

**THE PADRE PIO  
PRAYER GROUP  
of Cleveland**

**Spiritual Director:**  
Fr. Edward J. Janoch

**Chaplains:**  
Fr. William E. Browne  
Fr. Michael Petkosek  
Fr. Kevin C. Shemuga

**Group Leader:**  
Cindy Russo TOF

**MISSION &  
VISION:**

To carry out the works, words and devotion of St. Padre Pio through prayer and charitable works where we can touch lives and change souls.

Our vision is to create more Spiritual Children and lead souls to heaven.

**UPCOMING  
EVENTS:**

**Mar 5 -**  
Padre Pio Prayer  
Group Gathering  
beginning with  
Rosary at 8:00 AM  
and Mass at 8:30 AM,  
Our Lady of  
Guadalupe Church,  
9080 Shepard Rd,  
Macedonia

Check the online  
Community Bulletin  
Board on our website  
to view upcoming  
events in the area



# St. Padre Pio Prayer Group Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2022

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 2

## The Holy Family as Our Model

February is dedicated to the Holy Family. Jesus, Mary, and Joseph are often represented humbly in artwork. Even the glow around their virtuous heads is usually simple. They appear to be simple because not only are they humble, but holiness is also simple however difficult it is. They do not have complicated agendas to hide from each other, they harbor no ill wills, they do not manipulate others to get their way, and they still to this day serve God by serving His people – us.

Not every family is perfect, and after the recently passed lively holiday season, our family dysfunctions may be fresh in our minds. We are called practicing Catholics because despite any dysfunctions in our families we still keep trying. Remember that even though Mary and Joseph lost Jesus for three days, they are still saints. Even if we feel like we've failed, we can still be saints, especially if we ask for the help of the Holy Family. Let's focus on our families and helping each other be holier. The lesson that the Holy Family shows us is that holiness does not exclude us from discomfort and suffering. God will not spare us the aches and pains of life even if we are children in his larger Holy Family. He doesn't spare us from these not because he isn't merciful, but because he

uses these in a larger plan that we mere mortals may fail to comprehend.

The Holy Family did not understand why Jesus had to be born in a cave in Bethlehem. Yet they trusted God's wisdom that Christians only, later on, saw as the beautiful poetry of Jesus secretly born in a cave, and "reborn" secretly in the cave of the Resurrection. He was born in Bethlehem, which means "house of bread" – a fitting name for a town that was the home of Jesus, the "bread of life." He was born in a manger – a feeding station for creatures – very much like the altar when we feed on the body of Christ.

The Holy Spirit today guides us to discern that these similar events are not mere coincidences but recurring "notes" of God's salvific opus. Seeing a great plan unfolding bolsters and feeds our faith today in a way Joseph and Mary had no way of seeing then. And so we must trust God in everything even if things seem bleak, or impossible to understand. God has a plan and it is a loving plan. It is a plan the Holy Family trusted even if the minute details were not revealed to them; and if they did, why shouldn't we? "Have faith. Do not be afraid. Trust in God." That's what the Holy Family is showing us to follow.



It is not a coincidence that we are having a spiritual retreat this month with the Spiritual Children of Padre Pio. We are a spiritual family trying to grow in holiness. This month during our retreat we will stop and take some time off from the world and focus on Jesus. God is love. February is the month of love. May this month prepare you for your best Lent ever and form you to be more humble and holy, like our model, the Holy Family.

Nine (9):

1. The cardinal number equal to  $8 + 1$ .
2. The ninth in a set or sequence.
3. Something having nine parts, units, or members.
4. *Games* A playing card marked with nine pips.
5. A set of nine persons or things, especially:
  - a. *Baseball* The nine players on a side, or the whole team.
  - b. *Nine Greek Mythology* The nine Muses.
6. A size, as in clothing or shoes, designated as nine.
7. *Sports* The first or second 9 holes of an 18-hole golf course.

**Idiom:**

*to the nines* Informal

To the highest degree: dressed to the nines.

