



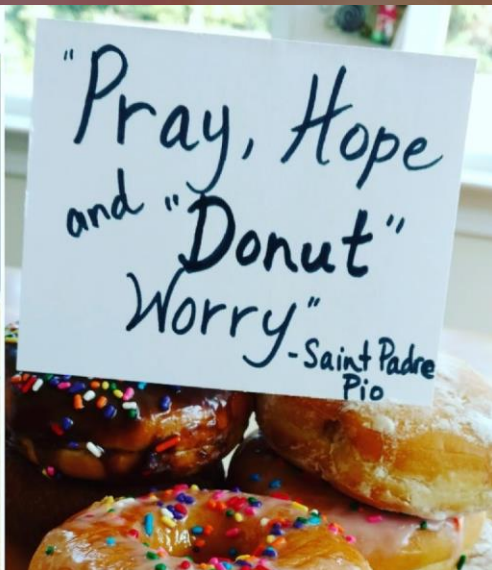
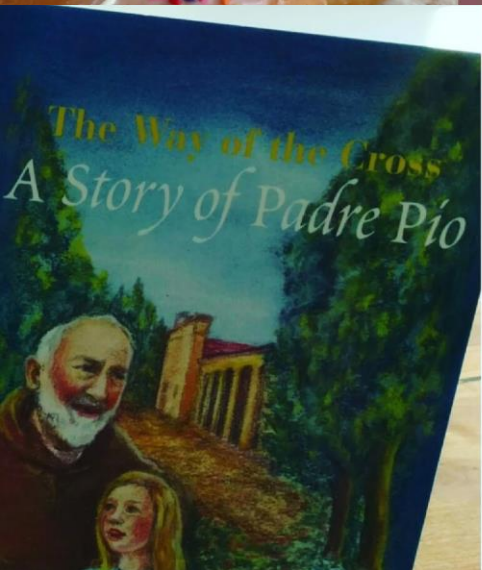
**“EMBRACING GOD’S CALL WITH
MARY’S EXAMPLE AND PADRE
PIO’S GUIDING MAXIM.”**





Saint Padre Pio
Feast Day
September 23

@ A Slice of Smith Life



**“PRAY, HOPE, AND DON’T
WORRY. WORRY IS USELESS.
GOD IS MERCIFUL AND WILL
HEAR YOUR PRAYER.”
SAINT PADRE PIO,**

*His most famous advice, simple but life, changing, summarizes
my vocational journey:*

PADRE PIO & MARIAN DEVOTION

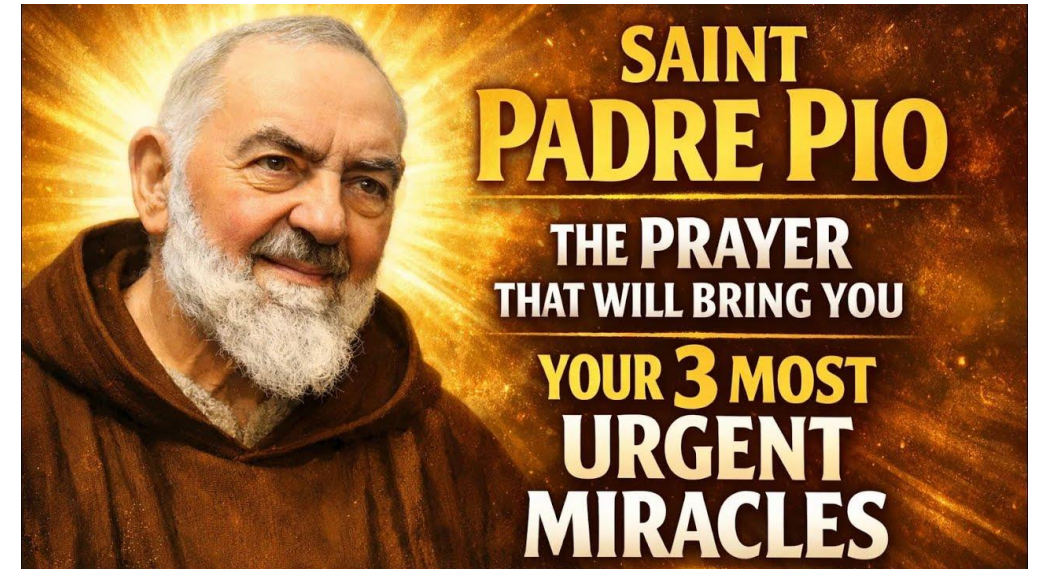
Padre Pio's spiritual life was profoundly Marian. He believed Mary was the safest and shortest path to Jesus. He often said:

"Love the Madonna and pray the Rosary."

"The Rosary is the weapon for these times."

"To Mary we must entrust everything."

For him, the motto *pray, hope, and don't worry* always passed through Mary's maternal heart.



MARY AS MODEL OF “PRAY, HOPE, AND DON’T WORRY”

Mary lived Padre Pio’s maxim better than anyone:

Pray: At the Annunciation she prayed: “Be it done unto me according to your word.” Her first instinct was surrender to God.

