

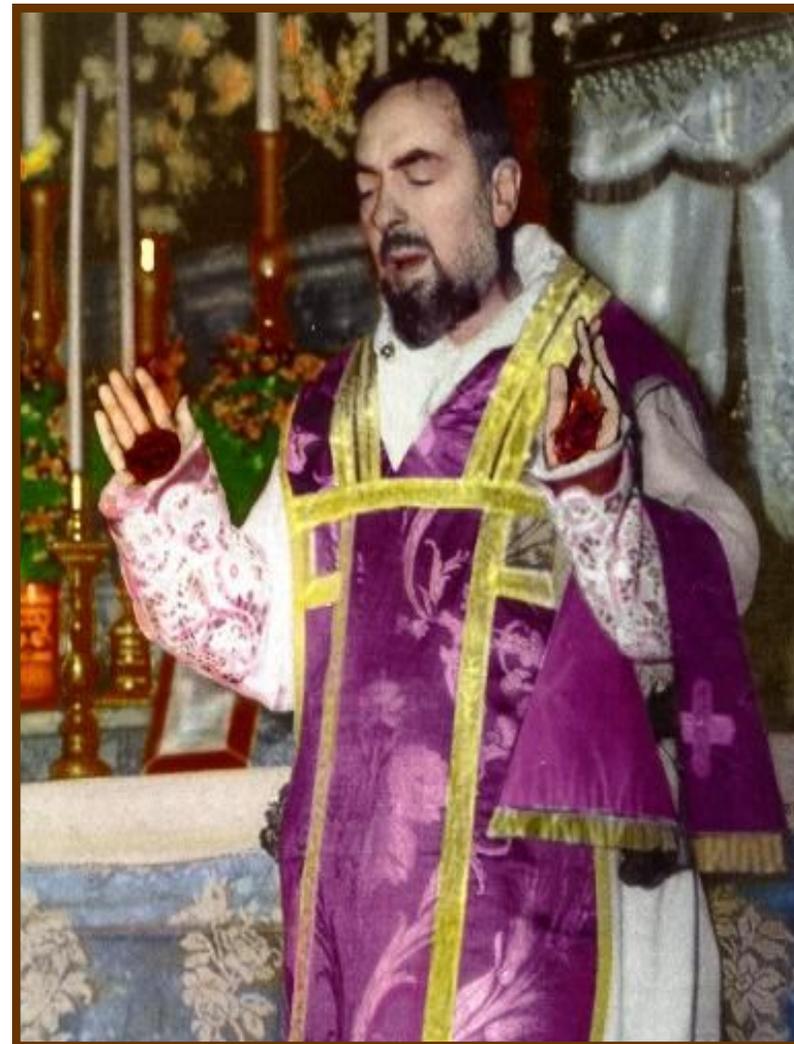
Doctors estimated that the stigmata bled about a cup of blood a day, sometimes even more. Yet, Padre Pio was never anemic until the last months of his life. From 1918 on, blood did not flow from the wounds. Rather, it oozed out. This bleeding never stopped, nor did the wounds ever become infected, although dark woolen socks and mittens could hardly have been conducive to good hygiene.

The only time Padre Pio's wounds could be seen publicly was during the Sacrifice of the Mass, when he removed his fingerless mittens. It was difficult even then to see the stigmata, because he tried to keep them covered as much as possible with the long sleeves of his habit and alb. But when he removed the mittens before Mass, coagulated blood showered down on the vesting table.

At night, he washed the wounds himself and then covered them with white, fingerless mittens. By morning these mittens were soaked with blood.

Doctors confessed their bewilderment over the stigmata and were baffled by the operations which Padre Pio had, one for a hernia, and one for a cyst. The wounds from these operations healed normally, but the stigmata never healed.

Anatomical Study of Padre Pio's Blood And Physical Condition



"Dominus Vobiscum"

Padre Pio Celebrating Holy Mass
May 1945



Amitto e purificatoio usati da Padre Pio il 21 e 22 febbraio 1965

Amish and purifier used by Padre Pio on 21 and 22 of February 1965



fr. Carlo Maria Laborde
Fr. Carlo Maria LABORDE
GUARDIANO
San Giovanni Rotondo, 24 giugno 2011

BLOOD STAINED AMISH AND PURIFIER USED DURING HOLY MASS BY PADRE PIO
FEBRUARY 21ST AND 22ND, 1965

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Anatomical Study of Padre Pio's Blood and Physical Condition

Over the years various doctors examined Padre Pio. One doctor has offered us some precious medical details of Padre Pio's life. He is Dr. Giuseppe Sala, Padre Pio's personal physician for ten years and Mayor of San Giovanni Rotondo.

Dr. Sala was asked by someone if Padre Pio had ever had a blood test. The doctor answered affirmatively. When asked what the results were, he fielded this sophomoric question respectfully by saying which of the many results are you interested in learning about.

Several blood tests, the doctor reported, were conducted between 1958 and 1959 in the Home for the Relief of Suffering, the hospital started by Padre Pio. He simplified his findings by saying: "His blood showed normal characteristics, with the normal count of red and white cells. When the Padre was ill, his blood showed the changes that any normal person's blood would show. There was no anemia, in spite of his loss of blood. A person might think that he would be anemic and without any blood. Absolutely not! The fact is that his blood was normal. The only thing that was beyond comprehension was the nature of the wounds, which were not inflamed or infected. They were normal wounds, but not made by any type of instrument, gunshot, etc.

"They were a special kind of wounds, in that they did not have the capacity to heal as normal wounds do. They had characteristics that to a doctor are important. A doctor is interested in seeing if a wound is healing or if it is not going to heal. Padre Pio's wounds were beyond any anatomical classification. They were unique (*sui generis*)."

Dr. Sala was questioned further about other medical questions relating to Padre Pio. For example, Padre Pio's high temperatures which had shattered clinical thermometers. Dr. Sala, speaking only from his personal observation, remarked: "The temperature was normal when he was well. Sometimes, for various reasons, he had a fever, and his temperatures reached 38 or 39.5 degrees C (100 or 103.5 degrees F).

I personally have never witnessed a temperature of over 40 degrees C (104 degrees F). If you refer to the reports of others who said that the thermometer used to break, I never witnessed this."

The most important response that Dr. Sala gave regarding Padre Pio was in reference to the possibility of hysteria as an explanation for the existence of the stigmata. Dr. Sala responded immediately and emphatically: "The wounds were not at all the result of hysteria. They were not caused by any irritation. They were physiological in their existence, but they were beyond any physiological explanation as to their cause. It is impossible for a hysterical person to produce holes in his hands or in his head. The existence of the wounds are independent of the character of Padre Pio, who was a gentle and calm person and not at all hysterical. The wounds were real and true wounds and not caused by irritation. They were not stimulated or induced by pricking. Although there were scratches or marks on his face, which he could have made himself, the stigmata were not self-made."

Of particular interest to Dr. Sala was the staggering workload which Padre Pio carried from morning to night, without a day off or a vacation, for fifty years. Dr. Sala was unable to comprehend how Padre Pio could have endured such a pace.

Nor could Dr. Sala understand medically Padre Pio's physical ability to go on, with less than half of the minimum caloric intake necessary to sustain life. The doctor stated: "Padre Pio averaged 500 to 600 calories a day, more or less, because under my care a few drops of whiskey or brandy were added to his coffee. A normal person requires at least 1,400 to 1,600 calories a day." Until those few drops of brandy, his daily caloric intake was about 100!