### “TO THE NINES”

This month we celebrate our Ninth Anniversary of the “new and improved” Saint Padre Pio Prayer Group. Our group has been in some form of existence since 1969 (53 years!). Under the leadership of our Lay Director, Cindy Russo, with the support of many, many, many members of our prayer group, we have been able to touch the lives of hundreds of persons. In the above definition for the word “nine,” we are “*to the nines*” with our prayer group. We are seeking the highest degree of Faith, Hope, and Love that was important to Saint Padre Pio and for all of us. Through prayer, pilgrimages, social events, Masses, Confessions, blessings, outreaches to the needy, fund raisers and our social media/website and newsletter (Thanks Laura), we have faithfully upheld the vision and mission of what Saint Padre Pio had for the Prayer Groups that he wanted to be established throughout the world. We are in contact with national and international members who are all looking to live in Faith, Hope, and Love. Let us continue, spiritually to reach “*to the nines*” to bring our Savior Jesus the Christ to the world through His sweet and adorable mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Saints of God reached “to the nines” in their relationship with God, who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Let us in this Ninth Anniversary, reach spiritually “*to the nines*” and live in the highest degree of our Faith at this moment in our lives and to continue to strive for even higher degrees of our Faith.

I have not been able to attend, recently, our Monthly Prayer Meeting, but know that I have you in my prayers and that you are all remembered every day. I am hoping to be at our February 2022 meeting, but I will not be at our March 2022 meeting because that is our parish’s Pre-Cana Day and I am involved with this ministry. The phrase “out of sight, out of mind” does not apply to my prayerful support of our group and my great love for you.

Reach to the highest degree; “*to the nines.*”

P.S. Here are some “Fun Facts” for the Number Nine (9):

#### **The Nine Fruits of the Spirit**

The Apostle Paul wrote in his letter to the Galatians about nine fruits of the Spirit. *Galatians 5:22.*

The nine fruits of the Spirit are: 1. Love, 2. Joy, 3. Peace, 4. Patience, 5. Kindness, 6. Goodness, 7. Faithfulness, 8. Gentleness, and 9. Self-Control.

From the “Twelve Days of Christmas”

9 Ladies Dancing = the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit



(Continued on page 6)

## Little Sisters Disciples of the Lamb

The Little Sisters Disciples of the Lamb live in France. They are the first contemplative community in the world to welcome into consecrated life people with Down Syndrome. The community, which has a special devotion to Saint Benedict and Saint Theresa of Lisieux, first got the idea in the 1980's. It started with a friendship.

Line was on a spiritual search of her own and felt a calling to work with children. Véronique is a young woman with Down syndrome who felt a vocation to the consecrated life. Line is now Mother Line, Superior of the Little Sisters Disciples of the Lamb. She explains: "I visited several communities that welcomed people with disabilities, but I saw they could not find their place in these communities because they were not suitable for them. It was the encounter with Véronique, a girl with Down syndrome, that gave us the idea for a new beginning. I told myself I had to help her realize her vocation."

Véronique wanted to respond to her vocation to serve the Lord, but was refused by all the communities she approached because she has Down syndrome. Canon Law and monastic rules do not provide for the admission of people with mental disabilities to religious life.

It took Line and Véronique 14 years to get the statutes of this special community, with its own original style, recognized. Line and Véronique began their community of two in 1985 in a small apartment, a council house. Later, another girl with Down syndrome joined them. In 1990, they asked the future Cardinal and Archbishop of Tours, Jean Honoré (1920-2013), to recognize them as a public association of lay faithful. It was the support of Cardinal Honoré, who defended their case in Rome, which allowed this small community to be recognized.

In 1995, the growing number of "associates" forced the Little Sisters to move. They settled in Le Blanc, a town of 6,500 in the Diocese of Bourges. Pierre Plateau, Archbishop of this diocese in central France, welcomed them and his intervention helped make further progress for them in Rome, with a view to obtaining the status of a contemplative religious institute. This they obtained in 1999. "Plateau was really a father to our community and was very close to people with Down syndrome," says Mother Line. "The sisters gradually developed the priory and the chapel in 2011. They obtained the

definitive recognition of their statutes, with the intervention of Archbishop Armand Maillard, who added his support to the community, considering it a source of life and joy in the area.



