

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:

Feb 6 -  
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

Feb 15 -  
Start 33 Day Novena  
for Consecration to  
St. Joseph (see page  
9 of this newsletter)

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



# St. Padre Pio Prayer Group Newsletter

JANUARY 2021

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 1

## Jesus, Jesus, Jesus

January is dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus. "In the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those that are in heaven, on earth and under the earth" (Phil 2:10). Christ's name is chosen in heaven, and the Angel Gabriel announces it when he informs the Blessed Virgin of the incarnation: "Behold thou shalt conceive in thy womb and shalt bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus." It is a name that has marvelous implications, for it means "savior." The very name bespeaks the magnitude of His mission, His infinite love, a love that will cause Him to offer Himself up for us. The name of Jesus is the sweetest of all names, and He who bears it is most worthy of all love. He who calls Jesus his friend can be assured that this friend is the most devoted and unselfish of all friends. Jesus is our all. In His name we may pray to the Father with assurance of being heard. In His name the Church administers all her sacraments. In His name she offers all her prayers and blesses homes, the fields, and the sick. In the name of Jesus, she casts out evil spirits, and at the hour of our death bids us, "Go forth, Christian soul." When our soul has departed this life to seek its eternal home, the Church asks in the name of Jesus, "Eternal rest give unto him, O Lord." The Church assures us that whoever shall call upon His name will be saved.

**WHAT DOES THE NAME OF JESUS MEAN?** The name of Jesus is derived from the Hebrew name "Yeshua" which is based on Hebrew meaning to deliver; to rescue. The Holy Name of Jesus is, first of all, an all-powerful prayer. Our Lord Himself solemnly promises that whatever we ask the Father in His Name, we shall receive. God never fails to keep His word. When, therefore, we say, "Jesus," let us ask God for all we need with absolute confidence of being heard. For this reason, the Church ends her prayer with the words "through Jesus Christ," which gives the prayer a new and divine efficacy.

But the Holy Name is something still greater. Each time we say, "Jesus," we give God infinite joy and glory, for we offer Him all the infinite merits of the Passion and Death of Jesus Christ. St. Paul tells us

that Jesus merited the name Jesus by His Passion and Death. Each time we say, "Jesus," let us clearly wish to offer God all the Masses being said all over the world for all our intentions. We thus share in these thousands of Masses. Each time we say, "Jesus," we gain 300 days indulgence, which we may apply to the souls in Purgatory, thus relieving and liberating very many of these holy souls from their awful pains. They thus become our best friends and pray for us with incredible fervor. Each time we say, "Jesus," it is an act of perfect love, for we offer to God the infinite love of Jesus. The Holy Name of Jesus saves us from innumerable evils and delivers us especially from the power of the devil, who is constantly seeking to do us harm. The name of Jesus gradually fills our souls with a peace and a joy we never had before. The name of Jesus gives us such strength that our sufferings become light and easy to bear.



**WHAT MUST WE DO?** St Paul tells us that we must do all we do, whether in word or work, in the name of Jesus. "All whatsoever you do in word or in work, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ..." (Col 3:17). In this way, every act becomes an act of love and of merit, and moreover, we receive grace and help to do all our actions perfectly and well. We must therefore do our best to form the

habit of saying, "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus," very often every day. We can do so when dressing, when working – no matter what we are doing – when walking, in moments of sadness, at home and in the street, everywhere. Nothing is easier if only we do it methodically. We can say it countless times every day. Bear in mind that each time we say, "Jesus," devoutly: we give God great glory, we receive great graces for ourselves, and we help the souls in Purgatory.

