

[Jesus said,] "If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all."

MARK 9:35

Learning How to Die Well

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Karl Rahner was a German Jesuit priest and a leading theologian of the twentieth century. He once observed that one of the tasks of life is to learn how to die well. On first hearing this, we may be much like the disciples who didn't understand Jesus when he spoke of his own need to enter death (see Mark 9:31–32).

How do we learn to "die well"? If we forgo the need to always have our own way, if we forgive and resist the impulse to get revenge, if we are sensitive to the needs of others even when it's inconvenient, if we care for the child among us, whether that "little one" be five, forty-five, or eighty-five—if we practice a willingness to die in such ways, then when it comes time for us to make that final journey of our earthly lives, it will not be as frightening because we will have been there before.

Furthermore, if we learn how to die well, our lives will take on new meaning. The focus of our lives will not be on ourselves, but on others and their needs. We will find ourselves less disappointed when life doesn't go our way. Blue moods will evaporate more readily. We will have a greater interest in daily life. In other words, the very aspects that once seemed to drag us down will become doorways to hope and renewed life. What once seemed to have been a kind of death will become an avenue to faith in the resurrection. ●

Reflect

Have you ever "died to yourself" and then experienced a resurrection?



Holy Trinity

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St. Thomas More

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Website for the Three Churches

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Emergency Number for all 3 Churches 779-248-2164

CCD Update

As CCD registration starts this Sunday, our Religious Education program will officially begin on Sunday, October 6th with K-5th grades and the following Sunday, October 13th the 6th & 7th grades will start. Parents please do not forget to mark your calendars for these days.



Daily Mass Intentions for the Week of September 23, 2024

Monday	9/23			+ No Mass
Tuesday	9/24	9:00 am	STM	+ Shirley Vasquez
Wednesday	9/25	5:30 pm	HT	+ Special Intention
Thursday	9/26	9:00 am	HT	+ Geraldine Sondgeroth
Friday	9/27	9:00 am	STM	+ In Thanksgiving

Mass Intentions for the weekend of September 28 - 29, 2024

Saturday	9/28	4:00 pm	St Thomas More	+ Josie Weberski
Sunday	9/29	8:30 am	Holy Trinity	+ Ron Floroplus/Mina DeAngelo
		10:30 am	St Patrick	+ For the Parishioners

Reflections on Padre Pio

Feast Day September 23rd

Padre Pio, or Saint Pio of Pietrelcina, Italy, has had an abiding impact on the spiritual lives of those both within and without Roman Catholicism.

Born in 1887 and one of seven children of peasant farmers in Southern Italy, he had already decided by age five to dedicate his life to God, and by the age of 15, he entered the novitiate of the Capuchin friars at Morcone.



When he was 23, he began to experience the beginnings of the stigmata—sores and lesions that are reminiscent of wounds that Jesus endured at the time of his crucifixion. Those stigmata were a source of fascination for the church, the press, and the public, but they were a source of suffering for Padre Pio. Their very presence made him the subject of investigations, fueled in part by curiosity but also in part by a belief that mystical experiences were, by definition, suspicious.

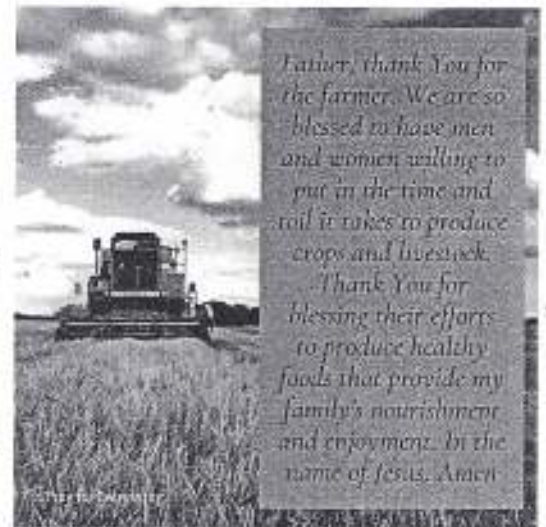
The more attention he received, the more he was restricted from participating in the ministry of the church. Harassed, confined, and even wire-tapped, his doubters ranged from religious skeptics to fellow friars to bishops and even to a pope. He had been forbidden to celebrate Mass until 1933, and in 1934 Padre Pio was finally allowed to hear confessions, and it was not until the mid-1960s that all ecclesiastical charges against him were dismissed by Pope Paul VI. A few short years later in 1968, Padre Pio passed away, and the world felt a loss like no other.