There are currently ten Little Sisters Disciples of the Lamb: eight of them have Down syndrome. The community hopes to welcome more sisters, as those with Down syndrome need assistance and support. Even though, according to Mother Line, they are mostly independent "because the contemplative life allows them to live at their own pace. For people with Down syndrome, changes are difficult, but when life is very regular they manage well," she says. That regular lifestyle unfolds in daily functions and tasks. Holy Mass is celebrated every Tuesday in

the chapel, and the various activities include weaving and pottery workshops and a garden of medicinal plants. This extraordinary vocation is expressed in the ordinary things of life, in the humility of service, following the "little path" revealed by Saint Teresa of Lisieux, whose spirituality is the source of their inspiration.


"Thirty-four years have passed since I heard the call of Jesus", says Sr Véronique. "I have tried to know Jesus by reading the Bible and the Gospel. I was born with a disability called Down syndrome. I am happy and love Life. I pray, but I am



sad for the children with Down syndrome who will not feel this same joy of living. For those who felt called to live, like Saint Teresa, the vocation to love, the journey was

long but her patience and her faith gave their fruits. Jesus made me grow in His love." On June 20, 2009 is her greatest joy when she made her perpetual vows and became "the bride of Jesus." "At a time when society lacks points of reference, no longer finding meaning in life or giving it value, our community wants to reaffirm the sacred character of life and the human person through the simple witness of our life consecrated to God." The Little Sisters extend an open invitation to a period of discernment to all young women who feel "touched by the spirit of poverty and devotion, and who are ready to offer their lives serving Christ in the persons of their little sisters with Down syndrome".

## Quotes from Saint Padre Pio/February 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>6</p> <p>May Jesus deign to make you such that, surrounded by the world and the flesh, you may live in the Spirit.</p> <p><b>5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b></p>	 <p>7</p> <p>Praise Him with the angels, and may the foundation of your hope always be on high.</p> <p><b>Weekday</b></p>	<p>1</p> <p>Always struggle against the appetites of the flesh, against worldly vanity, against the seduction of gold or dignity, with which the evil one continually wages war on you.</p> <p><b>Weekday</b></p>	<p>2</p> <p>How right you are to place your desire for the world in the hands of heavenly Providence.</p> <p><b>THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD</b></p> <p>9</p> <p>You are too dear to the Heart of Jesus, all that happens in your soul is due to the exquisiteness of the love of Jesus for you.</p> <p><b>Weekday</b></p>	<p>3</p> <p>Your worldly desires might not vainly occupy your soul, as it would undoubtedly do if it were left to itself.</p> <p><b>Weekday</b> <i>St. Blasé</i> <i>St. Ansgar</i></p> <p>10</p> <p>(Spiritual aridity is permitted often) to unite you more closely with Him, to rid you of certain attachments which do not appear as such to you and which in many cases you do not even recognize or detect.</p> <p><i>St. Scholastica</i></p>	<p>4</p> <p>Practice internal and external sweetness a great deal, and maintain a tranquil heart amidst your multiple worries.</p> <p><b>Weekday</b> <i>First Friday</i></p> <p>11</p> <p>He wants you to place all your trust and all your affections in Him alone.</p> <p><b>Weekday</b> <i>Our Lady of Lourdes</i></p>	<p>5</p> <p>Continue to keep your soul raised on high, without looking on this world, nor using your time, except to aspire to eternity.</p> <p><b>St. Agatha</b> <i>First Saturday</i></p> <p>12</p> <p>Jesus wants you entirely for Himself.</p> <p><b>Weekday</b> <i>BYM</i></p>
<p>13</p> <p>Don't worry. The Lord will never withdraw from you.</p> <p><b>6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b></p>	<p>14</p> <p>Beware of your speech. You can offend others externally in your speech (by blasphemy, obscenities, lies).</p> <p><b>Weekday</b></p>	<p>15</p> <p>Beware of speech that is unbecoming) if you intend to live according to the Spirit of Jesus Christ.</p> <p><b>Weekday</b> <i>St. Jerome Emiliani</i> <i>St. Josephine Bakhita</i></p>	<p>16</p> <p>Two most powerful means for the attainment of Christian perfection (are) the constant study of God's law and the performance of all our actions for his glory.</p> <p><b>Weekday</b></p>	<p>17</p> <p>May the grace of the divine Spirit always reign supreme in your soul, and may He guide you to greater Christian Perfection.</p> <p><b>Weekday</b> <i>The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order</i></p>	<p>18</p> <p>No chosen soul is free from temptation.</p> <p>19</p> <p>Remember and keep well impressed in your mind that Calvary is the hill of the saints.</p> <p><b>Weekday</b> <i>BYM</i></p>	<p>20</p> <p>Remember that after ascending (your) Calvary and having died on it, you immediately ascend another mount, Tabor (Mount of the Transfiguration).</p> <p><b>7<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b></p>
<p>27</p> <p>Haven't you loved our Lord up until now? Don't you still love Him? Don't you yearn to love Him? Therefore, have no fear.</p> <p><b>8<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b></p>	<p>21</p> <p>Remember that suffering is short-lived but the reward is eternal.</p> <p><b>Weekday</b> <i>St. Peter Damian</i> <i>Presidents' Day</i></p>	<p>22</p> <p>Rest tranquilly, or at least resignedly, always secure Trust in God's authority, and do not fear.</p> <p><b>Weekday</b></p>	<p>23</p> <p>Heaven and earth will pass away but the word of God assures you that whoever believes will sing victory, will never pass away.</p> <p><b>St. Polycarp</b></p>	<p>24</p> <p>May Jesus be your comfort, sustenance, and compensation in this life and for blessed eternity.</p> <p><b>Weekday</b></p>	<p>25</p> <p>Take heart for the Lord is with you.</p> <p>26</p> <p>The Lord suffers with you, groans with you, and is pleased with you.</p> <p><b>Weekday</b> <i>BYM</i></p>	<p>28</p> <p>Even if you were to have committed all the sins of this world, Jesus tells you, "Your sins are forgiven."</p> <p><b>Weekday</b></p>