**"Eternal Father, who didst give to thine incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be the sign of our salvation: Plant in every heart, we beseech thee, the love of him who is the Saviour of the world, even our Lord Jesus Christ; who live and reign with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen."**

*“The aim of this Apostolic Letter is to increase our love for this great saint, to encourage us to implore his intercession and to imitate his virtues and his zeal.”*

APOSTOLIC LETTER, **PATRIS CORDE** [With a Father’s Heart]  
**OF THE HOLY FATHER, FRANCIS**  
ON THE 150<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
PROCLAMATION OF SAINT JOSEPH AS PATRON OF THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH

This Apostolic Letter, *Patris Corde* [With a Father’s Heart] came as a great surprise to me. I did not hear about this until after I had already offered the Mass for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. I find this as another “God Occurrence” for many of us consecrated ourselves to Saint Joseph last year. Fr. Donald Calloway expressed his surprise that in the entire history of the Church, there has never been a Year to Saint Joseph. Well, Saint Joseph must have heard his and our prayers and moved Pope Francis to declare this year as a Year to Saint Joseph. How appropriate for this Year of Saint Joseph on the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the proclamation of Saint Joseph as the Patron of the Universal Church.

The Apostolic Letter mentions the different roles that Saint Joseph played in the life of the Holy Family and how we desperately need a “father” to help us wondering “children of God” who have been going astray as the lost sheep or the prodigal son. God the Father seems to be unapproachable and distant, so He sent His Son, Jesus Christ to be made incarnate in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This has helped us to be able to better grasp the Father through His Son Jesus Christ. But on earth, Jesus needed a father and God the Father chose Saint Joseph to fulfill that role. We do not know much of Saint Joseph, but we know that he was a man who was obedient and faithful to God by listening to the messengers that God sent to him. We also read that it is implied that Saint Joseph was also a chaste man who honored the virginity of his wife Mary and the mystery that surrounded her and the birth of Jesus Christ.



Our world today needs a model of someone who is obedient, strong, wise, chaste, faithful, courageous, and loving. Saint Joseph fits that need exactly. As we struggle as parents, especially to the fathers among us, to keep our children protected from the wickedness and snares of the devil, we need a patron, an example of what it means to be a father [biological and spiritual], parent, guardian, and spouse that will protect his children from all that is evil. May we let this year of Saint Joseph empower us to become strong in the faith and to bring all souls to the glory of God and to their salvation. Saint Joseph, patron saint of the Universal Church, Pray for Us! Be with us in this Year of the Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-one.

P.S. Pray for our spiritual fathers, the priests and bishops.

# Spiritual Inventory

With the start of the New Year, it is a great time to take a spiritual inventory and assess the past year.

Are you at the same place spiritually where you were a year ago? Have you lived the Gospel? Honesty is the key. What do you believe about God? Which beliefs are central to your sense of identity? Have you been an obedient servant? What have you taken for granted? Very often we don't take the time to look at ourselves closely. Sometimes, when we do, what we find surprises us.

What would you say is your personal faith statement? Has your faith increased or decreased? You really need to dig deeply here. What do you believe? What are your biggest doubts and questions? Doubts and questions are great teachers and an important part of mature faith. The purpose of writing these down is not to identify weakness or problems. Quite the opposite, identifying doubts and questions help make space for us to understand how the spirit is at work and where our faith is growing.

What haunts you? What is bothering you? What can't you reconcile? Put these things down on paper. Sometimes just naming these things and writing them down can do remarkable things.

When do you hear God's voice most clearly, now or in the past? Perhaps there is a certain place you go where you hear God's voice most clearly, or a certain state of being you are in when you feel the most connected to God.

When do you feel most spiritually connected? When are you at most peace with yourself and others? How have your beliefs changed over time? How are they in the process of changing? What season or shape is your faith and spirituality taking right now? Faith and spiritual wellness seems to change with seasons. Some describe "dry" or "dark" times of the soul when things are challenging or difficult. Others talk about "mountaintop" experiences when things seem to be going really well. Sometimes it's hard to tell what season one is in at any particular time, but it's helpful to take a look behind and consider how beliefs have changed over time, or are in the process of changing.

What spiritual practices are nurturing to you? For this question, it might be helpful to think in terms of past spiritual practices, present ones and those that you'd like to try in the future. Spiritual practices might be labeled as "traditional" (such as prayer, meditation,

**4 DAILY HABITS TO KEEP YOUR FAITH ALIVE**

- Nightly Examination**  
This is important and it helps prepare you for your next confession. It is healthy to examine your faults and failings and to ask God's help to overcome them.
- Morning Offering**  
By praying a morning offering, you dedicate the rest of the day to God, which then prepares you to tackle anything that comes at you during the day.
- 15 minutes of Mental Prayer**  
It consists of a "heart-to-heart" with God and leaving time for talking and listening. God is extremely interested in what is going on in your life.
- 15 minutes of Spiritual Reading**  
One way to do this is to read the Gospel reading for today and then find a spiritual book that will help you grow in your relationship with God.

fasting, reading, retreats or acts of service) as well as those that might be unique to you: silence, poetry, art, walking, gardening, journaling, running; whatever practice helps you to feel most spiritually alive and connected and able to hear God's voice. Perhaps there is a practice that was valuable to you in the past which has somehow faded away.