Hope: She trusted God’s promises even when she did not understand them—at Bethlehem, in exile, and even at the Cross.

Don’t worry: At the foot of the Cross she did not fall into despair. She stood in steadfast faith, entrusting everything to God.

Mary is the icon of trusting abandonment—the woman who teaches us how to live Padre Pio’s message.

MY VOCATIONAL JOURNEY FROM CAMEROON TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Early Life - Birthplace: Jakiri, Cameroon.

Vocation and Formation

- From a young age (around 13–14 years old), Paul felt called to the priesthood and pursued that vocation.
- He pursued seminary studies initially in Cameroon, attending schools including:
 - Catholic Primary School in Jakiri
 - St. Aloysius Minor Seminary, Kitiwum
 - St. John Mary Vianney Spiritual Formation Center, Bafut
 - St. Thomas Aquinas Major Seminary, Bambui
- He moved to the United States in 2017. Later, he completed major seminary formation at St. Mary's Seminary and University in Roland Park, Baltimore.

Ordination and Ministry

- Ordained a transitional Deacon on May 21, 2022.
- Ordained a priest on June 24, 2023, by Archbishop William E. Lori.
- Associate Pastor – Pastorate of the Church of the Resurrection and St. Paul Catholic Church in Ellicott City

Lesson:

When we plant hope instead of despair, even in tragedy, we open our hearts to God's miracles. Hope transforms fear into trust.



PRAY -
ABIDE IN
GOD DAILY

Saint Padre Pio says, “**Prayer is the oxygen of the soul.**”

Mary Helps Us Pray Better

Padre Pio believed Mary magnifies our prayer:

She intercedes for us

She teaches us how to meditate on Christ

She forms our hearts to trust God

REFLECTION & PRACTICES

Reflection

Prayer is not merely asking—it is **being with God**.

Women are the heart of their homes. When a woman prays, **her whole family is drawn into grace**.

Padre Pio prayed in silence, fatigue, suffering, and adoration. His life teaches us: **prayer is relationship**.

Practices

Pray from the heart, not only the lips.

Use the Rosary as your spiritual weapon.

HOPE - ***TRUST THE GOD WHO SEES BEYOND TODAY***

Padre Pio often said: “**Don’t lose heart if it seems God is not answering. He is working in silence.**”

Mary Strengthens Our Hope: Mary is Mother of Mercy; Refuge of Sinners; Cause of Our Joy. She leads us gently from fear to hope.

Hope in Hardship

Women often face: Family crises; Financial difficulties; Health concerns; Loneliness; Broken relationships; Yet hope remains.

GOD IS THE ONLY SOURCE OF LASTING STABILITY.

Saint John Paul II exhorts us: “Never, ever give up on hope.”

Saint Augustine adds: “Hope has two daughters: anger at the way things are, and courage to change them.”

Scripture

Hebrews 6:19 — “Hope is the anchor of the soul.”

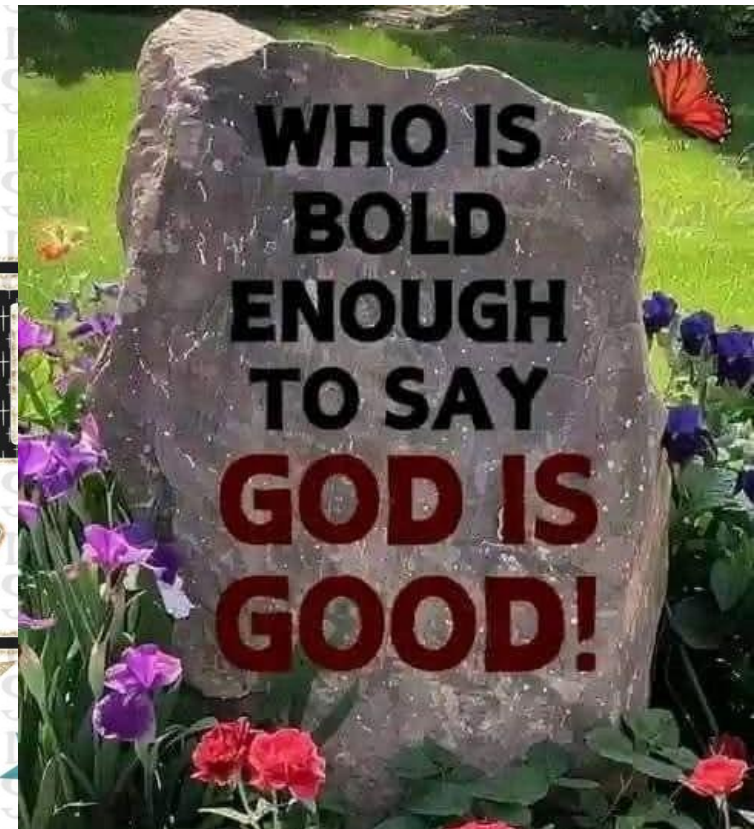
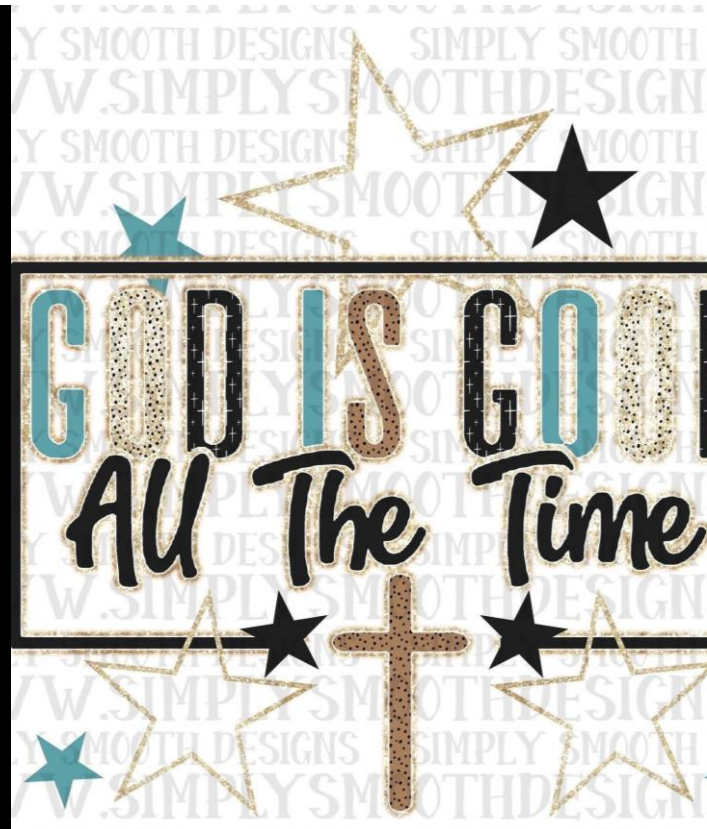
Romans 5:5 — “Hope does not disappoint”

