

One of Padre Pio's confreres described the wounds in Padre Pio's feet. "They were always swollen," he said, "very swollen, like melons, the right foot more than the left. I often thought that they were like Our Lord's feet on the cross. Probably the right foot crossed over the left and was more swollen, because the pressure of the right foot on the left would hold down the swelling."

In 1935, when Padre Pio's Mass still lasted over two hours, a spiritual daughter asked him: "Padre, don't you ever get tired, standing on your feet with those wounds?"

He replied: "I do not stand on my feet."

This answer puzzled her. "But Padre, I can see you stand on your feet. But then, if you are not standing on your feet, you must be on the cross."

He commented: "Is it only now that you are aware of it?"



Padre Pio visiting with his brother Michael.
(Notice Padre Pio's swollen feet.)

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The Wounds of Padre Pio's Feet



Padre Pio's shoes - Because of the wounds of the stigmata which pierced Padre Pio's feet, he had to wear specially made shoes of soft leather with the top cut out. His feet were always very swollen. His fellow Capuchins noticed that he sometimes rested his weight on the edges of his feet and his heels so as to take the pressure off of the center, where the wounds were.

Padre Pellegrino who attended him said,
"Padre Pio's feet were very painful, so much so that I was in a panic whenever I had to help him put on his shoes. It was enough to touch his
instep ever so slightly to cause him great pain."

The Wounds of Padre Pio's Feet

Dr. Luigi Romanelli, the Chief of Staff of the City Hospital of Barletta, Italy, was commissioned by the Father Provincial to examine the wounds of Padre Pio. Dr. Romanelli conducted five examinations over a fifteen month period ending with his report dated November, 1920, concerning the wounds on Padre Pio's feet in which he states: "The lesions of the feet have the same characteristics as those of the hands, but because of the thickness of the foot, it was difficult to experiment as accurately on the feet as on the hands."

At the behest of The General Superiors of the Capuchin Order in Rome, while Dr. Romanelli was in the process of conducting his examination, another examination had been conducted by Dr. Giorgio Festa, a noted surgeon whose medical practice in Rome was considered to be one of the city's best and who among other duties he was the head doctor and surgeon for the Capuchins at their Mother House in Rome. This examination took place on October 9, 1919.

What follows is Dr. Festa's report concerning the wounds on Padre Pio's feet: "During my visit, in order to observe the lesions on his feet more easily, I myself helped him to remove his socks. On the top part of both feet, precisely corresponding with the second metatarsus, I noticed circular lesions, reddish-brown in color, covered with a soft scab and of the same character and origin as the lesion of the hand. These wounds were perhaps little smaller and more superficial than those of the hand. Even here, the entire length of the metatarsal bone was not broken. There was no trace of infection, no edema, no inflammatory reaction in the skin surrounding the lesions. There, too, was a slow but continuous oozing of the bloody serum.

"On the soles of the feet, at a point corresponding to the top of the feet, I observed two other lesions, one in the sole of each foot, with clearly defined edges, perfectly identical to the wounds on the top, and all bloody.

"When pressure was applied directly to each of these tissues, no matter how gently the pressure was applied, it always evoked a feeling of very intense pain. There was also a feeling of pain in the area surrounding the lesions, but the pain was less intense."

Dr. Festa also states that the blood coming from the feet of Padre Pio could only have come from some kind of a wound. It was apparent to Dr. Festa that these wounds were starkly real.



"I have visual documentation," Dr. Festa wrote, "of the reality of these lesions. I have preserved two white woolen socks which Padre Pio had worn for a very short time. Each of these clearly showed a large bloodstain, round in shape, still reddish in color with bits of blood clots adhering to it. These stains correspond to the places where the four wounds appear, namely: one on top of the left foot, one on top of the right foot, one on the bottom of the left foot, and one on the bottom of the right foot."

Padre Pio's slow and hesitating gait showed how agonizing were his wounds. He hobbled rather than walked. He probably would have been unable to walk at all, if it were not for his specially made sandals. They were styled like shoes, flexible, and made partially out of cloth. They were sent to him as a gift by friends in Switzerland.

One day a man from India visited Padre Pio. He was so overawed that he fell to his knees at Padre Pio's feet. Clasp his hands and bowing his head almost to the ground, in typical Indian fashion, he touched the Capuchin's stocking covered feet. He did not realize that those feet were dug with the same raw wounds that Padre Pio bore in his hands. Padre Pio screamed out in pain, until he checked himself and smiled on his well-intentioned admirer.