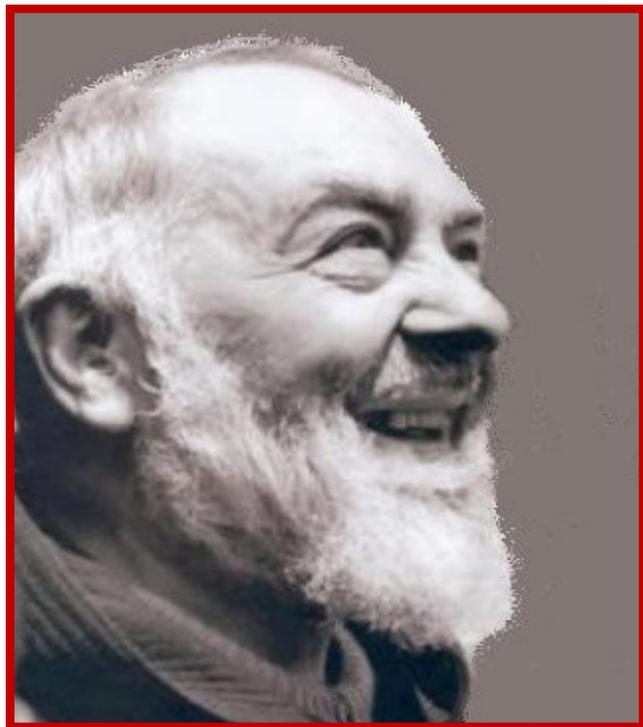


of plays for a lot of people; even my priests that I have always protected carefully, that I have loved as the apple of my eye; they should comfort my sorrowful heart; they should help me in the redemption of the souls, instead.... Who would believe it?

I receive ingratitude from them. I see, my Son, a lot of them that.... "

(Here he stopped, sobs tightened his throat, he wept) then He continued, "...that under false semblance they betray Me with sacrilegious communions, stamping on the light and the strength that I continually give them... "

Epistolary I (1910-1922) PADRE PIO DA PIETRELCINA: a cura di Melchiorre da Pobladura e Alessandro da Ripabottoni - Edizioni "Padre Pio da Pietrelcina" Convento S.Maria delle Grazie San Giovanni Rotondo - FG

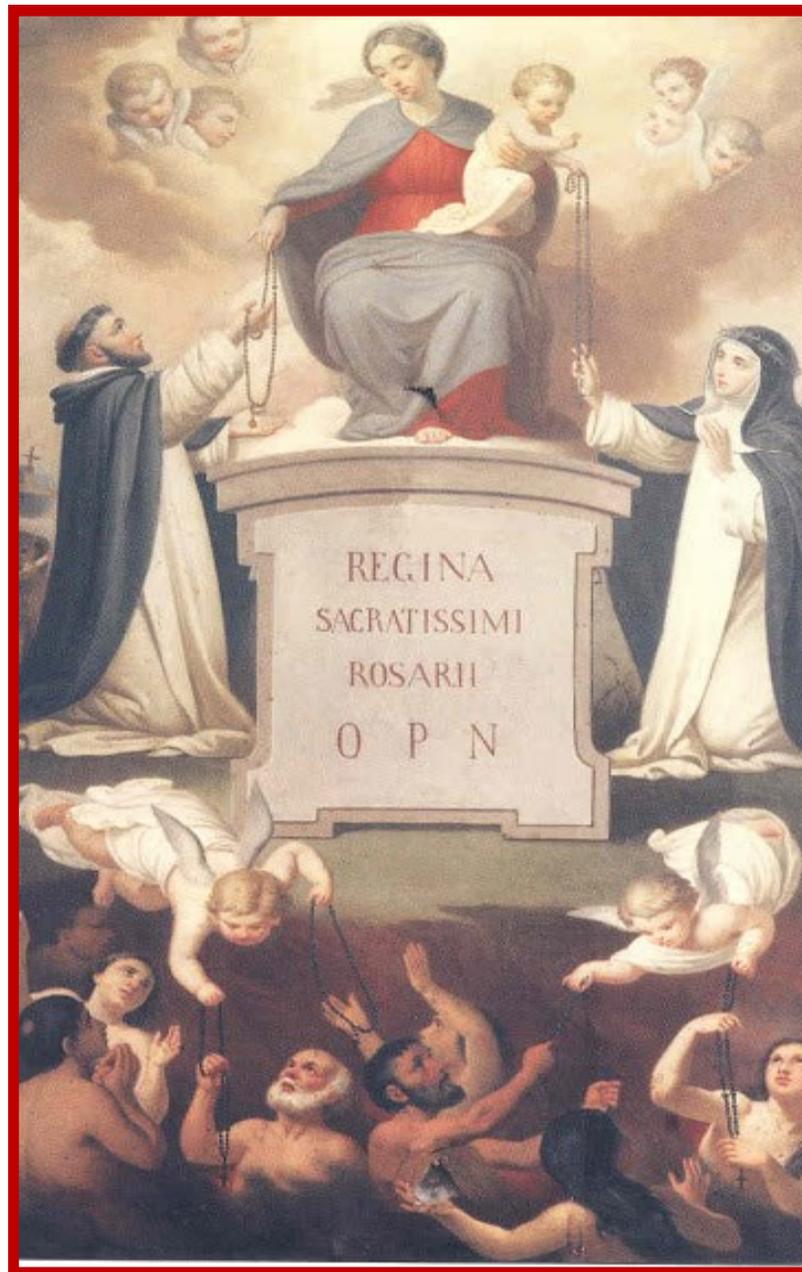


"YOU THINK YOU KNOW MY LOVE FOR YOU, BUT YOU DON'T KNOW THAT IT IS MUCH GREATER THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE. I FOLLOW YOU WITH MY PRAYERS, WITH MY SUFFERINGS, AND, WITH MY TEARS."

