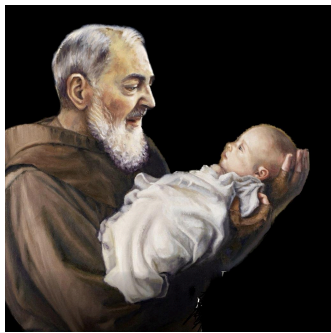




TASTE Reflection Questions
25 September 2025

**We Are Pilgrims of Hope: Pray, Hope, &
Don't Worry ~Padre Pio & Beatitudes**

Fr. Larry Swink

Pray, Hope, and Don't Worry ~ Padre Pio



1. What did you find most interesting about this talk?

2. Fr. Swink said that one of the best indicators of how we are doing spiritually is to compare ourselves to what Jesus says in the Beatitudes (See back). He said that God is doing something powerful in our lives and that He wants to individually conform us to Him to become Saints!

- Which beatitude(s) do you feel that you live out well? Which ones seem more challenging?
- Did you pick up any tips from this talk on how to better live them out? What were those tips?
- Regarding our loved ones, what can you do when you see indifference in them?

3. Fr. Swink shared a number of quotes from Padre Pio (see underlined text on back).

- Which ones did you most resonate with?
- Which ones did you find thought provoking?

4. Fr. Swink told a number of stories. Which did you find most interesting and WHY?
Have you shared it with others?

- The two friends that loved baseball and what happened when one died of cancer
- The young boy who did a mock confession and was challenged by the priest
- The story of Jackie Robinson – the 1st African American to play in Major League Baseball
- Father Swink when contemplating whether to marry or become a priest was approached by a homeless man
- Fr. Swink who gave his Pastor a burrito as a thoughtful gift upon the death of his father!

“BLESSED BE THE POOR IN SPIRIT FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN” (MATT: 5:3):

Questions for us: What does it mean to be “poor in spirit?” We realize that we are broken, and live in a very broken world. Is our spiritual life moving us towards God? Is it moving us towards heaven? Are we detaching from this earth?

Padre Pio: He had a great longing for heaven. “Love and fear must go united together, fear without love becomes cowardice, love without fear becomes presumption. When there is love without fear, loves runs without prudence, without restraint, without taking care where it is going.” One way we know we are growing closer to God is when we are losing our fear. We realize that God has a plan, He is working in our lives, and He will give us His grace to do what He wants us to do if we rely on Him.

“BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO MOURN, FOR THEY SHALL BE COMFORTED” (MATT: 5:4):

Questions for us: What do we mourn about, what do we shed our tears for? Is it worth it? Do we realize that our tears are powerful? Think of St. Monica. We must have hope that God is going to give us and our families what we need. Father suggested doubling down in areas where we see indifference around us. For instance, if we see an indifference with the sacrament of confession, we go more often. God will use our desire for holiness to permeate through us to others. The more we mourn, the more others will also. Mourn for our culture.

Padre Pio: He spent hours hearing confessions. If we are meant for heaven, we should mourn our sins. “Let us bind ourselves tightly to the sorrowful heart of our heavenly mother, & reflect on its boundless grief & how precious is our soul.” We tend to mourn for things that do not matter. If we find ourselves caring about our souls, and feeling bad when we sin, we are growing in holiness.

“BLESSED ARE THE MEEK, FOR THEY SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH” (MATT: 5:5):

Questions for us: How do we deal with anger? Anger is not always a sin, just when it is unreasonable or irrational. The devil can pick on our anger. What does it mean to be meek? To be meek is to take our passions and keep them within reason, so we do not lose our cool. Pray for the grace to be meek in a world where there is much to be angry about. To be meek is to be strong in the Lord, we fight back with prayer, with mortification and sacrifice, we fight back with speaking up, with being joyfully orthodox.

“BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HUNGER & THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS, FOR THEY SHALL BE SATISFIED” (MATT: 5:6):

Questions for us: Is our hunger for God, for prayer, for the Eucharist, for the Mass, as great or greater than our hunger for earthly foods? Many of us hunger for God more now. How is our prayer life? Do we fight against sloth, that resistance to the things of God? God is always speaking to us. Sometimes, we do not have the ears to listen to Him. Do we spend time in front of the blessed sacrament? Do we give God permission to work through us in the way He thinks best?

Padre Pio: “Today’s society does not pray. That is why it is falling apart.” “Kneel down and render the tribute of your presence and devotion to Jesus in the blessed sacrament. Confide all your needs to Him, along with those of others. Speak to Him with filial abandonment. Give free reign to your heart and give Him complete freedom to work in you as He thinks best.”

“BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL, FOR THEY SHALL OBTAIN MERCY” (MATT: 5:7):

Questions for us: How are we doing with the works of mercy? What is our approach to suffering? When we see suffering, do we realize that maybe God wants us to be a part of the equation to alleviate that suffering? Little things matter. We should not get self-consumed. Prayer leads us to give ourselves to other people.

“BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART, FOR THEY SHALL SEE GOD” (MATT: 5:8):

Questions for us: The Lord wants to purify our intentions. Do we do things to be applauded by others or to please God?

Padre Pio: Padre Pio did all for God.

“BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS, FOR THEY SHALL BE CALLED SONS OF GOD” (MATT: 5:9):

Questions for us: Do we bring peace into the world?

“BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE PERSECUTED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS’ SAKE, FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN” (MATT: 5:10):

Questions for us: Charlie Kirk got killed for doing something that was true. We are at a stage of history where we are all going to suffer for doing the right thing. Are we afraid of that, or do we realize what a beautiful thing it could be if God asks us to give our life for Him? Do we realize that the day in and day out of reality is actually a means to holiness? In order to do it well, we have to die to ourselves, and there will be persecution.

“BLESSED ARE YOU WHEN MEN REVILE YOU AND PERSECUTE YOU AND UTTER ALL KINDS OF EVIL AGAINST YOU FALSELY ON MY ACCOUNT. REJOICE AND BE GLAD, FOR YOUR REWARD IS GREAT IN HEAVEN...” (MATT: 5:11-12):

Questions for us: Some said that Charlie Kirk got what he deserved. Has humanity sunk that low? We should never wish anyone dead, but it could be a good sign for his soul. To be a good Catholic is not easy. God will give us grace. We are safe with God.

Padre Pio: “Let the world turn topsy-turvy, everything be in darkness and Mount Sinai all aflame, covered with lightning, thunder -- God is with you. But if God lives in the darkness and Mt. Sinai is all aflame, covered with lightning, thunder, and noise, will we not be safe near Him?” So... “Pray, hope and don’t worry.”