are miserable creatures. We are only capable of doing a little good.	
19 TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	16 God, in His goodness, has pity on us, and is content with very little. THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	17 Jesus continues to love me. He draws me closer to Himself.	18 (Jesus) has forgiven my sins, and I would say that He remembers only His own mercy.	19 Each morning (Jesus) comes into my heart and pours out all the effusions of His goodness. <i>Weekday</i> St. Jane Frances de Chantal	20 Don't let little imperfections discourage you.	21 Try to be always watchful in order to avoid sin. St. Maximilian Mary Kolbe	
22 When you see that you fail in some way, bend your knees before God ...	23 Be embarrassed at your scarce fidelity. THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	24 Humble yourself greatly.	25 Ask our Lord's pardon.	26 Propose to be more watchful in the future; and then get up immediately and carry on.	27 Failings and little flights of the passions are inevitable as long as we are in this life.	28 Self-love never dies before we do, but it will accompany us to the tomb. St. Plus X	
21 ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	30 When will it be that we, totally dead before God, let God will all that is necessary for us to do. <i>Weekday</i> St. Rose of Lima	31 Be cheerful and rest trustingly in the arms of divine mercy, and do not fear.	 <i>Weekday</i> St. Louis St. Joseph Calasanz	Praise of Mary Assumed into Heaven and Queen of All Creation			St. Augustine
22 ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Weekday</i> ST. BARTHOLOMEW	<i>Weekday</i> St. Joseph Calasanz	Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of mercy; our life, our sweetness and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious Advocate, thy eyes of mercy towards us. And after this our exile show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, JESUS. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary, Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God; That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ. Amen.			

** Newsflash **

**Police Blue Mass will be celebrated
Saturday, October 2, 2021**

**Our Lady of Guadalupe Church
9080 Shephard Rd., Macedonia OH 44056**

Rosary @8:00am. Mass @8:30am.



Police officers and their families, along with families of fallen officers, are invited to this Mass of Healing and Thankfulness. The Police Rosary Group will be handing out our blue/white rosaries with the St. Michael medal. All members of the Padre Pio Prayer Group are encouraged to attend to show our support for the police. Thank you in advance.

Blessings & Gratitude,
Leslie Ann Magda

Dear Padre Pio family:

As we continue to reflect on all the blessings that God bestows on those he loves, let us also meditate on the reality that we are the chosen ones; the people set apart.

How many blessings have we received and how many graces will we continue to receive? Moses had to keep reminding the chosen people, and since I am approaching his very advanced years, I will continue to encourage you to be thankful. Let that be the beginning and the end of your thoughts and prayers.

In the Priesthood, you are confronted by many dark things and yet you are also given many more consolations and blessings. I am

so privileged to be able to serve you and in a lot of ways put my life in your hands.

The hospitality, smiles, prayers, encouragement and presence mean more to me, more than you will every know. I am so happy to be there for you and I hope it shows. It is no coincidence that we have come to know each other.

*Yours in Christ!
Rev. William Browne*



The Surrender Novena by Fr. Don Dolindo



Day 1: Why do you confuse yourselves by worrying? Leave the care of your affairs to me and everything will be peaceful. I say to you in truth that every act of

true, blind, complete surrender to me produces the effect that you desire and resolves all difficult situations. **O Jesus, I surrender myself to you, take care of everything! (10 times)**

Day 2: Surrender to me does not mean to fret, to be upset, or to lose hope, nor does it mean offering to me a worried prayer asking me to follow you and change

your worry into prayer. It is against this surrender, deeply against it, to worry, to be nervous and to desire to think about the consequences of anything. It is like the confusion that children feel when they ask their mother to see to their needs, and then try to take care of those needs for themselves so that their child-like efforts get in their mother's way. Surrender means to placidly close the eyes of the soul, to turn away from thoughts of tribulation and to put yourself in my care, so that only I act, saying, "You take care of it." **O Jesus, I surrender myself to you, take care of everything! (10 times)**

Day 3: How many things I do when the soul, in so much spiritual and material need, turns to me, looks at me and says to me, "You take care of it," then closes its eyes and rests. In pain you pray for me to act, but that I act in the way you want. You do not turn to me, instead, you want me to adapt to your ideas. You are not sick people who ask the doctor to cure you, but rather sick people who tell the doctor how to. So do not act this way, but pray as I taught you in the Our Father: "Hallowed be thy Name," that is, be glorified in my need. "Thy kingdom come," that is, let all that is in us and in the world be in accord with your kingdom. "Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven," that is, in our need, decide as you see fit for our temporal and eternal life. If you say to me truly: "Thy will be done," which is the same as saying: "You take care of it," I will intervene with all my omnipotence, and I will resolve the most difficult situations. **O Jesus, I surrender myself to you, take care of everything! (10 times)**

