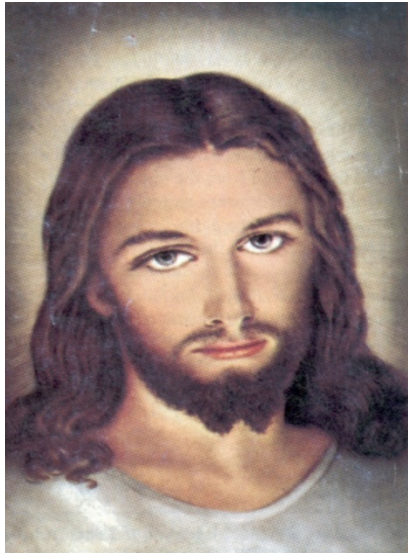


## **The Saints, our Intercessors**

**from the writings of Mamma Carmela**



## THE IMAGE OF THE MERCIFUL JESUS

*“Write my daughter, you will be the apostle of my Merciful Love. I will bless you. I will shower on you abundant graces and great gifts. I will bless the families who expose my Image. Speak to Me often and invoke Me thus:*

**‘Merciful Jesus, we trust in You:  
have mercy on us  
and on the whole world.’”**

*Milan, April 20, 1968*

The Merciful Jesus in the excessive goodness of his Heart promises that:  
*“Whoever venerates with love and devotion in his house my Divine Image will be preserved from the chastisement. In the same way as the ancient Hebrews marked their houses with a cross made with the blood of the paschal lamb and were spared by the exterminating Angel, so it will be in these sad times for those who will have honoured and exposed my Image.”*

*Milan, September 5, 1968*

*“I have invited you to be apostles of my Divine Face and I have promised you that with that Image I will touch the hearts of sinners and I will draw everyone to Me.”*

*Milan, January 25, 1972*

*“My children, you all want mercy for everyone. Well then, become interpreters of our desires. Do so that in every family together with my Divine Face may enter the practice of the Rosary, just as it is, as the holy Virgin wanted it, as the saints, the virgins, the martyrs, the great and the small of every age practiced it.”*

*Milan, May 4, 1972*

*Front cover: **St. Joseph.** Foster father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the husband of Mary and Patron of the Holy Catholic Church. His Feast Day is celebrated on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March.*

# THE SAINTS OUR INTERCESSORS

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*Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne*

DIVINE MERCY APOSTOLATE, MELBOURNE

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AUSTRALIA

*The thoughts, the reflections  
and the meditations  
in this booklet,  
were inspired to a soul.*

*They are, however,  
addressed to all those souls,  
who, desirous to love the Lord,  
seek to put into practice  
his teachings and  
to live the Christian life  
more perfectly.*

*May Jesus  
bless these pages  
and those who read them  
with the desire  
to improve themselves,  
granting the help  
of his grace.*

Cenacle of the Divine Mercy  
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*Non-Commercial Edition*

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## THERE IS BUT ONE ONLY ROAD

*St. Agnes*

*January 21, 1973*

My brothers and sisters, this apparition of mine amongst you, though in a mystical sense, will arouse much wonder in you, so much so because I am proposed as a model for the young, and here there are too few young. But it is not out of place, for I will speak a simple word that is valid for all.

When at a young age I had undergone martyrdom, I was exactly like the little lamb that was immolated for the glory of the Father. I had kept faith to my ideal, I had kept my oath made to my heavenly Bridegroom, for whom I wanted to keep my body intact, and my love had to have one only object. I did not want and I could not share my heart with any man of this world, even if necklaces and precious things were offered to me with which I could have enriched myself.

The riches which I yearned for were those of Heaven.

I desired to guard that purity which is the best adornment of the woman, and I desired to give witness to my Christian faith.

To have an ideal in life, means to have the aim of living. You know where you come from and you know that life here below is short and limited, and that at a certain point it will fail you. But whatever may be its duration, you know that it is a trial and that at the end of it you will have to render an account to God how you spent and passed it.

Therefore, you cannot live your days with indifference and preoccupied yourselves with trivial things. The earthly preoccupations must be limited to the strict necessary, for much greater interests ought to press. You must create and increase for yourselves more and more your spiritual patrimony, till you become those true rich ones who can be the real inhabitants of Heaven.

There is but one only road that opens up before you: that which makes you follow Jesus, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Follow Him in the practice of the Gospel! Follow Him carrying the cross, not that cross which you desire, but the one He himself wishes to give you! Follow Him by loving Him, up to sacrifice and to immolation! You are all invited to have this ideal, which is suitable for any state in life.

But now as a good sister, I wish to address those persons who, not having found marriage and having the desire to settle down, always feel dissatisfied, and their minds wander towards unreachable and yearned for destinations.

My sisters, what is there better than to give a striking blow to these desires, so as to make them become a true and holy ideal? It is true, he who desires to start a family, cannot bear the loneliness of the heart. But, sisters, is not the whole world your family? Widen your hearts, tighten more and more those bonds that must unite you to a Bridegroom who is the most good, the most holy, the most lovable and the most faithful of all spouses! If you will learn to approach Him and understand his love for you, He will fill your heart so as to make it desire no one else but Him.

If afterwards the Lord might want to assign a spouse to you on this earth, with whom to share joys and sorrows, He himself will consider to open the road for you, and make the opportunities happen to you. All is predisposed by God, especially what concerns the vocation, and to Him are not lacking the means to make his children attain this.

Forgive me, brothers and sisters, if I persist, but a young woman and a young man who do not have an ideal of purity and love and dream only about marriage, resemble those twigs which, having sprouted and grown in the shade, continuously aspire after the sun which they never will see.

The marriage that Paul called the great sacrament is beautiful, but there is no comparison between the heavenly nuptials to the earthly ones. They make the body of the young the conquest of the King, who will introduce them into his Kingdom, and who will make them stay in his retinue in Heaven also as those who follow the Lamb more closely.

And now, a word to those sisters and brothers who, having found marriage, were deprived of their companion of life.

Even if, in certain cases, a new arrangement is necessary or useful, especially when the children to be brought up clamour for the father and the mother in the greater part of cases, how beautiful it is to see young widows or young spouses give themselves completely to Jesus in order to establish with Him that loving bliss, which, helping them to maintain chastity, makes them also vigorous in going out of their way for all the needs of others!

There are now espousals that men and women contract with Jesus and his Church, so as to merit from Him a special protection. The chaste men, the pure women are the instruments most suitable to perform in the world those works that are but the continuation of the works of God.

I would like, my brethren, in the name of Jesus who remains faithful to his promises, for you to feel also the desire to detach yourselves more and more from what passes, in order to conquer the eternal goods. The Lord will say to you one day: *"To you, who have left everything for Me, I will give a hundredfold."*

Brethren, Agnes, who honoured her parents much, desires in the name of God to enter into the world again, so that her example may arouse again those vocations to perfection, crowned by the martyrdom that is needed.

To all those who carry my name, which means lamb, my most festive and holy wishes! To those to whom you will give my name, I promise assistance and help.

I bless you all. Parents, entrust your children and all the youth to me. Young people, love the high ideals, that sanctify you!

## **HAVE RECOURSE OFTEN TO US**

*The Holy Guardian Angels*

*October 2, 1978*

We are your Guardian Angels! We have prayed for you. We have praised the Most Holy Trinity and the Virgin Mary for you.

This evening, this room was full of angels.

You did not see them, but they formed a cohort of honour to Jesus present, living and real, who was being immolated for humanity in this place. Now you will rest, and your angels will continue to praise and to bless the Lord for you.

Have confidence in us! Entrust yourselves to our action! Ask for our help, for we only desire to do the will of God, which is that of leading you to salvation.

From all eternity, your soul has been entrusted to us. We have exercised our work from the moment of your conception, and it will be uninterrupted until, safely, we bring you before the Father. Oh, if all Christians wished for our collaboration, like the wicked ask for the devil's collaboration, how things of this world would change! But the good forget us, therefore, they find themselves in want and do not know what to do.

Spread the knowledge and love of the holy angels! The Queen of the Angels desires it, and we, as her faithful servants, wish to make her happy through our mission and our service.

Brethren, believe in the continual presence of the angels! Call us often! Along the way, at work and in whatever need, we shall be happy to run to your help. The Lord has placed us as sentries alongside you so that, watching over you, we were to free you from the dangers and to protect you against the hidden dangers of evil.

Have recourse often to us, and accept our reproach with goodwill: you call us too little, you love us too little!

We bless you, brethren, with all the angels of Heaven, who form a cohort of honour to the Most Holy Trinity. We bless you so that, collaborating with our action, you may be able to make us known and loved more and more. In the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## THE ONLY IMPORTANT DESIRE

*St. Anthony*

*May 9, 1969*

My sisters, I have come to pay you a visit, to bless you and to congratulate myself with you. You might ask me: why? First of all by the faith with which you pray and then to tell you that I am happy to have entered to be a part of your spiritual family, which will gather children from all the male and female religious orders.

I bless you. I bless your desires and your hopes and I will help you realize them.

However, try to have few desires. The unique, very important one, is that of always doing the will of God; then, continue on like so, entrusting yourselves to the Lord and seeking his glory in all things.

Do not distress yourselves over the things of this earth, which pass quickly, since, even if you were to have all that you desire, you would always be dissatisfied and everywhere you would have the cross to carry. Therefore, keep the one that you have, which is made to the measure of your shoulders.

## IN HEAVEN I WORK FOR EVERYONE

*St. Anthony*

*June 13, 1972*

My brethren, I see in your hearts a great desire to honour me, and our Queen permits me to stand in for her in addressing some teaching to you.

I am Italian by adoption and, in the shrine that carries my name, the Italian pilgrims come uninterruptedly to commend themselves to my intercession. I work for everyone and I assist my devotees in a special way, even if sometimes my name is used wrongly and the petition is made to me for purely material needs.

In Paradise no account is given to the merits of those who pray or of the errors that some commit even praying, but one is happy to help all, and we make use also of created things in some way in order to lead souls back to good.

I had the gift of miracles even on earth, but that is all God's goodness. The most important thing was the love that animated my preaching, through which I was able to reach the hearts of great sinners. When men remained deaf to the word of God, I spoke to the fish and to the birds, I spoke to all creation, which I invited to praise God. God rejoiced over it, since every work of his praises Him, and men remained amazed and contrite as they saw their wickedness.

Tender devotion to Mary made me capable of guarding the purity of the body, and devotion to the Child Jesus made me practise obedience and humility in a perfect way.

Charity towards the poor made me their protector, and whoever loves me knows he is doing a good thing doing good to the orphans, the sick, the destitute of whatever kind. My desire to go to distant lands to bring the Gospel of Christ, is carried out continuously in that assistance which the Lord permits me to give to missionaries.

He who is a true devotee of mine, can imitate me in these virtues of mine that are so dear to God.

In Paradise every saint sparkles with a very bright light, graded according to the love for which it was conquered, and there is a harmony so great and marvellous that no man can even remotely imagine. Every saint sees, on his given day, pass before his gaze and the gaze of all, the events that sustained his life and the way with which the Lord preserved in the heart of each one, faith, hope and charity.

All the graces granted by God to bring to the end the salvation and the holiness of each one, are a motive of praise and of thanksgiving on the part of the celestial cohort. It is a universal jubilation, a joy without end, which each one communicates to others. There is no pause in the happiness, no need comes to disturb that unbelievable serenity which occupies the soul that rests in his God.

No one detaches himself from that sea of light and glory to come to earth, but in the immensity and in the omniscience of God every saint discovers the needs of the brethren wayfarers on earth, and all, in an impetus of

love that thrusts them into the mercy of God, ask for Him to pardon and help the brethren, especially these that each one recommends. The ugly things of the world no longer disturb the elect, who could not be happy if they had to take part in it, but the honour and the glory of God makes them more and more desirous of the salvation of all.

During my life, I had the joy of clasping the Child Jesus in my arms. You honour Him a lot in this place and in other places. It is so dear to Mary and to all of Paradise that you pay Him so much honour, but I assure you that the mysteries of the life of Jesus and Mary, lived out again in Heaven, are an unimaginable vision of tenderness and affection that sends on all the inhabitants of Heaven waves of joy and happiness without end.

Children, bless the Lord, who wishes you to anticipate these encounters with Him and his saints! Bless Him always, both when all goes well and when things contrary to your desires come to you, since, only in this way, you render yourselves worthy of eternal glory. Bless Him for all the things that He fills your souls with, your day, your life, so that everything may be the object of thanksgiving forever.

Invoke me, if you want to grow in the love of poverty, of humility, and if you have greater and greater desires of good. I will help you and I will place the Child Jesus in your arms, as I will beg Him to bless you with all your loved ones. With the eyes of faith you can see everything. You only ought to use prudence in manifesting your thoughts.

To all those who bear my name, I offer my wishes and happiness in the Lord.

## **LOVE THEIR SOULS**

*Sister Consolata*

*March 3, 1969*

My sister and daughter, I am with you to help you in the difficulties that make you suffer, sometimes also uselessly.

Do not worry too much over receiving affection and understanding: they are things that pass and leave nothing for eternal life. I tell you, I, who in my brief existence battled much having an impetuous and sincere character. But, if sincerity is a very beautiful virtue, prudence is just as much. Many times, through lack of the latter, peace is ruined in our hearts and the hearts of others: those of families and the community.

Receive your cross and look above more and more.

Everything that attaches you to the earth, destroy it in your heart before you die, so that God may give you the merit and so it won't cost you too much when you have to detach yourself on the last day. Be meek and humble in order not to make anyone suffer, for in your fellow men Jesus suffers.

Learn to offer up your sufferings for your children, especially if priests, and always give them a word of encouragement to do good. Lift them up and help them. Their difficulties are not few, and, sometimes, they become discouraged and demoralized. Then sometimes they are tempted and weak.

If you knock them down with your very strong and uncharitable views, what will become of them? Love their souls, and pray that they may respond to their great commitment. Your prayer made for them shall never be too much, and it will be so much more profitable if it is joined to some sacrifice. Make this mission the aim of your life and the basis of your devotion. Make it the motive of your act of love, which you will seek to multiply to the infinite uniting it to that unceasing act that departs from the heart of Jesus in the Tabernacle and reaches up to Heaven, imploring salvation and holiness for all the consecrated.

I am sister Consolata and, when the Lord will permit me to speak to you again, I will inform you through that fire that burned my own heart when I lived on earth.

I bless you, my sister, and I help you. I bless your prayer group and those who, desirous of growing in holiness, will listen to my teachings.

## **JESUS PRESENTS HIMSELF UNDER DIFFERENT GUISES**

*Sister Consolata*

*March 8, 1969*

My sister, here I am a second time with you. I must give you a teaching that will be of help to you for other souls who might want to follow me in the way of love, which, consuming the heart, gives agility to the body in the exercise of the daily duties and opens up the horizons to that fraternal charity that was exercised by Jesus and by Mary and is practised by those Christians who truly wish to consider themselves such.

I said to you in my previous meeting that you must be prudent, and now I will teach you how to reach the highest summits in the exercise of charity.

Learn to keep this truth in mind: Jesus, our brother, presents himself to us under different guises. You see Him under the form of a white host in the Sacrament of the Altar, and you receive Him in your heart, you assimilate Him and you make Him live in you after having purified your soul before the priest who represents Him and who, in the sacrament of Confession, gives you his mercy. Moreover, know that, in a very special and real way, He is present in your brethren, whom you see and who live beside you, and in all men living upon the earth, Jesus is also present in the person of his Vicar on earth, who represents Him and who governs his Church. On these basics you must rest your faith and, in this sense, you must exercise charity. They will be the three loves on which you will hinge your whole existence.

Let the Eucharist, the God with us, the perennial Sacrifice, the divine Food, be the centre, the concern and the desire of your days! Remember that a Communion well prepared, well made, can be the beginning of a holy life, all spent for God.

The love for the brethren must seize your heart. I programmed it in a promise: *“I will never say no to anyone”*, which was like saying: I will meet everyone’s need halfway. I would like it also to be your programme, a simple and complete programme that allows you to put yourself at the service of the neighbour in a sincere and joyful way. Make this intention the object of your examinations of conscience so that, practising them, you are able to exercise the charity towards the brethren in the most pleasing way to God and the most effective for the neighbour.

Love God, living on earth under the guise of a man who, though keeping the fragility of human nature, was elevated up to being the highest authority. I am speaking to you about the Supreme Pontiff. Let your affections and thoughts lean to him, for he needs the help of all his children and many unfortunately make him suffer. If all that is done to the last of the Kingdom of God is made to Jesus himself, what reward shall he who has suffered and worked alongside his dearly beloved son have, contributing to rendering less heavy his cross and to making him known and obeyed?

I will speak to you again, and I promise you that I will never abandon you. I will cover with my protection your children, priests and all the others. Many persons, on your invitation and following your example, will become a part of that host of souls who will call themselves very little, but who will be big in the Kingdom of the heavens.

## **HAVE RECOURSE TO HIM WHO CAN HELP YOU**

*Sister Consolata*

*March 10, 1969*

Dear sister, here I am again with you.

I want to inform you of one thing, which I used to do when I happened to lack in charity with my neighbour, by words or by thoughts. First of all I asked God for pardon laying out to Him all my wickedness; then I humbled myself before those whom I had offended, and afterwards I asked for mercy.

That cost dearly to my rather proud character, and it served to obtain for me that virtue of humility so dear to the heart of God and so useful for the spiritual progress of the soul. In this way, what could have been of harm to my soul, became the means of sanctification; what could have brought harm to the community, became the means of edification.

You also do likewise, and do not get excessively upset if, out of character impulsiveness or through any other defect, you become aware of erring. Have recourse straight away to Him who can help you and learn to profit also from the evil in order to improve yourself.

## **OBEDIENCE GIVES SERENITY**

*Sister Consolata*

*March 12, 1969*

I also, my sister, was tormented by doubts and many times determined to not write anymore and to hold erroneous, and suggested by my head, what was told to me.

The only thing that helped me in those moments, was the thought that, by writing, I was exercising the virtue of obedience, whether to Jesus, or to my spiritual father.

Obedience gives serenity! If what you do you do it for the Lord and it brings good fruits, be assured that it is the will of God. I help you and I will help you.

Ask yourself often: this action, with what intention and for what reasons do I do it? If the intention is good and no motives of vain glory or interest enter in, be assured that it is good and that your action will give glory to God.

When you feel yourself agitated and tormented by doubts, invoke me, and I will pray to the Lord so that you may be freed, if it is best for you, and so that He may give you the merit of faith, even if the light cannot always manifest itself in all its clearness.

## **SO THAT SOULS MAY BE SAVED...**

*Sister Consolata*

*March 29, 1969*

Dear brothers, I am here by the will of God. I am Sister Consolata, and I rejoice that several of you have invoked my help and feel in your heart the desire to be a part of the host of souls that wish to give to the Lord and to the heavenly Mother many, many acts of love, and also those who, practising love like it has been taught to me by Jesus himself, desire to be called little ones.

I am happy over it, but I desire from everyone, and especially from those who in their own families include souls to be converted and redeemed, that the invocation "*Jesus, Mary I love you, save souls*" becomes the sigh of the heart.

You are in the most sorrowful time of the liturgical year, the time in which the Church invites all persons, but in a special way the lapsed, to approach the Most Holy Sacraments. It is also the time in which you remember with more reflection how great was the love of God for men, a love so great as to force Him to die on the cross.

Well then, try to return this love and to make Jesus happy by making Him the gift of souls, which cost Him dearly and which He loves.

I entrust to you in this period, in a special way, those souls whom you will consider as my good little sisters and the gems of my life as consecrated, and they are those poor daughters who wait on the footpaths and on the corners of lonely streets, the object on which to give vent to concupiscence.

I beg you, for their conversion, let no sacrifice be heavy for you, since, by saving them, you will save many others, amongst whom many young ones who are being lost.

I bless you all and I repeat to you: offer with sweet persistence to the hearts of Jesus and Mary your acts of love so that souls may be saved!

## **PRESERVE THE FLAME OF LOVE**

*Sister Consolata*

*April 8, 1969*

My sister, this morning Jesus spoke to you about love as the means of sanctification and perfection; well then, I give you a little instruction on this topic that will be useful for you.

Behave so that all your actions may be inspired by love and have as end the attainment of Love. Preserve

the flame of love in your heart and preserve it for all, but especially for those who make you suffer most. Have as principal aim in your mission that of preserving and spreading love. This is the desire of God.

Continue to love the Lord. I bless your family which is so dear to Jesus and to the Mother.

Say very often that short invocation: "*Jesus, Mary, I love you, save souls*", which is especially efficacious.

## **TO MY STUDENT FRIENDS**

*St. Domenic Savio*

*January 22, 1976*

Most dear ones, how will I be able to make you understand the greatness of the gifts that you keep on receiving in this blessed place? How will I be able to teach you to put into practice all that, with so much love, is taught to you? It is extremely easy to understand for those who have reached the destination, but, for those who are attracted to the fatuous lights of the world, it is very difficult.

You however, have a star to guide you, and you must not lose sight of it. When the Magi arrived in Jerusalem, the star that guided them hid itself from their eyes and they were dismayed, but, going out of that city, they saw it again and their hearts were full of joy.

The star for you is the call to holiness. There is no age, no health condition, no family or social situation that might prevent you to be holy. It is the call of all those who wish to follow Jesus and reach eternal life.

I repeated the intention of wanting to be holy every day of my life as soon as, with the use of reason, I understood the beauty of the faith, the ugliness of sin and the value of the soul. Through assiduous and voluntary study of the religion, you also will understand these things and, with the light that will come to you from the Holy Spirit and with the good will magnified by the grace of God, you will walk briskly in the way of the Lord.

Never forget that on your side you have a Mother, the most good, the most powerful and the most wise, to whom you can turn at every moment, for any help: she is Mary, Mother of Jesus and ours! Never forget her. She is the anchor of salvation, the gate of Heaven. If it should happen that, sometimes, the infernal powers or your weakness should make you fall into sin, go to her straight away, because she is the heavenly nurse and will know how to cure the wounds that sin generates, and give you back your health. Put yourselves body and soul in her hands every day, and have confidence in her who disappoints no one.

I bless you and I help you.

## **THE MERCY OF GOD HAS NO LIMIT**

*Sister Faustina*

*March 22, 1970*

Dear brothers and sisters, I am Faustina. I have come to encourage you to make with special fervour the novena of Mercy and to ask with it for all men to believe in the mystery of salvation, which is enclosed within the devotion to the Merciful Jesus.

Those who entrust themselves in it with certainty and faith will find in mercy a spring of graces. In the merciful goodness of Jesus those who have lost it will find again the life of grace, serenity and peace.

Those then, who spread trust in the merciful love, bringing charity amidst the world, make themselves worthy of great graces and consolations on the part of Jesus himself.

I assure you, my brothers, that I suffered much in life through multiple causes, but the greatest suffering has been that of seeing how many men doubt obtaining the pardon of sins, of being able to attain Paradise, of being able to enjoy Jesus' favours in spite of a life of sin and miseries.

Believe in love, brothers, and believe that, when with sincere repentance you detest your sins, whatever they may be, Jesus not only pardons you, but He squeezes you to his heart, He carries you on his shoulders like the found sheep and makes you the object of his tenderness.

The mercy of God is so great that He does not even permit you to doubt the salvation of those souls, dying tragically, through misfortune or through their own will, whom to your eyes seemed lost. The mercy of God has no limit, neither of time nor of space, and to it you must entrust yourselves also in your daily weaknesses that make you fall continuously into the usual shortcomings.

God knows everything and is well aware; you must entrust yourselves to Him with full confidence. It is not the threat of chastisements that ought to terrify you, but the fear of not responding to the love with which God unceasingly goes in search of his creatures in order to show his affection for them and to save them.

Thank you therefore, to you who, on leaving this place which the Merciful Jesus has made his home, will bring the flame of his love into the world and make his mercy known to all.

Mark well, however, that you will always encounter the cross, since good will always be combated. Be prepared therefore, against contradictions, against slander and many things that will make you suffer. Know that a great joy will remain in your heart if, in spite of all, you learn to show with your goodness and your mercy that of Jesus, your Teacher.

Now I farewell you, my brothers, I thank you and I am with you. I will help you in your mission of good which, having started with me, is not dead but continues with other instruments. May you also all be instruments of good in the midst of the world; the prize destined for you is great.

## MY TASK WAS THREEFOLD

*St. Francis*

*October 21, 1969*

My dear brethren, I am the little poor one of Assisi who longed during mortal life to be called "*the herald of the great King.*" I am here to give you some advice, to speak a good word to you according to the desire of the Queen of Heaven and of our God, who uses his saints, who already rejoice in Paradise, to comfort, to encourage and to help those who are still journeying on the earth of exile and in this way be able to bring them to salvation.

During my mortal life my task was threefold: to practise those virtues that are so much hated by men and which are so dear to God; to teach men that the love that must unite all creatures, must be that same love which will continue to reign in Heaven; to extend the kingdom of God among men through Jesus Christ, of which all men must give witness: to be that is, a humble servant of his who tries in everything to resemble Him.

And first of all, I want to tell you about the virtues which I forced myself to imitate, and which are: humility, simplicity and poverty.

One has to be humble and simple in order to put an end to the restless living of those who do not possess goods and wealth and do not contemplate the true riches and beauty with which the world is adorned and which truly enrich those who learn to appreciate them. True riches do not puff up the mind, they do not ruin the soul, and they give to those who possess them that happiness which transforms them all into true fools of God, lovers of good and happy to possess nothing, of giving all, because in God they possess every good.

Tell me, my brethren, why do so many evils and disorders, so many hatreds and so much selfishness exist in the world? The greed for earthly goods poisons the soul, disturbs the peace, does not allow sleep.

Brothers, love those virtues which our Saviour gave us as an example so luminous as to choose a stable to be born in and the wood of the cross to die on! I wanted to follow his example in the best way; I succeeded a little, and when, leaving the riches and the honours I committed myself to following Him more closely and I took as companion "lady poverty", I was truly happy. My brothers, spread this spirit of joy, even in want, so that all may learn and know that it is not the things that pass away which give happiness, but the eternal things.

And now I want to give you a second teaching.

Spread love! Well then, I remind you that it was a very pleasing task to me that of reconciling persons in conflict and discord. I beg you, make this a programme. Bring love where hatred reigns, and start by taking away from your heart all that can displease God: any sort of rancour, envy and bad temper! Love everyone, because, even if one person alone is outside this bond of love, you despise a member of Jesus Christ. Only in



this way will you work with faith and with courage in the spreading of that Kingdom that the Lord wants to be extended over all the earth.

Dear brethren, I bless you with my wounded hands, which in the world bore testimony to the passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Let the light with which they shine, be resplendent in your minds and make your bodies and your souls true mirrors reproducing the living God in you.

## **THE GREETING THAT REACHES THE HEART OF MARY**

*St. Gabriel the Archangel*

*March 24, 1970*

My brethren, here I am under assignment by my Queen. I am the Archangel Gabriel and I come to perform a very special mission towards you.

Tomorrow in Paradise in the most solemn way will be celebrated the day on which I was sent by the Eternal Father to a humble virgin to ask her if she wanted to accept to become the mother of his Son who was to become man. All of Paradise is festive, but I, who was the angel of the Annunciation, feel particularly the duty to communicate to you a part of that joy, which every soul in grace will taste intensely.

Dear brethren, I was the first to bring to Mary that greeting which you keep on repeating many times a day. It was, that greeting, the repetition of the one that the Eternal Father addressed her, and then it was the greeting that her Jesus kept on repeating to her with so much sweetness and that Joseph uttered with so much humility and devotion.

Men also of all the continents and of all times keep on repeating this greeting, but few are those that reach the heart of Mary like the greeting of the Son to his Mother. You must repair the many invocations that are made in vain, that do not part from the heart and which are a mockery for her who deserves all the praises of men, of the angels and the saints. Therefore, let your "Ave Maria's" be like that canticle which echoes in Paradise to recall the power and the greatness of this loveable Queen who, with her beauty and her goodness, makes all the saints of Heaven happy.

Brethren, I want to teach you to pray, so that your prayer may rise as sweet perfume before the throne of God and so that it may be efficacious for you and for others. This is what your behaviour ought to be.

Do you like seeing in your churches your angels in the attitude of adoration? Well then, this is the first thing that you must do: put yourselves in the presence of God! God is great and fills the world; wherever you turn your gaze, God is there! You do not see Him, but you know that He is.

