

**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, OFS

**UPCOMING
EVENTS:**

Feb 16 -
St. Joseph Consecra-
tion starts

Feb 26 -
Ash Wednesday

Mar 7 -
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

Mar 19 -
Mass for the Conse-
cration to St. Joseph
at 6:30 PM, Our Lady
of Guadalupe Church

**Jan 17, 2021 to
Jan 26, 2021 -**
Pilgrimage to Holy
Land (see our
website for more
information)

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



St. Padre Pio Prayer Group Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2020

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 2

Beloved, Be-Loved

The month of February is dedicated to the Holy Family. They exemplify the perfect definition of love. We also celebrate the Feast of St. Valentines. He was the patron Saint of love. One of the best words in the Bible is the word *beloved*. "See what kind of love the Father has given to us that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know Him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as He is. Everyone who has this hope based on Him makes himself pure, as He is pure." 1 John 3:1-3.

God is trying to teach us about His kind of love in the Bible. Often one of the hardest things for a person to do is to accept unconditional love. Perhaps it is because the world is so empty of that kind of love. The world often displays a love that is contingent on the recipient's behavior or form of repayment of the love. It is a give and take kind of love...a "you scratch my back, I'll scratch yours" kind of trade-off for love. Sadly, many marriages share this kind of conditional love, where spouses agree to love each other as long as they are given equal or greater love in exchange. It is about themselves and selfishness.

The word *beloved* means "dearly loved, esteemed, favorite, worthy of love". It's a word indicating an action on the part of the one doing the loving. Love could be explained as wanting the best for someone, and that's exactly what God intends for us. God loves you simply because he loves you. You don't have to work for his affection. You don't have to set yourself straight before God can pour out his love over you. The God, whose love is so great for

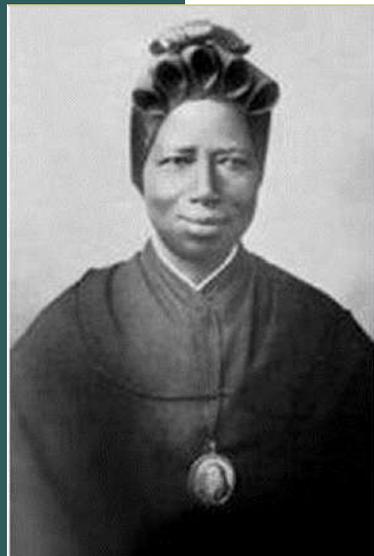
us that he sent his only Son to die that we might live through him, has chosen to love us, not because of who we are, but because of who He is. Our role in this is to BE-LOVED. Sometimes we struggle to accept that kind of unconditional love.

Perhaps certain circumstances of your life, such as your childhood, your family, your friends, your health, your job, etc. has caused you to question God's love. Take some time to read Job Chapters 38-42. Job was experiencing more heartache than any person should ever experience and he was questioning his situation and ultimately God's love for him at the time. God answers his dilemma. It's a challenging and encouraging read. We all have our Job moments in a sense, maybe not to his extreme circumstances.

We may never fully comprehend the love of God, but we can be encouraged that we have been called "beloved" and we can anticipate learning about and receiving more of His kind of love. Meditate on the thought that your role in this life is to "be-loved"! If only we could grasp that thought, it would calm so many anxious thoughts. He often lets his beloved suffer, to take up their cross and we can't see why. We can just know He knows the why and it is all allowed to happen because He loves us. God is not

an angry taskmaster who shows affection only when you succeed. He is a loving Father who will always love you no matter what. Take time to receive the depth of his love for you today. Allow his love to heal you, transform you, free you, and lead you to the abundant life he has always longed to give. Read, meditate and pray over these Bible verses about God's love as you walk in faith today.





