

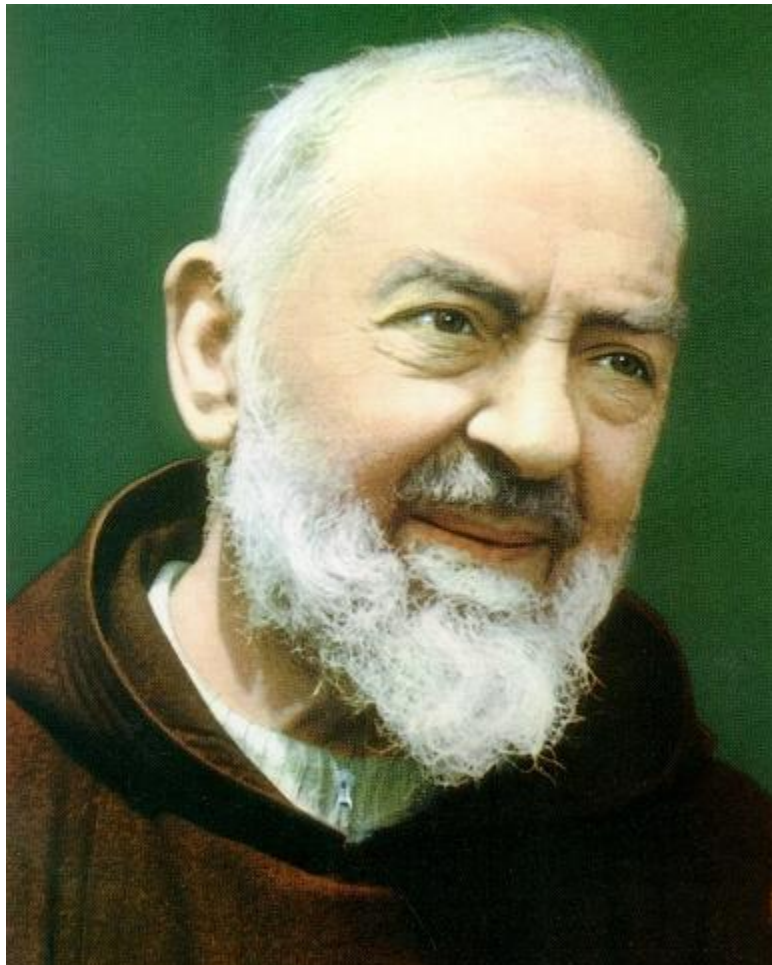
# **REGIONAL FORMATION: SUMMER STUDY ON FRANCISCAN SAINTS**

## **ST. PADRE PIO**

**Article written by:**

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Francesco Forgione, OFM Cap, better known as (Padre Pio and as Saint Pio of Pietrelcina) (Italian: Pio da Pietrelcina; 25 May 1887 – 23 September 1968), was an Italian Franciscan Capuchin friar, priest, stigmatist, and mystic. He is venerated as a saint in the Catholic Church, celebrated on 23 September.

Pio joined the Capuchins at fifteen and spent most of his religious life in the convent of San Giovanni Rotondo. He was marked by stigmata in 1918, leading to several investigations by the Holy See. Despite temporary sanctions imposed by the Vatican, his reputation kept increasing during his life, attracting many followers to San Giovanni Rotondo. He was involved in the construction of the Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza, a hospital built near the convent of San Giovanni Rotondo.

After his death, his devotion continued to spread among believers all over the world. He was beatified on 2 May 1999 and canonized on 16 June 2002 by Pope John Paul II. His relics are exposed in the sanctuary of Saint Pio of Pietrelcina, next to the convent of San Giovanni Rotondo, now a major pilgrimage site.

#### **Holy Spirit's gifts and fruits visible in Saint Padre Pio's Life:**

Patience, Mercy, Love, Compassion and Works of Mercy to Save Souls.

#### **How the saint's life influences your secular Franciscan life? and How saints life may help to guide us in our Secular Franciscan life?**

"Saint Padre Pio has Influenced Me to trust More in the Intercession of Our Lady The Blessed Virgin Mary Mother of God and to Recite The Rosary as much as I can to save Souls and to pray for the Franciscan Family. Because Being a Franciscan is also being in One with Marian Devotion to Our Blessed Mother. Like Her, We too must Care for the souls of others and to have trust in Her intercession and Trust in God's Providence. Also We must focus more on Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament due to the fact that St. Padre Pio had a strong devotion and connection to Our Lord as well. His famous words "Pray, Hope and Don't Worry" are My Motto to be a true Secular Franciscan."

So in Closing Brothers and Sisters, Like St. Padre Pio We too must trust in Our Vocation and Calling as Franciscans to do the will of Almighty God and to spread the Love and Mercy of his Only Begotten Son to Others and to One Another.

#### **A short refection for you:**

Close your eyes and imagine a beautiful Rose growing from the ground. Now imagine that your life as a Franciscan is that very same Rose. Imagine that the Rose is struggling to make it to its full potential but is halted by a freeze. Imagine that "Freeze" a freeze of your life as a Franciscan and think about what

is needed to thaw out from that Freeze. Implementing God's Infinite Love and Mercy as St. Padre Pio Did is a perfect remedy for thawing the Rose and bringing it back to Life!

Now Imagine you implementing a more Prayerful action in your Life as a Franciscan and Imagine how strong the Rose can grow to become something Beautiful and Sit still for a moment or two and let God speak to your heart and Imagine what You can do in Your Fraternity or in Your Parish or even in Your own Home. And watch The Beautiful Rose you help Grow become something wonderful and as Beautiful as a perfect Rose.

God Bless You, and May the Peace of Our Seraphic Father St. Francis of Assisi calm your mind, body and spirit and May whatever you take away from this Article help you in your own Franciscan Journey! In Francis and Clare,

**John Thomas Owens II O.F.S.**

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