Therefore, let your attitude be the same as that of the angels, who bow and cover their face before Him, comprehending his greatness. Then, turn your gaze inside yourselves and see your wickedness, and say to the Lord: "*Lord, mercy! Lord, mercy!*" These two words are enough to draw upon you the gaze full of love of the one and triune God, who stands before you. Then, turn your gaze around yourselves and consider all the inhabitants of the earth who await your help, and say: "*Lord, I love You, save my brethren!*"

All this, do it with the heavenly Mother. Pray with her, through her and in her, for her prayers are the most acceptable to God after that of Jesus'. You must know that, all that you offer to God the Father through Mary, goes directly to Jesus and He himself makes the precious offering, validating it with his infinite merits.

I have taught you how your prayer must be. Treasure it and know that prayer is the most beautiful gift that the Lord has given you, for, with it, He permits you to put yourselves in communication with Him, infinite wisdom, mercy and love.

Brethren, I farewell you. I will always be with you, when you will pray here to repeat again "Ave Maria!": that greeting that has gladdened the world and made Paradise happy.

## **ALWAYS HAVE FAITH AND TRUST**

*Sts. Joachim and Anne*

*December 7, 1971*

My children, I know that some persons have desired and desire to have a message from my holy parents Joachim and Anne; what better occasion than this, in which you are preparing to celebrate my Immaculate Conception? Here they are, therefore, with me! Listen to what they say to you and treasure it.

Brothers of ours, ours is a message of joy, for our Mary at the first announcement of her life filled our hearts with an infinite joy! But such a birth is, and must be for you too, an invitation to rejoice and to always have faith in the Lord.

Accustom yourselves to believe against all hope, just as our father Abraham did, to whom the promise of a numerous offspring like the stars of the sky was given, and he had already reached old age. We also have had faith and have believed in the power of God, who knows how to produce children from barren women and is capable of making true sons of Abraham rise from stones.

Have faith, brethren! Have faith, children, betrothed ones, and know that God is always present and sees your actions, sees your desires and your hearts. Behave so that they may be always worthy of Him. Have faith, parents, in the help of God and in his providence, so that you may be able to seek and to do his holy will on every day of your life. Have faith, you seniors, old ones, grandfathers and grandmothers.

You, persons alone, who regret over what you are gradually losing, know that the heart does not age and that you can offer to God your exuberant affections, just as when, as adolescents, love made your hearts beat, and He always welcomes you like children, like boys and gives himself wholly to you.

Have faith and trust, since that God who has created the heart of man never disappoints him. Trust means confidence, it means courage, it means going forward serenely, being content with that little that the Lord gives to each one. There are some people who are never content and, if they have nine, would like ten. Do not be like these. Learn to enjoy what you possess and thank the Lord.

One thing more we want to tell you: fill your lives with good works. The betrothed, by these works, will prepare themselves to start a holy family. Parents will draw the blessing of God upon their family, especially with those works of charity that makes families flourish.

At times you ask yourselves why the Lord gives so much well-being to some families. It is only but a multiplying of that good, that they do for others, on behalf of God. In this way we also prepared ourselves for that great gift of God that was our blessed daughter, giving ourselves to others by the exercise of charity.

When after you will have done all that which we have spoken to you about and have thanked the Lord, be generous and prompt to give back to Him all those goods with which He keeps filling you!

Our little flower had just bloomed, and already she desired to give herself to God. We consented to her will, and we separated, not without a great sacrifice, from that precious treasure.

In this way you also can and must do. The Lord gives to you generously infinite goods, which perhaps you don't learn to appreciate and acknowledge. Well then, give as gift to Him what you possess with great love. What is good, what is grace, what is merit, He will guard it again for you and you will find it all in his Kingdom!

See you again, brethren! May the Lady of Heaven and earth bless you and help you.

## **BE FIRM IN THE FAITH**

*Pope John XXIII*

*October 17, 1968*

My children, I am Pope John, here present to pray with you.

The Church is going through the most tremendous hour of history. Persecutions made its members suffer, but the Church flourished in suffering and martyrs were being born to eternal life, with which it kept on being

embellished. However, now they are betrayals without end that are ruining her in herself, bringing harm to the faith and to the faithful.

Children, pray for the Church and for the bishops, the priests and the Pope! Children of the Church, renew continuously your profession of faith and be firm in it. Watch out for those who denigrate her and hurl anathemas against those who comprise her, without bothering at all for the ramifications that are spread over all the earth. Do not let yourselves be deceived by the evil one, and never forget that the hostile forces are able to unleash the most threatening seas, but the barque of Peter will always be the salvation for those who wish to be saved.

I bless you, children. Love the Church and the Pope, sacrifice yourselves and pray for her; be faithful, so that in the most difficult moments you may be ready also to give your life to defend her.

## **OFFER UP PRAYER AND SUFFERING FOR THE CHURCH**

*Pope John XXIII*

*October 30, 1968*

My daughter, that Rosary that you deliver to me to present to the Queen of Heaven for the sick is very dear to me. I receive it, and I promise you special assistance and help. But I beg you: recommend to all the sick to offer up their physical pains and sufferings for the Church and for the Pope.

The hour is great, dear children, and prayer and suffering must move the heart of God to have pity on his Bride, the Church, which is sick in its members.

From Heaven I assist at your meetings and make them fruitful. I bless your Cenacle and the Parish Priest, who, having given permission for you to meet, has given your meetings an ecclesial imprint.

Continue to be good, to love one another and to help each other in turn. I am with you and I bless you.

## **ASK ST. JOSEPH FOR HUMILITY AND HIDDENNESS**

*Pope John XXIII*

*March 18, 1969*

My children, the honour is mine to prepare you for tomorrow's feast! I am Pope John!

You know that my name was Joseph and that I nurtured a great love for the spouse of the Mother of God. That's why the Lord said to me: *"Go to those souls and invite them to celebrate with special solemnity your Patron!"*

Meanwhile, I also want to tell you that tomorrow there will be a great feast also in Heaven, not only for that great saint who was the shadow of the Eternal Father, but also for all the Joseph' who like him have reached the glory of the heavens, especially those who on earth imitated his virtues.

Amongst all the saints, those who bear this beautiful name are the most numerous, and I take advantage of this meeting with you to invite all, through you, to give again, as it used to be done, the name of Joseph to your children, who, I assure you, shall be protected in a very special way by their holy protector.

Now, my children, what can I tell you? See, you are preparing to celebrate the saint of humility and hiddenness. Well then, these two virtues, that resemble each other and are one the consequence of the other, desire them and ask for them always from St. Joseph and, through him, from God in every prayer of yours, because they are the basis of every perfection. Then will follow: the spirit of sacrifice, patience, charity and all the other virtues, which will blossom in your life and make you dear to God and to men.

And now, only one thing I urge you: love your husbands even if they are not called Joseph; love them, like Our Lady loved her spouse, with a love that makes you see all that is good in them and which makes you appreciate all the good that they do. Bring them to Holy Communion, bring them to Jesus, and your family will be holy and sanctifying, that is to say, all its members will be sanctified and, on your example, other families also.

I bless you, children, and I urge you: make me remembered by your children, whom I loved and love so much.

## BE FERVENT APOSTLES OF THE ROSARY

*Pope John XXIII*

*September 30, 1969*

My children, I am here with you and I have prayed with you and for you. I am Pope John and I have come to prepare your hearts to spend the month dedicated to the Virgin of the Rosary with special fervour.

You know how much I loved the Mother of Heaven and how I took the time to make her known and loved. My vocation arose exactly in a shrine dedicated to her, as I was reciting the holy Rosary.

Today vocations are few, and the ministers of God are deviating from the right road because they have abandoned this beautiful devotion, which gave them so much strength to perform their ministry and to keep their faith even in the midst of difficulties.

Families are falling apart more and more and love is lacking, because it is no longer the Mother of Heaven who keeps them together. And society is going to ruin, and morals are lacking in it because one does not pray together.

My children, be fervent apostles of this beautiful devotion and be certain that you will have the greatest blessings of Heaven.

May the minister here present be generously blessed for the great love that he nourishes towards the Mother of God. I accompany him giving him the gift of much goodness, with which he will gain many souls for God. To him, my special blessing and the assurance that all the persons which he entrusts to the Holy Virgin shall also be blessed by me.

## YOU MUST ALWAYS BE GOOD

*Pope John XXIII*

*November 23, 1969*

My children, I have come to you to give you a gift.

The heavenly Mother said to me: *“Go, to those children who pray to me with so much fervour and bring them a ray of the goodness of God, so that they prepare well for my great feast and for the Christmas feast of my Jesus.”* And I have come here.

Look, I give you a reflection of the goodness of God and, with it, I give you a suggestion.

You all, and many other persons call me the “Good Pope.” I assure you that the goodness of God did not have, and does not have, comparison with mine. I had attempted only to practise those virtues that render us dear to the heart of God and lovable to men in order to be able to do them some good. Certain abrupt and surly manners must not exist among Christians, because Jesus never used them and we must be his copy.

Therefore, I say to you that you must always be good, in a threefold way: good towards God, using towards Him that charity that puts Him in the first place and which makes you offer everything to Him who gave you everything; good towards yourselves, seeking to take away from your character all that stings others and is a cause of sorrow to them; good with everyone, seeking to practise those virtues that are based on love and which take on different names according to the way you exercise it.

Love sometimes is called “to clothe the naked”; other times “to give food to the hungry”; sometimes it will be called “to console the afflicted”; other times it will be “to visit the infirm or to forgive the insults”; but it will always be the exercise of pure love, that love for which God became man and which is the basis of our religion.

All that I have said to you is true goodness, which, even if hidden, has come from the attentive eye of Him who created, redeeming, and wants all men saved exactly in the name of his infinite goodness. In the exercise of charity the sons of God and the true Christians are distinguished, who on the last day, exactly on this will be examined and judged.

My children, I bless you and I say to you once again: be good! You are preparing for the feast of the best

of mothers, and then the feast of the children will come. And who are there better than the children! Sometimes you call them naughty, but you are mistaken. You ought to say restless, lively; never say naughty, because naughtiness presupposes a full use of reason, while in them there is only impulsiveness.

And know what I say to you? Be good like children. See how they are ready to love and to forgive, how they are grateful for what they receive and ready to share what they possess with others, and how they rejoice in the most little things. You also be like that. Act so that the Lord first of all, and all the others, can say that you are truly good.

I bless you, my children. Love each other and love everyone. Only by this will they understand that you are sons of God and able to aspire to the eternal reward that God reserves to the good.

## **PERSEVERE CONFIDENTLY IN PRAYER**

*Pope John XXIII*

*May 31, 1970*

My children and brethren, see, I am here under instruction from your Queen and ours to address a greeting and a word of encouragement to you, as well as approval. And I begin from the latter, telling you thank you for those beautiful prayers that with so much love and in such good harmony you raise to heaven.

You have come on the last day of May. You have sown the most beautiful roses a little everywhere, and she has gathered them, Mary, presenting them to God. What fruits have they brought you? I cannot tell you individually, but I know that you all have had an increase of faith, of fervour and of goodness.

Now you will begin the month dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Son of the Queen and He King also. Perhaps you think that your prayers and your virtues might slow down? It is said by you that whoever stops is lost. It is almost true, for the life of the Christian is a continuous journey, a continuous ascent, and you cannot slow down, if you do not want to go backwards. Therefore, continue on with that youthful ardour, which faith gives you, to look at the future with confident hope.

Today, in the Church the Virgin Queen of hearts is commemorated. Place yourselves as humble subjects at her service, and allow her to reign over your hearts. The consecration of hearts that you make at every meeting is very pleasing to the heavenly Mother. She takes delivery of your life, which your heart is the motor, and she guards it for you, she defends it for you and she leads you to salvation.

My children and mothers, who mourn over your children who have lost the faith and do not want to love the Lord, persevere trustingly in prayer, mourn also but meanwhile offer up to the Virgin, Queen and Mother, the hearts of your loved ones. Do not forget that her mercy is infinite, since her heart is modelled on God's, and your loved ones are dearer to her than to you. Learn to believe in love and do not doubt the mercy of God. If you consecrate them to her, they are in good hands. Know that only those who absolutely want to be lost will be lost, since the divine art of saving souls, Jesus and Mary use it up to the smallest details.

Take care to set a good example to all in every moment of your day, so that all may be able to draw from your word and your example the light that comes from the Gospel. Be living Gospels.

You have recognized me, true? I am Pope John, and I say to you that I am also here for this reason: you pray for my successor, and I praise you and I encourage you in this work of charity! He is the father of Christianity, and praying and sacrificing oneself for him must be the duty of each one. Many do not want to understand it. Make up for it, and love the Pope, since God, who prefers him as the pupil of his eyes, blesses those who give him comfort.

Now I bless you all and I commend the Rosary to you, that prayer which I loved so much and which is the precious pearl that unites families in concord and keeps the hope of Heaven alive in them. It is a prayer so precious that, if you recite the Ave, in Heaven they respond singing, and all of Paradise is animated with joy in the pleasure of helping you. Never fail to make it be learned and recited by your children, so that they themselves may intone and lead it. Children speak to God with the voice of their innocence, and their prayer becomes irresistible. Always say to them that in Rome there is a great Pope who is always thinking of them, and that in Paradise there is a Queen who loves and protects them.

I bless you again, my children, and I say to you see you again, because I am often here and I pray with you.

## ON PILGRIMAGE TO REGGIO EMILIA

*Pope John XXIII*

*June 2, 1971*

My children and brethren, you have asked for my protection and I give it to you.

You know how much I favoured the devout pilgrimages during my mortal life. The destination of my pilgrimage, during my infancy, was the shrine of Our Lady of the Forest, where the Virgin of the Rosary was the inspiration for my vocation. Then, slowly as the years passed by, I wanted to visit many shrines, in which I found nourishment for my faith, my devotion to the Virgin increased and I became fervent in the practice of the virtues, especially of those which in the Rosary are exhibited to the faithful. During my pontificate, I wanted to bring everywhere that flame of love, that ardour of charity with which my heart was filled.

The Marian shrines are the royal palaces where the heavenly Lady of the Castle holds audience and distributes her most beautiful graces. Therefore, go with faith to greet the heavenly Mother, and make your needs present to her. Put me also in between as intermediary, and have faith.

I recall to you a little detail that ended my existence. At the words of the priest, who in St. Peter's square ended the celebration of the Mass, my earthly life closed. Also my pilgrimage closed with the "Ite Missa est."

Do so that, also for you, the earthly pilgrimages may be a call to that heavenly homeland in which the true life begins, so that you too may be able to utter your "the Mass is ended." I accomplished my mission: a simple mission, humble if you wish, but divine, since it is a mission of salvation.

I bless you, children, and I thank you for having remembered me. Many remember me in their discourses, but only to support their errors. Pray, so that truth may always shine in the minds of men and so that they may desire it and love it.

## YOU ARE A PART OF THE CHURCH

*Pope John XXIII*

*October 10, 1971*

My brethren, here I am with you today, on which is remembered the start of that great Council that ought to have brought into the Church some precious and great innovations. The Divine Maternity of Mary was being celebrated then, and, through that tender devotion that I bore her from the most tender infancy, I desired, under her auspices, to start those great studies.

Unfortunately the results were not what were desired, and the confusion and the heresy, joined to the dispute, go on sowing disorder and errors in the Church. In spite of all, the Mother of God, and Mother of the Church, protects all her children and wants to guide them along the way of the truth to her Jesus, who He himself is the Way, the Truth and the Life. The world continues on the road of error and vice, and the Mother stands alongside the good because she wants to preserve them from the evil and lead them to virtue.

My presence in this place, wholly mystical and spiritual, wishes to encourage you all to be docile towards this very good Mother, and wishes to be an invitation to pray for the Church and for those who comprise it, be they members of the teaching Church as well as the learning, since you all need some help. Every soul is a little world; if there is not the light that comes from the Holy Spirit to direct it and if this little world does not support itself on the solid foundation of humility, the falls are easy.

When the deeper sciences are examined on a human field, the eventual errors can bring human disasters. But, when with the pride of the mind one wants to penetrate into the secrets of God, it is He himself who permits the greatest tumbles so that man can certify his own insufficiency.

All of you, whether individually or communally, are a part of the Church: behave so that this rock which you represent, and this pile of rocks, be so solid and so firmly joined together through humility and charity, that in them the whole Church feels a support and a benefit.

Are you amazed? No, do not be amazed, since, if everyone of you seeks to sanctify yourself and raise yourself up, you are capable of lifting up the whole world.

And now, after these short teachings, I give you a special blessing.

I bless the children present. I bless all, one by one, with your families. This evening, going to your homes, you will say to your loved ones: *“I bring you the blessing of Pope John.”*

## THREE RECOMMENDATIONS

*Pope John XXIII*

*April 12, 1972*

My beloved children, may it not be displeasing to you that I address my word to you. I am Pope John, whom you all remember and often times pray to. I am here to pray with you and I desire to recommend three things to you. Reflect on what I am about to tell you, and try to draw some profit from these teachings.

First of all, I urge you to be good. Goodness is like a luminous ray that parts from the heart of God, and, when men receive it inside them, are transformed and become capable of transforming others. There are some who think they are able to change the mind and the heart of all, imposing themselves with arrogance and strength, but they err, since the way to be able to win is always that of goodness and love, whereby one makes God act in one's actions.

Therefore, I recommend that you exercise and examine yourselves everyday on goodness. You must ask yourselves often: Am I good? Do I exercise goodness with everyone, with those who wish me well and with those who hate me? Do I forgive everyone? Am I generous in going out of my way for the needs of others? Do I burden others with my complaints, my crosses, and also my bad mood and my evil character? If you will be careful on these things, little by little you will improve yourselves and, becoming more good, you will be even more loved by God and by all those who are near you.

See how children quickly change their minds in their defects and whims, if you let them reflect, and how quickly they return to their mothers even if she reproaches and punishes them. You must be the same. Like children, simple and good, you must be ready to humble yourself with all and to ask each other for forgiveness, since you all can make mistakes.

By exercising goodness, you will become more and more good, so that it will be a pleasure for others to listen to you and live with you! Then you will be able to say a good word, give some counsels and some suggestions, in order to call back the lapsed, and you can be certain that they will listen to you.

The other thing that I want to recommend to you is obedience and love for the Church. He who obeys, never makes mistakes. He who is with the Pope, is with Jesus and will not perish. Do not listen to the false prophets, who spread themselves a little everywhere sowing heresy and disorder. Stay united to the Church, pray for her and defend her Creed. Practise her laws and make use of the Sacraments with respect and devotion, since, even if the members of the Church were to fail, the Church remains with her unchangeable doctrine and with her infallible Head.

Men can change opinion and idea, but God remains immutable and his teachings, revealed through Jesus Christ, do not change. Morality, pointed out in the Commandments, will always be the same, even if men think that God must adapt himself to them and that they are not the ones who have to listen to what God wants.

Defend the Church who is the mother of the living, since, with Holy Baptism you are reborn in her with water and the Holy Spirit, exactly as Jesus wants.

And last of all, continue to love and invoke your great patron St. Joseph. I was very much devoted to this great saint, who is never known enough. Commend your nation to him, the Church and your family! His power is great on earth and in Heaven, where the eternal Father still does not refuse him anything, the divine Son obeys him, and Mary his spouse, is happy to invoke for his devotees the most beautiful graces. Entrust your children, your loved ones and your material and spiritual interests to Joseph, and be certain that you will not be disappointed.

Finally, I urge you to entrust to him daily my Successor, so that he may help him to carry the heavy cross that he holds more on his heart than on the shoulders.

And now, children, I give you the holy blessing, that it may be a down payment of the one that you will

receive from dear St. Joseph in the last moment of your life. I bless also your intentions, your families and your Rosary beads, so that, in using them, you may remember what I have told you and do recite them with true love and with a lot of fervour.

## **BE THE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

*Pope John XXIII*

*June 4, 1974*

My brethren, some years ago I went from the Vatican to go and pay a visit to Our Lady of Loreto, and there I asked for graces for the whole Church. The Council was about to be opened then, from which I hoped a great re-blossoming of Christianity, great gifts from God and special protection from the Virgin. The Council took place, and the helps from Heaven were not lacking.

Today however, a short distance from it, the Church sails in a stormy sea, and everywhere many difficulties and errors are being spread, which prevent that hoped-for re-blossoming and which produce disunity and sorrow in the Church. The threat of new schisms hangs continuously, while the heart of my Jesus, which is also yours, suffers and that of my successor is in agony.

I would like to make you worthy before God of a work that is dear to me and which, having originated in your Milan, must continue on and be propagated. I am speaking about the Marian Movement of Priests, whose programme is very similar to yours.

I desire that, in every meeting of yours and in your daily intentions, for there to be a special remembrance: the Church must be renewed and give its fruits! That will not be possible if the members of the teaching Church and those of the learning Church are not transformed and, enriched by the gifts of the Holy Spirit, do not hesitate to communicate them to all by word and example.

Here is one of the graces that you will ask Our Lady of Loreto for, whom they call the protector of aviators: that priests and faithful, united in mutual help, learn to truly fly.

You might ask me: we also have our family and individual needs, must we perhaps forget them? Whoever helps the Church, helps himself, since the grace and spiritual good drops like a beneficial rain upon all to quench their thirst, their hunger, to bless them. If you are good, you will be likewise generous, and you will learn to renounce your interests in order to consider the communal ones. Pray, suffer for the Church, love the Church, and I promise you to take an interest in you.

I have said to you to be good and generous, and now I say to you: be the Catholic Church! Let everyone of you assume the present responsibility. Do not take lightly the warnings that you receive, but treasure them and, thanking God who favours you, consider straight away how to translate them into practice.

The Church is the bride of Christ, which will remain victorious because it is a divine work, but in every age it is combated by the devil, who would like to annihilate it. Persecutions have irrigated it with blood: the blood of martyrs, however, at every time it was the seed of new Christians. The Church therefore, will always be victorious, and with the help of God and with fidelity to the Supreme Shepherd, it will learn to react in this moment of great tribulation. May trust and hope never fall short in you.

I bless you. I am John XXIII. When you receive these divine messages, whoever it may be speaking to you, know that they are always divine, for in Paradise one only tongue is spoken. Be serene and pray with faith, since the very special presence of God, which puts Heaven in communication with the earth, demands respect and devotion.

## **LOVE FOR SOULS**

*St. John Bosco*

*January 31, 1970*

Here I am, I am here with you who have chosen this day to gather together with the aim of honouring me. I am here to bless you and to help you.

I am John Bosco. I will not say extraordinary things to you even though the extraordinary continuously



accompanied my life. I will tell you only what was etched into my life as child and as priest, so as to give me strength and courage in every necessity and to help me to avoid dangers.

The holy Virgin, as Divine Shepherdess, guarded the lambs, who went to her after having become such from the rapacious wolves that they were.

The existence of the devil and the vision of the devastating work performed by him in souls, and particularly amongst the youth, put me on my guard against his works and gave me strength to conduct that holy battle to which the Virgin Auxiliatrix encouraged me by giving me her weapon: the Holy Rosary.

A habitual thought, which was confirmed to me many times with visions, has been that of hell. I saw it, hell, which today many persons put into doubt, and I saw many youth fall into it and be lost irremediably. This vision gave me the fervour to go in search of souls, which I loved more than my life. "*Give me souls and take away all the rest*", I used to say to the Lord, because I had understood how terrible it was to lose the soul, which had cost so dearly to Him and which was created for an eternal happiness.

You do the same also, my children. Choose the Holy Virgin as your heavenly Patroness, so that she may help you to overcome the devil under whatever aspect he may present himself to you and so that she may help you to save, not only your souls, but also many others, by means of your prayer, your word and your example.

I bless you and I help you to persevere in good.

Keep your promises and progress in virtue, up to attaining that holiness that the Lord desires from you.

## **THE HOLY FEAR OF GOD**

*St. John Bosco*

*January 31, 1973*

My children and brethren, I cannot but agree to your desire to receive from me some good advice and, with God's permission, here you are satisfied!

You belong to a Salesian parish and you are pupils and Salesian co-workers. My invitation can be but this: continue to love the Salesian work and always collaborate, within the limit possible, to those initiatives that are for the good of the youth and of souls.

Modern youth has completely twisted the basis of Christian virtue, which is the holy fear of God, the beginning of wisdom. God is treated like a person to whom one can turn to arrogantly and be on familiar terms with; to whom one can give any insult or do daring battle with. One forgets, not only the respect that is due to Him, for all is due to Him and all is received from Him, but even the love that He bears for men and the severity with which He will be forced to judge his children who ignore and deny Him.

Therefore, it is necessary to return to the past, and to inculcate in the minds and in the hearts of the youth that holy fear that is disappearing. It must be a healthy fear, that makes one cautious in one's doing, so that the actions may be pleasing and not an offence to a loving Father who is God. Let it be a fear that makes you feel the continual presence of God; the offence made to Him does not have to cross the mountains to ascend to Heaven, because God is near to you more than your soul is near to the body.

God is immense and infinite. One cannot elude neither his gaze, nor his presence, whereupon, even if his silent goodness does not permit him to pronounce a judgement immediately, the condemnation of evil, which man performs in his presence, is already pronounced, and does not obtain pardon except by asking it from Him and with true grief.

Children, whoever fears God and walks in his presence attains perfection. For this you are invited, certainly not by practising great things, but only by going closer to God with the simplicity of the child who, as he listens, esteems and appreciates his counsels and his teachings, he tries also to please Him in obedience and in docility.

I bless you, children. I bless the youth group.

Every time that you gather, a new fire is lit in the heart, a new light illuminates your mind. The world

needs you. You must combat heresy and the insipience of those who would like to stand in for the true Church. You must combat, bringing into the world that desire of God which is realized with prayer. Everyone would like to create new worlds, and their self-sufficiency is a certain sign that God is not feared, in whose hands today and tomorrow resides, the beginning and the end of everything, life and death. You are few, but you will become many, and from the religious instruction that you will receive directly from Him who is the real Teacher and from her who is the Mother of the Church, will come to you that zeal and that effectiveness of the word through which you will learn to convince also the very lapsed.

I assist and bless you. With you, I bless all the group and all the initiatives which you will help along to for the consolidation of the work. Do not fear the adversities and the intrigues. Remember the proverb: *“He who does no evil, has no fear!”*

## **CONSIDERATION FOR THE GOODNESS AND THE JUSTICE OF GOD**

*St. John Bosco*

*January 31, 1974*

My brethren, with God’s permission, look, I am addressing my word to you, which is meant to be a teaching, an encouragement and a help.

I am John Bosco, whom the Church honours today. And how could I not address a word to you, as this cenacle is a part of that parish of which I laid the first stone, and which I hoped for so much good through it for the city of Milan?

I am here to tell you: brethren, it is urgent to collaborate with the Saints of Paradise to save the youth, who are seriously threatened in body and in spirit. And to tell you what is needed to be done for the youth, I recall to you what my earthly mother did, mother Margherita, in order to fulfil her duty according to the will of God and bring my education to completion.

When I think about so many mothers who spend entire days without remembering God — and if they remember Him it is only to complain — the example and teaching of mamma Margherita, who educated me on the reality of the presence of God, appears to me more and more luminous, so that I felt Him so close to me as to dare to ask for help, not only in real necessities, but also in games. The thought of God was habitual in my mother, so as to refer to his goodness and his justice every sad or glad event, not only in the world, but also in our family.

If the knowledge of the goodness of God gave us trust in Providence, trust that through the years would have given me the courage to attempt, without means, the construction of great works, the thought of the justice of God gave me that holy fear whereby sin made me truly afraid.

It was this fear that I wanted to impress on all the youth, whom I gathered under the mantle of the Virgin Auxiliatrix, and which I would like for mothers to impress in their children from the most tender age. Trust in the goodness, united to the fear of the justice of God, allowed my youth to be defended by two powerful wings, which gave me courage at the same time.

Moreover, I recall to you a very important note of the maternal education received. There are mothers who think of being able to make their children grow in a basket of flowers, and want to avoid small and great sacrifices for them. If some mothers had suffered in their infancy, they want to prevent at all cost for their children to suffer. children are accustomed, therefore, to have all they desire, and they do not know, neither the law of mortification, nor that of penance, so necessary to render the will and the spirit strong besides the body. So in this way this youth grows softened, accustomed to being spoiled in all their demands.

I will thank forever my good mother, who was not concerned about sparing me sacrifices, who, rather, encouraged to help me even to reach that ideal of the priesthood; and the vocation of the apostolate was also sustained by the consideration that whoever works for Jesus, with Him must be crucified. Fidelity to one’s duty, to one’s commitments, and the ideal to be reached, was a way with which my holy mother kept alight in me like a flame.

Also to the modern youth these principles ought to be inculcated, which could be translated into as many

simple phrases, but in which there can be the whole life of the sanctified Christian.

