



THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. PADRE PIO RECEIVING THE STIGMATA OF JESUS CHRIST *and the wounds of the Church in our day*



BISHOP

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St. Padre Pio lived on this earth from 1887 to 1968. On September 23, we commemorated the 50th anniversary of St. Padre Pio's death. On September 20, we celebrated the 100th anniversary of St. Pio receiving the stigmata of Jesus Christ.

My father had a correspondence in the 1950s and 1960s with Padre Pio, through his English secretary Maria Pyle, and so our family has always had a devotion to St. Pio. The devotion to St. Pio on Long Island is deep in its height, depth and breadth, and so we celebrate together his intercession for the Church, our parishes, our families and our intentions.

The stigmata are the wounds of Christ — in his hands, in his feet and in his side — which St. Padre Pio experienced in His Passion, crucifixion and death. Certain saints in the history of the Church have been given the gift of the stigmata as a special sign of their union with the Crucified Christ.

As a Capuchin Friar, St. Pio was a son of St. Francis of Assisi (1181/1182-1226), who also received and lived his life

with the stigmata. St. Pio's stigmata showed how he lived the Passion and Crucifixion of Christ in a mystical way.

His wounds helped him to understand the cosmic power of the Catholic Mass, the unbloody renewal of Christ's sacrifice on Calvary and the relationship between a holy living of the priesthood and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

His wounds helped him to be a Doctor of Mercy in the confessional and a Doctor of Mercy for those who had experienced all types of trauma in life. St. Pio's wounds gave him a unique understanding of how to heal the wounds of the Church throughout history.

During these painful and traumatic moments for our Church, we ask St. Padre Pio's intercession to help heal the wounds of the Church in our time. †

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we thank you for the holy witness of your priest, St. Padre Pio, and the gift of the stigmata that you gave him.

We ask through St. Pio's intercession that the wounds and traumas of survivors of abuse and the wounds of the entire Church may be touched by the glorified wounds of the risen Christ. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.