

Prayer Groups of Padre Pio of Pietrelcina

The day of fidelity 22nd January 2020
Anniversary of the Religious Dressing of Saint Pio of Pietrelcina
(22 January 1903) He conned the habit of the Capuchin order and took the name of Brother Pio.

THE RITE OF THE OATH OF FIDELITY Every year our Prayer Groups are called to confirm their commitment of fidelity to the Gospels, following the spirituality of Padre Pio of Pietrelcina, their founder. The rite of this commitment of fidelity is celebrated on the day on which the dressing of Padre Pio of Pietrelcina is remembered, on January 22nd or a close date.

If Holy Mass is celebrated, this rite can be performed after the homily or before the final blessing. If there is no celebration of Holy Mass, an appropriate moment will be chosen within the catechesis or the Eucharistic adoration.

The introductory rites.

Celebrant: in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

All: Amen.

Celebrant: the Lord is with you.

All: and with your spirit

If the rite is included in the Holy Mass or in other celebrations, the sign of the cross and the greeting of the celebrant are omitted.

Celebrant: we open our spirit to his voice, and in remembrance of our Baptism and in prayer we show our gratitude to the Lord for the gift of faith.

All: We give thanks to the Lord, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

Celebrant: Jesus says: "I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness". (John 12:46)

All: Lord Jesus, our light, make it possible for us to walk in the light of your Word and live in the light of your friendship.

Let us pray. Psalm 26

(two choirs: alternate men and women)

The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?

One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.

For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock.

Hear my voice when I call, Lord; be merciful to me and answer me. My heart says of you, "Seek his face!" Your face, Lord, I will seek.

Do not hide your face from me, do not turn your servant away in anger; you have been my helper. Do not reject me or forsake me, God my Saviour.

Teach me your way, Lord; lead me in a straight path because of my oppressors. I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord, be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.

Celebrant: O God, good and faithful, You create the existence of man and renew him, look with love at the people you have chosen and call incessantly new generations to establish their friendly relationship with You, so that, according to your promise, they can joyfully receive as a gift the dignity of children of God. For Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Memory of The Dressing of Saint Pio

Reader: Commemoration of the dressing of Padre Pio of Pietrelcina

On 6th January 1903, Francesco Forgione went to the convent of the Capuchin friars of Morcone, bearing the certificate of good moral and political conduct signed by the Mayor, together with a letter of presentation from the archbishop palace of Benevento. Father Nicola Caruso and Master Angelo Caccavo accompanied him, as well as Vincenzo Masone and Antonio Bonavita who will begin their novitiate with him. To welcome the party there was friar Camillo, the beggar who frequented Pietrelcina and who had become the reference point of the young Francesco, so much so that he said he wanted to be a "bearded monk", just like him.

Francesco had learned the habits and customs of the Capuchin friars under the guidance of an older novice, friar Giuseppe of Ischia, and a week before the dressing, with the other novitiate companions, he did the spiritual exercises.

On January 22nd 1903, at 9.00 am, the whole fraternity gathered in the church and under the gaze of the Immaculate Virgin, the Father Master, friar Tommaso of Monte Sant'Angelo, dressed the young Francesco in the capuchin friar dress and said to him: "From now on, you will be called friar Pio of Pietrelcina ». From that moment, St. Francis will become the guide and model of life of the young Capuchin novice, who will feel called to live his consecration in fidelity and loyalty throughout his existence.

If deemed appropriate, the celebrant can say a few words of reflection, then the rite of the oath of fidelity begins, with the renewal of the baptismal promises. Where possible, those who have chosen to be part of the Prayer Group arrange themselves around the altar.

Celebrant: Brothers and sisters, through Baptism, in Jesus's Passover we were buried with him in death to rise to new life. In various ways, the Lord has led us to learn about the spirituality of Padre Pio and to look at him as a model in following and imitating Christ poor and obedient to the Father. Following his example, we renew the promises of our Baptism, committing ourselves to recognise the voice of Jesus who calls us by name and invites us to follow Him.



The Renewal of Baptismal Promises

Following are the questions of the Celebrant to those who have decided to be part of the Prayer Group:

Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?

I do

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried, rose again from the dead and is seated at the right hand of the Father?

I do

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting?

I do

Celebrant: Let us invoke together the intercession of Mary Most Holy, of Saint Pio of Pietrelcina and of all the saints, so that with their help we can be persevering in our purposes:

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us
Saint Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, pray for us
St. John the Baptist, pray for us
St. Joseph, pray for us
Holy apostles and evangelists, pray for us
Saint Benedict, prays for us
St. Dominic, pray for us
Saint Francis of Assisi, pray for us
Saint Clare of Assisi, pray for us
Saint Catherine of Siena, pray for us
Saint Pio of Pietrelcina, pray for us
San Girolamo Emiliani, pray for us
St. John Paul II, pray for us
Saint Teresa of Calcutta, pray for us
San Giuseppe Moscati, pray for us
Saint Gianna Beretta Molla, pray for us
Blessed Chiara Luce Badano, pray for us
Blessed Maria Gargani, pray for us
Saints of God, pray for us

Celebrant:

Brothers and sisters, the Church invites us to live in the spirit of St. Pio of Pietrelcina, the charism of prayer and help to the suffering, living our fidelity to the Gospel to be salt of the earth and light of the world, we now publicly renew that commitment of fidelity that many times, on a personal level, we presented to Padre Pio, invoking his protection:

Commitment of Fidelity

The members of the Prayer Groups recite their commitment together:

O Father, you have chosen and called us to be "nurseries of faith and hotbeds for the sharing of love" in the people of God,, we commit, here in front of our community,

to be ministers of prayer and service to the suffering;

to renounce sin with serious commitment;

to grow in virtues, especially within our families;

to share our journey in this Prayer Group,

following the spirituality of Saint Pio of Pietrelcina and the teachings of the Church.

We promise fidelity to the Pope, to our pastors and to the commitments we take on the common journey with the brothers and sisters of our Group.

In the footsteps of Saint Francis of Assisi, we choose to welcome the needy, to support the poor and be loving and respectful of creation.

Virgin Mary, You who guided the journey of St. Pio of Pietrelcina, welcome our holy desires and accompany us on our journey towards holiness.

Our Father..... [Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.]

Final Blessing:

If it does not end with the Eucharistic blessing, this formula of blessing and farewell can be used

Celebrant: the Lord is with you

All: with your spirit

Celebrant: May Almighty God, through Whom You we were born to a new life from the water and the Holy Spirit, bless you all, so that wherever you will be, you may be living members of his Church: in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All: Amen

Celebrant: May the Almighty God give you His peace: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

All: Amen

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