*“Death, but no sins”!* Yes, the fear of offending God ought to lead the youth to make a similar intention. But how can one reach this, if right from infancy religious teaching is neglected, through which God appears as a Being present, a living reality and working in favour of man?

The ideal of attaining is linked to the mystery of the salvation of everyone, and each young man ought to feel at the same time, with the need to save his own soul, that of saving souls.

*“Give me souls; take all away from me!”*, I used to say with all the enthusiasm of my youth, and this ideal of conquest was what all my days were based on. To the good mother still I owe a great part of this thirst for souls. To her, who opened the door of the house to many homeless youth and who put no limit on her generosity, and sacrificed herself night and day so that these young people, whom I went about gathering here and there, did not lack for anything!

The dangers that the young easily meet up with are always the same, even if, adding drugs and the modern means of entertainment, they have increased. The media and bad company ruin the young. What can make a friendship dangerous, you mothers also can verify, who grieve over certain sudden changes that seem irreparable for your children. The pornographic media ruins the soul and, exciting the senses, changes the vision of life, whereupon it is considered animal like and the most important part is given to the body. The vision of the good to be done, of the true to be understood and the beautiful to be loved, are like annihilated by those carnal attractions in which the devil has his triumph and his pleasure.

What shall you do, mothers, before this spectacle so desolating? I saw, during my mortal life, hell and many young people who miserably fell into it. The only anchor of salvation was, is, and always will be, Mary.

Mothers, start your work of religious and moral education, even before your children see the light, with your dignified behaviour, with assiduous prayer. Commend and consecrate your children to the blessed Virgin, so that she may be able to rectify the bad habits and re-establish in hearts the faith, which they through vice and pride have abandoned. Call the good mother Margherita to your aid, who will be a guide and teacher to you.

Children and brethren, I bless you and I promise you assistance. I bless the youth group, which, united to you, tries to lift itself up in order to lift up, and all those groups which, in imitation of this one have formed and will be formed. I bless the priests that direct them, to whom I will give light, strength and constancy.

## MY EARTHLY LIFE

*St. Joseph*

*March 19, 1969*

My children, who have gathered together to celebrate with special solemnity my name, be blessed, and blessed be the families in which I am invoked as guide, as help and as comfort!

I lived the earthly and family life in hard work and in suffering, in privations and in sorrow; therefore, I am capable of understanding you and counselling you. It is so easy to speak to men who are in tribulation, when one can say to them: *“I also have suffered like you”*, because the word then truly brings comfort and trust. I have worked like you, I have sweated on the workbench, and my only comfort was that of having beside my the Child Jesus and my most sweet Spouse.

Well then, you also sanctify work in this way! Work and sweat, but with Jesus in company, and work, besides for your family, so humanly just, for superior and divine motives that will let you attain eternal life.

I want to teach you again, dear husbands, how you are respect, love and devotion to your spouses. How many unhappy families because it is not understood how much the mother, in a home, is precious and necessary! Well then, dear men, you must see in your spouse Our Lady, my sweet Mary. See her in this way, and you will learn to appreciate her in her true value.

Another thing I must urge you. My Jesus had no need, as Man-God, to be educated. He knew everything, but we, my spouse and I, attended in common agreement to the education of our Jesus, whom I instructed in manual work and whom sometimes we permitted ourselves to reprimand and to correct, like when we lost Him in the Temple.

Well then, dear children, Christian parents, if you want to obtain a good outcome in your work of upbringing, always be in agreement among yourselves. Differences between parents never create a good impression on children, who many times take advantage of the disagreements in order to do what they should not. Love, which must be unswerving in you, will not make your life in common hard, and will make you carry out in common agreement the work of upbringing; it will be all to the advantage of the whole family.

And last of all, I want to remind you that, if in my earthly life trust in Providence was never lacking, however, my service for the work of God was never lacking. I put myself at his disposal, always ready for obedience. You also do the same: let the Lord dispose of you according to his will, by co-operating with yours.

I assure you that, if you will do what I have told you and remember me in your daily prayers, you will have the best reward from me on the last day, when I will come to take you to bring you into the Kingdom of God, where I hold the office of Viceroy like the ancient Joseph. A special approval to my true devotees, whom I sometimes make wait a little, but then I grant in all their holy desires, in all their needs.

I bless you, my children.

## **I SHALL BE THE GUARDIAN OF CONVENTS**

*St. Joseph*

*June 25, 1969*

My daughter, you have desired me, and I have come to bless you and to comfort you and to reassure you of my protection.

Many are the graces that I intercede for my devotees: graces of a material order and spiritual order.

I invite you to continue to spread devotion to me and to make me invoked with the act of love that Sr. Consolata learned from Jesus himself. I promise you a very special assistance in life and in death.

Tell it also to the religious who visit your house: that I will preserve them from dangers and for them to put their communities under my patronage! Many are the dangers which they meet up with in this period in which the devil of lust seems to get the upper hand on spirituality and on the purity of life. I shall be the guardian of convents, as I had been of the family of Nazareth, and I will provide for their necessities not only in a marvellous way, but, I would say, miraculous.

I have in my hands the keys of the eternal granaries. Let your faith and your love of God be rekindled and, at the same time, my help invoked, so that you may be able to realize the works that the faith counsels and that charity imposes.

Be good, humble, obedient, and you will receive the abundance of blessings of the Father through me.

## **IN PREPARATION FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE**

*St. Joseph*

*December 2, 1969*

My children, I have received from the Lord this delicate task: to come to prepare your hearts for the encounter with my most sweet immaculate Spouse. I will not tell you many things: only some, necessary, which must completely transform your existence, so as to render it in conformity with the model that is proposed to you.

I looked at my virgin Bride, during our mortal life together, like one looks at the star when one is on the sea. I saw her light, and she acted as my guide, she showed me the way. It was not a dazzling light, because it was softened by her humility, and she knew how to hide it so well as to seem like any spouse, like any mother, like any person. See this is the first virtue that you must imitate in her!

You have received special gifts of grace, but through humility you must be so good as to appear like all the others. No one can sit in judgement over those who do not do the same as you, because not all are held to act like you do.

Love, therefore, this beautiful virtue which encloses and comprises many others! Do as she did, Mary! You will see that it will be easy for you to speak little, to listen a lot, to forgive always, and the sweetness of your smile and your voice will have a very special effect on the souls of those who are around you.

Another thing I wish to teach you: I looked upon my sweet Spouse with that respect and with that devotion which made me see in her the Tabernacle of God. Yes, dear children, she was and is that sanctuary of God where whoever wishes to attain holiness must hide. Next to her heart it is great to rest and it is great to pray, work, live and die: it is the best place where it is easy to think about and find Jesus. This is the way it must happen also with you. In Baptism you have been consecrated to God. It is for this that you must be true tabernacles of Jesus and attract to Him, through your good conduct, those persons who expect only good example.

I bless you, children, and I invite you to remember me on these days and to emulate me in greeting, in venerating, in knowing and making known the sweet creature whom the Lord put beside me so that she could help me to be sanctified.

## **HOW TO PREPARE A WORTHY PLACE FOR JESUS**

*St. Joseph*

*March 19, 1970*

Dear brethren, I have come to pay you a visit at the behest of my most lovable Spouse. She said to me: *“Go, to those children to bring your greetings and to receive theirs”*, and I have come.

I present myself to you in this way, with the Child Jesus in my arm and a lily in the other hand, and I say to you: you also must present yourselves in the same way in your homes and in the world.

The lily is a symbol of purity, and the world and families greatly need it. Impurity, scandal, obscene talk and pornography transform this world of yours into a garbage dump.

When my Jesus, Son of Mary, was born I did a great clean up in that grotto and I cleared from that place all that was unworthy. Today, your homes are worse than that stable. It is up to you to begin and, with tenacity and good will, commit yourselves to take away all that contaminates the family environment! Certain media, certain fashions, certain discourses, certain actions, would make me shiver if I were to enter again into certain surroundings.

If you wish, you can help me to prepare a place worthy for Jesus. The soul will rise again from a life of sin, and He will live in you with his grace. If you consider what Jesus has said, and do what I tell you, you will truly see God, for you will become those pure of heart to whom the Lord reveals and makes himself known.

Children and brethren, live chastely according to your state and spread a little innocence in the world. The impure sins have always been, since the existence of the world, the cause of great scourges, from the Flood to all that has tormented the earth. And even now still are, believe me: I am telling you, I who enjoys the confidence of the Queen of Paradise and the Son of God, whom I guarded, nourished and brought up in his mortal life. Yes, I tell you: the great chastisements with which the world is struck, are caused by the immorality, which displeases so much the heart of God, infinite purity.

Therefore, undertake like a great crusade in which you are all called to fight, so that, having purified your surroundings, you are able by good example do a work of persuasion also before others.

And now, as I bring you the greetings of your relatives who are with me in glory, accept my approval for that great initiative that you have undertaken, of consecrating your children to the heavenly Mother. Yes, she guards them, and I too take them under my special protection and, just as I protected and guarded the Child Jesus, I will also guard them so that you may be able to save them from that slaughter of innocents that covers the whole earth with crimes and blood.

I protect the whole Church, but I assure you that my devotees enjoy my favours, and they obtain from me all that they ask me as long as it is useful for them.

I bless everyone and I promise you helps even material ones, however, I beg you to pledge yourselves to consent to my desires. I always listen to your petitions and, even if I am not so prompt in hearing you, do not

doubt that I reach the opportune moment and I return with great favours and special graces even the most little gesture of affection and faith.

## **IT IS NECESSARY TO WAIT, TO HAVE FAITH AND PATIENCE**

*St. Joseph*

*March 19, 1971*

My brethren, with what joy have I accepted the invitation of Mary, my most sweet Spouse, to come and address to you a greeting and an encouragement! She turned to me with a smile so delicate, that her sight alone, as it is enough to gladden Paradise, would be enough to convince all men: *“Go — she said to me — to those children, and bring also my blessing.”* Now, my brethren, I am here and I pray with you.

Did you know with what love I used to say to her: *“Hail Mary, I salute you, you are full of grace, the Lord is with you, you are blessed among all women, and blessed is your Son Jesus, whom I have to guard, raise, bring up and defend!”* What joy it gave to my spirit and what help in adversities and difficulties! Her serenity, her speech full of softness and sweetness, filled and ravished my heart. Beside her, every bad thought crumbled and the heart was filled with God.

There were very difficult moments in our family life, moments that you would call tragic and would have led to despair, if the hand of God, faith in Him and patience, had not sweetened and transformed them.

When there was the atrocious doubt that put uncertainty on the chastity of my young Spouse, one single word of hers would have cheered me up, but her humility did not permit her to defend herself. She wanted God himself to make her innocence known.

The Lord many times acts in the same way: He permits for souls to suffer, and the innocent are those who must pay for the wicked! They alone are capable of offering pleasing things to the Father.

Mary, therefore, though suffering, kept quiet, and I suffered and wanted to leave her quietly, until God himself intervened.

Children and brethren, I want to make you note a mistake that is committed many times also by good souls. They would like all the problems resolved in a single instant; they would like for God to intervene straight away, for Him to hear you, to chastise, to reward; but God does not work this way. His goodness, his indulgence and the desire for all to be saved, make Him slow in granting and hearing the desires of everyone. He intervenes when He feels it opportune, and heals completely the wounds of souls, of hearts and of bodies, if it is necessary. It is necessary to wait, to have faith and patience.

The example of Mary, how much light she could give to those who invoke her!

Therefore, never say: *“I have prayed so much; He does not grant me anything; I am in despair!”* This talk resembles a lot the blasphemies that the wicked, faithless and loveless, hurl against God. Learn to see events in the light of faith, and take the things of life with serenity and peace.

Who, more than me, can understand you? Do you not wish to follow me when at Bethlehem, driven away by all with the young Spouse, I had to shelter in a stable her divine maternity? When, shortly after the birth of our Jesus, I had to leave house and home in order to escape the persecution of a selfish and impure king? Does it not seem to you that despair could have taken possession of our hearts?

Brethren, despair is a sign of a lack of faith, of hope and of love. It is for this that I invite you to preserve in your hearts these precious virtues that fill with grace and with peace.

When persons close to you complain and blaspheme, say to them: *“If you go into despair, you have in your heart a foretaste of hell, for there is a despair without hope and without end only there!”* Speak to them lovingly, without conceit, without pride! Bring them beside my Spouse, speak to them about the Paradise that awaits them, and help them to see everything with simplicity, with sincerity. Yes, also with sincerity, for many woes you bring on yourselves with that lack of prudence that makes you act inconsiderately or with that fickleness that leads you to speak too much about yourselves to all.

Love silence, and keep in your hearts the good things like the bad ones. The Lord, who sees all, will

settle everything when you least expect it.

I am always lavish of help with all. When you have loved souls to be saved and you feel incapable, come to me. We will work together on the hearts of Jesus and Mary, and you will see that the final victory will be ours.

I bless you and I help you in all. Invoke me every day for the dying, the troubled and those in despair. My work has not ceased in this world, going out of my way for my family; my present family is the world, and you are all entrusted to my patronage.

Thank you to those who have sent me their cordial greetings!

## TO THE YOUNG

*St. Joseph*

*March 19, 1972*

My brothers, may you cherish the greeting and the word that I address to you.

I am your older brother. I had some great responsibilities and tasks in life that I would not have been able to resolve alone, if the desire to obey God and his help, not disconnected from that of my most sweet Spouse had not sustained me.

Everyone of you has a mission to perform, a journey to undertake, and this road is sown by sorrowful and unforeseen events, before which you could remain dismayed or disappointed, be anguished or in despair. If however, you try to see everything with the eye of faith, which is like saying with the eye of the Lord, all will seem beautiful and simple to you!

Mary and Martha also saw the death of Lazarus with human eyes. They had approached Jesus, and had brought Him the sad news that his friend was no longer. Jesus opened their eyes, saying: "*Lazarus is asleep!*" No event is tragic as much as death, but, for he who has faith, it is only a sleep, at whose awakening the soul can encounter the face of God.

Children, when you are unable to make sense of the events that guide men and the world, look at them with the eye of God; all will be clear for you because a divine light will illuminate them. When you feel weakened by the succession of sorrowful events, look up and, in the hope of what awaits you, find the joy again of living and the strength to die.

Dear children, if my death has been a sweet passing, it was because, beside my bed in a compassionate act of helping me, two divine creatures kept watch: Jesus and Mary, who in life had been inseparable to me.

You must look at death, be it near or far from you, as the good sister who, opening the door of eternity for you, introduces you into glory. No one, however, can hope for a holy death, if he does not live a holy life. To this holy life, made of virtue and grace, lean with all your heart, and I promise you to make your last passing serene.

I bless and help my devotees in a very special way, and I bless and save through them their friends and relatives also, who they commend to me. Be of their number, and have recourse to me in all your necessities. I will make myself your interpreter before God and before my Spouse.

The ancient Joseph, who prefigured me in the Old Testament, gave grain and wealth to all his family. I give graces and virtues to those who love me, so that they may be able to fill the eternal granaries with infinite merits.

I bless you all.



## ENTRUST THE DYING AND THE FAMILIES TO ME

*St. Joseph*

*May 1, 1972*

My children, if you were able to see the marvellous spectacle that accompanies your prayer, you would no longer want to interrupt it and you would rejoice over it to the point of dying with joy.

We are here: Jesus, my Spouse and I, who has the task of addressing the word and the counsels to you.

At the head of the family of Nazareth, I felt myself the most unworthy and incapable; now however, who am in Heaven still obeyed by my adoptive Son and by my most sweet Spouse, I take advantage of my power to perform marvellous works in your favour and for all.

I dedicate my special assistance to the dying, who in the uncertainty of being saved are struggling between the physical and spiritual life and death. I suggest good thoughts and I put in all the powers of Heaven, so that in minds light may be let in on that tremendous hour that is a struggle, invisible but real, between the forces of evil and those of good, between the devil and the angel.

I do not want for any soul to slip away from me, because I know how much they have cost my dear Jesus and Mary and how grave is my task. If you help me with prayer and with sacrifice, my intercessory action becomes more powerful.

There are the dying in hospitals, who seem secure because they are in places where the priest and the nuns pass along the corridors and give out their service, and yet, how many persons die without receiving the Sacraments and without an act of repentance for their sins!

Sometimes I make use of the most unheard of means in order to arouse in the minds and hearts the thought of God and some affection for Him. How much prayer would be necessary! Usually, those who practise charity in life, even if they do not go to Church often, obtain special helps, but how hard it is to repent of having sinned when one does not frequent the Sacraments!

Then there are the dying of the roads, those who accidentally are struck or mortally wounded. How painful it is to see many and so many souls lost who, not only did not want to accept God in their lives, but have also combated and blasphemed Him on every occasion, as if every little adversity was caused by Him! How hard it is to make these creatures change their minds, who, finding themselves in need and in pain, ought to have recourse to those who can help them, while from their hearts are raised only sentiments of hatred!

Then there are the sick who live alongside their loved ones, but these, through a mistaken sentiment of pity, afraid of scaring them, given the little familiarity they have with the priest, let these sick get to the point of absolutely no longer understanding anything before calling him. If they had been well and if they are of good character, I can inspire in them the desire for a confession which, even if they manifest it exteriorly, is valid to obtain God's pardon. But what uncertainty, what danger and what Purgatory!

Confession is the simplest and the shortest way established by Jesus to erase sins. How useful it is then to approach this sacrament when one is healthy, so that the suggestion of Confession may find suitable soil!

Now therefore, you know what a great number of souls pass daily from this life to the other and how it is necessary to commend them and to help them. They are your brothers who leave; then there will come a day when you also will have to leave and you too to be helped by others.

The delicate task that the Lord has entrusted to me is the protection of families. There are many families where discord reigns, others where hatred reigns, others where one wants to be separated or is separated in order to be able to enjoy — it is said — a certain tranquillity. But how many disorders are derived from it! How many families in despair, how many unhappy children on account of foolish parents!

Now, as I urge the young to guard love like the most delicate flower, I say also to the unhappy mothers and spouses: in discords, learn to forgive, learn to love, learn to be faithful also if your spouse is not so, so that your fidelity may be rewarded with the good outcome in the education of your children and so that you may be able to be happy as well.

What can I say then about divorce, children, and about that selfishness whereby the spouses refuse to



give life to other creatures in order to be able to enjoy themselves and to be free from any responsibility? Children, family peace and harmony are the fruit of generosity, they are the fruit of renunciations, and it is not possible to maintain such virtues without the faith and the help of God.

This is why it is necessary to pray in family! Mortification also is necessary, if it is considered inconvenient or impossible to maintain other children. Limiting births is a thing that can be permitted, but with the use of that penance that is also a means to be saved. However, how more comforting is trust in Providence, which watches over the children and sees to their needs as long as they have faith and trust! These are the two virtues that give wings in human living.

So, I beg you to entrust your families to me so that I may guard them. Entrust new families to me, so that they may be based on a solid foundation and not fall apart like houses built on sand. Have a lot of tact in learning to uncover the dangers by which you are surrounded and which threaten the stability of Christian families. Watch over friendships, which many times become dangerous. Watch over the newspapers and the books that enter into the home, so that those dangers and those occasions are not repeated also for the good families, with the relative consequences, which with so much ease are related and spread a little everywhere.

Love the Lord, the holy Virgin and the Saints, so that they all may give you a hand in the work of the sanctification and preservation of the Christian family. I bless you and I protect you.

## **I ADDRESS AN APPEAL TO MY DEVOTEES**

*St. Joseph*

*January 3, 1973 (at Seregno)*

My children and brethren, you have come here to this shrine to pay a very sweet visit to my spouse. I thank you and, as I make your requests mine, I promise you assistance and help in all your necessities.

You propose yourselves to work, to pray and to offer up your sorrows for him who governs the Church, that Church which the Lord wanted me as universal patron.

The help that you give to the Supreme Pontiff, you give to me, so that I may be able not only to defend the mystical body of Christ from all the dangers, but also the single members of the Church, amongst whom you also are.

When the Child Jesus had to flee from the anger and wickedness of Herod, I was the means. Warned in a dream, I took the Child and Mary, his Mother, and I led them into Egypt, where we remained until the death of Herod.

Today still our Child Jesus is threatened: they want to mutilate his members with heresies; they want to destroy obedience to the visible Head of the whole Church. Today, more than ever, my work of protection is indispensable.

All categories of persons are blemished by heresies. They are the ministers of God who, tempted by the devil, yield to his seductions and are ashamed to profess themselves as workers of grace and to admit, without human respect, the truths of the faith. They are the young who, dedicating themselves to immoral practices, arrive at marriage spoiled in body and soul. They are the irresponsible parents who do not wait for Herod to do the slaughter of the little creatures, but they themselves with their own hands give death to them even before they see the light. They are the souls full of selfishness and pride, who want to be first in every field and, in the name of honour, continue those senseless wars, with the shedding of blood a little everywhere.

Infinite are the material, moral and spiritual miseries to which one needs to take remedial action so that the ruin may not become general.

In the midst of so much evil and so much sorrow, I address an appeal to my devotees whom I urge to love, respect and defend the Church more and more. It is the barque of Peter, where with greater ease souls can find salvation. If lust, selfishness, heresy can create flaws, it is necessary to learn to put hands on the oars, which are trust and prayer, so that the ruin may be less grave. An irreproachable conduct united to a firm faith, shall be for you the programme that will always keep you incorporated like the branches, in the vine, so that in you that divine life which is grace may always circulate.

There are some who, passing themselves off as followers of God, go to the homes of many and bring error: they turn away from the Pope, denying his infallibility; they turn away souls from Mary, declaring that she was a woman like all the others: they turn away from the Mass and from the Sacraments, calling them human institutions.

But you, who are my devotees, be firm in the only faith. Do not waver and know that millions of persons have given their own lives in order to witness to that same faith in which you believe. Know that the faith that your fathers loved and in which they found the strength to face life serenely, is the same which must make you victorious against any hidden dangers and calamities. Like the ancient Joseph helped his brothers during the famine, so I desire to help you and the whole Church.

I bless you, my children and brethren. I assure you that I will assist with special care the sick that you have commended to me and those persons to whom you wish the help of your prayer to reach. I am happy that you have come here, where a precious relic of me is preserved. You, by coming here, come to the fount and, if your heart is well disposed, you leave here with a new charge of spirituality and grace. Therefore, see you again, and every good to you and to your loved ones.

## **YOUR RESPONSE TO THE FATHER**

*St. Joseph*

*March 19, 1973*

My children and brethren, here I am in sweet conversation on the day of my feast! I am Joseph, your protector!

This cenacle, dedicated to the merciful Jesus and to the Mother of Divine Love, has been entrusted to me in a very special way, and I rejoice in obtaining graces for those who pray here.

Also as Patron of the Universal Church, I help in a special way for that initiative to which Jesus himself has invited you to start: the militia in favour of the Pope, which will bring benefits to the whole Church.

Know that today you will feel also the beneficial influence of your loved ones who bore my name; be they in Paradise or in Purgatory, they send upon you mysterious waves that are transmuted into special helps.

I watch over you and I entrust you to the Father, whose shadow I was on earth. I entrust you to the Son, whom I brought up and nourished and to whom I taught that work of carpenter which formed our activity for thirty years. I entrust you to the Holy Spirit, soul of the Church, so that He may never allow you to be distanced from her, but, always victorious, you are able to combat error. I entrust you to Mary, my most sweet spouse, so that she may guard and protect you like the beloved ones of her heart and the most faithful ones who will never distance themselves from her.

So, this day becomes for you joyful in the exercise of that faith that justifies you before God, in the exercise of the hope that makes you look at Heaven as the destination to reach, and in the exercise of charity, centre and end of the Christian life, which must unite all on earth as the saints of Heaven are united amongst themselves and in God.

Now, children, I wish to give you a little teaching. In the Gospel a reference is made of me, descendant of David, and I am called the just man. Only God is just, for in Him perfection is absolute, but that title was given to me because I always did the will of God, which coincided with my mission.

My life was not all rosy; rather, looking at the future, I saw much darkness, but my response to God the Father was always a joyful and prompt “yes” when enormous sacrifices were outlined before me. My most living desire was that of doing my duty and, if I had moments of doubt, of discomfort and of uncertainty on the way to act, it was because Heaven remained shut in that moment, so as not to permit me to see what the will of God was to be.

Children, you can consult the will of God many times a day also, in the consideration of the divine Commandments, in the observance of the duties of your state and those of charity. Act so that, as soon as they are outlined to you, straight away your spirit may be rendered available.

There is another danger that could hamper your response to the Father, besides the darkness that is put

before you: human respect. Sometimes you would like to do, but you let yourselves be intimidated by those who are near you and criticize your doings, which could not only hinder your way, but also distance you from the graces of God.

I give you a counsel. Know that, when the Lord in his great goodness deigns to favour you with special gifts, to your response to such gifts He makes other more numerous graces follow that form like a strategic plan, whereby you will learn to vanquish the difficulties, overcome the dangers and advance in perfection and grace. To every grace another thousand are tied, whereby the lack of response could sometimes hinder the eternal salvation even.

So, children, continue to be good with all, so that those same persons who criticize you and who could harm you, be called to live like you and save their souls. Never fear, never doubt the mercy of God. Before Him all is present and, when it seems that you are waiting for years and years the conversion of loved persons, He already sees them as his and blesses you, so that, by means of his sacrifice and your collaboration, they reach salvation.

Sometimes God, in his infinite goodness, entrusts a soul to another. It is as if He were saying: *“Do you want to commit yourself to saving him also with the sacrifice of your life, if it were necessary?”* It is your turn to respond.

The ways of the Lord are infinite, and his intentions are inscrutable, but in the heroism of charity the most distant destinations can be reached, the highest peaks.

How happy I am to bless especially the men who have honoured me with their presence and with their prayer! My holy Spouse and Mother of Jesus will do the work! I desire for many young to come here, to draw light and strength.

Many with the name of Joseph have entered into glory today to honour God and also to form a circle around me. Thank God and pray for your dead, who are your most valid intercessors.

I bless you all. See you again, always desirous for sanctity and light.

## **YOUR RECOURSE TO ME FOR THE WORKERS AND THE DYING**

*St. Joseph*

*April 4, 1973 (at Seregno)*

My children and brethren, thank you for prayer gathering, so dear to my heart! About two years now, you had started these meetings under my gaze and my protection. Well then, I assure you that they have brought great benefits to souls. As Patron of the Universal Church, I assure you that your drop of water, that is, your prayer offered with so much love, has worked some true miracles, which you will become aware of in Paradise.

What happens when in a family there are good children who work and bring the fruits of their work to the father? The whole family benefits and, even if there are some incapable ones, some little or old ones, they are helped by the earnings and by the good will of those who have heart and health.

So it happens in this great family that is the Church, in which all the children of the same Father enjoy the goods offered by the willing.

A specific task of mine, due also to the profession that I exercised on earth, is that of teaching workers to sanctify work. Few think of validating this precious treasure, which can be sanctified by prayer and become the means to pay off the debts contracted with the Lord. Work is a penalty and a gift, but many despise it and envy those who spend their lives in idleness and in inactivity.

Your prayer has reached the workers also and, if not all have listened to the Lord's invitation and my suggestion to love work, some however, have responded.

How beautiful it is to see men, women and children, do their duty with love, that is, that work required by their profession and mission! A mother that does not love work will have a peaceless and disordered family. A father who does not love work will be the cause of ruin and misery. An employee who does not love work will bring ruin to his boss. And an employer who does not love his occupation will quickly see his undertakings

perish. Also the teachers who do not love their profession will not learn to make themselves loved by their pupils and, in their turn, the lazy students will be the despair of parents and teachers.

Love for one's occupation is synonymous with a good outcome. And do you not realize how important your recourse to me is for the workers? I intercede for that generosity in the exercise of one's duty for everyone, which is serenity, activity and thoroughness, which then returns to the satisfaction of all.

To you, right from our first meetings, I recommended the dying. Holy death is a gift for those who live well, broadly speaking; but many times I have to intervene promptly for many souls to be saved, who have erred in life but for whom there are persons who pray. I run and solicit the light from above, so that they may be able to see their misery and amend. How many souls saved by this simple recourse by good persons!

You have never forgotten the dying; I by divine commission save and have saved them. What happens? What I have promised you, I keep? There will come a day which, also for you, will be the last and then the struggle will be bitter. The angel of darkness will come, who will attempt to take away your peace and lead you to despair. He will hide the mercy of God from you in order to make you see only his justice. He will put in your mind and lips, perhaps, some blasphemies. And who will come to give you a hand, besides your good angel and my Spouse? It shall be I, whom you have invoked in life, your consoler in death and after death. In the infinite glory of God and in the most pure joy of his love, we shall see each other and we shall thank the Most Holy Trinity who has willed to unite our intentions and our hearts on earth in order to be able to unite them also in Heaven.