**Padre Pio, dear Spiritual Father and Guide,** your words bring me strength and encouragement. Your life offers me an example of trust in God, regardless of the circumstances of my life. A true son of St. Francis of Assisi, you lived in intimate relationship with the Father as an image of His Incarnate Son, Jesus the Christ. You were endowed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit so that all would know that God was truly with you. Pray for me, your Spiritual Child, that I too may grow in my relationship with the Father so that, like you, I may be an effective witness of God's love, mercy and providence to all His children, my brothers and sisters. Be my companion on life's journey and accompany me to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

# The Seven Deadly Sins

Known as the capital vices or cardinal sins, the Seven Deadly Sins are a grouping and classification of vices within Christian teachings, although they are not mentioned in the Bible. They are not to be confused with Mortal sins. However, a slightly different set of sins can be found in Proverbs 6:16-19, "These six things the Lord hates, yes, seven are an abomination to Him: A proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift in running to evil, a false witness who speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brethren." Additionally, Galatians 5:19-21 mentions several more sins to be on our guard against: "Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God." The behaviors or habits are classified under this category if they directly give rise to other immoralities. The seven deadly sins are:

1. **Pride** - is an excessive view of one's self without regard for others. Humility cures pride by removing one's ego and boastfulness, therefore allowing the attitude of service.
2. **Greed** - is an excessive pursuit of material goods. Charity cures greed by putting the desire to help others above storing up treasure for one's self.
3. **Wrath** - is a strong anger and hate towards another person. Patience cures wrath by first understanding the needs and desires of others before acting or speaking.
4. **Envy** - is the intense desire to have an item that someone else possesses. Kindness cures envy by placing the desire to help others above the need to supersede them.
5. **Lust** - is a strong passion or longing, especially for sexual desires. Chastity or self-control cures lust by controlling passion and leveraging that energy for the good of others.
6. **Gluttony** - is an excessive and ongoing eating of food or drink. Temperance cures gluttony by implanting the desire to be healthy, therefore making one fit to serve others.
7. **Sloth** - is an excessive laziness or the failure to act and utilize one's talents. Diligence or zeal cures slothfulness by placing the

interest of others above a life of ease and relaxation.

**The root cause of these sins:** Each one of these deadly sins is the mark of our spiritual enemy. These sins have its root in the desire for more and the human need for excess. Each sin goes against the root of Christianity which is: love for God, love for our fellow man, and love for our bodies (keeping them as clean temples for God, I Corinthians 6:19-20). Paul writes in Philippians 4:11-12, "I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am." This strikes at the root of each of these deadly sins. Paul in effect is saying that God can take care of our needs and there is no need to lust or desire after excessive things.