What goals would you like to implement in order to be more spiritually healthy? What are your spiritual goals? One helpful tip for goals is to make sure not to pile on too many. One or two is a great place to start; you can always add more, change or refine as time goes on. What steps do you need to take in order to make your goals a reality? Perhaps something needs to be moved off of your schedule in order to have the space and time to focus on a new goal. Perhaps you need to write it down or enlist the help of another person to encourage or help you stay focused. What resources do you have that will help you with your goal? And when will you begin? The sooner the better!



"So plentiful, O Christians, are the lessons that shine forth from the grotto of Bethlehem! Oh how our hearts should be on fire with love for the One who with such tenderness was made flesh for our sakes! Oh how we should burn with desire to lead the whole world to this lowly cave, refuge of the King of kings, greater than any worldly palace, because it is the throne and dwelling place of God! Let us ask this Divine child to clothe us with humility, because only by means of this virtue can we taste the fullness of this mystery of Divine tenderness." —taken from St. Padre Pio's hand-written notebooks

"Nothing can be heard except the sobs and whimpers of the infant God. And by means of His crying and weeping He offers to the Divine Justice the first ransom for our redemption." —St. Padre Pio

## Day by Day with Saint Joseph/January 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 Saint Joseph, lover of the poor, pray for us.  <b>4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	Remember, O most pure spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, my great protector, Saint Joseph, that no one ever had recourse to your protection, or implored your aid without obtaining relief. Confiding therefore in your goodness, I come before you. Do not turn down my petitions, foster father of the Redeemer, but graciously receive them. Amen.	<b>Memorare to Saint Joseph</b>			1 Saint Joseph, please speak now on my behalf to your spouse and her Son.  <b>THE OCTAVE DAY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD, SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD</b> First Friday	2 Saint Joseph, remind us of God's constant and faithful love.  Ss. Basil the Great and St. Gregory Nazianzen First Saturday
3 Dear Saint Joseph, bring your calm presence to me at the moment of my death.	4 Saint Joseph, we pray for the Church to grow in kindness and wisdom through your intercession.	5 Saint Joseph, like you, may we imitate Jesus, your Son, the Way, the Truth, and the Life.	6 Saint Joseph, please speak to your Son on behalf of all those who are sick.	7 Saint Joseph, be with me when I am sick and be at my side when I die.	8 Saint Joseph, may you and Mary, your spouse, watch over and protect the Church.	9 Dear Saint Joseph, help me to carry bravely my daily crosses.
<b>EPIPHANY OF THE LORD</b>	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton	St. John Neumann	Christmas Weekday St. Andrew Bessette	Christmas Weekday St. Raymond of Penafort	Christmas Weekday	Christmas Weekday
10 Saint Joseph, help me to worry less and to increase my trust in God.	11 Saint Joseph, please be with me when I receive viaticum at life's end.	12 Saint Joseph, give us strength to fight every temptation.	13 Saint Joseph, gently remind us about the dignity, importance, and value of work.	14 Saint Joseph, help me to ask, seek, and knock in good times and in difficult times.	15 Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, be with me during my last moments.	16 Saint Joseph, help us to remember that the Holy Spirit watches over the Church and strengthens us, its weak members.
<b>THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD</b>	[1 <sup>st</sup> Week in Ordinary Time]	Weekday	Weekday St. Hilary	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday BVM
17 Dear Saint Joseph, may I also be obedient to God's Holy Will.	18 Saint Joseph, together with all the angels and saints in Heaven, we give praise to God.	19 Saint Joseph, may I "let go" in faith and trust as you must have done at the end.	20 Dear Saint Joseph, may we love one another as the Holy Family did.	21 Brave Saint Joseph, help me to have courage and not be afraid.	22 Saint Joseph, pray for us now and at the hour of our death.	23 Saint Joseph, help me to stand by the Cross of our Lord.
<b>2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	Weekday Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Weekday	Weekday St. Fabian St. Sebastian	St. Agnes	Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children	Weekday St. Marianne Cope St. Vincent BVM
24 Saint Joseph, help us to know each other better, love each other more, and live in peace.	25 Saint Joseph, help me to pray constantly, as you and Saint Paul did.	26 Saint Joseph, help us to be patient, open, and swift to fulfill God's Will.	27 Saint Joseph, patron of the dying, please be by my side during my last moments.	28 Saint Joseph, Light of Patriarchs, pray for us.	29 Saint Joseph, may you guard and protect our present Holy Father.	30 Saint Joseph, faithful guardian of Christ, pray for us.
<b>3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL	Ss. Timothy and Titus	Weekday St. Angela Merici	St. Thomas Aquinas	Weekday	Weekday BVM [31 <sup>st</sup> , Upper Left]