Therefore, continue to gather together, to love one another and to love me: the results will be good for all. I, as of now, give you the peace that the saints give to those who request it through prayer.

I bless you with special affection, and receive with faith this blessing, which I will renew every time that you pray here.

Going to the homes of the sick and when you are in your home, consider that you are never alone and that, as a protective force, I spread my cloak over you.

See you again, my brethren and children. Be good, good!

## **A TASK FOR THIS MONTH OF MAY**

*St. Joseph*

*May 2, 1973 (at Seregno)*

My brethren, here I am at the usual encounter that gives so much help to my work! You pray, and I run to the aid of those whom you commend to me with such fervour.

Today however, I ask you for a gift that seems to exceed your possibilities. I ask you to help me to save all the dying who in this moment will have to present themselves at the tribunal of God, to be judged and to begin the life of the beyond.

How will you be able to give me such help? go to my Spouse, Mary, and communicate this desire of mine. She is the Mother of Mercy, she is the great Collaborator of Jesus. The Eternal Father, who favoured her as Daughter, does not deny anything to her prayer! Therefore, turn to Mary and beseech her, so that no dying person may come to lack her maternal assistance.

I can also point out to you clearly what serves to convince her and to render her tender towards you, exactly like a very good mother who does not know how to refuse anything to her children.

Pray to her in the name of Jesus, through the wounds of Jesus; pray to her for what He has done on earth and out of the love that He bears for souls. When one speaks about Jesus, the Mother is moved and, when she is asked to use mercy on the world, she renews and redoubles the strength of her intercession.

It has been said to you that the heart of Our Lady no longer bears the evil that is spread and is rampant in the world; but, if you pray to her to be patient for her firstborn Son who has been and is the great love of her past and present life, she intercedes. When you ask for mercy for all the children, brothers of her Jesus, whom she loves immensely, she raises her arms in the act of supplication, and the gesture of Moses is repeated in her,

or even she prostrates herself before the Father, just as Esther prostrated herself before the king to ask for, with her beauty, grace for her people.

In supplicating, one thing must give you courage: the clearness of your conscience, the purity of your soul, which means to be free from sin that would break your relationship with God, making you lose his friendship and rendering you unworthy of being heard by Mary.

The world has need of mercy and forgiveness. You yourselves, who though are not very bad, have continuously need to be forgiven through those miseries that, daily, are a part of your life. A greater commitment, to take away what offends God and saddens my spouse, shall be your strength in this period that you hold particularly dear, you who love her and love me. I will be near you, but do not forget the commitment: no soul is to be lost in this month of May!

There are those who offer flowers and candles to the Virgin my spouse, there are those who offer her Rosaries and prayers; but the best offering is that of collaborating in every way for the salvation of souls, even if everything can contribute to increase her affection for you, while you show her yours.

Listen to what Mary says to you: *“Be devoted and affectionate children to me, if you want me to be a loving Mother to you!”* With this very delicate thought, I bless you and I assure you protection in life and in death. In our encounter in Heaven, we shall be so glad to renew our testimonies of love to our Queen.

In the meantime, I bless your sick, your families; all the worries that you have in your hearts I make mine. I bless all the sick present and all the persons whom you commend to me. When you pray to me, commend the Church, the Pope and all the priests to me. Commend to me also all those who, through accidents or sudden misfortunes, find themselves unprepared for death.

I await you more and more numerous and I promise you graces.

## I WISH TO GIVE YOU PEACE

*St. Joseph*

*March 6, 1974 (at Seregno)*

My brethren, I am with you and I desire to bring you serenity and peace, of which men and the whole world, though having a great need of them, are wanting only because they do not learn to find it where the source is.

I am the collaborator of Jesus and Mary in the work of the salvation of souls, but I work as an instrument, while Jesus saves souls by right, having died on the cross for all and for each one, and Mary, who as Co-Redemptrix, being the Mother of God, took part in the passion and death of her Son, continues her work as Mother in the Church. I therefore, as sent by them to console, to strengthen and to defend men, especially on the point of death, so that they may be saved.

My life however, troubled and simple, filled with responsibility and serenity at the same time, is for all Christians an example to imitate. Where did I find the strength and the capacity to act in the many difficult circumstances encountered by me? First of all in the invocation for help that I often raised to God: it was the recitation of the psalms or the sigh of the heart or the work offered up to God as a filial homage. It was a spiritual elevation that made me superior to all human things, and a continuous adhesion to the will of God, whose greatness, goodness and mercy I admired. With thoughts of Heaven, a flap of wings I gave to human events so as to see them always in a divine light.

If one lives for the earth, one gets weighed down and every little cross becomes unbearable. If one looks at Heaven, even the most sorrowful and burdensome things help to ascend! You might say to me that I had Heaven with me, and it is true, for the presence of Jesus and Mary, in my home, was Paradise on earth, but they presented themselves to my eyes in human attire, which let nothing of their greatness be imagined, whereby I had to exercise faith, hope and charity in full.

How, in fact, could I have been able to sanctify myself without the exercise of these virtues? Their presence gave me help and courage. You also in your lives have many helps! There is no lack of the presence of Jesus or that of Mary. Your recourse to God through them must rekindle your faith, it must increase that fervour of charity in you whereby every action that you do has its proper objective, and it must spur you on to work for the eternal Kingdom of God.

I have said to you that I wish to give you peace, and I give you peace, but the God of peace is Him who overcame the devil and expelled him from the heavens, for in his pride he thought of being like Him. The God of peace is Him who conquered it also for us by sacrificing himself on the cross, and it is Him who, risen from the dead, was able to confirm the apostles in the faith and to give, and to leave to them as a legacy, peace.

If recourse to God is indispensable, possessing Him in you is the most desirable fact. And who would not want to be the habitation of God, as He is the King of the heavens and Lord of rulers? To seek peace in the world is like seeking the unfindable. To seek God and to find Him is not impossible, since He does not live far from you; rather, we are all immersed in Him! There are those who see Him in Paradise; there are those who feel the weight of his justice in hell; and there are those who do not see Him, but can listen to Him in the voice of the conscience, see in Him his works and love Him in his creatures. To ascend to God prayer is needed; to find Him and to love Him, his help.

If in the house of Nazareth there was so much strength and so much peace, it was also because Mary filled it with her tenderness, with her goodness and with her divine virtues. I gave to Mary what a spouse of earth can give to his spouse: I defended her from the evil tongues and from the wickedness of men; I gave her bread and I procured those helps that were indispensable to her as Mother of her Son Jesus. But she gave to my soul divine gifts; she filled my spirit with that serenity which was indispensable to me and which I in this moment wish to give you.

If you will learn to be persevering in these encounters and learnt to spread that precious prayer that is not made up only of words but also of meditation, my sweet spouse will pour in you the same sweetness with which she filled my heart.

I bless this house and all those who frequent it. I bless all my devotees and those who propagate devotion to me, now more than ever necessary.

## **IN DEFENCE OF TRUTH**

*St. Joseph*

*September 4, 1974 (at Seregno)*

My brethren, I am here to get, so to say, those meetings going that you will continue on for the whole year. I am pleased with you because I see that prayer has borne fruit in many souls and you have become more good.

I desire to invite you to continue, with ever increasing fervour, to pray for all, especially for the Pope and for the Church. Alongside the propagators of error and of evil, who work tirelessly to combat good and truth, you must deploy all your forces: to be true and effective apostles of the Church, of which I am the universal patron.

Have you not taken the name from me and, in the name of Joseph, have you not proposed to help the Church, and to run to the bedside of the dying and to do all you can so that the work may be sanctified? It is exactly in these fervent practices that you will be able to help the Church and souls to be saved. However, your prayer needs to be a real dialogue with God, a continual intervention in order to go along with, to understand and to want to know his desires.

Your prayer must first of all, ask for the Kingdom of God to be fulfilled on earth and continued in Heaven: on earth, in the knowledge of the virtues and the infinite attributes of God and in the service rendered to Him, so that He may be known and served, and in Paradise, so that his Kingdom may truly be for all a Kingdom of love.

In this life also one must love God with all the mind, the soul and strength, and prayer is the manifestation of this love, which will be perfect and conclusive in the encounter with God and where the union will be perfect. If your prayer is made in that way, you will have light from above also and your minds will be illuminated so that you will be able to refute error.

Many are those who, in good faith or maliciously, circulate in your towns and, going from house to house, go on calling Christians to renounce those truths that, taught by Jesus Christ, were delivered as a sacred deposit in the hands of the successor of St. Peter. But, before so much propagation of false doctrines, will you perhaps remain immovable?

In order to combat error religious instruction is needed. You must be able to assert with certainty that the things that they say are false, because the Church, Catholic, Apostolic, Roman, is one and holy just as the Son of God made man willed it.

This is why your prayer groups or cenacles are very important! Because, besides prayer, you receive that direct instruction that makes you teachers and renders you capable of putting a barrier between yourselves and the propagators of error. If these sowers of heresies were well intentioned, they would accept recognizing as Virgin my beloved spouse Mary, they would love her and would not refuse to venerate her as their Mother! When you want to qualify a son, you say: He is good, he loves his mother so much; or else: He is bad, he makes his mother suffer. Have this rule, and make it known also to others. If they come to propose new religions, ask with firmness: "*Do you love Mary?*" If they answer negatively, do not hesitate to show them the door. Sad is that son who does not love his mother.

And now I bless you one by one and I promise you graces and special helps. Many, called suddenly before the tribunal of God, find themselves unprepared, but you, who have a predilection for me, shall be spared from this terrible chastisement. Your death must be that of the just man who, after having preserved the faith and fought the good fight that every Christian must fight, goes serenely to his God even if He has to judge him.

I wait for you always with great love here, to help you.

## **YOUR PERSONAL COMMITMENT**

*St. Joseph*

*November 6, 1974 (at Seregno)*

Dear and beloved brethren, who have especially entrusted yourselves to my protection and ask for my help, may you be blessed! Today I wish to point out to you, in a special way, your individual task, and remind you of the commitment that you have taken on right from the beginning of your meetings: that is, that of praying for the dying, especially for those who, through accidents or through various reasons, are called suddenly to render an account of their lives to God.

First of all, I wish to recall your attention on that which is to be the programme of your life.

Every creature that lives on this world, has the duty of knowing, loving and serving God; but over you, who have been called to Christianity and who have received some uncommon special gifts and graces, this duty is incumbent on you in a very special way. You must seek to deepen the knowledge of God. It is true that, also with the use of reason alone, also with a little reflection, you can ascend from the created things to the Creator. However, I would like these lessons that you receive by means of this instrument, for you to make them the object of short meditations in order to be able to truly assimilate them, and, knowing the Lord better and better, you may be able to truly love Him.

When a son is far from home, the father and the mother send him their letters and, as they speak of the affection that binds them to him, they expose their desires and their hopes for his early return. The Lord and his most lovable Mother, my most sweet spouse, are in Heaven and I enjoy their companionship, but you are still the children in the land of exile. All that they say, also with extraordinary means and which I also have the possibility of letting you know, are the loving letters that serve to keep us united. When one is guided then, one is available for the service of God, therefore, his will is done willingly.

The services of God are carried out on earth in the most diverse way. For the Lord the importance of the work does not count, the thing that counts is that He be served with great love. He who cleans the house or he who gives out a sermon are equal before God. The measure of love is the measure of the preciousness of the service and of holiness itself.

That's why, my brothers, I have said to you that you must take on a personal commitment. The sanctity that you must reach is not an impossible thing. You must build a tower and, in order not to find some surprise and not be able to get to finish the building, I have given you the plan, and it is that which I have mentioned to you: to love and to serve the Lord, after having known Him. If you were to lay out your days on this programme, your life will not be a failure.

You must be vigilant because death comes like the thief, but if every action that you do is an act of love at the service of God, you will not be disappointed and you will truly be like the wise virgins who, at the coming

of the bridegroom, had their lamps ready, whereupon they were introduced into his home.

Children and brethren, I bless you all one by one and I urge you: live in the grace of God and do not be afraid of speaking about death, for she is the great friend that opens the doors of the real life. Many complain continuously of so many inevitable illnesses that accompany human existence. May you not be of those: rather treasure them, learning to transform them into gifts of love. My life has been all a run of privations and sufferings. When Jesus is with you through grace, and Mary, with her goodness and her smile, everything is transformed: as it happened to me, the pains became joys.

I bless you again, and I assure you a paternal assistance to your families.

## **THE SACRED DEPOSIT OF THE FAITH**

*St. Joseph*

*March 5, 1975 (at Seregno)*

My brethren, with what joy I come, by the grace of God, to communicate with you! You are my beloved ones, and I assure you my protection in life and in death.

I am the patron of the Universal Church, just as I was the patron of the Church at its birth in the house of Nazareth, but every active and living member of the Church commits me to carry out a work of protection and defence of him. You, who have entrusted yourselves to me, enjoy special rights in communion of spirit, you understand, with the whole Church.

Presently many intend to construct a religion to their liking, taking away all those truths that require a practice and a responsibility and adding, perhaps, some practices contrary to the millennium teaching of the Church of Christ and to that of the revelation, come directly from God right from the beginning of the world. So in this way, errors and heresies are propagated, which disfigure the truth and which sow confusion.

Jesus has said that not even one syllable of what He has said will be lost, but woe to those sowers of errors who lead souls astray and who make them deviate from the observance of the Commandments! Whoever will have disobeyed even one of the Commandments of God, shall be condemned.

What will become of so many souls who, not only practise homicide, but want to legalize it? What will become of those who want to break the sanctity of marriage, in order to enjoy illicit pleasures? What will become of those who blaspheme the name of the Lord and do not observe the day of rest? What will become of those who, knowing they are lying, slander or spread lies against the neighbour?

And so I could say to you: what will become of those who reject the teaching of Jesus, given and preserved by the infallibility of the Pontiff, and construct their own heads, to whom the assistance of the Holy Spirit is lacking? And yet, the white vestment of truth which covers the Church, truly threatens to be reduced to shreds! That's why all your good will, your devotion and intelligence is necessary, to act always in conformity to the teachings received!

Jesus said again that he who shall have taught justice and truth to many, will shine like a star in heaven.

See, brethren, this is what your task must be: to guard that sacred deposit of the faith so that it may not be disfigured. It is the mysterious water, that makes you capable of understanding the secrets of God and which must quench the thirst of your spirit, which only in God finds refreshment. Do not allow it to be polluted! It is a treasure that the thieves must not steal. One needs to be watchful, prudent, and do not forget that the cunning of the evil one is great and that he knows how to pass off falsehood as truth.

Then, in the practice of those works that are like the consequence of the faith, you must show the truth, so that you may be able to be like printed books in which your neighbour can read, with freedom, the most beautiful things that smell of Heaven. You can always make the teaching in this way, even if it is not forbidden for you to say, in person, all that you keep learning and which forms your spiritual and moral patrimony. You will shine in Heaven like the stars, because whoever comes near you will learn to live a life truly Christian.

My brethren, I wish to give you an invitation ever so useful. There are the two compendiums of the Christian life that many have forgotten and which by now are not even taught to the children.



There is the Decalogue or the Commandments of God. It is neglected because sin is no longer admitted, therefore, it seems a useless thing to learn that Law which, once, the elect of the people of Israel carried hanging around the neck so that they would not forget it.

And there is the Creed or Apostolic Symbol, which the apostles compiled under the gaze of Mary, before leaving to go to bring into the world the doctrine of Jesus Christ, and which contains the truths taught by Him. My most sweet spouse also repeated the Creed many times a day.

Well then, I invite you to rediscover, to bring back into use the old customs. I desire for you to recite every day, with faith and with devotion, these two formulas of the Decalogue and the Creed, so that you may be always consistent in your life and keep yourselves always ready to encounter the justice of God.

Now I bless you one by one. If you will be my faithful companions, I will make you feel my presence also in your material needs and be able to obtain for you, with the health and the strength to do your duty, that peace which will serve you to maintain harmony with all.

Thank you, my brethren! May the Lord bless you in his name and in that of my spouse Mary.

## **MARY IS LIGHT, SHE IS INNOCENCE, SHE IS LOVE**

*St. Joseph*

*December 3, 1975 (at Seregno)*

Beloved children and brothers of mine, I am with you to encourage you to honour Mary, my beloved spouse, in the best way. I loved her tenderly in life, because her virginity was entrusted to my care, and I continue to love her in Heaven where, in God, love becomes perfect.

I desire for everyone to love that sublime creature, to whom I dedicated so much attention in life and who edified me with her sanctity. You enjoy my special protection: well then, your affection and your devotion to most holy Mary must be special. You must do this, also to please me.

Mary is the most clear light; there is no darkness of any kind in her. The devil never possessed her, not even for a moment, and she did not even commit the slightest imperfection. She is therefore, capable of illuminating your journey. In the world there is the darkness of death, but, where Mary goes, light enters.

She illuminates with her example and with her word, which is the one of God that she received and kept in her heart, and with that delicate maternal action that she keeps doing in the world. You have only to follow her and go along with her in her intentions and in her desires: intentions and desires that must lead you to salvation.

Most holy Mary is the immaculate lily that placates the heart of God, her heart being the only one perfectly pure and united to his. From this lily of immaculate innocence all ought to learn: the young, the spouses, the elderly, the priests, the religious! There is no category of persons that cannot draw strength and cannot learn how to act from her.

Mary's innocence is not blinding and, even though she knew no shadow of sin, she does not disdain either to welcome the greatest sinners. Whoever commends himself to her, finds light again and is already on the road to purification and conversion.

If every sinner had in heart this sentiment of having recourse to the Mother in order to be helped to find the right road, he would find it in the shortest time, even if he were to encounter many difficulties. What many do not do, you do it for them. Say to Mary: *"Through your immaculate innocence, help every sinner!"* Say it with conviction and with faith, sure of being heard, especially when you ask for the conversion of your loved ones.

I have said to you that my most sweet spouse is light and innocence, moreover, I must tell you that she is love. When a mother loves, she becomes heroic and capable of any sacrifice. Most holy Mary has her heart modelled on God's, she loves everyone with a very tender love. She loves each one of you, and desires your good and your happiness.

Returning this love becomes therefore, a duty which you cannot renounce. She follows you in the journey

of perfection, granting you, also by my means, all those graces that are necessary to you. To love her is a duty of gratitude.

If you are mothers, you know how pleasing it is to your heart for your children to feel the need to pay you back for what you have done for them, and how much you suffer when ungrateful children offend you and repay you with evil. Whatever may be your circumstances, certainly you will have benefited those who live beside you. But how many times have you also said that you have done good and have received evil, and have suffered over it!

This behaviour must not be repeated with the heavenly Mother who, as Co-Redemptrix of the human race and as Mother of the Church, is interested in making for you every offering of love and of sorrow in order to save you. Love her, follow in her footsteps, and let the thought of her Immaculate Conception be a stimulus for you to keep your life pure, in thoughts, in affections and in actions, in order to be able to rejoice with the saints her glory.

I bless you, my brothers and children! I bless this house and all those who enter into this place. Today I bless especially the young, to whom I direct this warning: be chaste, children, and I promise you that the families that you will start shall be very especially protected by me and enriched with divine providence.

Goodbye, see you again! Peace be with you.

## **AN INCREASE OF FAITH, OF JOY AND OF STRENGTH**

*St. Joseph*

*March 3, 1976 (at Seregno)*

My brethren, peace be to you. See, I have come to bring to you, with my greeting, my wishes and hope for a rebirth in the spiritual and divine life.

I am Joseph, the special protector of this prayer group, and I am pleased with you for the particular fervour and for the perseverance in good that you have put in and that you put, so as to increase the graces in all your parishes. I assist you and I promise you that, by this frequency, you will obtain an increase of faith, of joy and of strength.

Faith is an indispensable virtue in order to be saved, but also in order to be able to live well. Unfortunately, many of your brethren do not take care to preserve it and, as they become lukewarm, they distance themselves more and more from that spiritual life that is grace, while they enter with sin into death. Many times however, also those who profess themselves practising and even priests and religious, let themselves be taken in by despondency and become disheartened, so as to be convinced of having lost the faith. Then there are also those who have built for themselves a faith to their own liking, which contents the devil and their passions, so as to not distinguish where good is and where evil is. And there are Christians who live as if they believed in nothing, because they relegate God to Heaven.

Coming here, you listen to the lessons directed to you by God himself with clarity, with simplicity and with love, so that you are able to understand more easily what your duties are towards God, towards the neighbour and towards yourselves. You also understand better those truths that the Church teaches you, and the deeds of the Gospel are truly speaking to your hearts. That's why it is a good thing that you have these meetings!

You are used to saying that unity makes strength. In fact, one edifies the other when it is faith that unites you, and you are even more reinforced in faith by the presence of Jesus, who has promised to be present where one is gathered in his name.

Faith is a virtue that exceeds in power many other virtues. In fact, Jesus said that it would be enough to have faith as much as a mustard seed to move mountains. The miracles that you need, shall be obtained only if you have faith. You coming here is already a sign of faith that Heaven approves and blesses.

However, it is necessary for joy also to increase in each one of you. A life without enthusiasm is like a dead one. A mother without joy, will bring discontent in her family. A religious without enthusiasm will not succeed in bringing forward his task. A young man without joy is an old man who does not produce fruits of good, while a joyful old man rejuvenates the surroundings in which he lives.

I desire for each one who comes here to pray, to go home or community or parish or school with such a supply of joy and enthusiasm as to have to communicate it to all. It is said that a sad saint is a sorry saint, but your sanctity must bring an imprint of joy and of youthfulness as to stir everyone: the lukewarm, the cold, the indifferent and the incapable of believing. To stir them means to show all that your faith is real, it is felt and lived out as the Lord wishes.

Be happy that the Lord has given you a gift so great, different in essence and preference from many who, through no fault of theirs, have not received it. Have the desire to communicate also to others this marvellous gift, so that in it and through it all can find the strength to live.

Many Christians do not put up with the cross and sorrow makes no sense to them. For you, who come to our school, there is nothing difficult and unbearable. At the school of Him who has humbled himself up to making himself one of us and has loaded himself with the sins of all in order to be able to expiate them, it is not possible to reject suffering. Human nature however, rejects it and rebels against pain. That's why, every time that you come here, I will teach you to carry, each one in his own situation and in his own state of life, that piece of cross that contributes to save the world.

Be faithful and believe in my individual protection. I have been a human creature like you, to whom the Father has assigned a grave task in respect of the Holy Family, but I feel myself truly one of you and, just as I accomplished the duty assigned to me during my mortal life, so I collaborate with Jesus and Mary to bring souls to salvation. Each soul of yours is extremely dear to my heart. I will help you in all your needs, so that you may be able to reach Heaven loaded with merits and to merit for yourselves an infinite glory.

I bless you all one by one. I bless your hearts with their affections, your minds with their thoughts, your intentions, your desires. I bless your families, your communities and your field of work.

Be good, be faithful to the Church, obedient to the Pope and to all those authorities that the Lord has willed to assign to you. Be good amongst yourselves and do not let yourselves be won over by those jealousies, envies and wickedness that are wicked weeds sown by the devil.

I shall be at your bedside at the hour of death and, if you shall have treasured my words, you will learn to understand me in that moment and the good inspirations will be like a living word for you. See you again.

## **WHAT SHALL I WANT TO TEACH YOU ALL?**

*St. Joseph*

*March 19, 1976*

Dear brethren, you have come fervently and in large numbers to honour me. I am happy with you and do not doubt that the graces that I will obtain for you will be many. I desire to be invoked in your prayers because I know the infinite goodness of God, who denies me nothing, and I know how great your needs are.

The whole world is in tribulation and I, who have known sorrow, desire to bring comfort and relief to all. I have known exile, slander, scorn, misery, the need to work and the lack of remuneration. I have known the anxiety of losing the house and of having to on the spur of the moment seek another one in an unknown land. I have known toil, disappointment, sickness and death. All this however, was borne by me in the light of faith.

Certainly, you could say to me that, having a spouse like mine and a child to guard and raise like Jesus, everything could have seemed nothing. In fact, a smile of the Mother of God was enough to dissipate all the clouds. Then when the Son of God grew and gave us his word, his grace, his blessings, when He spoke to us about the Father and taught us, making us better and better understand the psalms and the prophecies that were being fulfilled in Him, oh! then our home was truly a paradise, even if the unforeseen hardships blew down over us and if the will of God which we had to fulfil was sometimes hard.

Now, what shall I want to teach you all? To the young, who are prepared to start a family, I recommend to have faith, prudence and reason: faith, in order to learn to live in the presence of God; prudence, in order not to perform unworthy actions that offend God; reason, which is like saying wisdom, in order to understand well what the Lord wants from you and so that Christian marriage may be that marvellous tree of which you cast the seed in your home and which can and must grow out of all proportion up to welcoming in its shade all those babies that God wishes to send.

I am here to encourage the adults to keep firm their fidelity to the Church! You are all living rocks of the Church, but, if error were to make headway in you, cracks would appear that would place the spiritual edifice in peril. The young bring forward their talk and you have to sift it, because heresies must not be accepted, even if you have the duty to deal with them and help them in all.

Oh, if the young were docile and humble, and the adults were wiser and more capable of understanding where one can accept and where not, how many less mistakes would be made? There has to be a sincere collaboration between all. Who, better than Jesus, was able to be capable of giving lessons to me and to all; who more than Him, who at twelve years old confounded the doctors of the Temple? And yet, He subjected himself to Mary and to me as the most inexperienced son, and not only for a day, but for a good thirty years.

You can read the lesson of the elderly in their faces, when the wrinkles mark every year that passes. The lesson is this: everything declines, everything passes! Youthfulness, beauty, strength, power, everything, everything vanishes little by little. Faith remains and the works remain that go to fill your eternal strongboxes: yours, because each one places his capital to where the greatest interest is reserved.

Oh, my brethren, do not lose yourselves in things that are worthless! If you live in the grace of God, Jesus dwells in your heart, as once in the house of Nazareth. If you love the sacrifice that everyday life brings with itself, you no longer feel the weight. You encounter every moment the delicious smile of Mary who helps you and accompanies you. If you live in the grace of God, the Most Holy Trinity lives in you so as to make you serene and happy also in sorrow.

I knew renunciation, and you must make a habit of it. Renouncing what is evil is a duty, and renouncing also what is not evil for the sake of God, becomes a pleasure. You become in that way free for the will of God, who makes use of you as his instruments, free for the service of the brethren in all that is pleasing to Him and that is possible for you.

The world fares badly because, lacking faith, it goes in search of superstition, and because pride and selfishness divide men and make them insubordinate and wicked. Let faith, grace and generosity, be always cultivated by you like prize plants or like precious pearls. Only in this way will you be able to live in more peace and serenity.

When families are divided by selfishness, the devil seizes over them the sceptre of command. When the Church in the pride of thought divides itself from its Head, the evil one enters with heresy. When the nations out of desire for power, out of greed, out of pride are divided, war and fratricidal struggle enters.

Be docile to the divine teachings and have recourse also to my intercession! I shall guide your consciences, I will keep your families united, I will defend the Church and I will maintain the peace. A strong prayer is needed, made in the grace of God and with faith. Few apostles carried the teachings of Jesus in the whole world. You are more numerous, be as holy as them. The world is converted by the example of a true holiness. Do not be holy in the chapel, and less holy at home or at work. Be true Christians! I will do everything that I have promised you and I will help you on the point of death, so that none of you may be lost.

See you again, dear brethren. I bless you with special affection and I present my greetings to those who carry my name. Carry this name with devotion, and do not embarrass me: I will protect you especially. To the Joseph' of all Paradise I present your prayer and I beg them all to bless you.

## **MAY ALL BENEFIT FROM MY INTERCESSION**

*St. Joseph*

*March 2, 1977 (at Seregno)*

Dear brethren, here I am at your prayer meeting, with so much love and with a very lively desire to help your souls! You have chosen me as the spiritual leader of your group, and I go about blessing, and preserving the faith and the charity in those who comprise it. I have already performed many transformations and I have obtained many graces for each one. Some souls, who have gone before you into the eternal Kingdom, have been accompanied by me before the Father, after having been assisted by me in the crucial moment of death. Now I assist you and your families in all your necessities, and I help you to carry the cross, which becomes heavier every day for many.

Moreover, my desire extends, and I want to, also by your means, reach all the souls that comprise the

Church of Christ. When the Pontiff of Rome declared me Patron of the Universal Church, he did but only obey the will of God. If however, you want for my protection to be efficacious, you must help me to realize it with your trust and your recourse.