The cure for these sins is the gift of a new heart that acts in accordance to the love and law of God. This new heart can only come from God. Ezekiel 36:26-27 says, "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them."

Humanity's only hope is the miracle of a regenerated heart that acts according to the direction of the Holy Spirit to walk in God's statutes and judgments. Power does not come from self to change the heart. On the contrary, this verse clearly points out that God alone gives you a new heart and causes you to walk in His ways. As this event becomes a reality in your life, the seven deadly sins of gluttony, envy, sloth, wrath, pride, lust, and greed will lose their power in your life. With the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in your life, you will instead desire to live a life based upon the principles of the Bible.

The Lord's Prayer can be used to petition God's help to conquer each and every one of the seven deadly sins. Pray it in such a way, as Christ Himself advised us, that God might truly deliver us from the seven deadly sins, and indeed, from all manner of evils.

Parts of the Lord's Prayer	Opposing Deadly Sins
1. "Our Father	1. Envy
2. who art in heaven	2. Sloth
3. hallowed be thy name.	3. Vainglory
4. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.	4. Pride
5. Give us this daily our daily bread	5. Gluttony, Avarice
6. and forgives us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.	6. Wrath
7. Lead us not into temptation,	7. Lust
8. but deliver us from evil, Amen."	8. All the deadly sins

# The Priesthood and Our Prayers



**Our prayers for priests are very important. St Faustina reminds us of the holiness and dignity of the priesthood in the Diary of St. Faustina:**

*O priests, you bright candles enlightening human souls, let your brightness never be dimmed (75). O Jesus, give us fervent and*

*holy priests! Oh, how great is the dignity of the priest, but at the same time, how great is his responsibility! Much has been given you, O priest, but much will also be demanded of you (941).*

**Praying for priests is a task that St. Faustina took very seriously as we read this from the Diary:**

*I have offered this day for priests. I have suffered more today than ever before, both interiorly and exteriorly. I did not know it was possible to suffer so much in one day. I tried to make a Holy Hour, in the course of which my spirit had a taste of the bitterness of the Garden of Gethsemane. I am fighting alone, supported by His arm, against all the difficulties that face me like unassailable walls. But I trust in the power of His name and I fear nothing (823).*

**Let us pray daily for our priests.**

## St. Faustina's Prayer for Priests

Heavenly Father, grant that our priests be strengthened and healed by the power of the Eucharist they celebrate. May the Word they proclaim give them courage and wisdom.

We pray that all those whom they seek to serve may see in them the love and care of Jesus, our Eternal High Priest, who is Lord for ever and ever. Amen.

Mary, Mother of the Church, look tenderly upon your sons, our priests.

St Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church, pray for us all.

O my Jesus, I beg You on behalf of the whole Church:

Grant it love and the light of Your Spirit and give power to the words of priests so that hardened hearts might be brought to repentance and return to You, O Lord.

Lord, give us holy priests;  
You Yourself maintain them in holiness.

O Divine and Great High Priest, may the power of Your mercy accompany them everywhere and protect them from the devil's snares which are continually being set for the souls of priests.

May the power of Your mercy, O Lord, shatter and bring to naught all that might tarnish the sanctity of priests, for You can do all things.

-- St. Faustina's Diary #1052

Jesus, my most beloved, I beg Thee for the triumph of the Church, for blessings on the Holy Father, and on all the clergy; for the grace of conversion for impenitent sinners. And I ask Thee for a special blessing and for light, O Jesus, for the priests before whom I will make my confessions throughout my lifetime.

-- St. Faustina's Diary (240)

**Let us  
pray  
daily  
for our  
priests.**

*(Continued from page 2)*

### The Hour of Prayer

The Ninth Hour is the Hour of Prayer

"Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour" Acts 3:1.

"And Cornelius said, "Four days ago, about this hour, I was keeping the ninth hour of prayer in my house..." Acts 10:30.

Jesus died during the ninth hour, hanging on the cross.

### Novena

In Catholicism a novena is the act of saying prayers for nine consecutive days.