Day 4: You see evil growing instead of weakening? Do not worry. Close your eyes and say to me with faith: "Thy will be done, You take care of it." I say to you that I will take care of it, and that I will intervene as does a doctor and I will accomplish miracles when they are needed. Do you see that the sick person is getting worse? Do not be upset, but close your eyes and say, "You take care of it." I say to you that I will take care of it, and that there is no medicine more powerful than my loving intervention. By my love, I promise this to you. **O Jesus, I surrender myself to you, take care of everything! (10 times)**

Day 5: And when I must lead you on a path different from the one you see, I will prepare you; I will carry you in my arms; I will let you find yourself, like children who have fallen asleep in their mother's arms, on the other bank of the river. What troubles you and hurts you immensely are your reason, your thoughts and worry, and your desire at all costs to deal with what afflicts you. **O Jesus, I surrender myself to you, take care of everything! (10 times)**

Day 6: You are sleepless; you want to judge everything, direct everything and see to everything and you surrender to human strength, or worse—to men themselves, trusting in their intervention—this is what hinders my words and my views. Oh, how much I wish from you this surrender, to help you; and how I suffer when I see you so agitated! Satan tries to do exactly this: to agitate you and to remove you from my protection and to throw you into the jaws of human initiative. So, trust only in me, rest in me, surrender to me in everything. **O Jesus, I surrender myself to you, take care of everything! (10 times)**

Day 7: I perform miracles in proportion to your full surrender to me and to your not thinking of yourselves. I sow treasure troves of graces when you are in the deepest poverty. No person of reason, no thinker, has ever performed miracles, not even among the saints. He does divine works whosoever surrenders to God. So don't think about it anymore, because your mind is acute and for you it is very hard to see evil and to trust in me and to not think of yourself. Do this for all your needs, do this, all of you, and you will see great continual silent miracles. I will take care of things, I promise this to you. **O Jesus, I surrender myself to you, take care of everything! (10 times)**

Day 8: Close your eyes and let yourself be carried away on the flowing current of my grace; close your eyes and do not think of the present, turning your thoughts away from the future just as you would from temptation. Repose in me, believing in my goodness, and I promise you by my love that if you say, "You take care of it," I will take care of it all; I will console you, liberate you and guide you. **O Jesus, I surrender myself to you, take care of everything! (10 times)**

Day 9: Pray always in readiness to surrender, and you will receive from it great peace and great rewards, even when I confer on you the grace of immolation, of repentance, and of love. Then what does suffering matter? It seems impossible to you? Close your eyes and say with all your soul, "Jesus, you take care of it." Do not be afraid, I will take care of things and you will bless my name by humbling yourself. A thousand prayers cannot equal one single act of surrender, remember this well. There is no novena more effective than this. **O Jesus, I surrender myself to you, take care of everything! (10 times)**

Mother, I am yours now and forever. Through you and with you I always want to belong completely to Jesus.

O Jesus, I surrender myself to you, take care of everything!

Humble Yourself Before the Lord

St. Padre Pio spoke often about humility, and more importantly, he truly practiced what he preached. He lived his life snubbing fame and seeking only to please God. In spite of his wondrous gifts from God, he looked upon himself as a simple, sinful friar.

Being humble for most people brings to mind a form of weakness. If someone practices humility, it means they're not a "go-getter" and don't care about performance or working hard. It's the weak one who is humble and is dependent on someone else (hopefully you sense the sarcasm). Why do you suppose the Bible has so much to say about being humble? Maybe we've got it all wrong and the one who practices humility is actually the strong one? "Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time He may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you." – 1 Peter 5:6-7. God cares for us. He is mighty. He calls us to humble ourselves under Him. Not because He is a controlling God that wants you to bow down to Him because you are nothing, but rather because He wants to exalt us and care for us. As we humble ourselves, that is when we truly worship Him. We trust Him, with what's going on in our lives and believing He is the provider instead of ourselves.