Many believers ignore the power of my intercession and do not even direct a petition to me. They are afraid of offending God, calling his friends to help. How wrong this way of thinking is! Know that in Paradise all are united in God, whereby every desire of his, every will of his, is reflected in each of the blessed. If all were able to speak to you, they would tell you nothing different from what the Lord would tell you. Well then, you who have the good fortune of knowing me and loving me, make devotion to me known so that all may benefit from my intercession.

The Church is combated internally and externally. Bitter and diabolical enemies would like to annihilate and destroy it in its truth and in its Commandments. Who will be able to defend your faith and defend your children from the assaults of the evil one? If you are not helped by God and by his friends, will you not succumb in the bitter battle? I want to defend with you also all Christian families. Divorce is a means to ruin them, but also selfishness sows divisions and woes. I desire to bring into families that unity, in truth and in charity, that renders them happy.

I point out to you the family of Nazareth, where the most perfect harmony created a divine peace and serenity. It is true, we had the Man-God with us, but have you not also the Emmanuel amongst you, in the Most Holy Sacrament? This is how I want to bring to completion my mission of Patron of the Church and model for Christian spouses! I make the Eucharist to be loved, which is the vivifying centre of the Church and the heart of good families. Whoever realizes the greatness of the mystery of love enclosed in the Eucharist, cannot forget the analogy that exists in the sacrament of Marriage, called also "the sacrament of human love."

Oh, if one were to understand that it is love that must triumph everywhere, how different would Christian families be! I will help you to bring back to the Lord, in a perfect concord, those who with so much ease seek divisions.

Pray for the disunited families, make an act of persuasion on those who threaten to separate, and never be, with your tongues, the means of discord. The mothers-in-law, the mothers, the elderly persons, have great responsibility. Never betray your charity. If your experience has made you experts of evil, never inculcate it, but learn always to put water on the fire in order to settle also the most difficult differences. Never look beyond what is permitted for you to see, and do not wish to be so easy to judge, in order not to find yourselves remorseful and have to encounter the severe judgement of the Lord.

I express another desire to you, and I await your collaboration. I spent my whole mortal life, not only in pain and in grace, but also in work. I know toil and I bore it as a means of purification. My daytime work merited me to be considered as a model for workers.

How much need there is, in this age, to have someone who points out the right way! An honest work must have its just recompense. Unfortunately one does not work honestly, and even the recompenses do not present that justice which is wanted by God. It is a continual disorder, which creates discontent, rebellion and unhappiness. If work were to be loved and recognized as a gift of God, everything would be different!

I protect honest workers, but you must help me, by making those sacrifices, which you must accept in your life with the toil to which you submit, a marvellous means of conversion of many. Whoever loves the cross, does not feel its weight. Whoever loves work, does not feel the toil, and the hours and the days are full of joy.

When a just rest awaits those mothers and those religious, those fathers, those priests and sons, who have filled their lives with work well done, like a song of joy is raised up from the hearts of all. Then when human gratitude can also be little, a hymn of thanks is raised up by all the saints, who welcome honest workers and active souls as in a true place of rest, where they work for humanity.

Be serene, working, and may the work bring you fruits of grace and thanks for you and for all. I bless you all, and I accompany you in your life up to the last meeting.

## THE USEFULNESS OF WORK

St. Joseph

May 1, 1977

My brethren, here I am with you to praise Jesus and Mary by means of prayer!

I lived with them, I shared their pains and their joys. I prayed and worked alongside them, and I understood the value of life, offered up to the Father as a gift of love. If I had to face difficulties without number, they were certainly alleviated to me by their presence and by their help.

But I do not want to speak to you about Jesus and Mary; I desire to invite each one of you to stay in their company, so that the bundle that you have to carry may become lighter for you, and so that you can love life in all those manifestations that demonstrate its value and worth.

My brethren, I desire also to make you love work as a means of sanctification and as a duty of every human creature, inasmuch collaborator of the divine work. Do not be surprised that I say to you that the most suitable means to sanctify your day is that of never being in idleness, in order not to permit the evil one to occupy that place which God has destined to his beloved creature, Mary, and to his divine Son, Jesus. The idle, in fact, cannot stay with these two personages, who have edified all humanity with their life made up of prayer and work.

Moreover, I want to recall to you also my activity, which I understood as collaboration with the activity of the Father, in order to give to my most sweet spouse and to her Son that protection and that sustenance to whom I was obliged to provide as guardian and foster father of Jesus.

Human injustices were never lacking, but when one knows to do one's duty, and with it the will of God, the sacrifice and the toil also take on another aspect and make one joyful. I knew physical fatigue, which tires the body, and moral responsibility, which tires the heart. Therefore, I am capable of helping the workers, whom the Church on this first day of May entrusts to me, and I am also capable of understanding the worries of an insecure and poorly paid job.

The faith is a bulwark, and love for justice is a remedy to what selfishness could let enter in, be it among the employers as in those who work for others. Faith demonstrates the usefulness of work, elevating it to a superior level.

If it were only for that human recompense that man toils, it would be a very little thing, but, since when Jesus himself willed to be a humble worker, work was able and still can be a means of purification. Did not the Lord give out his cry, saying to Adam: *"You will earn your bread with the sweat of your brow"*, after the sin? Moreover, if this work can become a means of salvation for oneself and for others, its value is great indeed! I worked with arms and mind, but my heart was united to God, therefore, work became prayer.

The world is full of people who appreciate action more than prayer, and yet they are two things that must fuse together to glorify God and bring help to society.

How many works, done humanly well are nothing before God! How many works, built by men and mixed with blasphemies, remain as an insult to the divinity and are not blessed by God! But there were simple and incapable persons, and there still are, who, having transformed their work into prayer, were able to accomplish marvellous works: hospitals, churches, workshops, in which a multitude of souls enjoy the benefits of God's blessing.

I would like for the sanctity and the usefulness of work to be made known to the young, and that they would learn to understand hard work, also because they would be more understanding with the parents and with the elderly, from whom they enjoy the fruits of numberless sacrifices.

To love work, is to imitate God creator of the universe, who spent six epochs to create all those things whose beauty we admire. He worked, and the healthy man, his creatures, must work in order not to be dead weights on the shoulders of others. Unfortunately there are also those whom multiple situations do not permit to work and to earn. I concern myself with them, and whoever prays to me with faith, certainly will not be disappointed. I also ask for collaboration from you.

It is true also that, just as there are the deaf and the blind and those who do not want to hear and do not

want to see, so there are also those who hate work, who desert their jobs with unjustified reasons, creating harm for others and a general chaos. My feast, the love that you give me, must rectify the consciences, so as to make all aware of their duty.

Let him who is struck by illness, him who is in a bad way by old age, know that, in the acceptance of one's infirmities for the sake of God, resides a considerable vital strength, whereby one can well say that he is carrying out the most important work of his life.

Brethren, Joseph, the spouse of Mary, blesses you and helps you to fill your life with works of great and efficacious value. Pray to me for the workers, and bring me, through your word, to those places in which I can point out my example.

Today the praise of work is sung, by abstaining from it.

Learn to praise God with your works, so that they may bring fruits of grace into families and into the world.

See you again.

## **THE MOMENT OF DEATH**

*St. Joseph*

*November 2, 1977 (at Seregno)*

My brethren, peace be to you! It has been a while since I addressed my word to you, but I never cease protecting you and obtaining graces and help for you.

Today I wish to remind you of the most important thing of your life, on which all eternity depends. I want to remind you of the crucial moment of death. You know how serene my death was, which happened between the arms of Jesus and Mary, but for this desirable death every Christian must prepare himself with a holy life. The whole life must be a preparation for that moment! Death can be sudden, violent or serene, but nothing can frighten when there is the sweet Guest in the soul, to whom you can entrust yourself with full confidence.

Life presents unknowns. You do not know at what age you will die, for example. You do not know whether you will die in your bed, or along the street, or outside the house, but it presents also some certainties. You know that he who lives well, dies well. Therefore, you can be sure that, by living in the grace of God, you will have a right to Paradise. To this certainty you must dedicate all your attention! The rest is nothing.

To preserve grace, with the flight from sin and the observance of the Law of God, is the most important step. Then comes the practice of good, since the Lord does not want only flight from evil, but for the Christian to enrich himself with good works. However, when a soul lives in the grace of God, all that he does, whether by vocation or profession, as in the fulfilment of the duties of one's state, becomes precious. The only thing missing is the address on the very beautiful letter that the soul writes in this way in order to greatly validate the works. And you put on the address when, at the start of your day, you offer up to God all that will fill it.

Now, try to think how few are the Christians who live thinking about what awaits them and addressing their works to God! Consider still how many persons unprepared present themselves before the tribunal of God, without realizing the severity of his judgement! How many sick, also from unforgiving sicknesses, have the desire to be healed, or to die in order to put an end to the suffering, and do not think about the future life!

Then if you take into account that, in that very difficult moment of the separation of the soul from the body, the devil with special cunning and strength seeks to give thoughts of rebellion and despair, you see straight away how necessary it is to help those souls with prayer and, when it is possible, make oneself understood with good words.

Consider, brethren, how many baptized, after having rejected faith and grace their whole life, find themselves before the reality of death! Here an effective grace is truly needed, like the one that floored Saul on the way to Damascus. But who will obtain this help, if not the prayer of the good?

Well then, you know that the mercy of God is infinite, but also his justice is infinite. Therefore, consider: even when thousands upon thousands of souls were to obtain the gift of salvation, how much purgatory is

waiting for them! For all the years in which they lived far from God rejecting the Holy Spirit, they will have to remain in suffering in Purgatory.

One only prayer, made by those who are on the point of death, could open immediately the gates of Paradise: an act of perfect love, as was the one of the good thief, or the perfect sorrow of the Magdalene who, weeping over her sins, washed the feet of the Saviour with tears. Perfect love and sorrow are great graces of God, which you must ask for every day for yourselves and for all the dying.

My assistance is valid because I carry out my work before the catastrophe happens, by arousing thoughts of faith. This explains to you why, souls who have not loved God, having died perhaps of a sudden death, have saved themselves! Sometimes, also unknown to the relatives, I call them to thoughts of faith and repentance of sins.

Brethren, know that Purgatory is the house of love in sorrow. An unspeakable suffering purifies those souls, which you can alleviate and make efficacious also for yourselves. Do not forget the suffering souls! They shall be your best friends, to whom you will be able to entrust your spiritual and material interests. The prayer of those who suffer is powerful before God, whether it may come from those who are on earth, as well as from those holy souls. Let yours be truly a communion of saints. Give, and it shall be given you! Give prayers and sufferings, and you will receive precious and un hoped for help.

I bless you in the name of God and the Most Holy Virgin, my spouse. Be faithful to these meetings; you will receive graces without end.

## MY TASK AS PATRON OF THE CHURCH

*St. Joseph*

*January 4, 1978 (at Seregno)*

My brethren, peace be to you! Behold your gathering brightened up by my presence! I know that you love me and rejoice when I speak to you. You know that I take a special care of your group, which you have entrusted to me. I love also to show you with what love I watch over your souls, your families, and I take your desires and your intentions into consideration. Today however, at the beginning of this new year, I desire to make you sharers of a special task of mine, so that together you may be able to do a great good.

I was chosen by the Pontiff, by the will of God, as Patron of the Universal Church. My action however, many times is not requested and neglected. Many, also amongst practising Catholics, hold it a useless thing to invoke the saints, and they keep on distancing them more and more from their hearts, besides their memory by honouring them in their festivities. I also am invoked little, whether privately or liturgically.

And yet the Church is the organisation that represents salvation, it is the ark of the covenant, it is the barque of Peter. It is above all the mystical body of Christ, whose members are the Christians of all times, who in Him and through Him receive life and sanctity.

What would be if the Church were to be dismembered in the doctrine that makes it one? What would be if its members were no longer to live in the grace of God? What would be if love were to no longer unite the hearts that comprise this wonderful divine institution? It would be its breakdown, even if Jesus had to say that *"the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."* One needs to defend the Church, to help it and to love it.

The actions that I go about carrying out in its favour, you too must do them with me, and to be proud of being not only living members, but active ones, who increase its vitality. Oh, yes, love the Church as one loves one's own mother, because in it you can find the means of holiness and eternal health!

Those Sacraments that many times Christians reject or receive neglectfully, are the seven channels that, having come out of the heart of Jesus, give like gushing water that grace that puts man in a relationship of goodness and friendship with God.

That Word of God that the Church preserves, teaches, hands down and explains, is the supernatural bread that helps Christians to believe in God, to know Him and to love Him; it must not be neglected, but valued! And as it would be an evil for a family to waste bread, a gift of God, so it would be, and it is, an unpardonable sin for it to be consigned into oblivion and the marvellous gift of the Word, with which He wishes to communicate with men to not wish to accept.



What is my assignment as Patron of the Church? To safeguard the truth, to guard the Sacraments and to act so that Christians learn to appreciate them, receiving them with faith and with love; to defend the Church from the heresies, which tear at the body of the Lord. This is my duty, but it is also yours, brethren!

When even one sole truth of the faith is denied, one becomes a heretic. How many heretics, who have received also Baptism in the Church! They deny, many, the infallibility of the Pope, the immortality of the soul, the holiness and the indissolubility of marriage, the sanctity of life and its provenance from God, the duty to respect it and to preserve it. To these heresies one adds all those that materialism accepts and propagates.

What can you do in order to help my work and that of the Church? You must be assiduous in religious instruction, which gives you the capacity to teach the truth and to combat error. I am not speaking to you about the necessity that you give to participation in the most holy Sacraments that importance that they deserve. I will keep on preparing you, during this year, to receive with faith and with great humility the Sacraments that give and preserve grace in you, and you will become like living flames that will bring light to all those who are a part of your little world.

I bless you all, children, one by one. I will give out my graces in profusion and my help to whoever takes part in this group and to all your families.

## **BE ACTIVE, BE PRAYING SOULS**

*St. Joseph*

*March 1, 1978 (at Seregno)*

My brethren, how dear it is to me to start off with you that month that the Church dedicates to my name by inviting the faithful to honour me! I am especially committed to defend and to help my devotees who, realizing the power that the Lord has given me, entrust their souls to me and those of whom they love, their troubles and their difficulties, in order to have comfort.

Truly my status as the Patron of the Universal Church finds its special implementation in this period. You see the needs, even without speaking to you about them. The ministers of God need help in order to learn to carry out their ministry in a worthy way. The faithful need it, in order to behave according to the Law of God. Families need it, in order to live in fidelity and in love the Sacrament of Marriage. And all the children of God need help, in order to prepare themselves for the great step of death, which spares no one and which is the most important of life, even if few think about it and go towards death with indifference and with sin on the soul.

I carry out my mission beseeching the Father for Him to use mercy and, through that authority that He has given me over his Son Jesus, I beseech Him not to permit for the sacrifice of the Man-God to be in vain for many.

Moreover, I am fond of reminding you that, also in Heaven, my devotees stand alongside me in prayer and in interceding for the dying the most beautiful graces of light and grace. My beloved spouse Mary, Co-Redemptrix of the human race and Mother of the Church, is the gleaming rose of Paradise, from whose hands passes all that is given to God, and it is wonderful to see the unity of will that binds to God and between them all the souls who in Paradise are glorified.

This takes place in Heaven, which is the Church triumphant. On earth ought to take place the same union of souls, of hearts and of will, of all the members of the Church militant. You ask for this in the Our Father, when you repeat the words: *"Your will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven!"* But, brethren, how far we are from carrying out this marvellous unity! And yet, the Kingdom of God must have its fulfilment, and I, while in Heaven I perform my work of intercession, on earth I work indefatigably so that these children do not die of hunger like the children of Jacob did not and be supplied with those goods that the King keeps in his granaries and of which He made me the depository.

Children and brothers, learn to unite yourselves in your prayer to the Church acclaiming God, and learn to unite yourselves to me and to do all that good that is possible for you to bring souls to salvation. Do not forget that prayer is the most important action of your life, but that work also is precious and must become prayer. Put into everything that you do for the soul and the body, so much love, so that all may become transformed into purest gold.

Millions of men die every year; few however, concern themselves with what is awaiting them at the end

of earthly life and they go like blind men, like deaf men, like fools, towards an irreparable evil. Many are rebellious towards any movement of grace and reject God and salvation. What they reject, may it be valued by you, children!

Oh, yes, be attentive to the good inspirations and respond to the calls of God, who wants you holy! Let your holiness be an example, a call and a warning for all. Brethren, I am never idle. You also do likewise, so that the devil may not find good soil in you. Be good, be active, be praying souls! You will be enriched with merits, and you will give glory to God and triumph to the Church.

I bless you and I help you. I bless the young present, whom I will guide in the way of the Lord making them apostles of good in the midst of their companions. I bless the sick, to which I will give much patience and forbearance. I bless the mothers and the brides, so that they may be wise like my spouse Mary. I bless the religious present, to whom I will give the grace of responding to their vocation by accepting that cross which the Lord wishes to put on their shoulders. To all, I will be like a shield against the assaults of the devil.

See you again! Have you seen how many calls I made today and how many impediments the devil put before you? I have defended you. May you always be strong by collaborating with me. Happy Easter!

## **I SPEAK TO YOU ABOUT MARY**

*St. Joseph*

*March 19, 1978*

My brethren, with what joy have I welcomed the invitation to address my greeting and word to you in this blessed place! It is not the first time, but every time the teaching and the affection have a new way of communicating and expressing themselves.

What shall I say to you! First of all that I am happy with the true devotion that you bear for my beloved spouse, and that you translate into practice her virtues, and I am happy with all that you do a little everywhere in order to make her loved and make her known! Truly, the diabolical arts tend to diminish her greatness, denying those prerogatives that honour her so much, such as her Immaculate Conception, her divine Maternity and Virginity; but you, who truly love her, do not put into doubt all that concerns her and which the Church affirms as dogma.

I too strongly loved that creature of Heaven, who brought to my life a sweetness and a superhuman strength, and who enriched me with her goodness and her humility, rendering me serene before every difficult and delicate situation. From a woman like her, any soul can draw everything, for, when she enters the life of a person, it is like the sun that vivifies everything entering. Her wisdom was accompanied by so much prudence and humility that kept her hidden from profane eyes, but from which I learned to know God better and better and to love Him.

Brethren, what a great thing it is to love the Lord! It seems a proper and easy thing, which all ought to do, while it is so difficult, especially for those who reject his will and his Law. But how can one not love the Lord when one is close to the Mother of God who, filled with grace, has no other aim than his glory? Oh, how I would like to teach you, how she taught me with her example, with her grace, with her behaviour, to love God!

I speak to you about Mary because she is the Co-Redemptrix, and you are preparing yourselves for the most important event in the history of the world: that which culminated in the crucifixion of Jesus and which was materialized in his resurrection.

But I want to show her to you again in the world and, if the task of Patron of the Universal Church was attributed to me, I cannot disconnect my action from hers as Mother of the Church. A reawakening of religious life must come about in the Church and in the world, but it will be this wonderful Mother who will give the Saviour to the world again and who will make faith, hope and love blossom again in her children.

A rebirth presupposes a mother, therefore, do not let those who want to remove this glorious Mother think they are being useful to the Church! There is no infusion of the Holy Spirit in those who do not love the Mother of Jesus, the spouse of the Holy Spirit! Oh, how painful it is not to want Mary as mother, when God himself chose her as his mother!

If therefore, dear brethren, you wish to serve God, help the Church, give to the brethren something that

will be really good for them, and to honour me also, love Mary, and perform your normal actions as good Christians in her company, in the way in which she performed them during her mortal life.

What do I promise you on my part? No devotee of Mary will be lost, for it will be my concern to assist him in sickness and on the point of death. Every grace that God grants, passes through her hands, but I solicit these graces for those who love Mary in order to please me.

The Church and the world have need also of my work. The dead and the dying have need of my intercession. The dead, that is, those who live in mortal sin and who do not care to regain that life which is indispensable to be saved, are the true needy ones. To this category of souls, I dedicated special cares and I ask for the help of the Mother, the refuge of sinners.

Moreover, there are also the dying, and they are not only the ones at the end of life, but also those which temptation puts in danger of losing grace. These persons also you must commend to me, because the strength that God gives me is great, in collaboration with the Mother of God.

There are many in danger in the world for different reasons. You think of kidnappings as amongst the greatest dangers, but were you to know how many snares the devil lays to souls! The Mother shields these souls with her sanctity and offers them to the Father so that they may be defended, and I run to help with all those possibilities that are unknown to you, but which distance from the dangers and turn many souls to good. The Lord has given me a special assignment: that of reassuring doubtful vocations, and to consolidate them making them become fervent and holy.

Brethren, the Church needs you, and you need the intercession of the saints in order to walk along the paths that Jesus and Mary have walked and which lead to Heaven. May your fervour be reborn day by day, and lead you to practise with love your religious, family and social duties, so as to be a means of edification for all.

Brethren, I bless you all. I present my best wishes to all those who bear my name, and who enjoy therefore, a special protection. All the Joseph' are united to me who, being already in glory, have sentiments of goodness and infinite love towards you. See you all again!

## **LOVE AND DEFEND THE HEAVENLY MOTHER**

*Blessed Maximilian Mary Kolbe*

*October 17, 1971*

My brethren, I am Father Kolbe, today, by the Church, raised to the honours of the altar. I know that some persons desired to take part in my triumph. Well then, with God's permission, I have come to bring you my blessing.

You love the heavenly Mother, and I too loved her with an intense affection right from infancy.

I want to encourage you to love her and to defend her as good soldiers. Stay always at her side, not because she needs you, but because by staying near her there is everything to gain. Defend her by proclaiming her prerogatives, especially those of her Immaculate Conception and her Virginity, try to stop the blasphemies that make her suffer so much, not because some evil comes to her, but for the evils that those who despise her procure for themselves.

Again I recommend mutual charity to you: you must live one for the other! If Jesus has said that no one has a greater love than he who gives his life for his brother, act so that your love may always have this intensity. Be, that is, always ready to sacrifice yourself for the others, for the brethren.

My brethren, I bless you all. The glory of Heaven awaits you.

## **MY PROGRAMME OF LIFE**

*Luisa Piccarreta*

*April 22, 1969*

Dear brethren, who have placed in honour my effigy on this altar where the Holy Virgin and her divine Son deign to place their feet, be joyful and happy because to the host of saints, who have the task of protecting

and helping all those who come to pray here, is added also your Luisa.

You know how painful my existence has been, spent in great part on a bed, where I was able to help Jesus and the heavenly Mother, putting myself at their service, and making them known through the carrying out of their divine will.

Well then, dear brethren, also to you I wish to give a little lesson. That word that has been for me a programme, let it be also for you, so that you may be able to realize God's plans in you and in the world.

"Fiat", I used to say at every event, at every dawn that rose, at every sunset, at the sun, at the wind, at the rain, at pain and to all that life presented to me; and in the fulfilment of the divine will I always found the strength and the joy to live.

Fiat means trust, in a total abandonment in God, in a sure and complete faith; immolation on a cross, but with Jesus, because only in Him and with Him our life is valued and our Mass concelebrated; pure love, supernatural and total, made of dedication and of sacrifice for the good of the brethren; and last of all, fear. Yes, dear brethren, if love is the fulfilment of the Law, we must not forget that a holy fear of God opens the way to that respectful and delicate behaviour that lets us see in our Jesus not only our most lovable brother, but also our God, to whom every honour and glory is due united to the deepest respect.

In this way, my brethren, my programme of life can be yours too, and I am happy to still be able to work for the Kingdom of God, teaching to you and to many others, by your means, to live and to practise the divine will.

I bless you, my brethren, and I thank you for the honour that you have bestowed on me.

## **FEAR THE LORD**

*St. Maria Goretti*

*October 3, 1969*

My dear sisters, here I am, I am here also with you. Do you recognize me? I am Maria Goretti?

I have lived few years on earth, but I enjoy a great glory in Heaven. I am with the host of virgins and martyrs, who willingly gave their lives in order to keep the great virtue intact: perfect chastity. Oh, how I would like for all the youth of the earth to be present here in this moment in order to be able to speak to them, and make known how ugly sin is and virtue precious, especially purity, which is so dear to Jesus and to the Mother of Heaven!

Now I will tell you how, in Heaven with me, is glorified also my good mother, who from a most tender age inculcated in me such a horror of sin, especially the sin of impurity, whereby I would not have hesitated already from infancy to give my life in order not to sin.

I must tell you also what the means were that my holy mother used in order to make me strong against the enemies of the soul and the body. She taught me to love prayer, especially the Holy Rosary, which she recited many times a day; she inculcated in me the holy fear of God through which, though having the certainty of his infinite love and the pardon sins, I feared of offending Him.

This is what I have to say to all and especially to mothers!

Brothers and sisters, fear the Lord, because, if great is his love, just as great is his justice. Fathers, mothers, teach these things to your children from the most tender age, and let the children learn to have respect for the presence of God. Let their behaviour be the same as that of the angels, who, though being beside them on earth, see, serve, honour and think about their God.

Know, dear mothers, that your children shall be your crown in Heaven in the measure in which you shall have been for them a means of perfection and ascent.

Pray to me every day for your daughters, and do so that they also may turn to me with trust and love. I protect and bless the young who, desirous of preserving the great virtue, make the effort to guard it with that delicacy and prudence in their behaviour that makes them admirable to all wise men: those who, that is, do not

seek in them the satisfaction of their senses, but true companions of life with whom they must reach Heaven.

And now I bless you all, and I urge you to pray so that the youth prayer groups may arise everywhere and counter those of boys dedicated only to amusement and vice.

## **I LEFT NOTHING UNATTEMPTED**

*St. Monica*

*May 5, 1969*

My children and brethren, may the peace of the Lord be with you and with it every good and every consolation!

The Lord God and the Mother, most holy Mary sent me to you. I am Monica, the mother of Augustine. You are surprised, true? And yet, were you to know what honour for me to be able to come to give you some little instructions and to give comfort to those mothers and spouses who find themselves in the same situation in which I found myself when I lived on this earth of yours!

Sisters, desolate mothers, who grieve over your children who have lost the faith and reject morals, have confidence and trust in Him who, directing the world, brings all situations to a successful conclusion, even the most desperate and thorny.

Trust the Lord and utilize your tears. Unite them also to those that I shed in the twenty four years in which I beseeched, suffered and loved, and gave all, all to God, so that that son of mine who was lost, would return to the sheepfold, to the faith and to the father's house.

I left nothing unattempted; the long voyage did not frighten me, and I came also to your country, while with joy, exactly near the city blessed by the Supreme Pontiff, I offered my life for the conversion of my Augustine. Exactly in your city, by the hand of the holy Bishop Ambrose, he was converted and baptized.

Children, now the same glory unites us in Heaven; also for you there is a place prepared!

In a few days you will recall two solemnities: the Ascension of Jesus into Heaven and the Descent of the Holy Spirit.

Well then, remember what I have said to you, so that the thought of Heaven be familiar to you and you are able to use the things of this world only in the measure in which it will be granted to utilize them for Heaven. From now on be joyful, because eternal joy is your precious inheritance.

May the Holy Spirit help you to understand these things and make you practise what my Augustine had well understood, when he was able to say to all: "*Love and do what you wish.*"

Yes, children, may your hearts be filled with love and may you be able to spread a fire of God's love everywhere! In the burning love of God you will feel the joy of living, of suffering and also of dying in order to reach the eternal Love, seat and fount of every happiness.

## **BE FIRM IN THE FAITH**

*St. Peter the apostle*

*March 27, 1970 (Good Friday)*

My children, I am sent to you to bring you my message on this night of sorrow and of infinite love.

I, who exactly in this hour, before a little and miserable servant denied my divine Teacher, come to you who united in prayer, will swear fidelity to Him before leaving here.

To Him I had said: "*Even if all were to abandon You, I will never leave You!*" I felt strongly the love for Jesus, but I had not experienced it yet.

Children, this is how it happens in the world! Many have followed Jesus in their infancy, perhaps even in their adolescence, but then, attracted by other loves and by mirages of wealth, have abandoned Him. Some have

sworn to Him to be faithful to Him as long as they saw, as I had seen them, miracles and great things; but, when the cross, ignominy, scorn and slander stood out on the horizon, fear and human respect terrified me so much that I became a perjurer. Not in glory, but in pain and with sacrifice love is tested!