REFLECTIONS FROM OUR
SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

It is February and we know what that means: “Happy 7th Anniversary!” Our Padre Pio Prayer Group continues to grow and more and more

people are deepening their faith and relationship with God through our Spiritual Father, St. Padre Pio. Our Prayer Group continues to provide more programs, projects, pilgrimages, prayer opportunities and parties to enliven our bodies, minds, hearts and souls to give Glory to God and for the salvation of souls. There are potential trips being considered to the Blessed Sacrament Shrine and EWTN in Alabama; and the Divine Mercy Shrine in Massachusetts. I am excited that we are going to work on the Consecration to St. Joseph, the Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. How can we not consecrate ourselves to St. Joseph? If we have consecrated ourselves to the Blessed Virgin, it is only natural to consecrate ourselves to her earthly spouse. The preparation for the consecration will begin on February 16, 2020 and conclude on March 19, 2020 on the Feast of St. Joseph. This will be a group consecration. You can go through the preparation for the consecration any time you want and can consecrate

yourself privately.

During the month of February, there is a saint that I have come to admire. It is St. Josephine Bakhita. Her feast day is February 8th. She was born in the Sudan and was captured by Arab slave traders and was treated poorly by her captors and eventual master. She found her way into Italy and was made aware of the Catholic Faith. She was told by her mother that there is a god out there who created everything and loves her. She discovered the God who loves her through the Son of God, Jesus Christ. She is quoted as saying: *Seeing the sun, the moon and the stars, I said to myself, 'Who could be the Master of these beautiful things?' I felt a great desire to see him, to know him and to pay him homage.* She joined an



order of religious sisters and died in 1947. Another quote from St. Josephine shows her forgiveness and her desire for saving souls. *If I were to meet the slave-traders who kidnapped me and even those who tortured me, I would kneel and kiss their hands, for if that did not happen, I would not be a Christian and Religious today... The Lord has loved me so much: we must love everyone... we must be compassionate!* St. Josephine Bakhita, pray for us.

Continue to pray for me as I pray for you.



“Fear Not Little Flock” - Jesus

This article contains examples and quotes about overcoming fear. It is recommended that throughout the month you meditate on the words which resonate with you.

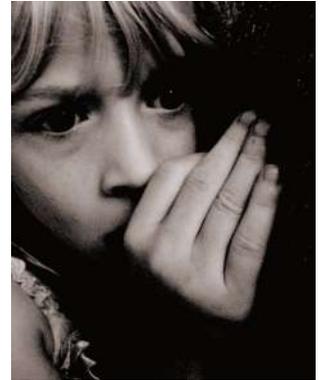
- Regarding political correctness –When we stand before Jesus at the end of our life, if all the people on earth thought we were wrong or evil, and Jesus alone knew we were right, we will hear the words, “well done good and faithful servant; enter into my kingdom.” THE JUST WILL BE VINDICATED.
- Rudolf Hess, the commandant of Auschwitz responsible for the murder of 3 million people was powerful for a few years. Just moments before he was to be executed, he realized that his house of Nazism was built on sand. He called for a priest and confessed his horrible sins. You will have inner security all the days of your life and at the time of death if, as Jesus recommends, you “BUILD YOUR HOUSE ON ROCK.”
- Consider the humble courage of Mother Teresa at a national event with the pro-abortion president Bill Clinton in the front row. She spoke of the tremendous evil of abortion. The little one facing the powerful. How she pleased the heart of Jesus. “IN WEAKNESS THERE IS STRENGTH.”
- Satan uses noise to achieve his ends. He can cause “silent noise” in our heads to tempt, discourage, and make us fearful. In the face of temptation, we need to recall the words of Jesus: “BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD”.
- You can win the esteem of Jesus by not being afraid to pay the price for standing up for the Gospel. At the 2019 March for Life in Washington DC, Nick Sandman, a pro-life student from Covington Catholic High School, was unjustly vilified by left-leaning newspapers, networks, and congress people. Even his Catholic High School wrongly apologized for his presumed wrong behavior. There were death threats to his family who had to move out of their home. He has now been proven innocent and is winning lawsuits to show the pro-abortion powers-to-be that a fearless teenager is willing to stand up, for the Gospel scripture says, “A CHILD WILL LEAD THEM”.
- Outstanding baseball players at the plate in the opponents’ stadium ignore the jeers and boos of the crowd and focus intently on one thing—hitting the ball. We need to imitate St. Stephen, who, while being stoned to death, saw the sky open up and saw the Heavenly Father’s face: “BEHOLD THE FACE OF GOD”.