So often we look for the phenomenal, the miraculous, or the inexplicable as "proof" that our devotion is not misplaced, but Padre Pio offered a different path to allay our fears. His life of discipleship in Jesus showed that it is the pursuit of humility, kindness, love, and forgiveness that brings us the assurance that we rest in the hand of an almighty, omniscient, and omnipresent God. *(Excerpted from "bridgeportdiocese.org")*

Church Announcements

New Parish Name Needed

Our PTT team just had our first meeting at HT church last Thursday September 12th; lots of input, questions, and concerns had been presented. Among the important things that the bishop asked us to do is to come up with names for the new parish. He will decide from the various names we submit to the diocese. If you would like to make a suggestion, please let your PTT members know. We will keep you informed when the next meeting will take place.



LATEST OFFERING'S

SEPT 15TH WEEKEND

HT – \$1,277.00

SP – \$ 493.00

STM – \$ 873.00

Vocation Novena To St. Therese of Lisieux

Please mark your calendars and join the Diocese of Peoria to prepare to pray a novena to St. Therese of Lisieux on September 22nd. Copies of this novena are in the back of each church. Please take one home for yourself.

CONFESSIONS

CONFESSIONS WILL BE
SAT. SEPT 28TH
10:30 AM - 11:15 AM AT
ST. THOMAS MORE
IN THE HALL

Dear Padre,

What is spiritual direction? How does it differ from counseling?

In spiritual direction, a person is guided in a process of reflection, self-discovery, and recognition of God's presence in human experience; the primary focus is on one's relationship with God. Thus, in one sense, it is the Lord himself who is the "director" in all spiritual direction. In counseling, a person is also guided in a process of reflection and self-discovery; but the primary focus is on human growth and development. Counseling does not presuppose a person's faith or relationship with God; spiritual direction cannot be complete without it. Both spiritual direction and counseling share the same expectations of openness and honesty in the process; they share the same standards of confidentiality and professional conduct. Moreover, spiritual direction is similar to counseling in its aim toward human growth and development, but it further aims toward holiness and "toward ever more intimate union with Christ" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2014). That union is twofold: a personal relationship with Christ and with Christ's Church. "This union is called 'mystical' because it participates in the mystery of Christ through the sacraments" (CCC 2014). "All Christians in any state or walk of life are called to the fullness of Christian life and to the perfection of charity. All are called to holiness: 'Be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect'" (CCC 2013). ●



Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Greatness and success in God's eyes are measured differently: they are measured by service. Not on what someone has, but on what someone gives. Do you want to be first? Serve.... [Service] has a precise and concrete meaning in the Gospel. To serve is not a courteous expression: it means to act like Jesus.

ANGELUS, ROME, SEPTEMBER 19, 2021

Monday

September 23
St. Plus of Pietrelcina, Priest
Prv 3:27-34
Lk 8:16-18

Tuesday

September 24
Weekday
Prv 21:1-6, 10-13
Lk 8:19-21

Wednesday

September 25
Weekday
Prv 30:5-9
Lk 9:1-6

Thursday

September 26
Weekday
Eccl 1:2-11
Lk 9:7-9

Friday

September 27
St. Vincent de Paul, Priest
Eccl 3:1-11
Lk 9:18-22

Saturday

September 28
Weekday
Eccl 11:9-12:8
Lk 9:43b-45

Sunday

September 29
*Twenty-sixth Sunday
in Ordinary Time*
Nm 11:25-29
Jas 5:1-6
Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48