## “Pray It Forward” 2021 Challenge

Have you ever asked yourself whether your love, care and concern for others extends to their eternal salvation? I'm sure your answer would be a resounding YES!!!

Supporting that affirmation are words and clear directives from past Popes and Saints:

- “By our baptism we have been commissioned by the Lord Jesus Christ to fulfill the mission of saving souls.” (Pope Benedict XVI)
- “Know that the greatest service that a man can offer to God is to help convert souls.” (St. Rose of Lima)
- “Our business is to attain heaven; everything else is a sheer waste of time.” (St. Vincent De Paul)
- “As the family goes, so goes the nation and so goes the world.” (Pope Saint John Paul II)

Let us be inspired by Jesus's words to St Faustina when he said to her "Fight like a knight, so that I can reward you. Do not be unduly fearful, because you are not alone."

Our Lord Jesus Christ provided further directive to St. Faustina which was outlined in her personal diary (742). The Lord said to her "I am giving you 3 ways of exercising mercy toward your neighbors: the first—by deed, the second—by word, the third—by prayer. The three degrees contain the fullness of mercy and it is an unquestionable proof of love of me."

Our Lord's directive to St. Faustina can be accomplished by our use of the Rosary Scapular. By Deed, we can provide the Rosary Scapular to others. By Word, we can explain the meaning of wearing/using this Sacramental on a regular, daily basis. Finally, by Prayer we can consecrate ourselves to Mary's Immaculate Heart by praying the rosary daily (<https://tinyurl.com/History-of-the-Rosary-Scapular>).



Based on the above, we would like to propose a challenge to all Padre Pio Prayer Group members for 2021: the "Pray It Forward" 2021 Challenge. The methods of meeting this challenge are simple:

1. Continue purchasing Rosary Scapulars and set a personal goal for the year by committing to purchase at least a rosary per month to share with others (benefits evangelization and fundraising efforts).
2. Reap the benefits of your actions by transforming this disordered world to one of Peace (benefits tranquility of soul).

Let our battle cry be the following: "From today on, I do the Will of God everywhere, always and in everything!" Are you ready?

## Together Strong: Life Unites!



The 48th annual March for Life will take place on Friday, January 29, 2021 with a theme of "Together Strong: Life Unites!". The March for Life is an inspiring, peaceful, vibrant, and joy-filled rally of men, women, young people, and children from all across the country. Every year, tens of thousands of pro-lifers converge on the National Mall

and march on Capitol Hill on the anniversary of the Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling which legalized abortion in all 50 states. It's the largest annual human rights demonstration in the world. But this is not just a protest ... TOGETHER, WE GATHER TO CELEBRATE LIFE. We celebrate each and every life, from the moment of conception. We envision a world where every life is celebrated, valued, and protected. Many members of our Prayer Group travel to Washington D.C. to March annually.