Children, Jesus is still a sign of contradiction. Do not flatter yourselves, there will come times even worse than these and, if you are now in the cenacle where a little air of Paradise hovers and you feel like saying with a heart full of affection: "*Lord, I shall never abandon You*", do not let yourselves be overcome, but prepare yourselves for future battles. Know that human respect and fear of the world make you a poor figure before God and also before men, since not having the courage to manifest one's faith and one's ideas is a sign of weakness.

Good for me that Jesus bothered to look at me and made me reflect, enter into myself again and weep over my betrayal; but how many brethren and children of yours, after having denied their faith, have not the will to turn back on their steps!

Children, be firm in the faith! There are many who sell you many words, you look at the facts. Do not believe that everything comes from Heaven, since, just as the devil wandered through the world to tempt souls at the time of Jesus, so he still wanders now and dresses himself as teacher in order to sow confusion and discord.

Remember that the only teacher of truth is he who sits on my chair, who governs the Church in the name of Jesus, Son of God. Do not be deceived, and do not disappoint him! You would deceive yourselves, if you were to have another leader outside of him, who, assisted by the Holy Spirit, is infallible; and you would disappoint him, if your faith did not aim at making you improve yourselves continuously in order to reach that perfection to which Christians are called. I denied the Lord, but then I bewailed so bitterly my sin.

Jesus the Teacher, however, said to me also that He would have confirmed me in the faith and would have been with me and the Church until the consummation of the ages. May this faith intact and pristine which the Supreme Pontiff, my successor is endowed, be the bulwark under which you take refuge, certain of reaching the harbour. Blessed the pure and chaste faith, guarded in your homes like a torch that you will bring before the throne of God! Blessed the cross, symbol of the faith in the one and triune God.

I also on a cross, like Jesus, was crucified and I was happy to show Him, with the death, the sorrow of my sin and my attachment to Him. You also have some crosses: do not remove them, but carry them with faith and with joy. Your cross shall be the trophy that you will carry, ever so luminous, before the supreme Judge on the day of the tremendous judgement; then the elect will feel so alike to that God-Man who did not hesitate to give all his Blood for our salvation.

Children, I am the first Peter, but he who sits on the See of Rome is now your Peter. Raise daily affectionate thoughts to him, and to God fervent prayers made for him.

With this gift that I ask you for, I give you a gift: I strengthen your faith and I bless you.

## **MARY, MOTHER AND QUEEN**

*Pope Pius XII*

*May 31, 1969*

Dear children, I have had the assignment of coming to bless you and to speak to you, be it briefly though, of the divine royalty of Mary.

I am the Pontiff who instituted this feast, and I have desired, indicating her to the whole Church, that the holy Virgin receives from all men that tribute of love and honour that is due to her as Mother of Jesus, the King of creation. Mary is the Mother of God the Creator: Mater Creatoris!

I desired also for this Virgin Mother and Queen to come and reign in your families, so that, having all become her members, her faithful subjects, they would become subjects of her Son too. I desired that every man who lives on the face of the earth, elects as absolute Sovereign of his heart this very sweet Mother. She, who prefers the sweet name of Mother too, does not disdain having absolute powers over the hearts of the children, in order to be able to lead them to salvation and to make them happy.

Act so that these desires of mine, which were inspired by God and which are his desires, may be realized for the glory of our Mother and Queen.

I help you and I bless you and, if you permit me, I unite myself to your prayers so that the Queen of Heaven and of earth may be, now more than ever, Queen of the Church.

I bless and accompany all one by one, especially those who, continuing the work so desired by me of glorifying Mary, go out of their way to spread devotion to her and her love. Learn to offer all up to God with the heavenly Mother, so that she adds her merits to your offerings, and your spiritual treasure becomes precious before God.

## **ALWAYS DO GOOD**

*Padre Pio*

*September 23, 1968*

My children, I am with you, I am your spiritual father. I follow you and I bless you. Do not be sorrowful: I am in the glory of Heaven, I see you and I guide you. Do not fear anything. Follow the narrow paths, those of love, of the cross and of prayer. Suffering redeems and lifts up, when it is offered in the grace of God and with love. Treasure the teachings that you received, which are gifts of Heaven, and always stay united in the Lord.

My daughter, write again! Do so that your meetings may be an encouragement and a seedbed of good. I am with you to make them fruitful and beneficial. Always do good. Love the poor, help them, call them your brothers, because they are the beloved one's of Jesus. Love everyone and bless the Lord, before and after every good action of yours which always ought to be directed to Him. I assist and bless this cenacle which, in a special way, I have placed under my protection.

**Q.** — *Jesus, do you wish to speak to me?*

**A.** — Yes, my daughter, write what I am suggesting to you. Invite all those who come to this cenacle, to pray for the glorification of my faithful servant and to ask for spiritual and material graces through his intercession. I desire for this faithful servant of mine to be glorified quickly, who has spent his life loving Me, imitating Me and making Me loved.

## **USE YOUR BODY AS AN INSTRUMENT OF GOOD**

*Padre Pio*

*September 26, 1968*

Dear children, I am here with you by the will of God, of the merciful Jesus. My body also will be glorified by God and by men. It has served as an instrument of good for the glory of God and for the benefit of souls. The holy stigmata, that was impressed by Jesus on my body, shine with imperishable light in Paradise. You possess a body too, which, after having undergone decomposition in the tomb, will shine with an immortal light in Heaven.

My children, always use your body as an instrument of good. In this also, imitate my mother and be serene. I bless your hands, so that they are used always to perform works of good and of mercy. I bless your minds and your hearts. I bless you with your families and I await for you all in Heaven. You are all my spiritual children, and you must all come with me.

See you again, children. Think of me, and ask God to make you love suffering as I loved it. Do you know how great the reward is? It is worth the trouble, I assure you, to suffer all the pains of life to reach it! You do well to pray for the Supreme Pontiff. I have always put him in the first place in every entreaty of mine.

## **I WANT TO HELP EVERYONE**

*Padre Pio*

*September 27, 1968*

My daughter, you desired me near and I have come.

Know that in God distances no longer exist, and here everything turns out easier. Souls see themselves in God and love each other in God, whereby the affection that binds us with the creatures that are on earth becomes perfect. One asks for the true good for everyone, that is, their salvation, which is realized with a delicate intense activity by Providence.

When creatures of your world ask for graces, these are like selected, and the Lord, who knows all and to whom all is present, will never grant a grace that can be harmful for the eternal life. This is the reason why many pray and are not heard.

My daughter, invite everyone to have a great trust in God and to abandon themselves into his arms asking only for the fulfilment of his will. Commend all the needy to me, because I do not want to stay inactive in Heaven but, since the Lord allows me, I want to help everyone.

On your part, love all those whom you approach. I urge you: if you approach the rich, invite them to help the poor; if you approach the poor, invite them to have patience and forbearance, so that all can be saved.

Accept the crosses, my children, because with the cross one reaches the top of Calvary, to the resurrection and then to Heaven. Love the heavenly Mother, whom I have always loved with a tender filial love during the years of my life with you. You will see how much care she has for you, from how many dangers she will preserve you and how she will make you grow in virtue and in the love of God.

Wish one another well and help each other in turn. Do not be jealous, envious or proud, because these things are contrary to the charity of Christ.

## **LOVE SUFFERING**

*Padre Pio*

*October 27, 1968*

My daughter, I bless you and I wish you a holy feast of Christ the King.

Today a brother of mine will come to bless the Way of the Cross: welcome him with faith and with charity. He is my beloved; he works in the vineyard of the Lord following the footsteps of St. Francis and continuing to assist, encourage and help those Prayer Groups that I desired so much and still now desire. I shall be present among you, and I will give my help and those graces that the Lord will permit me to intercede for to all the present. The Way of the Cross has always been a practice very dear to me because with my sufferings I was able to understand in part those of Jesus.

My daughter, love suffering, so important in the spiritual life of Christians and so necessary, as mortification and penance is! The difference that passes between suffering, mortification and penance is this: suffering in general comes to you from God, or is permitted by Him without you going looking for it, while you procure the others yourself; therefore, your will enters in them, while for the former only the will of God rules.

Therefore, accept willingly what makes you suffer, because, from the joy that you put into suffering, depends the fruit. Do not carry on like the ox, who suffers under the yoke but without merit! Love suffering and bless the Lord when He sends it to you, because it is a gift of Heaven.

I bless you, daughter, and with you the whole Cenacle.

## **YOUR PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS**

*Padre Pio*

*November 24, 1968*

My children, I have come to give you a greeting and to invite you to prepare yourselves well for the solemnity of Christmas. The period of preparation has begun, and I invite you to spend it doing good.

Rekindle faith, hope and above all charity. Let the exercise of this beautiful virtue be your preparation. Practise charity by visiting the sick, consoling those who suffer, helping those who are in need and above all praying for the sinners and sacrificing yourselves for them.

Children, I bless you all and I charge you with carrying my blessing to your Groups and to your families.

I am Padre Pio, your spiritual father, and I guide and I assist from Heaven all those who commend themselves to me. Never fear that the help on the part of God may be lacking to you.



## **HARMONY AND ORDER IN EVERYTHING**

*Padre Pio*

*December 31, 1968*

My children, here I am with you, I am Padre Pio and, as director and founder of the Prayer Groups, I have come to give you the New Year's greetings.

Children, I give you my sincerest and holiest greeting. Let this year be, which you will begin tomorrow, a year of grace in the Lord, rich with good works, faith and light.

I urge you, children, love one another; wish each other well, ever so much, learning to sacrifice yourselves one for the other! Learn to bear each other's defects because charity wishes it so, and because good cannot be done when one is not in harmony.

Let your group work be based on prayer on the intense spiritual life, but do not neglect your home duties. Be ordered in everything, because order will make your works bear fruit and they shall be very pleasing to God without repelling men.

I bless you and I accompany you in every initiative of yours. I will be present at that Holy Mass that you will try to celebrate every month in honour of the Mother of Divine Love, and because in the Prayer Groups of the whole world there may be those things that I have wished for you, and that is, harmony and order, in obedience to the Church and with the blessing of God.

I always wait for you in your meetings, which for you ought to be a spur to continue well in the service of God. I am here to comfort you, because you are all my children, and, even if I have left you in body, I am much more united with you than before and I can help you in everything.

## **PRAYER AND PENANCE FOR THE YOUNG**

*Padre Pio*

*February 4, 1969*

Dear children, I am here to bless you, to encourage you and to help you. I am Padre Pio, whom you invoke often in your troubles.

Take courage, children, for it is only by means of the cross that one reaches Heaven. It is not a road strewn with roses; they are the thorns that accompany you along the paths of life.

Courage and forward! It is a hard battle that you must fight, but you are not alone; at your side there is Jesus, the heavenly Mother and an interminable host of souls, desirous for your salvation and your good.

Do not grieve over not knowing how to confront difficulties, because, when you least expect it, every thing will get sorted out in the best way, or better, as God wills.

You will do a good thing to commit yourself to the utmost on these days with prayer and penance, so that the gathering of the youth may bear some fruit.

Mothers, sacrifice yourselves for your children, you who for their material interests know how to be heroic! Make some sacrifices in order to obtain for your children to keep the faith and uprightness of life! I am beside you and I bless you.

The Holy Mass, at which you will assist shortly, you will offer it up for this intention: the salvation, the conversion, the sanctification of the youth. Do so that also the other Milan groups learn that the Holy Mass of the first Tuesday is celebrated in the parish, at a certain hour, for this purpose. Let the youth be aware of being surrounded by persons who love them, who pray for them and who offer sacrifices for their salvation.

Children, I bless you all and I await you in your Church to unite myself to you as intermediary.

## TO THE YOUNG

*Padre Pio*

*February 11, 1969*

Dear children, who still enjoy youth, be blessed! I have come amongst you with God's permission, because I desire that exactly here those youthful Prayer Groups make a beginning that will be the leaven of the parishes.

I am Padre Pio and, even if I died of old age, I also have lived out my youth and, approaching the young, I have known the dangers that they encounter and those which they must flee. I have also known the things that the young can and must do in order to preserve their youth and not age ahead of time, and so that they can trade that precious talent that they possess and make it useful for themselves and for the world.

To speak to you about the dangers in your world, so full of superficiality and meanness, is not hard. I however, speak to you about the dangers in one word alone, and I say to you: watch out from sin, the only true evil, because it leads to eternal ruin! I remind you too that, after having fled sin, you must do good, because, taking away the negative side, one must do the positive side.

I hope that you are able to return here many times, and exactly from this place, where the heavenly Mother has placed her dwelling, try to take up the initiative for the good that you can do. In this way you will not waste your time, and the ideal of charity and the programme that you will carry out, shall be of great joy to your souls and to all those whom you will help with your goodness.

Children, the carnival time is the sin time, and you can call it also the devil's time. Sanctify this time; enjoy yourselves, because the Lord is the God of joy, but your joy must part from a soul in the grace of God.

Let your hearts exult with the purest joy; let it exult because, if the Lord is in you, all Paradise is with you. No human joy however, is complete, and many times in the bottom of the chalice, where you think you find joy, you find a deep bitterness.

Love the Lord and his sweet Mother, and enjoy in them the happiness that the Lord reserves to the pure youth.

Children, I bless you again, now and always.

## AN ONGOING SPRING

*Padre Pio*

*March 20, 1969*

My children, I have come to give you my greetings. You might ask me why; I'll tell you straight away!

Tomorrow spring will begin, that beautiful season that brings a new life into nature and a total renewal. Well then, let it be also for you the start of a spiritual and religious renewal, so total that all those who come near you are aware of it.

You are used to saying, when the years pass by that the springs pass away. I instead wish you that your life may be a continued spring, that is, a continual renewal in Jesus Christ, who is perennial youth.

And now I bless you and I wish you a good night, my children. With you I bless your intentions and all of your prayer group, which I desire to be propagated and progress so as to be a model for all. You have the possibility and the duty, for Jesus himself and his Mother instruct you and help you.

## THE FASTING AND PENANCE MOST PLEASING TO GOD

*Padre Pio*

*March 23, 1969*

Dear children, I have come to you, since not all of you have been able to come to me, to say a word to you that may prepare you for the Passion week and for Holy Week, which you will spend in preparation for Holy Easter.

From today the Church recalls to her children that the very bitter Passion is outlined and that you must

with so much love persist in the practice of fasting and of penance. I however, as a good father, advise you to do the most difficult fasting, that of the tongue, so easy to offend God and neighbour, and to do the penance most pleasing to God: that of using charity towards the neighbour, especially those who live beside you.

I have seen that one of you has brought to the feet of the heavenly Mother an iron rose, surmounted by a candle in the shape of a flame. Well then, children, this is the significance of that object: from the rose of charity sprouts the flame of love. It is love that must ignite the hearts and blaze out in the world! Without charity the world is not converted. Do you not see, my children, that the world goes badly? Are you not aware that hatred instead of love is sown? Well then, behave so that during this last part of Lent that blessed rose may sprout, and act so that its perfume may spread itself everywhere.

I see also an image of the heavenly Mother, from whose bosom sprouts a white lily. Dear children, the consecrated souls ought to be those white lilies that perfume the Church. But how can they be so if they abandon devotion to the Mother? *“May the kingdom of Mary come”*, you say often, so that the one of Jesus may come.

And last of all, you will all have a blessed crucifix as gift. It is the crucifix that spoke to St. Francis at St. Damian. May it speak also to your hearts and teach you, as it taught me, to love suffering and the cross.

Many persons of this world, so generous, dare to say to the Lord that they would like to take the place of Padre Pio and they too would like to have the stigmata. I assure you, my children: they think that they are an honour and a means to promote themselves, but put to the test they would renounce it willingly. I do not say to you to ask Jesus for the stigmata, but to accept suffering of whatever kind it may be, because it is the only great thing that, gaining merits for you for the eternal life, helps you to save souls.

Now I bless you, and I expect you in large numbers to pray over my tomb in order to help you to improve your spiritual life and to give you so much comfort.

Prepare yourselves well for the feast of the Annunciation which, by importance, is amongst the greatest feasts of Christianity because it signifies the beginning of the Redemption.

## **SANCTIFY THE CROSS**

*Padre Pio*

*August 12, 1969*

My daughters, with God's permission I have come to wish you a good night and to help you to prepare a holy feast of the Mother assumed into Heaven.

Every feast of Our Lady was for me a great solemnity, but the feast of the Assumption reawakened each time more my most youthful desires and they renewed them for me, so as to yearn for death as the most beautiful thing of my existence.

I know that you also, daughters, have this desire for Heaven, and it is good that you have it, because those who have really desired to reach Paradise enjoy a greater happiness. But behave then so that this desire may bring its fruits of good.

Say often what I also used to go on repeating, like our father Francis: *“The good that I am awaiting is so great that every pain is a delight for me.”* Sanctify the cross by accepting it and offering it up in the holy will of God, so that the glory of Paradise may be greater and greater.

Meanwhile I bless you.

## **MAY CHARITY AND HUMILITY DIRECT YOUR HEARTS**

*Padre Pio*

*September 19, 1969*

My children, I have come to encourage you and to pay you a visit. I am Padre Pio and, since the prayer groups have been entrusted especially to my protection, I must address a special word to you.

You have understood what the purpose of these groups are! Many have misrepresented it, but you have

understood it, because, even before it was officially, your group was realizing what were its principles: prayer and charity, carried out amongst yourselves and amongst the sick. Prayer, which unites you with God; charity, which unites you to the brethren: from these two things all the others derive.

That which I especially recommend to you however, is a great humility, so that your works may be pleasing to God.

Never let there be rivalry among you of any kind, apart from taking the last place on the list; since, if our divine Teacher made himself a servant of all, what ought you to do? And even if the Lord calls you to exercise the apostolate of good in a distinctive way, let this good be done in silence, so that, only your guardian angels are aware of it in order to bring it to the Lord.

Wish each other well and love each other in turn, always mutually forgiving one another, even when it seems to you that you are right. Let charity and humility direct your hearts and conduct you along the straight road that leads to Heaven.

Oh, Heaven, children! How I would like to show you a strip of this Heaven, where one enjoys a happiness without limits!

My children, may suffering never seem too much for you, for eternal glory, in its comparison, is too great! Learn to love and to suffer. May the stigmata that pierced my hands, feet and side and which shine with an immense splendour in Heaven, be an encouragement for you to accept with resignation and joy those thorns that wound your heart and which will mature into graces and consolations.

My children, I bless you one by one and I will accompany you on the journey.

## **MY ENCOUNTER WITH YOU IN HOLY MASS**

*Padre Pio*

*September 23, 1969*

My children, I am here as I had promised you.

The best encounter with my prayer groups is this, during Holy Mass. This is the most important and solemn moment. I am here and I unite myself to your sufferings that you will put in the chalice, where a little wine will become the Blood of Jesus. I am here to put in that chalice, together with the sufferings of Jesus and yours, mine also. In this way we all can be of use to the Church.

The Church that suffers, that prays, that weeps, is here represented by you, helped by you and, also through you, will have its triumph. The Church is a mother and you are the children. Learn to love your mother! Make her tears and her demands your own!

The Pope is the head of the Church, and he, like Jesus, agonises on his Calvary. Unite yourselves to him, pray with him! He is Jesus on earth, and his Mother and your Mother is most holy Mary.

Love the Church, children, and offer up to God all that is great in the Church. Offer the greatness of the Church, the spouse of Christ, timeless and invincible; the Church, with her saints, with her victories. And offer up to the Father all that bleeds in the Church: the heart of the Pope and the hearts of the good, who desire to collaborate with her for the sanctification and the conversion of all.

At the Offertory of this great Sacrifice, that can placate, satisfy divine justice and gladden the heart of God, offer up also your sacrifices in such a deep union with the whole Church that it may serve to sanctify them and to render them efficacious means of redemption for all, worthy of receiving those graces that you desire in order to better serve the Lord and reach eternal life.

And now, children, I bless you and I remain with you, since the gift of bi-location, which God gave me also during my mortal existence, is much easier now that, in God, I can be near to you all and to each in particular.

## **MAY THE PRAYER OF THE ROSARY TRULY COME FROM THE HEART**

*Padre Pio*

*October 1, 1969*

Daughters, I have come to encourage you to continue in the life of love, of God and of the most holy Virgin, so well undertaken.

May an unceasing hymn of thanksgiving to God, Master and Lord of all things, resound in your hearts, who favours you and who exercises so much compassion and mercy on you.

May the hymn of praise also resound in your hearts and on your lips to Mary, who has destined you as apostles of that beautiful prayer that the devil would like to make vanish from the face of the earth because it is a fount of celestial goods and a powerful weapon against evil: the Holy Rosary!

I assure you that, by its means, I would be able to obtain, for all those who with faith and confidence have recourse to the help of my prayer, many, many graces.

It is a perfumed prayer, which surrounds the throne of the Virgin and perfumes her hands. However, act so that it truly comes from the heart and be a realization, before the eyes of faith, of those joyful, sorrowful and glorious scenes that reproduce the life of Jesus and Mary on earth.

Put a special and general intention every time that you recite the Rosary, and do so that through it a shower of graces may rain upon the whole world.

My daughters, I bless you. Continue well, and be serene!

## **LEAVE IT TO THE LORD TO JUDGE EVERYONE**

*Padre Pio*

*November 9, 1969*

My children, here I am with you. I am Padre Pio, and I have come by the will of God to congratulate myself with you for the fervour that you put into prayer and the zeal with which you go about calling others to be a part of your group. I protect everyone and I assist you in a very special way. I bless you and desire more and more to increase that mutual charity that binds you between yourselves and with God.

Children, I must however, put you on your guard against a danger that is very harmful to the Church and which, not only displeases God, but also me who desires solely his glory and the good of souls.

There are some persons who, in order to make money and throw discredit on the Church and his ministers, go about recounting and propagating news relative to their behaviour towards me, during my mortal life. That is bad, for certain attitudes of mine not only were permitted by God, but were also for the benefit of the soul that underwent them, whereby it is not possible now to judge them fairly. Then many things are exaggerated, whereupon the truth is falsified.

Do not divulge news that does not bring benefit to anyone. What is the worth of saying that others have done some evil, when everyone of you can err and sin? Be prudent. Spread good! Leave it to the Lord to judge everyone, for He alone has the right, and do not run the risk of helping the diabolical work that has as the aim of unleashing its storms against the Church and sow hatred in the world.

Be trusting and serene. Love the Church, which, if sometimes it is defective in its members, it is always infallible in its doctrine and faultless in its morals. Love her! Pray for the Church and sacrifice yourselves for her. Give witness of Christ in the world, if you wish to honour Him, who is its founder, and the heavenly Mother who is the Mother of the Church.

I bless you, children, in the name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

## **BE LIVING WITNESSES OF THE FACE OF CHRIST**

*Padre Pio*

*January 12, 1970*

My children, the peace of the Lord be always with you. I am here to return the visit that you paid to me at St. Giovanni Rotondo and to pray with you who, with so much faith, have prayed over my tomb.

My brother is here with you who, by the will of God, you received through me the healing of the body. He will be your guide in that work that my Lord Jesus wants to entrust to you: the diffusion of his Divine Face; but, in the expectation for his loving design to be manifested and you to be able to do it, act in a way of showing to the world his semblance through your behaviour.

Be living witnesses of the Face of Christ amongst men! Everyone of you has his difficulties, which I will help to overcome. Everyone has some good will to remove the defects to which all creatures are subjected; but everyone of you must have the certainty that he is not alone, because beside you, with the Lord God and with his Mother who holds you by the hand, I am there, who am your spiritual father. And what would I be doing here, if I were unable to help you? Have I not always helped you when I was alive? And do you not want me now, that the Lord has given me such full powers, to do it.

One thing alone I urge you: never neglect prayer, because it is the shield that will protect you and defend you. If the work of the laity and the collaboration with the teaching Church have always been of great importance, now more than ever they are indispensable, since the Church is passing through an hour so grave. Be strong in the faith and stay always united to the Pope.

I bless you with a wide blessing, which you will bring to all your loved ones and to all your acquaintances with joy.

## **THE WORK WORTHY OF ETERNAL REWARD**

*Padre Pio*

*May 5, 1971*

My children, peace to you, and thank you for having wanted to honour my memory with the recitation of that prayer that was one of the greatest riches of my life! I am here amongst you and I wish to give you a greeting, and if you wish, also to give a teaching.

I hope and wish that you can always feel every day the desire and the necessity of prayer, just as you feel the need of air and sun. Prayer is truly the oxygen of the spiritual life, and it is the surest means for exposing the soul to the divine sun of grace, for only with the help of God is it possible to obtain that spiritual life that is indispensable to attain eternal life.

The second thing that I desire is this: that you exercise charity in a more and more complete way. It is the consequence of a lively faith and, when the faith is a little weak, it is the means to obtain it. The Lord, before a person who gives himself for the neighbour, will give as a consequence that love of God and that faith in Him that will make his works meritorious.

Many work for their fellow man also with sacrifice, but few work for Paradise. The philanthropic work of him who sacrifices himself for a human sentiment of goodness and mercy, is not worthy of eternal reward, if it is not done in the grace of God and for God's sake above everything.

Dear children, I see your hearts and I see them good, I see your intentions and I appreciate them, I see all that you do selflessly and out of pure love. Only that flap of the wings is lacking to you that lets you glimpse in the patient that you assist, in the sick that you cure and you desire to heal, the same body of the sorrowful Christ and needy of care. Do not forget that that God who scrutinizes the hearts of men, will give you credit also for one only glass of water that you will give, as long as it is given in his name.

I bless you, my children, and I say to you, with the Franciscan greeting, "Peace and good": a greeting that contains an entire programme. Good night, children, and thank you.

## **WHOEVER HAS DONE GOOD LET HIM CONTINUE TO DO SO**

*Padre Pio*

*July 2, 1971*

My dear children, I am with you; I am Padre Pio, your spiritual father. You are a part of the prayer groups, that have been a creation of mine, and, belonging to them, you have become my children.

You have come to the feet of the Virgin on a day dedicated to her, like pious Elizabeth's, in order to give joy to your Mother and to receive from her that help and that light that you need. I however, in her name, give you a suggestion.

All you children, be always united, wish each other well, do not envy anyone and, if you want to exceed one another, do so in virtue. Always seek the last places, do not make so much noise, because the true good remains hidden, but the Father who is in the heavens sees it and He will give you the reward.

Always be in harmony with the ecclesiastical authorities. If you see something that could be improved upon, with a lot of charity advise those with the duty, but do not cause gossip or murmuring, because from these things one easily slides also into calumny.

And now, what else must I tell you? You see when a person leaves this world: everyone thinks that he has finished working. But it is not so. He who has done good in the world continues to work by means of this good, and the Lord also permits for many works to be inspired and brought to completion with the help of the inhabitants of Heaven.

Do you want your name to be a blessing forever? Do you want for your works to remain as an eternal monument before God and men? Do the works of God, do them for God and for his sake.

I bless you, and I still wait for you here where the heavenly Mother calls all and grants many graces of every kind. I bless your group and all groups. To the young, a special blessing and the invitation to work to stop the very grave evils that keep on spreading more and more.

## **HERE IS HOW I WISH TO BE HONOURED**

*Padre Pio*

*July 2, 1971*

My children and brethren: children, because you are a part of a prayer group, and I am your spiritual father; brethren, because we are all children of one same Father and of one same Mother, and because you are all destined like me to Paradise!

Today you want to honour my memory, and I invite you to celebrate my birth to the life of Heaven, since death coincides with the birth to the real life that lasts forever. I thank you for this gift that you give me, and I wish to remind you how much in my earthly life has been especially meritorious, in order to invite you also to follow my steps, so that in Heaven I may be able to rejoice in seeing you all close.

Therefore, I will say to you that the sorrows of the passion of Jesus had pricked my heart, so that I desired ardently to share them. Jesus himself gave me the stigmata, and marked my body with the marks of his crucifixion. He surrounded my head with invisible prickly thorns, and on my shoulders I carried many times the wood of the cross. I was able in this way in a small way to feel and experience how great was the suffering of our elder Brother.

Jesus' suffering was not only physical. There was in Him a spiritual, divine thirst: the thirst for souls! And Jesus gave it to me, so as to render every suffering pleasing to me just to obtain the greatest conversions.

I offered my little portion of sorrow, and Jesus, uniting it to his, converted souls also by means of my poor person. Men came to me from many parts of the earth, and discovered Jesus who acted through me and sanctified souls.

There was also another important note in my life. It was like a music, which I made to resonate unceasingly in harmony with the heavenly music that sang praises to Mary. It was the Holy Rosary, which accompanied me every day and which I recited with real passion many, many times in the hours of the day and

the night.