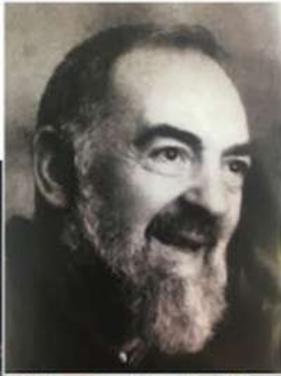
Many of the following are TRUISMS FOR REFLECTION. These truisms are taken from evangelical writer John Maxwell’s book, The Difference



Maker.

- We sometimes fear what is no more to be feared than the things children in the dark hold in terror and imagine will come true. (Lucretius, 60 BC)
- The thing I fear most is fear. (Montaigne, 1580)
- Fear makes come true that which one is afraid of. (Victor Frankl)
- The most insidious thing about fear is its ability to exaggerate itself. (C. Everett Koop)
- People have an inappropriate sense of what is dangerous. (Koop)
- Sometimes it is only our own thoughts creating potential dangers.
- If we give into our fear, we don’t move forward. We don’t receive the benefit of what we avoided, nor do we gain the valuable experience that would make us better informed. As a result, we remain ignorant about that area of life, and ignorance almost always breeds more fear, making it that much harder to push ahead and get things done.
- There are risks and costs to action, but they are far less than the long-range risks and costs of comfortable in action.
- If we are too afraid of failure, we will probably never win. Everything in life has some degree of risk.
- Fear and anxiety are debilitating emotions. They are interest paid on a debt we may never owe.
- Our anxiety does not empty tomorrow of its sorrows, but only empties today of its strengths. (C. Spurgeon)
- We cannot allow fear to master us and at the same time become the master of our strengths.
- Fear makes the wolf bigger than he is. (German proverb)
- Fear makes us sell ourselves short, robs us of our potential, and makes us smaller than we really are. (R. Hamrock)
- One of the greatest mistakes in life is the fear that we will make one.
- When we give into fear, we are already beaten.
- When a leader is ruled by fear, he becomes a lid to his followers.
- Our doubts are traitors and they make us lose what we often might win, by fearing to attempt. (Shakespeare)
- Most people’s fears are based not on facts but on feelings. Fear is False Expectations Appearing Real.
- One of the secrets of success is not letting what you cannot do interfere with what you can do. The other is going where you do not want to go and doing what you do not want to do. (W. Clement Stone)
- Pray, Hope, Don’t Worry. (Padre Pio)





THE WORK OF PADRE PIO CONTINUES



The Greatest Tragedy Is Wasted Suffering

Padre Pio considered his hospital to be his work. He even named his hospital 'The Home for the Relief of Suffering.' He said that God would bless those who bless his work. He had many obstacles along the way. Padre Pio, on the day of the hospital's opening on May 5, 1956 stated, "A seed has been sown on the earth that will warm with the rays of His love. A new army made of sacrifices and love will rise in God's glory and comfort the souls and bodies of the sick." On the first anniversary of the hospital's opening, May 5, 1957, Padre Pio again stated, "In the House for the Relief of the Suffering we pray constantly for the Pope."

The sick have much to offer. In many ways they are the Church's most powerful army. Please know that your suffering is precious and needed for the Church. Fulton Sheen said that the greatest tragedy is wasted suffering. It is critical that you not only pray for the Pope, but for all the needs of the Church and world. Your prayers, united to your suffering, are precious treasures and

gems in the sight of God. Pope Paul VI said on May 5, 1966, the tenth anniversary of the inauguration of the Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza, "The almighty and merciful Lord, who accepts for Himself every benefit given to his suffering brothers, will repay them many fold with generous measures and great abundance." The Pope's words echo Padre Pio's words when the Padre said, "God will bless those who bless my work."

When you offer up your suffering and give from the treasures of your pain, rest assured that God will abundantly bless you for your selflessness. Our yearly donation to the Headquarters of the Padre Pio Prayer Group in San Giovanni Rotondo goes to support the Casa Sollievo dell Sofferenza Hospital. Supporting Catholic Health Care was one of St. Pio of Pietrelcina's passions. Let us pray for all of the Catholic professionals treating the sick and dying with love and compassion as Jesus does.

