

that he had suddenly died.

Pope Pius XII died in Castelgandolfo on 9 October 1958. On that day Padre Pio told a friar: "Pius XII is in heaven. I saw him during Mass."

Padre Pio was in a room at the convent. A man came: "I am Pietro Di Mauro. I died on 8 September 1908, in this room during a fire. The Lord let me come from Purgatory. If tomorrow you say the Mass for me, I will go to Paradise. Padre Pio reported: "I was agitated. I told the superior father Paolino Da Casacalenda what had happened and asked to celebrate the Mass for Pietro." Father Paolino gave the permission and later went to consult the registry at City Hall. In that date a fire had killed a man with that name.

One night in 1944, the friars heard loud voices coming from downstairs saying: "Viva Padre Pio." The superior Padre Raffaele da S. Elia a Pianisi told the doorkeeper Fra Gerardo da Deliceto to let those people out and lock the door properly. Fra Gerardo went downstairs, did not find anybody, and the door was double locked as it was suppose to be. He went back to report to Padre Raffaele who was puzzled and went straight to Padre Pio asking if he knew something. Padre Pio responded: "Oh! Those were soldiers who had died on the battleground, and came back to thank me for their salvation."

*(excerpted from: cacciopoli.com; www.catholic-forum.com; www.ewtn.com)

***Prayer of Saint Gertrude for the Holy Souls in Purgatory
(Releases a vast numbers of Souls from Purgatory)***

Eternal Father,

***I offer you the Most Precious Blood
of your Divine Son, Jesus,***

in union with all the Masses said throughout the world today

for all the Holy Souls in Purgatory,

for sinners everywhere,

for sinners in the Universal Church,

those in my own home and within my family.

Amen.

Padre Pio and The Souls in Purgatory



Padre Pio and the Souls in Purgatory

*Over the decades of Padre Pio's life, millions of souls climbed Mount Gargano to the Capuchin Friary of Our lady of Grace to see him and to request his intercession with God. However, according to his own testimony, the majority of these souls were not of the living but of the dead. These *Poor Souls* were those confined to Purgatory for the expiation of the temporal punishment due to their forgiven sins. The Church teaches that while Christ satisfies the debt of eternal punishment (hell) due to sins for which we have repented, confessed and been forgiven, if contrition and interior conversion is incomplete on our part there remains a satisfaction in the temporal order (in time) to restore the order of justice, especially within us, holiness (Rev. 21: 27; Mt. 5: 25-26; Pt. 3: 19; I Cor. 3: 13-15; and 2 Macc. 12: 42-46). This satisfaction of the temporal debt for sin of the just man is either completed in this life or completed before entering heaven by a proportionate stay in the purifying fires of purgatory. For the damned, unfortunately for them, it is part of their eternal punishment to experience fire un-consolated by the love of God (Mt. 12: 32; Mt. 13: 40-42), whereas, for the Poor Souls it is only temporary and they bear it willingly with divine consolation.

These souls long to have this trial completed and to be with God. Unable to merit anymore (Heb. 9: 27; Mt. 5: 25-26), they desire the *just* on earth to offer prayers and supplications on their behalf (2 Macc. 12: 42-46). Through the communion of saints one part of the Body of Christ (the Church Militant, or just on earth), may console another part of the Body (the Church Suffering or just in Purgatory). The lives of saints and mystics are filled with accounts of God permitting Poor Souls to seek the prayers of the living, whether of family members who may have forgotten them, but usually the holier members of the Church. In Padre Pio's case, there was a veritable inundation of souls seeking his prayers and sufferings to be offered to God on their behalf.

Everybody who met Padre Pio seemed convinced that he had a direct connection with the afterlife, and asked about a dead relative or friend. It was fascinating that there was always an answer. In 1943, Gerardo De Caro, after having had long conversations with Padre Pio

testifies that "Padre Pio had an exact knowledge of the state of a soul after death, including the duration of the pain until it reached total purification. More souls of the dead from Purgatory than the living climb this mountain to attend my Masses and seek my prayers. The souls in Purgatory pray for us, and their prayers are even more effective than ours, because they are accompanied by their suffering. So let's pray for them, and let's pray them to pray for us."

When Padre Pio was asked how long a particular soul would stay in Purgatory, he replied: "At least one hundred years. We must pray for the Souls in Purgatory. It is unbelievable, what they can do for our spiritual good, out of gratitude they have towards those on earth who remember to pray for them."

Padre Pio stated that: "Most of the saved pass through Purgatory before arriving at the fullness of Beatitude. 'Also, you will be surprised to find in Paradise souls you never expected to be there.'" When asked if a great number of souls end up in hell, Padre Pio stated: "I believe that not a great number of souls go to hell. God loves us so much. He formed us at his image. God loves us beyond understanding. And it is my belief that when we have passed from the consciousness of the world, when we appear to be dead, God, before He judges us, will give us a chance to see and understand what sin really is. And if we understand it properly, how could we fail to repent?"

"The souls in Purgatory repay the prayers that we say for them. When we pray for the souls in Purgatory, we will always get something back," stated Padre Pio. "The souls in Purgatory pray for us." Many mysteries surrounding the life of Padre Pio will only be made known in the other world.

On 30 December 1937, Padre Pio was praying in the choir with the other friars. Suddenly, he said: "Let's pray for our provincial father Padre Bernardo Apicella who is in agony." Nobody knew that he was sick. The day after they were told