### Prayer to End Abortion

Eternal Father, You have revealed Yourself as the Father of all Life. We praise You for the Fatherly care which You extend to all creation, and especially to us, made in Your image and likeness. Father, extend Your hand of protection to those threatened by abortion, and save them from its destructive power. Give Your strength to all fathers, that they may never give in to the fears that may tempt them to facilitate abortions. Bless our families and bless our land, that we may have the joy of welcoming and nurturing the life of which You are the source and the Eternal Father. Amen.

**If unborn children could speak, wouldn't they say, "Let me be born. Let me walk, learn, dance and sing. Let me love God, pray, and make my contribution to the world. Let me fall in love, and know truth, beauty and goodness." Wouldn't they say all of these things? Wouldn't they? --Bishop Donald Hying**

# Plenary Indulgence in this Year of Saint Joseph

**For this special year, the Apostolic Penitentiary is offering special opportunities to obtain indulgences.**

Pope Francis on December 8 announced a special year dedicated to Saint Joseph starting with the announcement and lasting through December 8, 2021, the feast of the Immaculate Conception. The special year marks the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of Saint Joseph as the Patron of the Universal Church.

The Apostolic Penitentiary also issued a decree granting special indulgences for the duration of the special year to celebrate the anniversary and “to perpetuate the entrustment of the whole Church to the powerful patronage of the Custodian of Jesus.”

During this period, the faithful will have the opportunity to commit themselves “with prayer and good works, to obtain, with the help of Saint Joseph, head of the heavenly Family of Nazareth, comfort and relief from the serious human and social tribulations that besiege the contemporary world today.”

## Devotion to Saint Joseph

The decree notes that devotion to Saint Joseph has grown extensively throughout the history of the Church, “which not only attributes to him high reverence after that of the Mother of God his spouse, but has also given him multiple patronages.”

At the same time, the Magisterium of the Church continues to discover “old and new greatness in this treasure which is Saint Joseph, like the master in the Gospel of Matthew who brings from his storeroom both the new and the old.”

Therefore, the gift of indulgences granted through a decree of the Apostolic Penitentiary by mandate of the Holy Father “will be of great benefit to the perfect attainment of the appointed purpose.”

## Conditions for the plenary indulgence

The plenary indulgence is granted to the faithful **under the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic Communion, and prayer for the Pope’s intentions)** to Christians who, with a **spirit detached from any sin**, participate in the Year of Saint Joseph on



these occasions and manners indicated by the Apostolic Penitentiary:

- The plenary indulgence is granted to those who will **meditate for at least 30 minutes on the Lord’s Prayer, or take part in a Spiritual Meditation on Saint Joseph.** “Saint Joseph, an authentic man of faith, invites us”, the decree reads, “to rediscover our filial relationship with the Father, to renew fidelity to prayer, to listen and correspond with profound discernment to God’s will.”
- The indulgence can also be obtained by those who, following Saint Joseph’s example, will perform a **spiritual or corporal work of mercy.** Saint Joseph “encourages us to rediscover the value of silence, prudence, and loyalty in carrying out our duties,” the decree notes.
- **The recitation of the Holy Rosary in families and among engaged couples is another way of obtaining indulgences,** in order that “all Christian families may be stimulated to recreate the same atmosphere of intimate communion, love and prayer that was in the Holy Family.”
- Everyone who **entrusts their daily activity to the protection of Saint Joseph,** and every faithful who **invokes the intercession of Saint Joseph so that those seeking work can find dignifying work** can also obtain the plenary indulgence. On 1 May 1955, Pope Venerable Pius XII instituted the

*(Continued on page 7)*

*(Continued from page 6)*

feast of Saint Joseph “with the intent that the dignity of work be recognized by all, and that it inspires social life and laws, based on the fair distribution of rights and duties.”

- The plenary indulgence is also granted to the faithful who will recite the **Litany to Saint Joseph (for the Latin tradition), or the Akathistos to Saint Joseph (for the Byzantine tradition)**, or any other prayer to Saint Joseph proper to the other liturgical traditions, for the persecuted Church *ad intra* and *ad extra*, and for the relief of all Christians suffering all forms of persecution. Because, the decree notes, “the flight of the Holy Family to Egypt shows us that God is there where man is in danger, where man suffers, where he runs away, where he experiences rejection and abandonment.”