I said it in order to express to the Mother of Heaven all my tenderness of a very ungrateful and sinful son, but desirous of being good, good, I would say good almost like her or at least like she wanted me. And the Mother of Heaven received that homage and she knew that every Hail had a name. Every Glory or Father had a meaning. And her graces rained down on all, and her help multiplied for all.

Oh, the Mother! Whoever understands her, understands everything! Faith becomes clear, love becomes immense and the hope of reaching her renews the desire to love her more and more and to sanctify oneself.

Moreover, my children, there has been also another note in my life, equally characteristic: total and complete obedience to the superiors, to those of the Order and to those of the Church. Perfect obedience, also when they asked me for the renunciation to what was most dear to me in the world, procured for me that serenity and internal peace that gave me a foretaste of Paradise.

The value of obedience, even unreasonable, which the youth of this time of yours no longer understand and do not appreciate, formed the joy of Mary's heart, always obedient to the will of God. Obedience to the Father formed the joy of Jesus' heart, and it enriches with merits and happiness all those who willingly accept to obey the superiors and the authorities, believing in obeying God himself.

Brethren, let these characteristic notes distinguish you too. Love and share the sufferings of Jesus and Mary, combining them in the sacrifice of the Holy Mass that is the renewal of so many bitter sorrows. May devotion to the most holy Virgin let you enjoy her greatest favours, and the will of God, done in the promptest obedience, be to you a guarantee of uprightness. Obedience frees you from every responsibility, and guarantees to you the success in your good works and in the missions that the Lord entrusts to you.

This is how I desire to be honoured! In Paradise one has no more desires, but, if I were able to have again a desire to express, I would say to each one of you: never concern yourselves with earthly glory, which passes like the smoke that blinds and poisons. Seek the glory of God, the only worthy thing and for which it is right to work.

Brethren and children, I bless you and I embrace you in the Lord. Peace and good to everyone of you!

## **SOME IMPORTANT TEACHINGS**

*Padre Pio*

*May 5, 1972*

Children, brethren, collaborators of the works to which I started on earth, through the will and with the help of God, may you be blessed, because you have responded to the grace and you have answered a specific call. I am here amongst you who love me, and I will gather from your minds and your hearts the offering of the Holy Sacrifice, which I will offer to the Father, so that He may validate the work that you carry out and bless your initiatives and all that you will keep on doing for his glory.

You are like the wayfarers who must reach a destination, and who supply themselves with the necessary means and set themselves the strategic points to conquer. I have arrived, I have run my race, I have fought the good battle. I have sought to resemble the most possible the divine model, Jesus Christ. I have loved so much the heavenly Mother, the Mother of divine grace, and with good will, listening to her suggestions, I have reached the Homeland. I have followed the foot steps of the divine Teacher and I have treasured his teachings, especially the most important ones that in this moment I hand to you.

*“Pray without interruption”*, He said to us! The fact that you have started and wish to continue to go to those prayer groups that I had the joy of founding, speaks clearly that you have the greatest esteem for prayer and that you want to use it as the means to reach eternal life.

I do not insist more, but I just say to you: do not let one day pass by without raising your mind to God! If you possess the grace and the love of God, prayer is necessary for you to preserve those precious treasures! If you are not in friendship with God, because sin stains your soul, prayer is indispensable to you so that you may be able to find the right road, the faith, God.

When one must undertake a journey, one supplies oneself, in the world, with the indispensable things.



Prayer is that indispensable thing to which all the graces are tied. One prays on earth, and one continues to pray in Heaven and in the place of purgation, because prayer is the expression of love.

Pray therefore, dear children, so that you may be able to perform the other office to which all men are called, that is to say the spreading of love. He who prays unites himself to God, and from Him receives the capacity to love. He who loves, lets God enter into his own life! That's why, as I bless your work of collaboration to that which at St. Giovanni is destined to give comfort and help to many sufferers, I assure you that you will have considerable personal benefits.

If however, you wish to accept some advice, I beg you, always seek perfection. The perfectibility of man demands that you have to improve yourselves continuously, be it in the moral as well as spiritual life, and physical also if you wish, and that you have to improve yourselves in the social, family and personal life.

Your works also must proceed from good to better, and in all you must seek perfection. The doctors know something about it. Is it not true that you must always be updated, always on the edge, in order to discover ever new elements that may help you to perfect the systems and the means to meet the necessities of the human body! Let it be so for all also in the field of the spirit, as in nourishing that life that must regulate the subsistence of a work. All in agreement, helping one another in turn, communicating new ideas to each other that can press one to carry out new initiatives.

I help you and I give you courage, as I assure the greatest graces that will fall back, like a fine balm, upon those necessities that are like the wounds that make everyone suffer.

I bless you, therefore, and I say to you: grow and multiply. Grow in perfection, and multiply in numbers, in strength and in works. All leaning, as one heart alone, for the one only aim, the glory of God and, why not, also so that you do not make me look bad by not letting flourish what has been sown.

## TO THE DOCTORS

*Padre Pio*

*September 22, 1972*

My brethren, peace and good to you! I am here, and you only have to see me with the eyes of faith. My spirit is here, to speak to your hearts and to repeat my clear and simple teachings to you. You look at my figure which is projected above and which embraces the universe, and you deeply esteem the impressiveness of my works and for the sanctity that I was able to reach with the help of God; but I would like to tell you on what bases these works are founded and on which sanctity is erected.

You see me here, as once in the convent of St. Giovanni, so poor, clothed in the Franciscan habit, the symbol of extreme poverty. This is why, brethren, the Lord made me rich, so as to be able to help many poor! The complete detachment from all those earthly goods that men of every category long for, made me worthy before God, who enriched me with his goods.

In a world insatiable for goods, I propose to you to follow the road of Jesus, who said: "*Blessed the poor of spirit, because the kingdom of the heavens is theirs.*" I propose to you to widen your hearts up to desiring to help everyone, with that work that takes its name from me and with all those means that the Lord puts at your disposal, whether by the profession that you exercise, or in the name of that Christianity that you practise.

No one can give what he does not possess, but, whoever lives with the heart detached from the goods of the world, finds in himself that immense richness whereby he becomes rich for all. If then you wish to live and to grow in holiness and in the spiritual life, bring this sense of poverty into the presence of God, and acknowledge yourselves as defenceless if He does not give you the weapons to fight the battles of life. Acknowledge yourselves as useless and incapable servants if He, Master and King of the Universe, does not give you his help! And in this humility, which will make you consider yourselves little and unworthy, expect everything from God without doubting his goodness for an instant.

Children, I bless you helping you, and I promise you those graces that you beseech me for yourselves and for others. May the goodness of this work, which I desire to be amplified and be always vivified by my spirit, be a guarantee of celestial blessings for you.

## **PREOCCUPY YOURSELVES WITH LOVING**

*Padre Pio*

*December 7, 1972 (prayer vigil)*

My children and brethren, you have called me praying for my glorification, and I have come to pray with you.

You ask for many things: in reality the important one is that of doing God's will. Do not waste yourselves in many things; if you ask for this grace, you have everything.

When you meet for prayer, preoccupy yourselves with loving. The most divine expression of prayer is this: to put oneself in communication with the fount of love, the substantial Love.

When you wish to do good, try to love.

Love with the heart of God, you will see how easy it will be to behave well with your neighbour. If you have to forgive, the memory of the numerous faults that God forgives you, will make you generous with your fellow man. If you should have to help your neighbour, do it with the same spirit with which the good Samaritan gave assistance to the wounded man found on the road. If you should have to comfort someone, do it in the way with which Jesus comforted and helped everyone, from the sisters of Lazarus to the widow of Naim.

May all feel that in you a heart beats that is not in discordance from that of the divine Teacher. How many times also in prayer groups, that ought to be beacons of light, is criticism easy! Let the memory of Jesus' behaviour with the adulterous woman, with the Magdalene, and even with the Samaritan woman, make you prudent in judging, ready to welcome, and let you take away from the heart that burden which makes you believe yourselves different and superior to others.

In this way, with much goodness and with much profit, you will propagate the taste for prayer and the faith will be more appreciated, since yours will not be a semblance of faith, but a reality.

Continue to remember me in your meetings and, if you wish to please me, do not forget the rebukes that I made for the indecent fashions, for the lack of observance of the Sunday precept and also for the non observance of that duty so elementary that every good Christian has of turning his thought to God, morning and evening.

I know that many young present desire to have their vocation clarified and many adults do not know how to behave themselves on many occasions. I say to all: remember that the common vocation to all men and in particular to Christians, is that of love. That great saint who was St. Augustine said to you: "*Love and do what you like!*" Exactly so, because, once you have put into practice this command, all the rest comes by itself and the paths are smoothed out.

Always act with sincerity, and never base your future or your success on cheating, since God is truth. And what would be the worth of conquering the whole world even if then you lose the soul?

You have almost arrived at the completion of this night of preparation and reparation. You will have Holy Mass, to which you will take part and which you will concelebrate with great devotion. The value of the Mass is infinite, you know so, but, if you participate by bringing your little contribution of suffering, it becomes more efficacious for you. Learn to put aside many little things that happen to you during the day, so that the drop of water that the priest unites to the wine of the Mass, may be truly your contribution.

I bless you all one by one and I await you, with the coming good season, to pray over my tomb. Be good with all, and have peace and good, now and always!

## **EVERYONE IS CHARGED WITH THE SALVATION OF HIS NEIGHBOUR**

*Padre Pio*

*April 24, 1973*

My children and brethren, I am with you because the Lord permits me, and I come to give you some suggestions in this Easter period so that you may be able to help Jesus and Mary to save souls.

Were you to know how dear souls are to our Jesus! His death on the cross is the price of this salvation.

Sinners are the reason for the birth, the life and the death of the Son of God made man, and his resurrection is the guarantee that all men, through Him, can be saved.

And our heavenly Mother what does she do? She is the refuge of sinners and, on the footsteps of her Son, she knows no rest in calling back and helping.

Even for one sinner alone to be saved, Jesus and Mary, who know the value of the soul, would be disposed to do again their whole earthly life, from birth to death, suffering and putting up with everything.

Like the saints of Heaven, even in perfect beatitude, do nothing but beseech the Father so that, through the merits of Jesus and Mary, may have mercy and compassion on souls, so you also are called to this work of collaboration! The Holy Spirit says that everyone is charged with the salvation of his neighbour. No one can say like Cain: "*What do I know about my brother?*", but everyone must go out of his way so that his fellow man may possess the faith and the grace of God so that he can be saved.

See therefore, that everyone of you must do something for the others! The first neighbour is he whom you have in your home: they are your relatives, your children. What can you do for them? There are some who complain, saying that, in spite of all the words spoken, these children and husbands and relatives do not change life.

Well then, I will say to you: how did Jesus reach souls? He made use of material things. One time He cures a paralytic, another time He raises a dead man; here He makes a deaf man hear, there He gives sight to a blind man or speech to a mute. After these miracles and by these means, Jesus touches the heart, illuminates the minds, reignites the faith, the hope, the charity.

You also must do likewise. Your human life is made up of an ensemble of actions that almost always has the body as its aim. If to these actions you give an intention of faith, they are no longer only material, but they reach the souls of your loved ones. The great changes happen in this way.

Love is the soul of an action and makes it speak. Your affection for your loved ones, clothed by that fire that is the love of God, gives a meaning to your whole life.

In this way in your prayer it can happen that you do not raise yourselves an inch above your necessities. Usually physical ailments are what torment you and from which you would like to be freed. But why do you not learn to use your illnesses as true stigmata given to you by God in order to re-awaken in your loved ones the thought of God? With this means, your prayer also would assume the value of the one made by Jesus on the cross: "*Father, forgive them, because they do not know what they are doing!*" In this way the conversion of men would become a concrete fact.

There is no other motive, to live here below, than that of saving the soul, and all that God has put in motion, after the sin of our progenitors, had no other aim than that of eternal salvation. God wishes all saved, but no one can go into Paradise alone.

There are thousands of persons who pass you near, and you do not care for them. And yet, they are your brethren, whose health ought to be very dear to you. There are your ancestors, who are still in Purgatory because they have neglected this great duty: charity, understood not only as alms, but as interest in the eternal health of the neighbour.

Sometimes, you persistently ask to know where your loved ones are. Do you want to help them? Pray for sinners, help the sinners to be redeemed! Sometimes, you have some material necessities and you do not know how to get around it: think of the sinners, sacrifice yourselves for sinners, and the Lord will show you his joy granting you the graces that you ask for.

Learn to suffer and offer up. Sorrow, accepted and offered up, is a tribute of love that you give to Him who left Heaven in order to come to dwell in souls making them his heaven.

And now I bless you all.

## **A PROGRAMME TO HELP YOU TO PERSEVERE IN THE GOOD**

*Padre Pio*

*September 23, 1973*

My children and brethren, a few years ago my temporary life shut down and the eternal life started for me. An interlude of sorrow in favour of humanity and above all to God had closed, since with my sufferings I wished to repair the many offences that had been inflicted on the humanity of Jesus Christ, that is, to his mortal body. And the life of glory began, which rendered greatly efficacious also my intercession before the Father so that He would have compassion of all men. So, the life of prayer and love, begun imperfectly on this earth, had and has its fulfilment in Heaven.

You are here many times, and you pray like I used to pray; you are here to offer up your contribution of suffering. One day we shall all be united in Heaven and we will sing the glories of the Most Holy Trinity and of the Most Holy Virgin, our Mother, to whom you will have rendered, like me, honour in life. I however, would like to give you like a programme that may help you to persevere in good.

I hear someone say to himself: how can God and his saints communicate with creatures? I answer you: God is present everywhere with his immensity, and can, as Father, manifest his desires and make his voice heard to all, even acting alone also on the minds of his children. And how do you want for a Father, who is infinite goodness, to neglect his children and abandon them to themselves?

Your life is immersed in God, to whom nothing is hidden; moreover, He wishing the greatest good to all, directs events and persons in such a way as to guide them to happiness and to eternal salvation. It is a toil of grace, that men cannot comprehend because it is a part of the mysteries. Just as you cannot comprehend the essence of God, so you will not be able to comprehend, if not in Heaven, what He does: his works, all a fruit of love, of goodness and of infinite justice.

And the saints, how can they communicate? See, brethren: it is as if a ray of light, ever so effective and spiritual, were to go or to come to illuminate the mind of one of you. Here is an instrument, there another. It is the illumination, which uncovers the truth, which gives encouragement to good or avoids an evil. It is God's gift, since that mysterious ray comes from Heaven and wills to direct to Heaven.

Today, the light invites you to follow the example that I have left you in my life. I have said to you, therefore, that I wish to give you a programme. Here it is!

If you look well, from my life you will discover that my intentions and my actions, my prayers and affections, had a double scope: to bring souls closer to God and to bring peace among men. The conversion of sinners was the reason whereupon I accepted to have on my body the marks of the passion. Those lost sheep, which the divine Shepherd went searching for anxiously, had become the anxiety of my heart too.

The first reason for which you gather to prayer, must be exactly this: to do so that all, starting from your families, may be converted.

The second point of the programme is that of bringing peace everywhere. And what claim do you have of being heard by the Lord, when in your hearts you harbour old grudges, not only towards the living, but even towards your dead? Conversions are paid for with suffering and with prayer, offered up and made in the grace of God. Peace is obtained as a fruit of goodness, which lets you meet everyone halfway with that charity that makes you forget yourselves, your demands and above all your selfishness.

To the teachers present, I recommend putting their pupils in safety by consecrating them to the heavenly Mother, after having prepared them for this consecration.

Our Lady will enter as teacher these classrooms and the teachers will have light.  
To all my blessing.

Do not forget the programme, which is that of all the cenacles and of all the prayer groups: to convert sinners with prayer and suffering; to bring peace to all, with charity translated into goodness.

See you again, children. Do not let your wings be clipped by anyone, since the beauty of Paradise cannot be measured. Live docile and united to the Pope, in the grace of God, because only in the barque of Peter is there salvation!

## LET THERE BE TRUE CHARITY AMONG YOU

*Padre Pio*

*September 28, 1973*

Peace and good, children! I am among you with a spiritual presence which, if it is not noticeable, it is however, real. I am happy with this prayer group, because you have much desire to be good as the Lord wishes you. You must demonstrate the goodness in truly loving one another, forgiving each other in turn those defects that cannot be lacking, since they are the consequence of human weakness.

You must also help each other, remembering that everyone of you can have something to give to others, even if you were in great poverty, because everyone has some moral riches with which he can edify his neighbour, and the spiritual riches, which are that pile of gifts that you receive from God and with which you can and must make others share.

If then you might also like to share your bread with those who have less than you, the Lord will worry about multiplying it in your hands and return to you with much providence what you with sacrifice give to others.

Now I insist that among you there be a lot of charity: that true one which, like the purest gold, gives a lot of value to your works. Guard yourselves well against the tinsel, which sparkles a lot but which has little value.

Extend this charity to the brethren who do not love God because they do not know Him, to the sinners and to the unbelievers. May your prayer reach them in every corner of the earth to bring them back to the heart of Jesus and our Mother.

If you want graces for yourselves, pray for the sinners, because the Lord feels great gratitude for those who bring Him souls, and rewards first of all by sanctifying those who bring them to Him, then granting what is asked of Him.

Love one another and pray! May this beautiful Rosary, which was my delight, be also for you a gold mine! From the Rosary the greatest desires will come to you; after that of knowing Jesus and Mary better and better and of imitating them, the desire for the apostolate will come to you. The apostolate, made out of example and sacrifice, is the one that costs the most and that has the most effect, but also that of the word is very important. You must learn to keep silent at the proper time in order to learn to speak at the right time.

Our holy Mother had kept the teachings of Jesus in her heart. When He had ascended to Heaven and the apostles had need of Her, all that formed the precious treasure of her heart, she communicated to the apostles, so as to be for them a true Mother and Teacher, as she is still now for the Church.

You also do likewise. You come here to learn; then, serenely, graciously, and asking for the Lord's help, you make others sharers of these gifts.

I will come again, when God wills, to address my word to you; in the meantime, receive the holy blessing that you will bring to your families.

## THE FIRST COMMITMENT THAT I ASK FOR

*Padre Pio*

*September 23, 1975*

My children and brethren, may it not displease you if, with the permission of our Mother, I come to give you my greeting and to give you a suggestion.

In Paradise one language only is spoken, and what is said to you is but the echo of that word and of that will of God that is communicated to every soul. How great it would be if men also were to form a great unity of mind and heart, and were all united by the same good intentions in doing good! Unfortunately, also many good works begun well undergo the consequences of the human and are ruined a lot. You do your best and you try to bring your works to completion with love, with diligence, and above all with an upright intention.

You are a prayer group, and the spreading that you do of the Rosary honours you a lot, since it leads men to remember the heavenly Mother and leads them to have recourse to her who has a part so important in the life

of the Christian, that they cannot do without her. You will understand in Paradise who Mary Most Holy is, but in the meantime, the shortest road to reach Heaven, to reach to perfection, is her.

To love Our Lady, is the first commitment that I ask for also now, from the prayer groups. He who does not love the Mother, cannot love her Son, for you would cause Him, with your estrangement, a great sorrow. To love the Mother, is to abandon oneself into her arms and to be docile to her teachings.

If Our Lady were just any mother, you would have doubts about her impartiality and her power! She, in fact, could have preferences for the better children and certainly could not occupy herself with all the children of earth; but she is the Mother of God, therefore, her perfection in love equals her possibility of reaching everyone. How could you not love and not obey such a creature, who from God has had such great grace and such ample powers?

If you love the Mother, you will not make the Son suffer! If you were able to understand what sin is, I assure you that you would prefer to be burned alive rather than commit it. In the world one continuously sins. It is like saying: one does not love neither Jesus, nor his Mother. It would be enough to consider to what sorrows the Son of God made man submitted himself, in order to repair sin, and what sorrows pierced the heart of Mary like lances, to understand its gravity. Men are blind and deaf, in this way they walk madly towards the abyss from which there is no possibility of coming out.

Oh, no! I do not want to speak to you about hell, but about the infinite joy of Paradise to which you must arrive, accompanied, besides by your good angel, also by the Mother, who with her Jesus is the smile and happiness of Paradise.

To love Our Lady is also to love the Church! See her, this spouse of Jesus, as wounded by the many evils from which she is surrounded! Heresies, betrayals, sacrileges, bring about that the scourging so sorrowful of Jesus and the sufferings of the Mother are continued.

To love Mary, is like saying being faithful to the Pope and defending him and helping him in every need. Whoever is with the Pope, is with Mary. She always speaks in his favour and brings souls that unity that Jesus' heart desires. Do not fear that the heavenly Mother might teach you to disobey the Church! She is a Mother to her, and every child, who receives with Baptism the right to be a member of the mystical body, has also, by right, Mary as mother.

To love the Church is to make her happy, this sublime mother, and to be jealous of keeping the faith intact and of practising the Commandments. To love the Church, is like saying to love souls.

If you want to follow my example, here it is, I show you the stigmata with which my body was covered. Moreover, there are also some hidden stigmata that serve to save: they are the sufferings that pierce your hearts, it is the work of your hands, and they are the worries of your mind.

Learn to sanctify everything and you also will be glorified. Your stigmata shall be no less luminous than mine and no less effective. There are many who complain over too many things and do not think about sanctifying them. May you not be amongst this number.

I go everyday before the Father and I show Him my stigmata, begging Him that, through them, He may fill you up with graces. Present to God your stigmata, your sorrows, and beg Him to have mercy on humanity. It is true that our sufferings have a very limited value, but if we throw everything into the heart of the Mother, into the heart of Jesus, things change.

Brethren, I bless you and I help you. In the world one goes from bad to worse, but, if you strengthen the prayer and you do it with love, if you call with it the heavenly Treasurer, then you will obtain endless graces and the Church will get back its ancient splendour, while souls will reach salvation.

Children, already a few years have passed since my departure from the earth, but here it is as if I have just arrived. An infinite happiness and a burning desire to have you all here, to enjoy with me the vision of God and of Mary, makes me pray continuously for you. You are all my spiritual children and as such I bless you.

## WHAT TO LOVE MEANS

*Padre Pio*

*January 7, 1976 (at Seregno)*

My brethren, with what joy have I accepted the invitation to address my word to you! Truly, if any saint of Paradise were to speak to you, he would say nothing different from what I am saying to you, since there is only one language in Heaven!

The language of God is a language of love, which nobody can oppose with anything defective and human. I therefore, desire that, at the beginning of this year, for you to strengthen those bonds of affection that unite you to the Father and that unite you among yourselves.

God is infinite charity, and whoever loves Him, enters into friendship with Him so as to make with Him one only thing. What blessed and festive harmony is derived from the true love of the creature for the Creator! The life of the man who loves seems a common and ordinary life, but it is a superior and divine life, since, through this love that dwells in him, God speaks, thinks, acts and loves in his creature. Everything changes, even sorrow assumes a marvellous aspect. Sorrow is transformed into joy. Those little pebbles with which the cross is formed, shine as if illuminated by the sun, so as to seem precious diamonds.

The true love of God is however, adhesion to his will and it is above all love of neighbour. There are many who misunderstand these words and mistake the gold, which is true love, with the tinsel, which is false love.

You see, also among Christians, persons who would like to convert everyone, but who do not think about converting themselves. They would like to take away the splinter from the brother's eye and do not take away the beam that is in their eyes. Again there are persons who think of loving their fellow man only because they seek to occupy themselves with the material interests of a category of persons. The former as much as the latter way of showing love is wrong!

To love means to want the true good of the brethren. He who truly loves souls, before he starts preaching with words, does it by example and seeks to perfect himself, with the certainty that he who is lifted up, lifts up the whole world.

Whoever then wishes to do good for the brethren, must not separate the soul from the body in man, if he does not want a corpse before him. The material good must be a means to lift up also spiritually. It is true that one reaches the soul through the body, but that thought cannot and must never be lacking, that he lifts up beyond human things as much he who does good as he who receives it. Acting so, you are pleasing to God, who, by the means of his Son, has said to all men: *"Do not judge, do not criticize, but let your works shine before men, so that they may praise God."*

I cannot conceal to you then, how valuable the work you do is, even without you realizing it, in favour of humanity. I speak of prayer, which is the most useful work that you can carry out in any moment. Oh, if all were to appreciate the help that they give and receive with that prayer that makes God's gaze turn with paternal goodness on his creatures! It is perhaps only an invocation that comes out of your heart, it seems a trifle, but which God, in his immensity, receives and transforms into a gift.

How many souls saved by those ejaculations, which go like loving calls to intercede help for all! The dying are the souls most needy of help. The stage of this world is about to close definitively and a curtain is opening up, and the entrance into the new life is bitterly contested by the devil. That's why your blossoming charity must bring you often to the bed of the dying!

I help you in this work made of goodness, of generosity and of selflessness. If you cannot be personally beside the dying, be so with the spirit! My desire to help those souls was so strong in my life, that the Lord permitted me often to go into bilocation. Do so that you strengthen more and more this desire, and the Lord will do miracles for you too.

Now I bless you all and I take you all for my spiritual children. I will help you to grow in the love of God and neighbour, and your spiritual life will flourish for the glory of God.

See you again, children. You have recognized me, true? I am Padre Pio. See you all again and peace and good.

## BRING PEACE AND SPREAD GOOD

*Padre Pio*

*September 23, 1976*

Dear brethren, peace and good! I am here, with a very special presence, to give you a word of encouragement and to give you help. I am in glory, and I have no other desire than to see you all in Paradise to enjoy with me those very pure joys reserved for the elect.

You are my spiritual children, even if you had never been at St. Giovanni when I was alive. The prayer groups, which are born with the stigmata that I carried on the body, shall have a special assistance by me, even if you do not see me with the eyes of the body. There are an infinity of mysteries that only in Paradise will be revealed to you, especially that great communion of saints that unites in brotherhood, angels, saints and men, in the light of God.

What do I desire from you? That you more and more make a reality of that greeting that is a programme, a wish and an aspiration common to all the good: *"Peace and good!"* Peace, brethren, is like a delicate sound of an instrument ever so delicate; a note out of tune is enough to break it. Peace is the deep silence of souls who understand each other and which a word is enough to break it. Peace is the delicate perfume that goodness emanates. Peace is like the sweet smell of the bread just satiating hunger. It makes one desire the Eucharist, and unites hearts between them like, and more strongly than, the bonds of physical and natural kinship itself.

To work, in order to preserve and to produce peace, is to perform a divine and angelic work. It is a promise to renew every day, that of bringing peace everywhere, cost what it may. Humiliations, denial of one's self, are two basic qualities. He who wants to have the pre-eminence in everything, and wants to be always right, has no peace and cannot bring peace.

You are my spiritual children and I can tell you to look also a little at my life and, if you wish, imitate me! Let the intention of every day be validated by my intercession. What are all the riches, revenge, triumphs worth, if there is a lack of interior peace that derives from grace, and social and family harmony that gives security and serenity? You see how badly the world goes! Well then, may everyone of you be able to say that you have done all possible to rebuild the peace of Christ in the Kingdom of Christ.

And, for a second invitation, learn to spread good. God is the highest good. He is love and grace, He is infinite joy. Well then, may you also spread love, grace, joy! I know that it is hard, but you have prayer, which is an anchor, a refuge for all those who use it. You have the Rosary, which lifts you up all together and gives you strength. Do not be afraid. Look out for the enemies, especially those who present themselves to you as lambs and are ravenous wolves.

Live out your faith with simplicity, and make use of the extraordinary as a ladder to ascend to God. Woe, if everyone of you were to attribute to himself as merit what he gratuitously receives: he would run the risk that great responsibilities might be required of him.

Be good and continue to come to this place. At St. Giovanni, many came and remained as before, others made great promises, and others were converted and sanctified. You do like these latter ones, when you come here, and you will find yourselves content.

Now, in the name of the Most Holy Trinity, I bless you all and I repeat to you: *"Peace and good!"*

## A LESSON ON POVERTY AND HUMILITY

*Padre Pio*

*December 23, 1976*

My brethren, peace and good: this is my wish! The Lord permits me to communicate with you because He desires an immediate holy preparation for holy Christmas. I want to point out to you with a few words what your sentiments must be.

You know that in life I had a tender devotion to the baby Child Jesus! This devotion of mine called many souls back to St. Giovanni Rotondo on the occasion of Christmas, and I was so happy to let that baby child be kissed. During Advent, more than ever, a sentiment of gratitude many times made me weep with joy and emotion. I would like for the same sentiment to invade your hearts.



What merit have we had to have been selected, as Christians, to enjoy in a special way the benefits of the Redemption? Who knows how many persons would have responded in a better way to so much grace, and yet we have been privileged! With what gratitude and with what love ought we to give our thanks!

