



Padre Pio of Pietrelcina Prayer Groups

“Indulge in reading holy books...

they are like pasture to the soul and a great support on the way to perfection”

Vigil for the liturgical feast of Saint Pio of Pietrelcina

22nd September 2023

The grace of holy meditation

Opening hymn

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Silent adoration

INTRODUCTION

Priest:

Brothers and sisters, on the occasion of the recent World Youth Day, the Pope often mentioned the need for a vital exchange between generations: faith must be lived, handed on, received and shared. The spirit of devotion to Padre Pio, and in particular of the Prayer Groups, is precisely that of sharing our faith, with simplicity, acceptance and above all willingness to listen. For all devotees of Padre Pio, but especially for members of the Prayer Groups, we begin a journey of education so that listening to and meditating on the Word of God may become the centre of our spiritual life. In this vigil, therefore, let us open our hearts to the richness of the Scriptures and to the light of the Holy Spirit to confirm us in these, our holy intentions.

A hymn may be sung invoking the Spirit of peace or a hymn praising peace.

Priest: Lord, our peace, come and renew our hearts

All: **Kyrie eleison**

Priest: Christ Jesus, who sacrificed yourself as a victim of reconciliation, come and give us salvation

All: **Christe eleison**

Priest: Lord Jesus, who, after your Resurrection, appeared to the apostles, make us live in the peace for which you died and rose again.

All: **Kyrie eleison**

Let us pray

O God, who sent your Son so that your promise of salvation might be fulfilled, make us disciples of your Word, that our hearts may always be docile to your teachings and a spirit of fortitude and perseverance may grow and mature within ourselves. Through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who is God and lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

From Isaiah's Book (55,6-11)

Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him,



and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.
For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there but water the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

From Psalm 118

Blessed are those who listen to the Word and keep it in their hearts

I will praise you with an upright heart
as I learn your righteous laws.

I will obey your decrees;
do not utterly forsake me.

How can a young person stay on the path of purity?
By living according to your word.

I seek you with all my heart;
do not let me stray from your commands.

I have hidden your word in my heart
that I might not sin against you.

Praise be to you, LORD;
teach me your decrees.

With my lips I recount
all the laws that come from your mouth.

I rejoice in following your statutes
as one rejoices in great riches.

I meditate on your precepts
and consider your ways.

I delight in your decrees;
I will not neglect your word.

Hallelujah Hallelujah

Whatever you shall ask my Father in my name, he will grant it to you.

Alleluia.

From the Gospel according to Matthew (13,1-23)

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. Then he



told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. Whoever has ears, let them hear.”

The disciples came to him and asked, “Why do you speak to the people in parables?”

He replied, “Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. This is why I speak to them in parables: “Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand. In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah: You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving. For this people’s heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.’

But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. For truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

“Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

The Word of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

From a letter of Padre Pio to the Blessed Maria Gargani

A Maria Gargani, San Giovanni Rotondo 16th September 1916, Epist. III, 249....

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Mental prayer or meditation is to be done as follows First prepare the point or subject you wish to meditate upon. There is not always a need to resort to a book to prepare the subject to be meditated upon, since every truth of our religion can and must be the object of meditation for the Christian soul. The soul habitually meditates on the life, passion and death of our Lord Jesus. No soul, however far it may be in the ways of God, should neglect this. Having prepared the matter to be meditated upon, place yourselves in the presence of God, humbling yourselves deeply to the consideration [of] who you are and to whom you present yourselves. Ask God for the grace to do the mental prayer that you are about to do well, so that you may obtain that fruit which God wants you to obtain from it. Finally, commend yourselves to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin, and to the whole heavenly court, that they may help you meditate well, keeping away distractions and temptations. Having meditated on the subject in all its particulars well, you then proceed to the propositions. Aim to amend yourselves of that defect which most keeps you from uniting with God and which is the cause of many other defects and sins of yours. You can also suggest you will practise such and such a virtue and then stop, when you have acquired it.



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Finally, you will then move on to ask God for all those graces and helps that you feel you need. You will recommend all men to the Lord, both in general and in particular. You will pray for the restoration of the kingdom of God, for the propagation of faith, for the exaltation and triumph of our holy mother, the Church. You shall pray for the living; you shall pray for the dead; you shall pray for the infidels and heretics and for the conversion of sinners.

Having done all this, you will offer up your meditation and prayer, together with the offering of your whole self, as well as of all those people who are most dear to you, you will offer, I say, everything to God together with the merits of Jesus and of his and our Mother. And all this you will offer up through the hands of Mary most holy, of the Guardian Angel, of Saint Joseph, etc.

Lastly, a brief examination of how you have conducted yourself in the said meditation; and, recognising that you are defective, you will humble yourself before God, asking for his forgiveness by suggesting a way how to atone for this.

I strongly recommend you should keep to this habit of meditating on your own in this way twice a day. You will endeavour to spend if possible not less than half an hour each time. Again if possible, you will keep this practice in the morning, so as to prepare yourselves for the battle, and in the evening to purify your soul from every earthly affection that it has given itself to during the day.