**More indulgence options:**

In addition to these, the Apostolic Penitentiary grants a plenary indulgence to the faithful who will recite any legitimately approved prayer or act of piety in honor of Saint Joseph, for example, “To you, O blessed Joseph” especially on “March 19, on May 1, the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph [the Sunday between Christmas and New Year’s Day], on Saint Joseph’s Sunday (according to the Byzantine tradition) on the 19th of each month, and every Wednesday, a day dedicated to the memory of the saint according to the Latin tradition.”

“To you, O blessed Joseph”

To you, O blessed Joseph,  
do we come in our tribulation,  
and having implored the help of your most holy Spouse,  
we confidently invoke your patronage also.

Through that charity which bound you  
to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God  
and through the paternal love  
with which you embraced the Child Jesus,  
we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance  
which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood,  
and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities.

O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family,  
defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ;  
O most loving father, ward off from us  
every contagion of error and corrupting influence;  
O our most mighty protector, be kind to us  
and from heaven assist us in our struggle  
with the power of darkness.

As once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril,  
so now protect God’s Holy Church  
from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity;  
shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection,  
so that, supported by your example and your aid,  
we may be able to live piously, to die in holiness,  
and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven.

**Amen.**

The decree recalls the universality of St. Joseph’s patronage of the Church, noting that Saint Teresa of Ávila recognized him as “a protector for all the circumstances of life.”

Pope Saint John Paul II also said that Saint Joseph has “a renewed relevance for the Church of our time, in relation to the new Christian millennium.”

**For the sick**

Amid the ongoing Covid-19 health crisis, the gift of the plenary indulgence is also extended to the sick, the elderly, the dying and all those who for legitimate reasons are unable to leave their homes.

They too can obtain the plenary indulgences if they are detached from any sin and have the intention of fulfilling, as soon as possible, the three usual conditions and recite an act of piety in honor of Saint Joseph, offering to God the pains and hardships of their lives.

**The role of priests**

The Apostolic Penitentiary encourages priests to pastorally facilitate the celebration of the Sacrament of Penance and the administration of Holy Communion to the sick with a willing and generous spirit.

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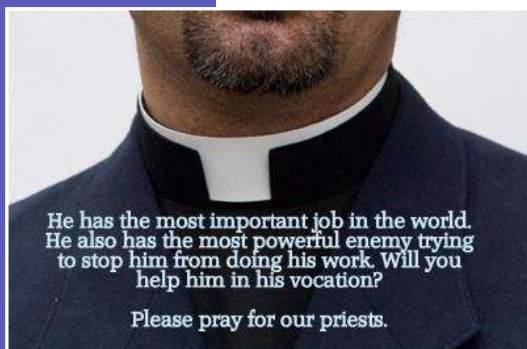


Give us  
priests  
who are  
on fire.

## Prayer for Priests

As we begin this new year, let us resolve to hold the Holy Priesthood and those called to the service of the Lord in our hearts of prayer. May St. Therese, The Little Flower, assist us in this endeavor with her own prayer.

### Prayer for Priests by St. Therese of Lisieux



'O Holy Father, may the torrents of love flowing from the sacred wounds of Thy Divine Son bring forth priests like unto the beloved disciple John who stood at the foot of the Cross;

priests: who as a pledge of Thine own most tender love will lovingly give Thy Divine Son to the souls of men.

May Thy priests be faithful guardians of Thy Church, as John was of Mary, whom he received into his house.

Taught by this loving Mother who suffered so much on Calvary, may they display a mother's care and thoughtfulness towards Thy children.

May they teach souls to enter into close union with Thee through Mary who, as the Gate of Heaven, is specially the guardian of the treasures of Thy Divine Heart.

Give us priests who are on fire, and who are true children of Mary, priests who will give Jesus to souls with the same tenderness and care with which Mary carried the Little Child of Bethlehem.

Mother of sorrows and of love, out of compassion for Thy beloved Son, open in our hearts deep wells of love, so that we may console Him and give Him a generation of priests formed in thy school and having all the tender thoughtfulness of thine own spotless love.'

Amen.

