

To all that Padre Pio endured during his monastic life, we can add another serious suffering, that of being assaulted on occasion by an angry and vicious devil and then enduring many times the wounds left after these attacks.

Padre Pio's holy life — which included lifelong pain, a monastic life filled with tiring duties, the practice of many virtues, and great love of God and the Blessed Mother — all were recognized when he was beatified in 1999 and canonized on June 16, 2002.

Padre Pio has left us a consoling thought that has encouraged many and could prove beneficial to those who suffer. As he once told a spiritual child: ***"Pray, Hope and Don't Worry."*** These words might well console those who experience not only sickness but the many other trials endured in the hardships of life.



IMAGE OF A FRIAR TAKING CARE OF AN ILL PADRE PIO

PLEASE VISIT THE WEBSITE: www.pamphletstoinspire.com

Heavenly Help for Those Who Suffer from

***Hernias,
Fevers, Indigestion, Intestinal Problems,
Nausea or Neck Tumors***



**Padre Pio visiting the sick at the hospital which he founded
*"THE HOME FOR THE RELIEF OF SUFFERING"***

Saint Padre Pio of Pietrelcina

(1987— 1968)

In the small town of Pietrelcina in southern Italy, Padre Pio was born on May 25, 1887 to Grazio Mario Forgione and Maria Giuseppa de Nunzio Forgione. He received the name of Francesco, the name of his little brother who had died in infancy. Other children in the family were an older brother and three younger sisters, all of whom benefited from the influence of religious parents who attended daily Holy Mass, recited a Rosary every night and fasted three days a week in honor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

Later in life Padre Pio confided that during his younger years he had conversed with Jesus, the Blessed Mother and his guardian angel and that he had been tormented by the devil. It was during these years, around 1897, when he was ten years old, that Capuchin friars canvassed the countryside seeking donations. Francesco immediately felt called to become one of them.

At the age of 15, in 1903, he received the habit of the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin and the name of Pio, a patron saint of Pietrelcina. A year later he made his first profession, and four years later he pronounced his final vows. Ordination to the priesthood took place when Fra (Brother) Pio was 23. By 1911 Padre Pio was beginning to experience his documented ecstasies. But even before this, in 1910, he had received the stigmata, the wounds of Our Lord's Crucifixion, while praying before a large crucifix.

During the years 1911 and 1916, Padre Pio experienced recurring health problems and was sent home to recuperate. He recovered sufficiently to return to his monastery, but then was called for military duty when World War I began. He served, very unhappily, from August 1917 to March of 1918 before being dismissed. After his discharge, he received the transverberation of the heart — a spiritual gift which was also experienced by a number of other saints, including St. Teresa of Avila. The visible stigmata, the five wounds of Christ, would remain with Padre Pio for the next 50 years, until his death, when they would disappear without leaving a trace.

Upon Padre Pio's return to monastic life, news of this favored priest spread prompting thousands of pilgrims to travel to Pietrelcina to obtain his counsel and relief for their souls through the Sacrament of Penance. To help these pilgrims, Padre Pio spent 19 hours of each day saying Mass, hearing Confessions and handling correspondence. He usually slept a mere two hours each night.

After a period of restrictions and controversies, Padre Pio continued his rigorous schedule and made plans to build a Home for the Relief of Suffering, a hospital which is still in operation. Padre Pio died on September 23, 1968. His death was followed by expressions of grief from over a hundred thousand people who had gathered for his funeral.

Many mystical favors were granted Padre Pio in addition to the stigmata. The blood of these wounds emitted a fragrant perfume, and he had received the gift of bilocation, the ability to be in two places at the same time. In addition, he could read the hearts of both the sinners and the devout who frequented his confessional. To this should also be added the gift of prophecy.

Not only did the good priest experience intense pain from the wounds of Our Lord, but he also suffered from a variety of ailments. His life of penance and contemplation was often marked by very high fevers that amazed attending physicians, as well as by the nausea and indigestion that he had experienced from his student days.

Padre Pio once confessed to his attending physician: ***“At intervals for several years, I have been stricken with pains which pierce deeply my intestines; now these intervals are so near each other, and the intensity of my suffering is so atrocious, that especially when I ascend the altar steps I must use extraordinary efforts to keep myself from fainting.”*** The examination that followed revealed a hernia that required an operation. This was performed in the year 1929 — without anesthetic, which Padre Pio had refused.

Another operation became necessary when a large tumor or cyst was found in the area of Padre Pio's neck. The operation to remove the tumor and the stitching of the wound took about half an hour. During that operation, which again was performed without any anesthetic, there was not “a word or complaint on the part of the patient.” When asked if the tumor ever bothered him, Padre Pio answered, ***“Certainly I had pain”*** — all of which he had suffered in silence.