

To All National and International Padre Pio Prayer Groups

Dear Spiritual Assistants, Animators and Members of the Prayer Groups of Padre Pio of Pietrelcina,

on 5 May 1966, while celebrating the tenth anniversary of the inauguration of the “Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza”, Padre Pio offered a paternal reflection to all the Prayer Groups spread throughout the world. Padre Pio reminded them that they were associated with the Casa Sollievo and that they, then as now, constituted *“the advance guard of this Citadel of Charity, gardens of faith and hearths of love, in which Christ Himself is present every time you gather for prayer and the Eucharistic Agape”*. Padre Pio continued affirming that: *“Prayer is the uniting force of all good souls, that moves the world, renews consciences, sustains the “Casa”, comforts the suffering, heals the sick, sanctifies work, elevates healthcare, gives moral strength and Christian resignation to human suffering, spreads the smile and blessing of God on the weak and weary”*. He concluded saying: *“Pray much, my children, pray always, without tiring, because I entrust to prayer this Work that God has wanted and that will continue to sustain itself and prosper through the assistance of Divine Providence and the spiritual and charitable contribution of all the souls that are praying”*.

For these reasons and because of the critical times in which we live this year too, the **Padre Pio Prayer Group of the Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza**, with the encouragement and blessing of the General Director of the Prayer Groups (Monsignor Michele Castoro), the General Vice Director (Dr. Leandro Cascavilla) and the General Secretary (Fr. Carlos Laborde) **invites all the Padre Pio Prayer Groups throughout the world to gather, each in their own area, on June 16, 2017** (15th anniversary of the canonization of St. Pio), if possible beginning at 6:00 PM, **united in common prayer** to implore the Lord, through the intercession of Our Lady of Grace and St. Pio of Pietrelcina, for the following prayer intentions:

- Prayer for Pope Francis, the Catholic Church and all persecuted Christians throughout the world;
- Prayer for Monsignor Michele Castoro, General Director of the Padre Pio Prayer Groups and President of the Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza;
- Prayer that all the Prayer Groups of Padre Pio become *“beacons of light to the world, and gardens of faith, and hearths of love”*, as St. Pio desired;
- Prayer for peace and conversion of hearts, of families, of the whole world, and for those who govern the nations;
- Prayer for the Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza, so that it may continue to grow as a *“temple of prayer and science”*, for the administrators and medical personnel;
- Prayer for the spiritual and physical well-being of all the sick and infirm;
- Prayer for religious vocations;
- Prayer for souls in purgatory;
- Prayer for the particular intentions of each group.

The Padre Pio Prayer Group of the Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza will gather for prayer on June 16th 2017, for the intentions mentioned above, with the following program:

6:00 PM: Eucharistic Adoration - 7:00 PM: Rosary - 7:30 PM: Holy Mass

The Prayer Groups who this year too would like to join with us in this common prayer initiative are kindly asked to inform the Centro Gruppi di Preghiera of their participation (e-mail: centrogruppidipreghiera@operadipadrepio.it)

We are confident that our unanimous and heartfelt prayer to the Lord, offered with faith and total trust in the intercession of Our Lady of Grace and St. Pio of Pietrelcina, will be the forerunner of abundant graces and heavenly blessings for all of us and the whole world.

Fraternally, Peace and Blessings to all.

Padre Pio Prayer Group “Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza”
Spiritual Assistant: Fr. Vincenzo Bencivenga
Group Leader: Dr. Gennaro Cera

San Giovanni Rotondo, 5 May 2017

Centro Gruppi di Preghiera di Padre Pio - Viale Cappuccini, 172 – 71013 SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO (FG)
0039(0)882 410252/410486 fax. 0039(0)882 452579 Email: centrogruppidipreghiera@operapadrepio.it