



FONDAZIONE DI RELIGIONE E DI CULTO
**CASA SOLLIEVO DELLA
SOFFERENZA**
CENTRO GRUPPI DI PREGHIERA

Fr. Luciano Lotti OFM Cap.
Segretario Generale

Peace and goodwill.

A few weeks ago I received the nomination for General Secretary of the Padre Pio Prayer Groups. A sincere thank you to those who had faith in me, in particular the Archbishop of Manfredonia-Vieste-San Giovanni Rotondo Mons. Michele Castoro, General Director of the Prayer Groups, the Provincial Minister, Fr. Maurizio Placentino and Dr. Domenico Crupi, General Director of the House for the Relief of Suffering, who welcomed my nomination with enthusiasm. A sincere thank you also to Padre Carlo Maria Laborde, who preceded me in this position. Affectionate greetings to all who are a part of the Prayer Groups and in particular to the leaders laity and priests.

The Church and Society in this moment look for signs of hope that the Lord sends, for reassurance that He has not abandoned us but follows us with love. Especially in these times when so much suffering and so much hatred, surrounds our homes and attacks our most cherished ideals.

Padre Pio is known everywhere as a sign of hope, he himself used to invite one to have trust in the Lord and presented his Work as a gift of God's Providence.

Let us therefore not be overcome with feelings of discouragement and defeat and welcome the "crosses" that come into our lives as occasions for purification and a means to meet Christ, who preceded with His own cross in the World, which is no longer an instrument of death but of salvation.

Communal prayer in our Prayer Groups is the soul and distinctive sign of our hope. The Virgin Mary can be anywhere, the morning star that rises in difficult moments to reassure us of protection and Divine intervention.

Padre Pio's joy and smile accompanies us in daily life, in the certainty that "everyone can say Padre Pio is mine".

I hope to meet each one of you and together invoke the blessing of Our Lord on us and on the whole Church.

May the Lord gives us peace.

Fra Luciano

San Giovanni Rotondo, *Feast of St. Francis of Assisi*, October 4, 2017