## Who Am I?

You ask me, who am I?  
I am the echo of a voice.  
You ask me, who am I?  
I am a Breath, a wind.  
You ask me, who am I?  
I am a flame.  
You ask me, who am I?  
I am a tear.  
You ask me, who am I?  
I am a bride.  
You ask me, who am I?  
I am a sinner God has touched.  
You ask me, who am I?  
I will answer you...  
A fool in love with God.



### *A Note from Fr. Jeffrey Pomeisl:*

Thank you! Thank you for your invitation to speak to your group in December, for letting me pray with you, and for being such gracious hosts. I loved being with your Padre Pio Prayer Group. The topic of my talk was the Society and Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. I explained that we are a group of Catholic priests and lay people committed to living and spreading St. Joseph's Workshop. We discussed how the Workshop is a simple system of forming people in the spirituality of the Holy Family: a particularly strong love of the family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, which leads to an emphasis on living in the grace of the Trinity, the importance of family virtues, and actively sharing these ideas and practices with our neighbors, especially within our parishes. I was pleasantly surprised to learn that so many of you are of the same mindset - we have lots of things in common! Not the least of which is that St. Padre Pio is our patron saint. Well, on behalf of the Society, I just wanted to thank you and assure you of our prayers. And I couldn't wait to deliver great news. I had ended the talk by asking for your prayers. They worked! God sent new vocations to the Society. These people are lovely Catholics and will serve the Church well. They committed, on the Feast of the Holy Family, to live and promote the Workshop -- each in their own unique ways, within the context of their normal lives. Our hope, if it's God's plan, with your help and God's grace, is that next year on this day we will have even more new vocations. Thank you all, and "benedicamus Domino," let us bless the Lord!



# Dear Spiritual Brothers and Sisters of Padre Pio



Our December prayer gathering was amazing. Fr. Michael Petkosek was the main celebrant at Holy Mass and delivered an inspiring homily. Fr. Bill Browne concelebrated Mass and blessed Our Baby Jesus's from our Nativity sets. Our guest speaker, Fr. Jeffrey Pomeisl, gave a Holy Spirit driven presentation (see note on page 8). He confirmed that our Prayer Group is on the right path. God is so good. Thank you to Lisa, a member of our

Prayer Group, who donated to our group the Daily Devotional Book of Inspirational Quotes from St. Mother Teresa. We had the presentation and blessing of the St. Pio Blankets to the sick and dying. Thanks to Karen Hanna for leading this ministry and to all who donated a blanket.

I am so overwhelmed from the outpouring of generosity of our devotees with the Hospital Bed Drive for the St. Pio's Hospital, "The House of Suffering" in San Giovanni Rotondo. We are able to donate 5 beds @ \$1800 each. I was hoping perhaps for 1 or 2. **YES, 5 BEDS!** God answered my prayers. St. Padre Pio is smiling on us for continuing to assist him in his work.



On December 12 some pilgrims traveled to St. Bernard Church for the Feast Day Mass celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The Mariachi Music and the children's reenactment of Our Lady of Guadalupe's appearance to Juan Diego was priceless. Pastor Fr. Christopher Zerucha led the consecration to Our Lady's Mantle at the end of Mass. Mexican food and pastries were available afterwards. Others joined

us spiritually in the recitation at home. Consecration certificates are available at our January gathering.



Our Padre Pio Prayer Group will continue, in accordance with Pope Francis, to dedicate this year to St. Joseph. We will start the 33 Day Novena for Consecration to St. Joseph on February 15. For anyone who consecrated themselves last year, we will re-consecrate ourselves. Books will be available at the February gathering. Hopefully this year we will be able to celebrate St. Joseph's Feast Day at Church. I am looking forward to doing a St. Joseph Altar Table. Some suggested readings to get to know more about St. Joseph are shown below.

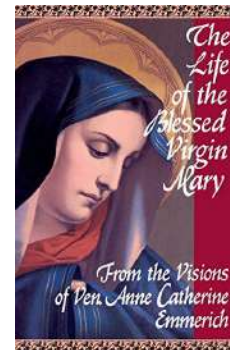
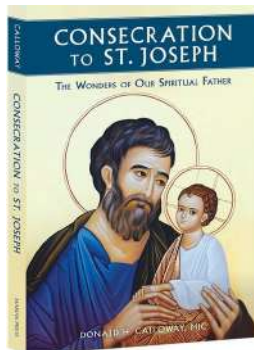


This year we have initiated a **"PRAY IT FORWARD" 2021 CHALLENGE**. Please read about it on page 5.