The prayers of novena are of urgency and for a special and specific cause.

The name "novena" comes from the Latin word "novenus", meaning "nine each".

## Dear Spiritual Children of Padre Pio

I cannot wait to see everyone for this February gathering. I do miss you. December 4<sup>th</sup> seems so long ago. We are celebrating the 9-year anniversary of our spiritual team leading our group. I was asked to take over the prayer group, and asked Fr. Edward Janoch to assist me. His famous words were “What are you getting me into!” I responded with “Pray, Hope and don’t Worry!” I thank the priests, all the volunteers and spiritual children for your guidance, assistance and your dedication. We have grown from approximately 30 members to over 800 registered members. We sure have come a long way. Sister Jeanne Marie Glorioso (1938-2016) started this Padre Po Prayer Group in 1969 at Lourdes Shrine in Euclid OH. We have been blessed with many speakers, pilgrimages and blessings.

All through the month of January, I have been working on this special prayer gathering for February. We will be having a mini retreat including Eucharistic Adoration, Benediction, Confession and a healing service. Our speaker will be Fr. James Kulway from St. Barnabas Parish. I have been praying daily for you with St. Padre Pio that this retreat increases your relationship with Jesus and Mary. I have planned a 30-minute break for refreshments and plan on being there until at least noon. I promise you this is going to change your spiritual life.

I want to wish Fr. Bill Browne blessing and happiness on his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday and retirement. He has been instrumental in building our group spiritually. If he is not saying Mass, you will always find him in the confessional. Sometimes our meeting is done and he is still in the confessional. It has been a pleasure assisting Fr. Bill at our gatherings, visiting the sick

or pilgrimages. There are always a few good stories when he is around. But he has pledged to still be with us even though he is retiring. Please flood him with cards and letters at our meeting.

I received this message from Fr. Chuck Works: “Hello, my friends, I am happy to send you an update on my recovery; I was 48 days in hospital (Hillcrest and Regency) and 23 days in rehab / physical therapy; I was sent home last week and have been staying with friends in the area; the doctors are looking for a good recovery though that will take a little more time. I cannot tell you how much your prayers and intentions have helped me over these last two and a half months; hope to see each of you again as soon as my health (and energy) allows! God bless you, your families and all of your witness for Him in the world! Fr C.”

Next month I will have details on the pilgrimages that are being planned as well as some exciting news for our Prayer Group this year!

Sincerely,

Cindy Russo TOF  
Group Leader



Baby Brooklyn is getting stronger and stronger every day.

*Dear Members and Friends of Padre Pio:*

*Mark Twain once said: “The news of my demise has been greatly exaggerated.” It is the same with me. Although I will be of retirement age in February, I have chosen to continue active ministry. I have loved being a part of our group and plan to continue to serve you as best I can.*



*Lent and Easter are just around the corner and I pray that we might keep Christ foremost in our hearts. Some of the healings and miracles that we have both witnessed and been a part of, continue to keep me in “awesome wonder.”*



*The readings at Mass have been guiding us to service, sacrifice and love. Let us open our hearts that Christ might not just find a home there, but flourish as we continue to make our hearts bigger.*

Sincerely,

Rev. William Browne  
St. Augustine Church

## KEEP OUR SICK SISTERS & BROTHERS IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS

Contact Pat Shea (330-825-4659 or billpatshea@gmail.com) to add a member to the list.

Mario Bruschi	Bob Garcar	Joe Morici	Mary Smith
Sarojini Bruschi	Rose Gullo	Fr. Terry O'Connell	Edward Toth
Gia Cefaratti	Kyle Hrabusa	Molly O'Leary	Patricia Toth
Virginia DeJesus	Michael Hurley	Eleanor Phillips	Joseph Wojtyla
Serena DiCillo	Helen Husky	Carmie Pruchnichi	Fr. Chuck Works
Roy Evans	Tony Kazmierczak	Steve Pruchnichi	Colin Zinasky
Michele Ferrara	Jonathan Lipreads	Judy Purdy	Ray Zozar
Cynthia Fonseca	Mark Magda	Brooklyn Russell	
Oscar Fonseca	Fr. Pio Mandato	Phyllis Schilling	
Marty Franck	Fr. Cory Mayer	Regis Schilling	



### † OUR CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF OUR RECENTLY DECEASED †

Helen Apiyo  
Chuck Magda

We welcome Pat Shea as our new Sunshine Person, and thank Helen Husky for the many years she served in that role.

