I thought that for this issue of the Messenger, I would mention one of the groups that I have been involved with for the last four years. This group is the St. Padre Pio Prayer Group of Northeast Ohio. This group was founded in 1969 by Sr. Jeanne Marie Glorioso, H.M. On February 2, 2013, the current St. Padre Pio Prayer Group has been meeting at St. Barnabas Parish, in Northfield, Ohio. Cindy Russo is our current lay leader and I am the Spiritual Director. Our meetings are held on the first Saturday of every month, starting with the parish’s 8:30 a.m. Mass. We continue with the Rosary, the Divine Mercy Chaplet and a Litany of St. Padre Pio. These events all take place in the church. We move to the cafeteria for some food and hear a guest speaker.

Here are some of the activities and events that our group has been involved in over the last four years. There have been pilgrimages near and far. We have visited the shrine of the World Apostolate of our Lady of Fatima, in Washington, New Jersey; the St. Padre Pio Shrine, in Barto, Pennsylvania; the Shrine of our Lady of Consolation, in Belleville, Ohio; the shrine of Ven. Solanus Casey, in Michigan; the Basilicas of St. Peter, St. Paul Outside the Walls, St. Mary Major, and St. John Lateran, in Rome; the Basilicas of St. Clare and St. Francis, in Assisi; and the Basilica of St. Padre Pio, in San Giovanni Rotondo. I know that I am missing some other locations, but we have gone to so many places. Cindy has been invited to hundreds of parishes, groups and organizations to promote St. Padre Pio and our group. There have been countless conversion, healings and peaceful deaths that are the outcome of our prayers and faithfulness to God. The Blessed Mother has been an important part of our group that is why we meet on the first Saturday of each month. We want to help people who want to share in Mary’s request of attending the devotion of the five consecutive first Saturdays Masses. Twice the International Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima has been sponsored by our group. The National and Cleveland Diocese Pilgrim Statue has also been with us. There are countless more “experiences” that have happened involving many of our members, but there is not enough space to recorded all that has taken place. That does not matter, what matters is that we offer ourselves to God. We are doing this by our involvement with the St. Padre Pio Prayer Group. This was the vision of St. Pio that people would gather to pray but to also put their time, talent, and treasure to work for the Church and to help the poor. As St. Padre Pio has said when he started the Prayer Groups: “Never grow weary of praying. Prayer penetrates the heart of God and obtains the grace needed.” Our group has taken his advice and we continue the good work that was begun in 1969.

I invite you to come to one of our meetings and experience our St. Padre Pio Prayer Group. Our group has grown and we now have people that come from all eight counties of our Diocese, but also the faithful from the Youngstown Diocese and Toledo Diocese. The blessings and graces that come from our St. Padre Pio Prayer Group will help each of us as individuals to become better Catholics, but also this will help our families and our parish family.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Edward J. Janoch
Parochial Vicar

Mosaic in Honor of the St. Padre Pio Prayer Groups, San Giovanni Rotondo
Photographer: Fr. Edward J. Janoch
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