Pray for God's Mercy and Grace as we enter the New Year of 2021. Let us walk by faith, hope, wisdom and love, giving thanks to God for His compassion and righteousness!

Happy New Year!

Blessing 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.

Bobby	Bob Garcar	Joe Morici
Bernie Antonino	Kathy Hlad	Molly O'Leary
Barbara Bilinovich	Kyle Hrabusa	Eleanor Phillips
Mario Bruschi	Michael Hurley	Judy Purdy
Virginia DeJesus	Tony Kazmierczak	Anthony Rossi
Roy Evans	Irene Kovar	Abbot C. Schwartz OSB
Margie Ferfolia	Jonathan Lipreads	
Michele Ferrara	Mark Magda	
Marty Franck	Fr. Cory Mayer	

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

### † OUR CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF OUR RECENTLY DECEASED †

Jan Boczek, Prayer Group Member  
Bernie Hovan, husband of Jean Hovan (Prayer Group Spiritual Child)  
Ramon Pastrana, Prayer Group Member  
Jim Petsche, Prayer Group Member



## Jake's Corner

For January, I am writing about Saint André Bessette. Alfred Bessette was born on August 9, 1845, in Québec, Canada. He became an orphan at age 12. Saint André Bessette had to

work very hard and he did not have much education. Alfred was very devoted to Saint Joseph. For some time, he tried to find work in the United States, but ended up returning to Canada.

He was encouraged by his local priest to consider a vocation to the religious life. Alfred was directed to the Congregation of the Holy Cross, founded by Blessed Basil Moreau, and was initially rejected due to his poor health. Alfred was determined to enter the Congregation and even sought the assistance of the Archbishop of Montreal. Ultimately Alfred entered the Congregation of the Holy Cross on December 27, 1870 and took the name André.

Since Brother André was sickly and had very little education, he was made doorkeeper of Notre Dame College in Québec. As doorkeeper, he greeted many people and a reputation built up around him being a miracle worker. Pilgrims were coming by the thousands and Brother André's superiors granted permission for him to see people at the train station across the street. Even with all the attention, Brother André knew that all these miracles were occurring through the intercession of Saint Joseph.

Brother André wanted to increase devotion to Saint Joseph and he wanted to build a Shrine in honor of Saint Joseph. He saved the money that he earned for giving haircuts and eventually had \$200 that he needed to make a simple Church in



honor of Saint Joseph. The Shrine opened on October 19, 1904, and in 1909, he was made the full-time caretaker of the Oratory of Saint Joseph.

Since the Oratory of Saint Joseph attracted large numbers, a plan was put in place to make a larger Basilica dedicated to Saint Joseph. For the rest of his life, Brother André devoted his time to receiving all the sick people that came to him. He was eventually known as the "Miracle Man of Montreal" and thousands reported miracles after praying with Brother André.

At the age of 91, Brother André died on January 6, 1937. It is estimated that one million people came to pay their respects to Brother André while his body lay in state. The Basilica in honor of Saint Joseph was completed and it remains a popular pilgrimage site to this day. The side chapels are filled with crutches of those who were cured and left them there as testament to the many healings that happened. Brother André was Beatified by Pope Saint John Paul II on May 23, 1982, and was Canonized on October 17, 2010, by Pope Benedict XVI.

Saint André Bessette is a great example of humility and a great example of trusting in God's Providence. He was an ardent devotee of Saint Joseph and all those miracles happened through the intercession of Saint Joseph. Saint André Bessette would always "Go to Joseph" and encourage others to do the same. During this year of Saint Joseph, may we, like Saint André Bessette, "Go to Joseph" whenever we're faced with any hardship, trials, and in times of sorrow. Furthermore, during this year of Saint Joseph, we should foster a greater devotion to Saint Joseph.

SOURCE: <https://holycrosscongregation.org/holy-ones/st-andre-bessette/>

Written by: Jake Snyder