

They decided to try with a bath thermometer, removed from the casing that could read up to 80C (176F). The thermometer read 48C (118.4). They couldn't believe it, so they tried with a laboratory precision thermometer. This time the temperature was 49C (120.2). They decided to inform the captain prof. dr. Felice D'Onofrio, chief of medical services. He came in, measured again, and the reading was 49C. "This is a mystery. This is impossible. I can't believe my eyes. He should be in agony. This man is either a saint or a devil." He prescribed quinine and went to see him in the morning. He took again the temperature and it was 36.7C (98.06). "I don't understand anything. Let's send him home to die in peace." He gave him a year of medical leave. Dr. Giorgio Festa in 1920 took Padre Pio's temperature as part of his investigation. The reading was 48.5C.

In 1921 Father Lorenzo, superior of the convent, testified under oath to Mons. Rossi, a skeptic, that he had personally witnessed and recorded Padre Pio with fevers of 43C (109.4F) degrees Fahrenheit, then 45C (113F) degrees, and finally 48C (118.4F) degrees.



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PADRE PIO'S FEVERS



This picture was take in Venafro when it was assumed that Padre Pio had only a few more months to live.

Padre Pio's Health

Padre Pio's health was not good. On October 1911, after a physical examination by Dr. Antonio Cardarelli in Naples, he was sent for convalescence to **Venafro**. According to the diagnosis of the celebrated physician, the young friar's days were numbered, and he couldn't travel long distances, which is why he was sent to **Venafro**, location of the closest convent.

During the month and a half stay in that convent, the community noticed the first supernatural phenomena: divine ecstasies lasting up to one hour, and diabolic apparitions lasting a few minutes.

In Venafro, from Fr. Agostino's diary: 'Starting in November 1911, I was present with Fr. Evangelista, the superior of the monastery, for a considerable number of ecstasies, and many instances of demonic oppression.'

"Satan would appear as a nude woman dancing lewdly, as his spiritual father, as his superior, Pope Pius X, his guardian angel, St. Francis, the Virgin Mary, and also as the horrible self, with an army of demonic spirits.

At times there were no apparitions but he was beaten until he bled, tormented with deafening noises, covered with spit.

He was able to free himself from the torments by calling on the name of Jesus."

Padre Pio always distinguished the devil's apparitions from the heavenly visions by asking: "Say Long Live Jesus." (Ripeti 'Viva Gesu'). If it was the devil, he would disappear.

November 6, 1915 Padre Pio was drafted, at age 28.

December 6, 1915 recruit #12094, assigned to the 10th Company of Health in Naples

December 17, 1915 medical consultation diagnoses 'pulmonary infiltration', and grants 1 year of convalescent leave.

Starting February 17, 1916 he spent most of the convalescence in the convent of St. Ann Foggia, in search of a more suitable place for his frail health.

But even there he continued to feel sick: vomiting, sudden sweats, dizziness, and a very high fever.

At night, terrifying noises came from his room. They ended with a boom that would shake the walls and terrorize the other friars.

He told father Benedetto that it was the devil who, unable to win, exploded in fits of rage.

He stayed in Foggia until September 4, 1916.

September 4, 1916 Padre Pio moves to the convent of San Giovanni Rotondo

December 18, 1916 returns to the Military hospital.

December 30, 1916, new medical consultation. Granted 6 months of convalescent leave.

September 4, 1917, started training in the Military Hospital of Naples.

November 5, 1917, granted 6 months of convalescent leave.

March 6, 1918. Back in the military hospital.

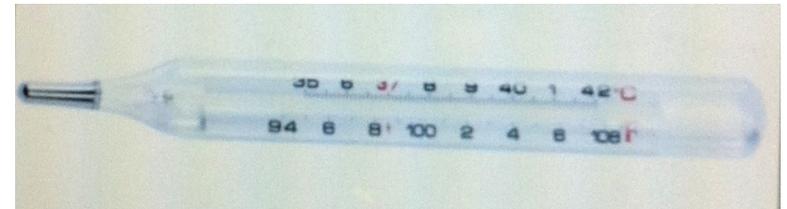
March 16, 1918 discharged for medical reason for "double bronchoalveolitis."

High "mystical" fevers :

"Padre Pio had long bouts of high fevers, followed by normal temperatures.

Padre Pio himself described the experience as a "moral, rather than a physical, illness" and said it was like he was "in a furnace, still always conscious".

A brother attested that "even under the strain of this fever, Padre Pio is not knocked down, but gets up, moves about, and can do everything."



The body temperature was taken by mercury thermometer, today no longer in common use.

Normal body temperature is 98.2°F (or 36.8°C). A temperature at or above about 104 °F (40 °C) requires treatment.

On December 1915 at the Trinity Military Hospital in Naples, during a routine physical, Padre Pio's temperature was taken by Dr. Giuseppe Grieco, lieutenant medical doctor in the Italian Army, with an armpit mercury thermometer. In less than one minute the thermometer cracked, having gone over the maximum temperature of 42C (107.6). Three other thermometers cracked the same way. Dr. Grieco called in a colleague Dr. Francesco Melle.