Meeting Padre Pio

Cindy from Ohio told how she experienced an unexpected meeting with Padre Pio.

She and her husband were on a tour of Europe in the fall of 2010. At the same time a loved one was suffering from a serious illness and was not expected to survive. He was three years old. Cindy took pictures of the boy with her and wrote on the back to please pray for him. Whenever they visited a church in Spain, France and Italy, she would leave a picture of the young boy in a pew, at the altar or someplace in the church.

When they reached Rome, she and her husband were viewing the famous Trevi fountain and Cindy noticed a nearby Church. It was called SS. Vincenzo E Anastasio. She told her husband she would be right back after leaving a picture in the pew.
As she entered the Church a man was also entering. When they both got inside there was a monk in a dark robe tied with a white cord standing in the aisle. The monk gave the man the nastiest look and made him leave the Church at once. Seeing this, Cindy took a step back thinking she should not be in there, then the monk looked at her. All of a sudden Cindy saw her whole life pass before her eyes. She thought she was a good person, but was shown her faults. She tried to explain she was leaving a picture of her sick loved one and to pray for him.

Next, the monk took her to the holy water fount, poured water on her head and blessed her three times. Then he blessed the picture. She spoke no Italian, but understood everything the monk said. He wiped her tears and said that the young boy would be healed.

When she returned to her husband he asked what happened to her, seeing her head was all wet. "Did you fall into the Trevi fountain?" She then told him all that had happened.

At the next stop on the tour, Cindy went into the gift shop and there on the wall she saw a picture of Padre Pio, who had died in 1968. "That's the monk I saw," she exclaimed. She didn't know who Padre Pio was before this incident. A month later she realized that the day she met him was Sept. 23, 2010, St Pio's Feast Day. The young boy was healed. He is now a healthy seven-year-old.

Cindy has now changed her life and attends daily Mass. She shares her witness around the country and leads a 500 member Padre Pio Prayer Group in the Diocese of Cleveland.
I am a member of the Blue Army’s Cleveland Division, and this is how I came to acquire Padre Pio’s chalice.

In February 2013 I met a gentleman named Chris and his wife Tina from California. Unfortunately, Tina had stage three breast cancer. Before going for treatment she wanted to go to St. Padre Pio’s tomb in San Giovanni Rotunda. Tina had a very strong devotion to St. Pio. After visiting the tomb and praying, they went on to Milan. The day they arrived, the museum was conducting a liquidation auction. The only religious item put up for auction was St. Pio’s chalice. It had been donated to the museum in 1978.

Tina told her husband that she did not care if he had to sell their home she must have the chalice. No one else bid on the chalice.

When they arrived back in California Tina’s breast cancer was gone. They believed it to be a miracle received through the intercession of St. Padre Pio.

Sometime later, Chris offered to sell me the chalice for the exact amount he paid for it in euros, not a penny more. The chalice arrived in 2013 on Ash Wednesday. To my surprise I also learned Tina’s full name was Faustina. Inside the chalice can be seen a stain of St. Pio holding a chalice. The chalice was used in the 1960’s by St. Pio with his brothers at the friary. Now, whenever there is a Mass or event commemorating St. Pio in the area, I try to bring the chalice so the celebrant can use it in the ceremony.
To Be A Spiritual Child of Padre Pio

“I shall stand at the gates of Paradise until all my spiritual children have entered.” – Padre Pio

“I belong entirely to everyone. Everyone can say: ‘Padre Pio is mine.’ I love deeply my brothers in exile. I love my spiritual children as much as my own soul and even more I have regenerated them in Jesus through suffering and love. I can forget myself, but not my spiritual children.” – Padre Pio

What amazingly giving words and promises from our spiritual father! Because of these words he spoke so often in reference to his spiritual children, one of the most frequently asked questions received at the Padre Pio Foundation of America is, “How can I become a spiritual child of Padre Pio?”

The friary in San Giovanni Rotondo, defines the conditions necessary for becoming one of Padre Pio’s spiritual children as follows:

- To live intensely a life of divine grace.
- To prove your faith with words and action, living a true Christian life.
- To desire to remain under the protection of Saint Pio of Pietrelcina, and to want to enjoy the fruits of his prayers and sufferings.
- To imitate the Padre’s virtue, particularly his love for Jesus Crucified, for the Most Blessed Sacrament, for the Madonna, for the Pope, and for the entire church.
- To be animated by a sincere spirit of charity towards all.

Once these conditions are accepted, we tell people to ask Padre Pio, in prayer, to accept them. We pray a general prayer that those wishing to become one of Padre Pio’s spiritual children, are accepted. So while you are asking him in prayer, we are praying with you and for you!

The other question often asked is “how do I know if he has accepted me?” The people who ask that question are told to ask the same question to someone they know who is a spiritual child. Their answers are always the same. “I can feel it.” Many people visit the Padre Pio Foundation of America and tell them, “I am one of Padre Pio’s spiritual children.” When asked how they know that, they simply say, they just know it or they can feel it. It is something that comes from within them. There is a confidence that goes along with knowing you are one of Padre Pio’s spiritual children. Knowing you can pray to him, talk to him, ask him for help or to help others. It is a beautiful connection.