Hymn of adoration

Personal Adoration and meditation

Priest:

Brothers and sisters, Following the teachings of Padre Pio, let us also gather in silence and meditate on the Word delivered to us. We are advised to remain in silent Adoration for at least ten minutes.

At the end, it will be appropriate for the celebrant to say a few words of reflection and sharing.

Hymn of Adoration

Prayer for Casa Sollievo

Priest

Brothers and sisters, in union with all the Padre Pio Prayer Groups scattered throughout the world, we wish to pray for his beloved brainchild, the Home for the Relief of Suffering; the father left it to us as his spiritual legacy, so that through prayer and charity we might preserve his charism of love for the needy, and in particular for the sick.

Together:

O holy and glorious God, so full of love for your children
You sent your Son to give us life and salvation,
we thank you because the Holy Spirit,
poured out on the Church by Jesus
continues to bring forth brothers and sisters
who put their own existence at the service
of the poor, the suffering and the needy,
following the example of Christ.
Through the intercession of Padre Pio,
who carried the signs of Jesus' love on his body,
grant to his Work, the Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza,
the grace to be faithful to the charisma of its founder,
so that all of us can bring your love to the bed of the sick:
make the Casa a temple of life,



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guiding hearts to loyalty and transparency in their actions.
Instill feelings of gratitude and love
in the Prayer Groups and in the devotees of Padre Pio
so that even today they may be the sign of that same Providence
which wanted this work as a testimony
to all of the boundless trust in the Love and Mercy of God.

+ *father Franco Moscone crs*

Hymn of Adoration

COMMUNITY PRAYER

Brothers and sisters, may Mary's joy and amazement at holding the Son of God born from her be our amazement and joy at discovering that we are brothers and sisters in Him, all called to invoke God with the name 'Father'.

Let us pray together and say: **Father, give us your peace!**

- May the rulers who call themselves Christians overcome ethnic hatreds and national rivalries by rediscovering the reasons for a fraternity that generates peace, freedom and social justice in Jesus Christ. Let us pray.
- May every man and woman, in the amazement of seeing the smile of God shining in Christ, rediscover feelings, gestures, words of renewed brotherhood. Let us pray.
- Though they have received the Gospel in different traditions, may all Christians feel confirmed in fraternal communion by exchanging the joyful experience of the encounter with Christ among themselves. Let us pray.
- May the pastors of the Churches be in the midst of men the word that converts them so as to recognise in the other not an enemy, but a brother to be cared for. Let us pray.
- May our community be the place where we learn to combine the Word with the events of life and history so as to live a universal brotherhood in Christ. Let us pray.
- From all the earth may the praise of the poor rise up to God as they see their hopes fulfilled in the growth of a real fraternity between people and between peoples.

Let us pray

Our Father, Lord Jesus Christ, we untiringly implore the great gift of peace; grant this people of Yours, who with Mary invoke the gift of the Spirit so as to walk along paths of peace among all men towards the encounter with you. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

COMMUNITY PRAYER FOR ALL PADRE PIO PRAYER GROUPS

Lord Jesus, You called us to be together
as followers in Padre Pio's footsteps:
Give us your Spirit
So that with You we can say,
“Abbà Father”.
Through the intercession of Padre Pio,
Who was apostle of the Divine Mercy,
Make us missionaries of peace and mercy
For all the peoples of our times.



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Inspire us with feelings of loyalty and love,
So that we can become witnesses of Your Gospel in our families,
at work and among people.
Pour down Your blessings on us gathered here together,
so that filled with Your grace,
we may become like new creatures
Who trust totally in Your Divine Providence.
We want to abandon ourselves into Your embrace,
and looking towards Mount Tabor,
we shall follow You on Calvary,
Children and apostles of Your sanctifying love.

+ *father Franco Moscone crs*

BLESSING WITH THE HOLY SACRAMENT

Hymn of adoration

Let us pray

Lord Jesus Christ, who left us the memorial of your Passover in the sacrament of the Eucharist, let us adore the holy mystery of your Body and Blood with a passionate faith, in order to always feel the benefits of redemption in us. You are God ...

Blessed be God.

Blessed be His Holy Name.

Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true Man.

Blessed be the Name of Jesus.

Blessed be His Most Sacred Heart.

Blessed be His Most Precious Blood.

Blessed be Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.

Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete.

Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most Holy.

Blessed be her Holy and Immaculate Conception.

Blessed be her Glorious Assumption.

Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.

Blessed be St. Joseph, her most chaste spouse.

Blessed be God in His Angels and in His Saints. Amen.

Hymn to Padre Pio

***Image of Christ, marked with His Blood,
effigy of the Cross in the body of the Church!***

You know, good Cyrenean, what it is to perform in you
the trials and sufferings of our Savior;

You know, good Cyrenean, what it is to carry the weight
on the shoulders of your many brothers.

The Father, who is moved, celebrates the prodigal son.
Relive again, Padre Pio, beside those who are far away,
and the Father who is in heaven and does mercy,
for you faithful servant gives peace to those who return.