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE HOLY SOULS IN PURGATORY

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ST. PADRE PIO'S VISION OF THE SOULS IN PURGATORY



“I know when you pray for me, and it is the same with all of the other souls here in Purgatory. Very few of us here get any prayers; the majority of us are totally abandoned, with no thought or prayers offered for us from those on earth” Message from a soul in Purgatory!

SHORT STORIES OF PURGATORY FROM THE WRITINGS OF PADRE PIO

In May, 1922, Padre Pio testified the following to the Bishop of Melfi, His Excellency Alberto Costa and also the superior of the friary, Padre Lorenzo of San Marco along with 5 other friars. One of the five friars, Fra Alberto D' Apolito of San Giovanni Rotondo wrote down the account as follows:

"While in the friary on a winter afternoon after a heavy snowfall, he was sitting by the fireplace one evening in the guest room, absorbed in prayer, when an old man, wearing an old-fashioned cloak still worn by southern Italian peasants at the time, sat down beside him. Concerning this man Pio states: 'I could not imagine how he could have entered the friary at this time of night since all the doors are locked. I questioned him: 'Who are you? What do you want?'

The old man told him, "Padre Pio, I am Pietro Di Mauro, son of Nicola, nicknamed Precoco." He went on to say, "I died in this friary on the 18th of September, 1908, in cell number 4, when it was still a poorhouse. One night, while in bed, I fell asleep with a lighted cigar, which ignited the mattress and I died, suffocated and burned. I am still in Purgatory. I need a holy Mass in order to be freed. God permitted that I come and ask you for help."

According to Padre Pio: "After listening to him, I replied, 'Rest assured that tomorrow I will celebrate Mass for your liberation.' I arose and accompanied him to the door of the friary, so that he could leave. I did not realize at that moment that the door was closed and locked: I opened it and bade him farewell the moon lit up the square, covered with snow. When I no longer saw him in front of me, I was taken by a sense of fear, and I closed the door, re-entered the guest room, and felt faint."

A few days later, Padre Pio also told the story to Padre Paolino, and the two decided to go to the town hall, where they looked at the vital statistics for the year 1908 and found that on September 18 of that year, one Pietro Di Mauro had in fact died of burns and asphyxiation in Room Number 4 at the friary, then used as a home for the homeless.

Around the same time, Padre Pio told Fra Alberto of another apparition of a soul from Purgatory which also occurred around the same time.

He said: One evening, when I was absorbed in prayer in the choir of the little church I was shaken and disturbed by the sound of footsteps, and candles and flower vases being moved on the main altar. Thinking that someone must be there, I called out, "Who is it?"

No one answered. Returning to prayer, I was again disturbed by the same noises. In fact, this time I had the impression that one of the candles, which was in front of the statue of Our Lady of Grace, had fallen. Wanting to see what was happening on the altar, I stood up, went close to the grate and saw, in the shadow of the light of the Tabernacle lamp, a young confrere doing some cleaning. I yelled out, "What are you doing in the dark?" The little friar answered, "I am cleaning."

"You clean in the dark?" I asked. "Who are you?"

The little friar said, "I am a Capuchin novice, who spends his time of Purgatory here. I am in need of prayers." and then he disappeared,

Padre Pio stated that he immediately began praying for him as requested, and it is not known if he had any further dealings with this particular soul.

However, in regards to souls in Purgatory, it is very interesting to note that later in life Padre Pio once said that "As many souls of the dead come up this road [to the monastery] as that of the souls of the living." Without a doubt, many souls from Purgatory visited Padre Pio seeking his prayers, sacrifices and sufferings to obtain their release.

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Letter to Father Agostino, of (March 12, 1913),

"... my father, listen to our sweet Jesus' complaints: "My love for men is repaid with so much ingratitude! Those people would have offended me less, if I had loved them less. My father doesn't want to tolerate them anymore. I would like to stop loving them, but... (And here Jesus kept silent and, afterward taken aback) but my heart is made for loving! The tired men don't try to overcome the temptations. Rather these men enjoy their iniquities. These souls I love more than the other's when they suffer a temptation, when they don't succeed in withstanding. The strong souls trust in Jesus. The weak souls are dismayed and desperate. They leave me alone at night and in the morning in Church. They don't take care of the sacrament of the altar; they don't speak of this sacrament of love anymore; also, the people who do speak of the sacrament do it with so much indifference and coldness. My Heart has been forgotten; nobody cares for my love; I am always saddened. My house has become a theatre