## Corner

Jake's

For February, I am writing about the Protomartyrs of the Salesian Congregation: Saints Luigi Versiglia, Bishop and Martyr, and Callistus Caravario, Priest and Martyr. Luigi Versiglia was born on June 5, 1873, in Oliva Gessi. In his childhood, he frequently

served Mass and was involved with his local parish. Since he was so involved with the Church, many people thought he would become a priest. However, Luigi never wanted to hear about a possible priestly vocation because he wanted to become a veterinarian. However, at the age of 12, he began to study at the oratory run by Saint John Bosco. There, Luigi started to think about a priestly vocation. After the death of Saint John Bosco in 1888, Luigi, inspired by the ceremony where seven missionaries received their mission cross, finally decided to become a Salesian hoping to become a missionary.

After gaining a degree in philosophy, Luigi was ordained a priest in 1895. Blessed Michael Rua, Saint John Bosco's successor, appointed Luigi novice director, a position which he served for 10 years with patience, kindness, and strictness for the Salesian Rule.

Luigi finally got his wish to become a missionary. In 1906, after much insistence of the bishop of Macao, six Salesians arrived in China, headed by Luigi. Luigi built churches and schools and established a Salesian

"mother house" in China. On January 9, 1921, Luigi was ordained as the first bishop of Shiuchow. As bishop, Luigi was recognized as a tireless worker in the Lord's vineyard and built a seminary, and hospitals and residences for the elderly and the needy.



Written by: Jake Snyder

He was especially devoted to the formation of catechists.

Callistus Caravario was born on June 18, 1903, in Cuorné and was loved by the townspeople because of his humble nature and great love for prayer. He was also known for being very obedient to his parents. Callistus had a great love for his mother, which is evident from the many letters he wrote to her from China. Callistus and his family moved closer to the Porta Nuova Salesian Oratory, where he served daily Mass and studied. He was an excellent student, and at the advice of Fr. Garelli, rector of the Porta Nuova Oratory, Callistus entered the Salesians. In 1922, Luigi was in Turin and gave a talk on the missions. Callistus was very inspired and declared, "Bishop [Luigi Versiglia], you will see me in China."

With his mother's blessing, Callistus arrived in China and was known for his love for evangelization and piety. He desired to be an authentic worker in the Lord's vineyard and wrote to his mother to "pray that your Callistus may not be just a half priest, but completely a priest." On May 18, 1929, in Shiuchow, Luigi ordained Callistus to the priesthood. Callistus was sent to the mission in Linchow, where he was very devoted to the education of the village children.

On February 13, 1930, Luigi accompanied Callistus on his apostolic visit to the mission in Linchow. Some young students who were studying in Shiuchow went also. On February 25, pirates stopped their boat desiring to take the female students traveling with them. Immediately, Luigi and Callistus tried to defend the girls, but they were forcibly taken and shot, but the two Martyrs heard each other's confessions.

Pope Saint Paul VI declared them Martyrs in 1976, and Saint John Paul II beatified them in 1983 and canonized Saints Luigi Versiglia and Callistus Caravario on October 1, 2000, with 118 other Martyrs of China. Their personal feast is February 25th - the date of their Martyrdom, and 120 Martyrs of China are venerated collectively on July 9th.

**BEST WISHES to our Spiritual Children celebrating birthdays and special occasions in the month of February, especially our Padre Pio Prayer Group of Cleveland celebrating its 9th Anniversary!**

**WEBSITE: [WWW.PADREPIOCLEVELAND.ORG](http://WWW.PADREPIOCLEVELAND.ORG) CONTACT US: [INFO@PADREPIOCLEVELAND.ORG](mailto:INFO@PADREPIOCLEVELAND.ORG)  
FACEBOOK: [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/PADREPIOCLEVELAND](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/PADREPIOCLEVELAND) TWITTER: [@PADREPIOCLEVELAND](https://twitter.com/PADREPIOCLEVELAND)**

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