A Prayer for Ash Wednesday

Gracious God, today begins a period of inner reflection and examination. The days stretch before me and invite me inward to that silent, holy space that holds your Spirit. This special time beckons me to see my life through Christ's eyes and the truth and reality of your love incarnate. Give me the grace to enter the space of these days with anticipation of our meeting. And, when I open my soul to your presence, let your loving kindness flow over me and seep into the pockets of my heart. I ask this for the sake of your love. Amen.



Prayer for Priests



Give them a deep faith, a bright and firm hope, and a burning love

This month we pray in dedication to Our Lady on First Saturday, The Purification on the 2nd, and Our Lady of Lourdes on the 11th, as well as for a specific intention for the Bishop:

Mother of our Redeemer, with great joy we call you blessed.

You believed in the Word of God the Father and declared yourself His handmaid, and so, through you, the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us.

In their frustrations, point out to them that it is through suffering that the soul is purified, and show them that they are needed by the Church; they are needed by souls; they are needed for the work of redemption.

Help them to live and to defend the ideals of consecrated celibacy.

We salute you as Mother, our Mother, the Mother of the Church.

With what great love you must have watched over the infant Church and what motherly solicitude encouraged the apostles as they committed themselves to carry on the work of Your Divine Son on earth.

Make the Church ever to be the sign and instrument of intimate union with God.

To you, our Mother, we entrust in a special way our Bishop and the priests of our diocese.

Give them a deep faith, a bright and firm hope, and a burning love which will ever increase in the course of their priestly life. In their loneliness, comfort them.

In their sorrows, strengthen them.

To them has been given a special sharing in the priesthood of Your Divine Son.

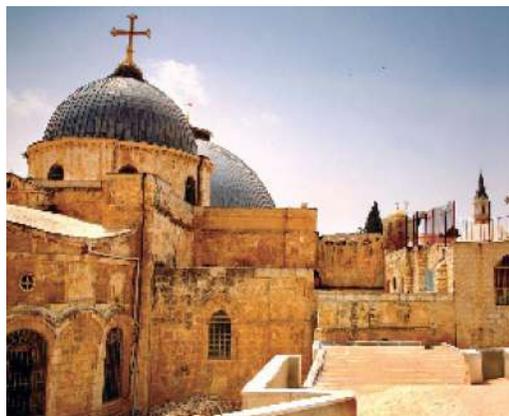
He has chosen them to be ministers of His Word and Sacraments.

Ask Him to fill them with zeal, to keep them faithful and joyful in His service, and so bring glory to the Father and honor to the Church.

Holy Mother, increase the ranks of our priests by inspiring our young people to be more generous in their response to serve Jesus in the priesthood and in religious life.

Sustain all of us, O Virgin Mary, on our journey of faith and obtain for us the grace of eternal salvation.

Amen.



Join the Padre Pio Prayer Group of Cleveland on a 10 Day Holy Land Experience

January 17, 2021 to January 26, 2021

Price: \$3,398 (per person based on double occupancy)

For more information:

www.padrepioleveland.org/pilgrimages.html

Dear Spiritual Brothers and Sisters of Padre Pio

Happy 51st Anniversary! Our Prayer Group started in 1969 by Sister Jeanne Marie Glorioso HM (1938-2016) at Lourdes Shrine in Euclid. Fr. Christopher Schwartz OSB invited Fr. Edward Janoch and myself to take over the prayer group 7 years ago. Our MISSION statement is to carry out the works, words and devotion of St. Padre Pio through prayer and charitable works where we can touch lives and change souls, bringing them closer to God. Fr. Schwartz predicted that we would grow and bring new life to the group, and we sure have! Our current enrollment is 749 members. This is truly a blessing from God. We welcome all the new members who have joined our Padre Pio Family this past year.

We have been blessed with the spiritual guidance and faithfulness of Fr. Edward Janoch and Fr. Bill Browne. We are in gratitude for the prayerful support of Fr. Kevin Shemuga and Fr. Michael Petkosek. The confession lines every month are getting longer and longer. Padre Pio spent 18 hours some days in the confessional. This month we will have more priests available.