Stop putting everything on your shoulders. Have you noticed in your conversations with people that everyone is tired? We're busy. We're weary. We're taking on a lot of responsibilities. We're working hard for our families. We're trying to attend as many social events as possible. We're trying to pay the bills as best as we can. We're just trying to "get by." "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." – Matthew 11:28-30. Jesus doesn't seem to be talking about a life that is full of anxiousness and weariness as we follow Him. He makes a point to state the exact opposite on how we can find rest in Him. He is speaking to those that labor and are heavy laden. We are all suffering from this. We are working too hard. We are thinking way too



much mentally. We are putting things on our shoulders that don't belong there. We are forgetting what Jesus said and what He has done when we feel that it's "all on us" to get things to happen. Most of the time, we're probably putting so much effort into the wrong things all together. In today's culture, we're told if you labor and are heavy laden then you are doing the right thing. You are sacrificing for your family and friends. You are pulling yourself up by your bootstraps and working hard to hopefully one day achieve paradise (retirement) where you get to do nothing as you live out the rest of your days. This is wrong. Don't let culture tell you that putting everything on your shoulders is wisdom. Trust Jesus when He tells you that His burden is light.

Most of the time when we don't humble ourselves, we are really saying we don't trust God. There are times as a follower of Christ when we forget God's character or doubt Him. We're told in Scripture to think on the things of God, to meditate on anything worthy of praise. These things that are true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, or excellent are all praiseworthy because God is all these things.

When we don't humble ourselves, we are really saying we don't trust God. Most of all, when God gave His one and only Son for us (John 3:16), it tells us a lot about His character. That sure doesn't seem to come across to me like a God who is a tyrant and just demands power all the time. It doesn't seem to match up to a God that doesn't care about us. He

knew that we could only come to Him through His Son who had to suffer and die before rising again. With that perfect knowledge that only God can have, He followed through and sacrificed His Son for us. Not only does that tell us everything we need to know about God's character, that shows us just how much He loves us.

"Humility, humility and always humility" wrote Padre Pio. "The Lord is willing to do great things but on the condition that we are truly humble."

Dear God, May we all come to possess the level of humility which Padre Pio achieved in his lifetime. Amen.

Prayers for Priests and Bishops

In this month of August, let us request that our Blessed Mother, assumed into heaven and crowned as Queen of heaven and earth, intercede for her priests to her Son Jesus.



St. Pope John Paul II's Prayer for Priests to Our Blessed Mother

Mother of Jesus Christ and Mother of priests,
Accept this title which we bestow on you to celebrate

your motherhood and to contemplate with you the priesthood of your Son and of your sons, O holy Mother of God.

Mother of Christ,

to the Messiah Priest you gave a body of flesh through the anointing of the Holy Spirit for the salvation of the poor and the contrite of heart; guard priests in your heart and in the Church, O Mother of the Savior.

Mother of Faith,

you accompanied to the Temple the Son of Man, the fulfillment of the promises given to the fathers; give to the Father for his glory the priests of your Son, O Ark of the Covenant.

Mother of the Church,

with the disciples in the Upper Room you prayed to the Spirit for the new People and their shepherds; obtain for the Order of Presbyters a fullness of gifts, O Queen of the Apostles.

Mother of Jesus Christ,

you were with Him at the beginning of His life and of His mission, you sought the Master among the crowd, you stood beside Him when he was lifted up from the earth consumed as the one eternal sacrifice, and you had John close by you, your son; accept from the begin-

ning those who have been called, protect their growth, accompany your sons in their life and in their ministry, O Mother of Priests.

Amen.

A Prayer for Our Bishops

Jesus, Good Shepherd, You sent us the Holy Spirit to guide Your Church and lead her faithful to You through the ministry of the successors of Your Apostles, the bishops.

Through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, grant to Your bishops wisdom in leading, faithfulness in teaching, and holiness in guarding Your Sacred Mysteries.

As they cry out with all the faithful, "Our Father!", may Your bishops be ever more closely identified with You in Your divine Sonship and offer their own lives with You, the one saving Victim.

Renew in Your bishops deeper faith, greater trust in You, childlike reliance on our Mother Mary, and unwavering fidelity to the Holy Father.

Holy Mary, intercede for Your bishops.

Sts. Peter & Paul, pray for them.

St. Andrew, pray for them.

St. James, pray for them.

St. John, pray for them.

St. Thomas, pray for them.

St. James, pray for them.

St. Philip, pray for them.

St. Bartholomew, pray for them.

St. Matthew, pray for them.

Sts. Simon & Jude, pray for them.

St. Matthias, pray for them.

St. Joseph, protect them.

St. Michael, defend them.

St. John Vianney, pray for them.

All you saints in heaven, pray for them.

Amen.