That God, who was the sigh of the saints of the Old Testament and whom the angels with all their holiness and with their purity cannot receive, made himself a child, and made himself food so that we would be able to live of Him and for Him. That God, who is thrice holy, made himself one of us, He loaded himself with all our sins in order to be able to purify us, not only once during our life, but all the times that one sins and all the times that one desires to become better.

Brethren, it is a grace that has no equal and for which we will praise God for all eternity, that of having received the gift of faith, that of Baptism and the gift of being able to approach the Holy Sacraments, the channels of grace. Let these days be full of the most lively gratitude, and let prayer be raised fervently for those who, brought up in other lands, do not know the Lord and for those who, not having appreciated the faith, have lost it with great harm to their souls.

Moreover, brethren and children, another sentiment must fill your hearts! That Child who will be born in a grotto, is the Master of the world. He could have been born in a palace. He chose absolute poverty to give us a double teaching. He wanted to tell us how little the things of the world are worth and riches in general, but also how much He loved and loves the poor, who were the most fortunate visitors to the crib and whom He wanted always as companions of his life.

This Child gives you a practical lesson, which must bear fruit in you and, by detaching your heart from every earthly thing, to make you generous towards those who are in need. Lucky you, if you will learn to understand the lesson and savour it, for the joy of Christmas will be much greater for you!

The Child Jesus will also come to give a lesson in humility. Incarnate Wisdom is born to life like any other child, and has need to learn everything from two of his creatures who, though being holy, certainly could not compare themselves to Him. He comes into the world to humble the pride of men, who build themselves pedestals and believe themselves as gods on earth. He wanted to teach to all to be humble, not only before God, but also in the relationships with the brethren.

I will never finish telling you that pride, just as it ruined the angels transforming them into demons, so brought ruin to all humanity. In fact, what was the gravest sin of our progenitors? A sin of pride! The devil had said to Eve: *"You will become like God"*, and Eve let herself be convinced.

Brethren, be afraid of this defect, which made eminent men great in knowledge and in virtue fall, up to making them become means of ruin for a great part of humanity. Love humility and ask for it persistently. Do not have desires for greatness, since, when one ascends, the falls are very much more dangerous. Keep yourselves little in your eyes, so that God can raise you up to himself and give you an infinite glory.

I bless you, children! The Lord desires for you to pray so that the Church may recognize the great things worked in me by the Most High. This recognition does not add anything to my glory, already so great, but it gives a way for many to pray to me and for me to intercede many helps for the souls and for your homeland.

I bless and help all the prayer groups, especially yours, and all those who, putting my teachings into practice, want to grow in the spiritual life. Do not neglect, when it is possible for you, to pay me a visit! From my tomb many graces and divine favours emerge. Love each other in turn and never hinder the action of the Holy Spirit.

See you again and Happy Christmas! Peace and good!

## HUMAN SORROW

*Padre Pio*

*September 20, 1977*

My brethren, peace be to you and every good! I am here with you to encourage you to do as much good as you can, since the world needs your work. God, who created the world and all that is contained in it, cannot save it without the contribution of men. Everyone has his field of work. Everyone must dedicate his life for the salvation of his neighbour, if he does not wish to be a rebellious and ungrateful son like Cain.

Why am I speaking to you about this, today? Because today is the anniversary of that gift which Jesus wished to give me, so that I would be able to contribute more easily for the salvation of souls: the gift of the stigmata.

Without sorrow, there is no remission of sins! Without the gift of Jesus, of his sorrow, of his blood, of his love, human sorrow would have no power of reparation! Moreover, human sorrow, incorporated into the Lord's passion, assumes an infinite value and is transformed, like the drops of water that, put into the chalice of the Holy Sacrifice, become wine and then blood, and like the iron which, put on the fire, becomes incandescent up to it seeming fire itself.

My sufferings were nil in comparison to those of Jesus, but through the strength of his love, to which I sought to respond with a joyful acceptance of sorrow, they became the means of salvation for many souls.

It is so also for you, my spiritual children! The stigmata of sorrow can be of various forms and strike different parts of the body. They can be visible and invisible. They can be more or less painful, but, if you will learn to accept your sufferings without murmuring against God, or against the neighbour, but offering them up out of love, you will hold a capital with you that will serve you to buy souls. Many pains that accompany the life of each one, can be sanctified and sanctifying stigmata.

Sin also leaves its stigmata, that is, its marks: many incurable diseases are derived from unmentionable sins! I would like for you to try and interrogate the many sick who fill certain hospitals and who could relate to you the story of their lives. You would be able to say that vice and sin had taken the greatest number of victims. How does one cure certain souls, how does one heal certain bodies again?

Brethren, like the world, the entire humanity, by means of the cross was able to hope in salvation and in eternal life, so now and always it is possible for all to be saved with the sorrow itself of all humanity, offered up with the sorrow of Jesus that is perpetuated on the altar of the Church and in the world.

I am not asking you to be nailed on a cross or to have the hands, the feet and the side marked by the seal of salvation; I am asking you not to be less than him whom you have chosen as spiritual father, whom you have loved in life and in death and whom you still love. Be generous! Show your love and your faith with that serenity and that peace which must not be shaken not even when sorrow knocks on the door of your house. I protect you and I help you.

In Paradise, we are all leaning towards God, the incarnate Word, and the Holy Virgin, but our love is unceasing and is mixed with that of God for souls. The desires, the thoughts and the affections of the saints, are like a grand unity: a unity of action that wishes to glorify God, in Heaven, on earth and in Purgatory. You therefore, are with us, because you are the predestined ones whom God wants in Heaven and who must glorify Him forever.

Live in this joyful expectation, with this wonderful hope, and always feel yourselves in company. Loneliness, which afflicts a great part of believing souls, must not exist those who truly hope, because hope is a reality for him who believes. The graces that you keep on asking for, sift them well, and always put the salvation of your soul and of your loved ones in first place. All the rest is worth as much as a gust of wind.

I bless you, children, and I wish you peace and good! Bring this blessing into your homes, saying: Padre Pio blesses you.

## **THE WORKS WHICH I STARTED**

*Padre Pio*

*September 23, 1977*

My children and brethren, peace and good be to you! I am Padre Pio, always alive in the world with my spirit, by the will of God. Always alive also with those works to which the Lord has willed for me to start. I mean to speak about the House of Relief of Suffering and of those prayer groups that are spread around a little everywhere.

What is the purpose of the former institution? It is that of valuing suffering and to bring relief and comfort to it. I summarize in two phrases what should be a programme. In that hospital, the good must suffer with patience and the lapsed must be converted. How is this programme realized? In the exercise of charity, the

only virtue that can give relief to those who suffer, and which can help those who do not put up with pain easily because they do not think they deserve it, is to accept it as expiation.

The purpose for which the House of Relief was instituted, is therefore all spiritual, even if one has to reach souls by becoming good Samaritans who pour oil on the bodily wounds.

Helping this institution is giving glory to God, because He himself willed it and with his providence has sustained it. Unfortunately, not always can one reach the ends presupposed even in the most holy works, because too much of the human and egoism enters in that disfigures the ends, but, if prayer is not lacking and the collaboration that must sustain it, it will withstand and continue in its purpose, obtaining, by means of the suffering of the good, the salvation of the lapsed.

Moreover, I wish to touch upon also the prayer groups. They ought to be like yeast which, bringing into parishes, into society and everywhere, a ferment of a more authentic Christian life, brings about those transformations that are indispensable. This call to prayer must be a continuous and true conversion, since it is exactly by invoking the help of God that one can understand one's weakness and one's needs and aspire to the great conquests of sanctity! Sanctity cannot subsist without prayer, since it would be like pretending to fly without wings or to move a car without the engine.

Also those spiritual, moral and material helps, which are needed by a man who knows his own limits, cannot be granted by providence except by means of prayer. Modern society thinks it does not have to pray, but rather to act. It is one of the greatest mistakes, and the Lord has permitted for you to see in my life how a simple friar, staying in a convent, confessing, praying and loving, was able to start colossal works.

Children, the Lord is Father and does not certainly remain deaf to the voice of his children. Each one, in the limits of possibilities, must dedicate to prayer that time that he has free, also taking it seriously. What you do is the greatest act of charity, beseeching the Father for all those who are in need. Jesus did not say for nothing: *"Knock and it will opened to you; ask and you will receive; seek and you shall find."*

These prayer groups must be like breeding grounds, where that divine fire of love is lit that gives enthusiasm for good and good will to perform the works of mercy. From love comes the desire for the apostolate, which makes the Church grow in holiness and greatness. Then the closeness of so many souls, of different spiritual stature, is an encouragement to increase trust and to strengthen the faith. In the prayer groups, gossip, confrontations and murmurings must be avoided; however, emulation in good must not be excluded, which is like a contest that gives a youthful spirit to all.

Children, make yourselves interpreters of these thoughts with all the groups that you know, and bring the true light and the true wisdom that comes from God. I bless you, children, and I say to you deep from the heart, with the good night: peace and good to all!

## TO THE YOUNG

*St. Therese of the Child Jesus*

*October 3, 1971*

My brethren, I am your little sister, here present with a very special and mystical presence, permitted to me by Jesus. I am here to express my thoughts to you and to promise you my help.

Christians call me little Therese to recognize my littleness, with which my very simple life is distinguished, from that of the great saints, of the martyrs, of the anchorites and of the great doctors of the Church. Simplicity is equivalent to humility and to childhood. This is why, today, the Lord wanted me here.

You are young, therefore, you must be simple and humble. These virtues, which make you extremely pleasing to God, make you also pleasing and likeable to your brethren, whereby it is very easy for you to be able to do them some good. Therefore, the more you wish to increase in number, the more good you wish to do, and the more you must seek to conquer souls by practising humility and simplicity.

I say to you still: be also like the little children, who have many desires and would like always big and new things, and, extending your sights up to embracing all the needs of the world, increase your desires. Do not restrict yourselves to your material and spiritual needs: for those there is the heavenly Mother who will take of them! You extend your hearts, your gazes, your intentions and, for all that is good in the world, hasten its

fulfilment by starting with desire. God likes those who have great desires.

Be missionaries, be sick with the sick of the whole world in order to console them. Be like those who go in search of souls, as if they were the greatest treasures, as in reality they are. Be desirous of goodness and good, since the Lord also rewards the desires.

To all, an encouragement and a fraternal farewell. Pray to me! The shower of roses that I have promised to men before my death, is uninterrupted and real. Peace to you, brethren, now and always.

## WHO WERE THE AUTHORS OF MY SANCTITY

*St. Therese of the Child Jesus*

*October 3, 1972*

My little brothers and sisters, let not my presence here amaze you. First of all, you gather together in this cenacle that is called, by the will of God, of the Divine Mercy; and I am here also because, especially, the Child Jesus is honoured, towards whom I had a special devotion, bearing with mine, his name.

I am Therese of the Child Jesus. The roses that I had promised to let fall from heaven after my death, I keep them always in my hands and I scatter them, wherever they ask me, promptly and abundantly. Today will truly be a shower of roses that I will spread over you. However, before distributing them, I wish to speak to you about myself who, so little, have reached a degree of sanctity so elevated.

Who were the authors of my sanctity? First of all God, in whose merciful goodness I have always trusted, and to whom I entrusted myself, like the smallest child entrusts herself to the powerful arms of the father. He saw my littleness and was as attracted to it, so as to use it to accomplish great things. This conviction was truly in me: if the Lord had found another soul littler than mine, He would have made use of her in my place.

It is the mercy of God, which accomplishes great things in the world and makes use of the most useless instruments. Trust in the mercy made me ask for enormous things, and I saw great works of the apostolate realized.

My love of a simple child made me run in the way of perfection, since it gave me the wings and made every sacrifice seem light to me, of which the heart of my Jesus was the mover and the supreme end. The conversion of sinners, the sanctification of priests and the salvation of so many souls, were tied to that simple and infantile way of asking and to the love that I united to my request. Jesus made me walk and granted me miracles and graces.

Brethren, but how would I be able to neglect speaking to you about those who with infinite goodness have put into my heart and into those of all my family, the seed of vocation: my holy parents? behold the most powerful means of my holiness, after God! At their school, made of faith, of charity and virtue, I was not able to grow differently.

This is why I turn to parents and, as I point out the example of my holy parents, I invite to have, as the ideal of family life, sanctity! The spouses sanctify themselves in the love of God and in mutual affection, and at their school the children are sanctified. Mothers, never be afraid of being wrong in maintaining that harmony with the husband which is so necessary for the education of the children. Let not that very dutiful respect between you lessen, as your school has a very decisive importance in the life of your children.

Happiness and holiness are, many times, determined by family harmony. If an example of an upright life and love of work can create some good men, faith and prayer create holiness, and joined together, these make the perfect man. Do likewise, and let your families be happy.

I bless you with much joy. I protect and I bless the young who come to this cenacle. The spirit of sacrifice with which I will keep on filling them, shall arouse in them great missionary ideals and good. May the spiritual infancy, with which I wish to enrich your hearts and your minds, be the guarantee that you will remain in that humility that is so pleasing to God and necessary to enter into Paradise, just as Baptism is necessary.

If you wish to remember some phrases that might be a spur for you to walk along this road, say often to yourselves: Jesus has said: *"If you will not be little like these children, you will not enter into the Kingdom of the heavens."* And again: *"Learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart."*

To all those who in concealment and in silence would like to be of help to all the brethren of the earth, I will give as gift, interceding it from Jesus, the spirit of the apostolate, so that, in whatever place they may carry out their apostolate, they may feel the powerful help of Heaven and obtain conversions in abundance.

I bless you again and always!

## **MY WHOLE LIFE WAS SPENT LOVING**

*St. Therese of the Child Jesus*

*September 30, 1973*

My brothers and sisters, peace be to you and grace, now and always.

How I enjoy addressing my greeting to you today which is the day of my birth to eternal life! How many things I would like to tell you, and how I would like to be of help to you to continue on your mission of good, which you have undertaken with so much zeal!

I desire to obtain so much love of God for you, whereby you may be able also to end your existence saying, like I said in the last instant of my life: *"My God, I love you."* It was a phrase that recapitulated my whole life, spent loving. It was exactly love that made me, with equal courage, to live or die, to rejoice or suffer, to sing or cry.

The love of God, which attracted me right from the most tender age, was not disconnected in me from that filial fear that made me fear of offending Him, but it was so powerful whereupon I would not have hesitated to throw my arms around his neck even if I had committed the greatest sins.

I knew the power of the love of the heart of my Jesus meditating on the parables of the prodigal son and of the good shepherd, and I understood his mercy seeing with how much sweetness He welcomed the greatest sinners. And it was out of having taken in this love and this mercy that the desire to call the sinners of all the world before Him was lit in my heart.

The heart of man is like a furnace that can burn for human things, and it is a fire that prepares for another one much more powerful and which, burning, will never cease, will last forever, and it is that to which the damned will have to submit.

But there is another fire that feeds this furnace, and it is the fire of the love of God. It burned continuously in my heart, so as to arouse a very great zeal for his glory. Through this devouring zeal, I desired to perform all the good that is possible to do in the world.

In this way, I would have liked to be the victim who, immolating himself for every creature, would have repaired every sin and collaborated with Jesus for the salvation of all. I would have liked to be a priest, in order to accomplish, with the sacred ministry, all those works of the apostolate that he has the duty to perform. I would have liked to be a missionary, in order to go to the remotest places to speak about Jesus and Mary. I would have liked to be beside every sufferer, every sick person, every troubled person.

They were only my desires, but He who accepts and blesses also desires as a reality, granted me also in life to give help to many, many brethren. And now my desire is realized, of spending my Heaven in doing good to those who are on earth, by letting a shower of roses rain down from Heaven. They are spiritual graces that I wish to intercede for, but above all so that the zeal for the glory of God that makes you true apostles may never diminish in you.

I know that you love the heavenly Mother, who smiled at me at the beginning of life, and I know that you manifest your devotion with the recitation of the Rosary. They are roses that you offer up to her, who is the Queen of Heaven, and I shall be your companion in this fervent recitation so that the roses may be transmuted into graces.

I know that you love and honour the Child Jesus, under whose little feet I loved to pluck the best roses of my sacrifices whereby He would walk on perfumed petals. This devotion must be a call to you to practise that spiritual infancy that has simplicity as a foundation. Yes, dear brethren, be simple like children. Whoever is first among you, let him be last and servant of all, because only in this way, with the practise of this virtue that is synonymous with humility, can you please God.

What is the worth of having great titles, possessing great things, if that does not help you to reach the Homeland? In this way, we shall walk together, and you shall be sharers of my same glory, since, if you are little, you can be a part of my spiritual family.

Moreover, I also know that you have the devotion of the Sacred Face of Jesus. And why should I not especially protect you? Am I not, Therese of the Child Jesus and of the Holy Face? Let this Sacred Face shine in your homes and be a continuous call to love. Let it's sight be to you an encouragement to ask Him every day pardon for all those sins that render the world deserving of bitter scourges. Behave so that his sweetness may invite you to the practise of charity, and may the depth of his gaze give you strength to react to evil.

May all who are able to pass through this chapel, feel a call to conversion and to perfection.

The Lord does not want great things from you, as He did not want them from me, but He wants for you to make yourselves more and more available in doing his will, so as not to refuse Him anything and to do your duties with precision.

And now, my little brothers and sisters, I bless you and I embrace you in the Lord, saying to you: continue to love me and I will be close to you.

I bless my image and the family in which it will be brought to.

## AIM FOR HEAVEN

*St. Therese of the Child Jesus*

*October 3, 1973*

Dearest brothers and sisters, to address a word to you is dear to me. I am amongst you by means of an image that represents me, but I am also among you with a spiritual presence made out of light and love.

I enjoy seeing you here, illuminated by the poor light of some candles, so that I can invite you all to be a little light that brightens up the surroundings in which you live. Many lights straying and alone can do little, but, if you join together so as to give one brightness alone, your light can illuminate the world.

When a soul gives itself to the Lord, and makes itself available to Him so that the Kingdom of God is realized through his will, it becomes light, because the flame of the merciful love invests it so much as to form one unity with Him.

How beautiful the love of God is that presses up to immolation! The love becomes like a fire, which can seem limited in time and space, but the whole world belongs to those who love and time is continued into eternity by means of love. Love devours space and reaches Heaven.

Oh, Heaven! Remember what I related to you in my story. I used to go, a little one, by hand to my holy father. I wanted to look at the sky alone, and he had to warn of the dangers I was heading against. When, observing the stars, I noticed that some of them were displayed in such a way as to form a "T", truly I had the conviction that my name was written in Heaven. But, my brothers and sisters, not only the name of Therese was written in Heaven; each one of you can affirm: "*My name is written in Heaven.*" Aim for Heaven, where everyone has his place assigned to him from all eternity: this is your programme!

He who has arrived, has run his race, he has fought his battle. I too, like you, fought mine, which was made easy for me by the littleness that the Lord saw in me. How could I have confronted great dangers and do great things, I who only knew how to do insignificant things? The Lord, my King, had compassion on me and was contented with my love. He was contented with my little sacrifices, and He was truly pleased with my spiritual littleness up to desiring that many imitate me.

And now, I address myself to you. You are not in a cloistered convent, but you love the Lord and, where you will spend your lives, continuous little renunciations are asked of you. How many opportunities could elude you through lack of attention and good will! How many souls stretch out their arms to you with groans full of pain, so that from your little renunciation, offered up with love, they can have help and comfort!

Do you remember when in the laundry I was sprayed by the person next to me who, perhaps, unwittingly,

used to annoy me? It was a little thing, but, as my sister washed my face, my divine Spouse washed, with mine, the souls of sinners.

Brethren, how many persons during your day annoy you with words, with their pettiness, with their way of doing. You have within reach a very effective means to sanctify yourselves and others. In this way I can relate myself to what happens to you and, if you feel close by means of faith, I would make you walk along my road. Try yourselves; you will see that certain incompatibilities that seem unsurmountable are trifles, which, with a good flap of the wings and with a little optimism, you can overcome.

When you look at Heaven, the things of the world are no longer interesting and one walks briskly. It does not matter if life is long or short; what matters is love, which gives like an intensity and a superior efficacy to what you do.

All is guided by Providence, even the things that seem at times unreachable. One needs to have faith and trust. If at the beginning of my vocation I had let myself be discouraged by the difficulties, I would not have become a Carmelite.

Moreover, I wish to tell you what a definitive impression my encounter with the Supreme Pontiff had given to my vocation. Even if he invited me to have patience and did not grant my desire, finding myself before him who on earth represented Jesus himself, filled me with joy, with amazement, with gratitude and with love towards God, who permits his sons, wayfarers on earth, to have a visible image of Him.

Now, brethren, I leave to you the task of continuing with prayer, with love and with sacrifice, that delicate task that I carry out from Heaven: of assisting the Holy Father, to console him in his woes and to support him on the way of Calvary. My special blessing will accompany you, and you will feel great joy in the heart for having given comfort to him who is the Father of Christianity.

I am with you and I promise to let a shower of graces rain down on your homes. Be little, be good, wish each other well!





# MAMMA CARMELA'S PUBLISHED WRITINGS

*Titles in the original Italian editions:*

<b>Pensieri e Riflessioni</b>	— published in 6 volumes
<b>Gesù nostro Maestro</b>	— published in 10 volumes
<b>Maria, Madre e Maestra</b>	— published in 25 volumes
<b>I Santi, nostri intercessori</b>	— one volume
<b>Pellegrinaggi ed esercizi spirituali</b>	— one volume

*English Titles:*

## 1. THOUGHTS AND REFLECTIONS

*Six volumes in the series covering the period from March 14, 1968 to June 1, 1970 with 14 entries up to December 28, 1973. English translation under way.*

- Volume I - 14 March 1968 to 23 April 1968, published 2011.
- Volume II - 24 April 1968 to 23 June 1968.
- Volume III - 24 June 1968 to 29 September 1968.
- Volume IV - 1 October 1968 to 2 February 1969.
- Volume V - 2 February 1969 to 29 August 1969.
- Volume VI - 31 August 1969 to 28 December 1973.

## 2. JESUS OUR TEACHER

*Ten volumes in the series starting from May 1, 1970 to October 26, 1978. English translation and publication undertaken by Divine Mercy Apostolate, Melbourne, Australia.*

- Volume I - 1 May 1970 to 30 September 1971, published 2004.
- Volume II - 6 October 1971 to 25 May 1972, published 2005.
- Volume III - 29 May 1972 to 23 March 1973, published 2005.
- Volume IV - 29 March 1973 to 17 January 1974, published 2006.
- Volume V - 29 March 1973 to 17 January 1974, published 2006.
- Volume VI - 1 December 1974 to 9 October 1975, published 2006.
- Volume VII - 12 October 1975 to 25 June 1976, published 2006.
- Volume VIII - 29 June 1976 to 16 June 1977, published 2007.
- Volume IX - 17 June 1977 to 13 April 1978, published 2007.
- Volume X - 14 April 1978 to 26 October 1978, published 2007.

## 3. MARY, MOTHER AND TEACHER

*Starting from June 15, 1969. English translation and publication undertaken by Divine Mercy Apostolate, Melbourne, Australia. Progress so far:*

- Volume I - 15 June 1969 to 28 July 1970, published 2007.
- Volume II - 1 August 1970 to 30 March 1971, published 2008.
- Volume III - 2 April 1971 to 12 September 1971, published 2008.
- Volume IV - 12 September 1971 to 30 January 1972, published 2008.
- Volume V - 1 February 1972 to 31 May 1972, published 2008.

Volume VI - 4 June 1972 to 12 November 1972, published 2009.  
Volume VII -14 November 1972 to 28 March 1973, published 2009.  
Volume VIII -1 April 1973 to 4 September 1973, published 2009.  
Volume IX - 5 September 1973 to 31 December 1973, published 2010.  
Volume X - 1 January 1974 to 19 April 1974, published 2010.  
Volume XI - 23 April 1974 to 26 September 1974, published 2011.  
Volume XII - 27 September 1974 to 28 January 1975  
Volume XIII - 29 January 1975 to 16 May 1975  
Volume XIV -18 May 1975 to 15 September 1975  
Volume XV -16 September 1975 to 11 January 1976  
Volume XVI -18 January 1976 to 30 April 1976  
Volume XVII -1 May 1976 to 3 October 1976  
Volume XVIII- 3 October 1976 to 12 January 1977  
Volume XIX -14 January 1977 to 10 April 1977  
Volume XX - 12 April 1977 to 6 July 1977  
Volume XXI - 7 July 1977 to 27 October 1977  
Volume XXII - 28 October 1977 to 22 January 1978  
Volume XXIII - 24 January 1978 to 28 April 1978  
Volume XXIV- 1 May 1978 to 25 August 1978  
Volume XXV - 26 August 1978 to 29 October 1978

#### **4. THE SAINTS, OUR INTERCESSORS**

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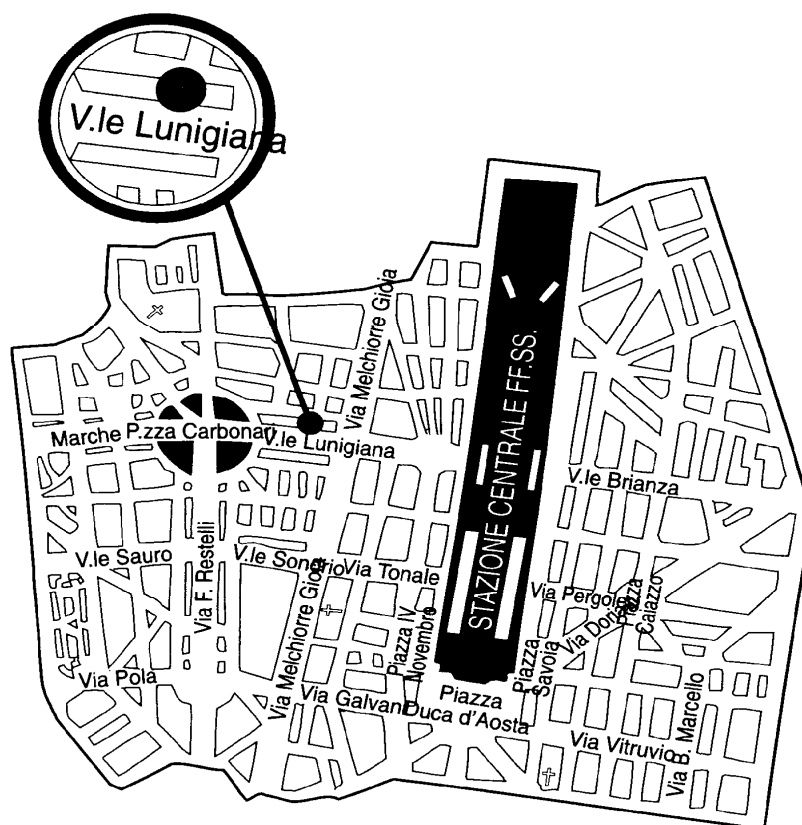
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## THE SAINTS, OUR INTERCESSORS

FROM THE WRITINGS OF  
MAMMA CARMELA

The Message of Merciful Love was received by Mamma Carmela during a period which lasted some ten years, from 1968 to 1978. It ended in the year that Rome had at last lifted the suspension on the Divine Mercy revelations to Sister Faustina, who was subsequently canonised by Pope John Paul II on April 30, 2000 in St. Peter's, Rome.



In 1968, in the city of Milan, a widow with a large family, who had given her whole life to works of Mercy in her city, was praying one evening when she heard a voice that said: *“You will be another witness to my Divine Mercy. I will bless you and give you special graces. I ask your help as a beggar asks alms. Will you help Me? I want you to find new apostles, and once again spread my message of Merciful Love to the ends of this earth.”*

On March 22, 1970 Sister Faustina herself gave a message to Carmela and her Mother of Divine Love Prayer Group, she said: *“It is not the first time that I come among you, but it is the first time that I wish to speak. I am Sister Faustina and I ask you to make with particular devotion the Novena of Mercy, so that all men will begin to believe in the mystery of salvation, which is contained in the devotion to the Divine Mercy.”*

Carmela Carabelli was born in Melegnano, Italy on May 9, 1910. She died in the peace of Christ on November 25, 1978. Since 1968 she received, almost daily, messages from Jesus Christ as the Merciful Jesus, and from the Blessed Virgin as the Mother of Divine Love. She transcribed straight away into notebooks all that was said, without hesitation or correction afterwards, in the form of conversations with Jesus, who spoke about His Father, the Father of all men, and of His Mother, very tenderly; and so lovingly of his foster father St. Joseph, and about many other saintly people, and through this privileged person to all the world, for these writings are meant for all wish to seek and find God.