We are running out of room in our gathering space after Mass, although this a great problem to have. We will be experimenting with different set-ups in the next few months, to see which set-up will work best for us.



We are in appreciation for Greg Nied's witness last month of his father's love reflecting the love that St. Joseph had to Jesus. You will need to put on your thinking caps for this month's presentation (hint: quiz time).

Queen of Heaven Parish in Green invited me to witness on January 12. It was a packed house for Mass and the witness. I want to thank Pastor Fr. David Durkee and his team who

coordinated the event. They all did an outstanding job! Thank you for the support of many of our Prayer Group members who attended. It was great to hear more stories of Padre Pio and how he has touched their life from people who attended the witness.



Another part of our ministry is to pray and visit the sick. There have been numerous hospital visits this month as well. Please remember to pray for the sick. We list them on the last page of our newsletter. We also thank all the Prayer Group members who attended the March for Life in Washington, DC.

The St. Joseph Consecration books will be available at the gathering. We will start the consecration on February 16. On the Feast of St. Joseph, March 19, we will have a Mass and consecration; St. Joseph's Table will follow.

Lastly, Lent will start on February 26. Prayer, fasting and almsgiving, when practiced, has a ripple effect of selflessness. We no longer view ourselves as the center of the universe. It is time to interrupt our habits that are doing little good, or even causing harm to ourselves and others, and replace them with holy habits that are life-giving. Start to begin the habit of holiness.

Sincerely,

Cindy Russo, OFS Group Leader



KEEP OUR SICK SISTERS & BROTHERS IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS

Call Helen Husky 440-232-3462 to add a member to the list.

Jan Boczek
Virginia DeJesus
Roy Evans
Marty Franck
Kathy Hlad
Joe Morici

Eleanor Phillips
Judy Purdy
Abbot C. Schwartz OSB

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

† OUR CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF OUR RECENTLY DECEASED †

Susan Gross
Diane Mary Isphording
Vivian Rose Zaratsian



Corner

Jake's

For February, I am writing about Blessed Tommaso Maria Fusco. He was the founder of many orphanages and the Daughters of Charity of the Most Precious Blood. Blessed Tommaso Maria Fusco was born on December 1, 1831, in Pagani, Salerno, Italy, to Dr. Antonio Fusco and Stella Giordano and the very same day he was Baptized at the Church of S. Felice e Corpo di Cristo. He grew up in a very religious and charitable home. His parents instilled in him a love for God and the poor. In 1837, when Tommaso was six years old his mother died of cholera, and a few years later in 1841, his father died too. One of Tommaso's paternal uncles took care of him and provided him with education. Saint Alphonsus Liguori was Canonized in 1839 and his story inspired little Tommaso. Tommaso wanted to become like Saint Alphonsus Liguori and to become a Priest.



Missionaries of Nocera and spent many years wandering, preaching, and instructing priests. Father Tommaso had a special love for the Sacrament of Confession. He also founded the Congregation of the Daughters of Charity of the Most Precious Blood to care for poor girls and opened an orphanage. On February 24, 1891, Father Tommaso Maria Fusco died of liver disease. His Holiness, Pope Saint John Paul II Beatified Father Tommaso Maria Fusco on October 7, 2001.

Blessed Tommaso Maria Fusco is a great model for priests. Through his zealous and selfless service, he was able to bring many souls to God. Even though his life was full of suffering, he never let it get the best of him, he knew that God had a purpose for him and would take care of him. Blessed Tommaso Maria Fusco gave hope to people when they were suffering, and may we, during February, be like Blessed Tommaso Maria Fusco and be people of hope.

Sources:

Catholic Online. "Bl. Tommaso Maria Fusco - Saints & Angels." Catholic Online, Catholic Online, 2020, www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php? saint_id=7702.

Faith ND. "Blessed Tommaso Maria Fusco." University of Notre Dame. 2020, <http://faith.nd.edu/s/1210/faith/interior.aspx? sid=1210&gid=609&pgid=18254&cid=35925&ecid=35925&crd=0>

Written by: Jake Snyder

BEST WISHES to our Spiritual Children celebrating birthdays and special occasions in the month of February!

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