

Essential Evangelization

St. Padre Pio

Father Padre Pio, after celebrating Mass on September 20, 1918 and praying a prayer of thanksgiving, had a vision of Jesus. From that day forward he bore the wounds of Jesus in the palms of his hands, a rare mystic phenomenon known as the stigmata. Since his canonization by the great Pope John Paul II in 2002, many miracle cures have been reported through his intercession. On his canonization celebration, in one of the largest events of its kind, over 300,000 braved sweltering heat to attend the event at St. Peter's in Rome.

Born to a family of farmers in southern Italy in the late 1800's, Francesco Forgione took the name of Pio when he joined the Capuchins at the age of 15. Ordained in 1910, he was drafted during World War I and shortly thereafter contacted tuberculosis.

Fr. Padre Pio rarely left the friary after he received the stigmata, but busloads of curiosity seekers came to see him. He would hear confessions 10 hours a day and would heal the sick in between breaks. He saw Jesus in all the sick and suffering. In 1947, a 350 bed hospital, "The House for the Alleviation of Suffering" was built in his name on nearby Mount Gargano. He died on September 23, 1968 and his feast day is this Wednesday. Many of those who went to Father Padre Pio for confession said that he knew the details of their lives without it ever being spoken. Today, Saint Padre Pio is wonderful intercessor for healing the physically sick and the sick of the souls in need of reconciliation. When was the last time you experienced the joy and freedom of the Sacrament of Reconciliation? Perhaps Padre Pio can help!

"The life of a Christian is nothing but a perpetual struggle against self; there is no flowering of the soul to the beauty of its perfection except at the price of pain."

Quote from Saint Padre Pio

*This is one of a series of articles on
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