



EXCERPT FROM A SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Even as a young boy, Francesco had already shown signs of extraordinary gifts of grace. At the age of five, he dedicated his life to God. From his early childhood, he showed a remarkable recollection of spirit and a love for the religious life. His mother described him as a quiet child who, from his earliest years, loved to go to church and to pray. As a young boy, he was able to see and communicate with, not only his guardian angel but also with Jesus and the Virgin Mary. In his simplicity, Francesco assumed everyone had the same experiences. Once a woman who noticed his spiritual demeanor asked him, “When did you consecrate your life to God? Was it at your first Holy Communion?” and he answered, “Always, daughter, always.”

When Francesco was fifteen years old, he was admitted to the novitiate of the Capuchin Order of the Friars Minor in Morcone, Italy. He was admired by his fellow-students as well as by his Superiors for his exemplary behavior and his deep piety. One of the novices stated,

“There was something which distinguished him from the other students. Whenever I saw him, he was always humble, recollected, and silent. What struck me most about Brother Pio was his love of prayer.”

St. Pio of Pietrelcina, pray for us.

<https://padrepiodevotions.org/a-short-biography/>

TIMELY REFLECTION from *Padre Pio's Spiritual Direction for Every Day*

November 30

Remember that peace can be maintained in one's spirit even in the midst of all the storms of this life. Peace, as you know well, essentially consists in being in harmony with our neighbors and wanting good for them. It also consists in being in friendship with God through his sanctifying grace. The proof of being united to God is the moral certainty that there is no mortal sin weighing our souls down. Peace, finally, consists in having won the victory over the world, the devil, and our own passions. Tell me now, isn't it true that the peace Jesus brings us can guard us very well not only when our spirits have an abundance of consolations but also when our hearts are immersed in bitterness because of the roaring and shrieking of the enemy? (To Raffaelina Cerase, October 10, 1914)

December 1

Do not fear; Jesus is with you, and you are with him! ...You have reason to complain, my dearest daughter, because most of the time you find yourself in darkness. You seek God, you sigh, you call on him, and you cannot discover any trace of him. It seems that God is hiding himself, that he has abandoned you! But, I repeat, do not be afraid. Jesus is still with you now, and you are in him and with him. He conceals himself, he hides himself to whet your love.

Pasquale, Gianluigi. *Padre Pio's Spiritual Direction for Every Day* (pp. 248-249). St. Anthony Messenger Press, Servant Books. Kindle Edition.

https://www.amazon.com/Padre-Pios-Spiritual-Direction-Every/dp/1616360054/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=padre+pio+reflections&qid=1575741233&sr=8-1