Reflection

Hope doesn't deny pain; it proclaims God's presence in pain.

Padre Pio suffered much but never lost trust in God's timing.

Women who hope become beacons for their families.



DON'T WORRY - *SURRENDER THE BURDEN*

Padre Pio - "Worry is a lack of trust in God's power."

**Mary Helps Us Not to Worry Because She Is our
Mother**

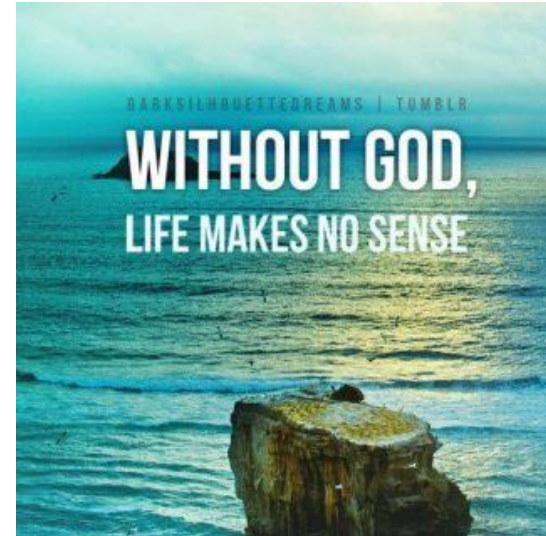
A child who hands a problem to a loving mother is
relieved. Catholic spirituality reflects this:

"Give it to Mary."

"Let her hold your anxieties."

"She will bring it to Jesus." (Through Mary to Jesus).

**Worry is believing God will mess it up. Our job is
obedience; the outcome is His. Trust replaces worry.**



Man says... Show me
and I'll trust you.

God says... Trust me
and I'll show you.

Psalm 126:6

SCRIPTURE & REFLECTION & PRACTICES

Scripture

Matthew 6:34 – *“Don’t worry about everyday life...”*

Philippians 4:6–7 – *“Be anxious for nothing...”*

Reflection

Worry is natural. Living in worry is spiritual suffocation.

Surrender is not weakness—it is powerful trust.

Practices

Begin each day: **“Jesus, I trust in You.”**

End each night by handing your burdens to God.

HAIL HOLY QUEEN:

In hopelessness let's turn to Mary with the ancient prayer: Hail Holy Queen: "To you do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears..."

Our world teaches escape—leave the crisis, quit the job, break the relationship. But **endurance forms character**, and character strengthens hope.

Jesus promises: "I am with you always, until the end of the world."
(Matthew 28:20)

Because of this promise: **there is never a reason to lose hope.**

**4. This earth is but a vale of tears,
O Maria!
A place of banishment, of fears,
O Maria!
Refrain**

SUMMARY: MARY & PADRE PIO'S MESSAGE

Mary shows us how to: Pray with surrender



Hope with perseverance



Live without crippling worry.



Padre Pio believed entrusting ourselves to Mary is the most practical way to live his maxim: “**Pray, hope, and don’t worry.**”



CLOSING EXHORTATION

Padre Pio says, “Have courage and do not fear the assaults of the devil... It is a healthy sign if he roars outside your conscience.”