

Reflection Wednesday Week 25 – Padre Pio Saint 2020

St Pio of Pietrelcina (1887-1968) was born to a southern Italian farm family, the son of Grazio, a shepherd. At age 15 he entered the novitiate of the Capuchin Friars in Morcone, and joined the order at age 19. He suffered several health problems, and at one point his family thought he had tuberculosis. He was ordained at age 22 on 10th August 1910. While praying before a cross on September 20th 1918, Padre Pio received the stigmata. He is the first priest ever to be so blessed. As word spread, especially after American soldiers brought home stories of Padre Pio following WWII, the priest himself became a point of pilgrimage for both the pious and the curious. He would hear confessions by the hour, reportedly able to read the consciences of those who held back. He was reportedly able to bi-locate, levitate, and heal by touch. In 1956 he founded the House for the Relief of Suffering, a hospital that serves 60,000 a year. Padre Pio died on September 23rd 1968 at age 81. Let us find inspiration in his spiritual wisdom:

- Prayer is the best weapon we have; it is the key to God's heart. You must speak to Jesus not only with your lips, but with your heart. In fact, on certain occasions you should only speak to Him with your heart.
- Go to the Madonna. Love her! Always say the Rosary. Say it well. Say it as often as you can! Be souls of prayer. Never tire of praying, it is what is essential. Prayer shakes the Heart of God; it obtains necessary graces!
- Prayer is the oxygen of the soul.
- Peace is the simplicity of heart, serenity of mind, tranquillity of soul, the bond of love.
- Be content to progress in slow steps until you have legs to run and wings with which to fly.
- You must not be discouraged or let yourself become dejected if your actions have not succeeded as perfectly as you intended. What do you expect? We are made of clay and not every soil yields the fruits expected by the one who tills it. But let us always humble ourselves and acknowledge that we are nothing if we lack the Divine assistance.

Afterthought

There once was a farmer from Leeds
who swallowed a packet of seeds!
It soon came to pass,
he was covered with grass,
but has all the tomatoes he needs!!