



# SAINT PADRE PIO AND THE SACRED MASS

*...../In his own words*

The celebration of the Holy Mass was for Padre Pio the center of his religious life. Humble and recollected, he approached the altar to celebrate the Holy Mass -- to renew the Passion of Jesus. The culminating point of the celebration of the Eucharist was the Consecration. At that moment the stigmatized friar, with sobs and tears, reenacted the Divine tragedy of Calvary to the point of showing forth in his own flesh the awful torments of Jesus crucified...by becoming a living sacrificial victim.

Materially, Padre Pio was on the altar, but spiritually he was close to Jesus -- for he seemed to speak to Him and to weep and suffer for Him. On the altar, he was a soul in pain who prays for souls in pain. All those present at his Mass became more alert, more alive, and more genuine as if they had escaped from this Earth and were contemplating the invisible world.

*Padre Pio says this about his Beloved Mass...*

- ❖ I am going to the wine-press of the Church, to the holy altar, where from the blood of that delightful and unusual grape, is distilled the sacred wine with which only a few fortunate people are permitted to become inebriated.
- ❖ If it is not possible for you to remain at prayer for a long time, or to read, etc., you must not be perturbed. As long as you receive Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament each morning, you should consider yourself fortunate.
- ❖ Father, I feel that I am unworthy to receive Holy Communion. I am unworthy of it...*Reply:* It is true of such a gift. But it is one thing to receive unworthily in the state of mortal sin, and something else to be unworthy. We are all unworthy; but it is He who invites us, and He who desires it. Let us be humble, and receive Him with our hearts full of love,
- ❖ I never tire of standing so long, and could not become tired, because I am not standing, but am on the Cross with Christ, suffering with Him. The Holy Mass is a sacred union of Jesus and myself. I suffer unworthily all that was suffered by Jesus who deigned to allow me to share in his great enterprise of human redemption.

- ❖ I should like to shed, not a few tears, but torrents of tears when faced with the mystery of a God Victim. We priests are the butchers of Jesus during the Mass, while all of Paradise reverently descends on the altar.
- ❖ When attending Holy Mass, renew your faith and meditate on that Victim who is being emulated for you in order to duplicate Divine Justice, and render it propitious for you. Do not leave the altar without shedding tears of pain and of love for Jesus who was crucified for your eternal well-being.
- ❖ In these sad times when faith is dead, and impiety is triumphant, when we are surrounded by those who have perpetual hatred in their hearts and blasphemy on their lips, the surest means of remaining immune to the pestiferous disease that surrounds us is to fortify ourselves with Eucharistic food. This cannot be achieved by those who, month after month, live without satiating themselves with the Immaculate Flesh of the Divine Lamb.
- ❖ Every Holy Mass, heard with devotion, produces in our soul marvelous effects -- abundant spiritual and material graces which we, ourselves, do not know. It is easier for the earth to exist without the sun than without the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.
- ❖ Jesus my breath and my life, today when trembling I elevate you in a mystery of love, and with You may I be for the world, the way, the truth, and the life...*for You a holy priest, a perfect victim*. Oh Jesus, my Victim, my Love... Make me an altar for Your Cross. A golden chalice for Your Blood. Holocaust, Love, Prayer...

- ❖ I was hardly able to get to the Divine Prisoner to say Mass. When Mass was over I remained with Jesus in thanksgiving. Oh, how sweet was the colloquy with Paradise that morning! There were things which cannot be translated into human language without losing their deep and heavenly meaning.
- ❖ The Heart of Jesus and my own, allow me to use the expression, were fused. No longer were two hearts beating *but only one*. My own heart had disappeared...as a drop of water is lost in the ocean. Jesus was its Paradise, its King. My joy was so intense and deep that I could bear no more and tears of happiness poured down my cheeks.
- ❖ When I am close to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, my heart throbs so violently that it seems to me at times that it must burst out of my chest. Sometimes at the altar my whole body burns in an indescribable manner. My face in particular seems to go on fire.
- ❖ How happy Jesus makes me! How sweet is His Spirit! But I am confused and can do nothing but weep and repeat: *Jesus, my food!* What distresses me most is that I repay all this love of Jesus with so much ingratitude. He continues to love me and draw me closer to Himself.
- ❖ Moreover, instead of being appeased after I have received Him sacramentally, this hunger and thirst steadily increase. When I already possess this Supreme Good, then indeed the abundance of sweetness is so great that I very nearly say to Jesus: *Enough, I can hardly bear anymore.* I almost forget that I am in the world; mind and heart desire nothing more.

- ❖ Only God knows what sweetness I experienced today -- the feast of Saint Joseph -- especially after Mass...so much so that I still feel it. My head and my heart were burning with a fire which did me good. My mouth tasted all the sweetness of the Immaculate Flesh of the Son of God. Oh, at this moment when I still feel almost all of this sweetness, if I could only bury within my heart these consolations, I should certainly be in Paradise.
- ❖ Jesus asks me almost all the time for love, and my heart rather than my lips answers Him: *Oh my Jesus, I wish*. And then I cannot continue. But in the end I exclaim: *Yes, Jesus, I love You*; at this moment it seems to me that I love You and I also feel the need to love You more; but, Jesus, I have no more love left in my heart, You know that I have given it all to You. If You want more love, take this heart of mine and fill it with Your love, then command me to love and I shall not refuse. I beg You to do this; I desire it.
- ❖ What hurts me most, Dear Father, is the thought of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. My heart feels drawn by a higher force each morning before I am united with Him in the Blessed Sacrament. I have such a hunger and thirst before I receive Him that I almost die, and precisely because I am incapable of not uniting myself with Him, I am sometimes obliged to feed on His Flesh when I have a fever.
- ❖ Jesus said to us: He who eats My Flesh and drinks My Blood will have life everlasting. So then, let us approach Holy Communion with holy love and fear. May the entire day be preparation and thanksgiving for Holy Communion.

- ❖ Continue to receive Communion, and don't worry about being able to receive the Sacrament of Penance. Jesus will praise your good will. Remember what I have told you so often: as long as we are not certain of being in serious sin, we need not abstain from Communion.
- ❖ Go to the Tabernacle in spirit when you are unable to do so physically, and there pour out your ardent desires; talk, pray and embrace the Beloved of our souls, even more than if you had been permitted to receive Him sacramentally.

*Pray for the wicked, pray for the lukewarm, pray also for the fervent, but above all pray for the Pope, for all the spiritual and temporal needs of the Church, our dearest mother and pray also in a special way for all those who work for the salvation of souls and glory of God in the missions amidst so many unfaithful and non-believers.*

*Taken from Our Lady of Grace Prayer Book edited by Father Alessio Parente O.F.M. Cap.*