**Accompany
your sons
in their life
and in their
ministry.**

Dear Spiritual Children of Padre Pio

I want to thank all of you who attended the July Padre Pio Prayer Group gathering. It was full of patriotism lead by the Knights of Columbus. Thank you to Fr. Edward Janoch, Fr. Bill Browne and Fr. Michael Petkosek for the celebration of Holy Mass and administering the Sacrament of Confession. The Patriotic Rosary lead by the Knights was perfect for the eve of the 4th of July. The donation check to the Prayer Group was an added surprise. I think we all enjoyed the picnic social afterwards. I am full of gratitude to the Knights for orchestrating the social picnic afterwards. It was wonderful and it was great to have that aspect return.

The Fall pilgrimage bus trip filled up in three hours. We are blessed to have a second bus. There are seats available, so contact cindy21russo@gmail.com. We have also added another stop to the Fr. McGivney Shrine in New Haven, Conn.

Some of the upcoming events for this Fall will be a Mass, enrollment to become a Spiritual Child and dinner social on September 23 (Padre Pio's Feast Day). Please keep that date open. Also, we are scheduling the October Gathering for a special Blue Mass (see page 5). More information on these events will be in the September Newsletter.

Padre Pio said, "When the Lord entrusts a soul to me, I place it on my shoulder and never let it go. I accept you as spiritual child; and don't make me lose face. I love my Spiritual Children as much as my own soul and even more. Once I take a soul on, I also take on their entire family as my spiritual children."

Blessings and gratitude,

Cindy Russo TOF
Group Leader



KEEP OUR SICK SISTERS & BROTHERS IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS

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

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

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



† OUR CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF OUR RECENTLY DECEASED †

Sister Mary Therese Zammikiel, P.C.C.

Corner

Jake's

On August 16, the Catholic Church celebrates the feast day of King Saint Stephen of

Hungary, the monarch who led his country to embrace the Christian faith during the 11th century.

Before the future saint's birth in 975, his mother, the duchess Sarolt, is said to have received a vision in which the original Saint Stephen – the Church's first martyr – appeared telling her she would bear a son who would evangelize their land. Vaik was born a pagan to Sarolt and her husband, the Hungarian duke Geza, in 975. He was baptized by bishop Saint Adalbert of Prague in 985 around the age of 10, and was given the name of Stephen.



Geza had desired to convert the Hungarians to the Catholic faith, a passion shared by Stephen once he reached adulthood and succeeded him in power. After conclusively defeating an alliance of rival pagan nobility, he used their acquired wealth to build a monastery, and invited clergy to convert the people. Stephen established laws favoring Christianity over paganism, and sent an emissary to Rome with a request for the Pope to proclaim him as king. Pope Sylvester II accepted the request, sending him a crown and a gold processional cross, crowning him as king on Christmas Day in 1001 while also giving him certain religious privileges. He showed great diligence as king, while devoting the rest of his time to his religious duties – including charity toward the poor and sick, as well as the worship of God – and to his household. At age 20, Stephen married Gisela, sister of the ruler later canonized as the Holy Roman Emperor Saint Henry II.

Greatly devoted to the Virgin Mary, Stephen had several churches built in her honor both in Hungary and outside the kingdom. Her intercession is credited with preventing a war between Hungary and the Holy Roman Empire under Conrad II, and stopping an assassination plot against Stephen himself. The Hungarian king also established a monastery in Jerusalem, and set up institutions to aid pilgrims in other major cities.

Suffering came to the king, however, when only one of his children survived to adulthood. Stephen's only living son Emeric received a strong Catholic upbringing, and was expected to succeed his father. But Emeric died before Stephen, after a hunting accident in 1031. Emeric was later canonized as a saint in his own right, and Stephen eventually came to rejoice that his son had been permitted to enter God's presence before him. The king's final years, however, were marked by illness as well as a succession dispute among his relatives.

In 1038, on the feast of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, Stephen delivered his final words to leaders of the Church and state, telling them to protect and spread the Catholic faith. To the Virgin Mary, the king directed one of his final prayers: "To thee, O Queen of heaven, and to thy guardianship, I commend the holy Church, all the bishops and the clergy, the whole kingdom, its rulers and inhabitants; but before all, I commend my soul to thy care." St. Stephen of Hungary died on August 15, 1038. He was buried alongside his son St. Emeric, and the two were canonized together in 1083. He is the patron saint of bricklayers and Hungary.

SOURCE: <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/saint/st-stephen-of-hungary-565>; <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-stephen-of-hungary>

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