

Encounter the Saints Posters

Set 2

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Reverse side.

Saint Pio of Pietrelcina

Francesco Forgione's family lived in the village of Pietrelcina, Italy. Francesco entered the Capuchin Franciscan friary in 1901 when he was fifteen. He received the new name Brother Pio. After he was ordained a priest, he became known as Padre Pio. (Padre means Father in both Italian and Spanish.)

Padre Pio often felt a pain in his hands. He also noticed red marks on his palms, but he didn't tell anyone about them. Then one day when he was praying before a crucifix, light from the figure of Jesus touched Padre Pio's hands, feet, and side. Wounds appeared where the light had flashed. God had given Padre Pio wounds like Jesus had on the cross! These wounds are called the stigmata.

Padre Pio's life was not easy. Some people thought that he was just pretending to have the stigmata. They misunderstood him and did not treat him fairly. Padre Pio struggled, but he accepted his sufferings with love. He always used the special gifts God gave him to relieve the pain and suffering of others.

Padre Pio was compassionate and kind to everyone. He brought people God's forgiveness and peace in the sacrament of Reconciliation. He even had the gift of reading hearts. Once, Padre Pio heard the confession of a young Polish priest. Pio told the priest that someday he would become Pope. This Polish priest was none other than Pope John Paul II!

Sometimes, through God's grace, Padre Pio also worked miracles and cured people of their illnesses. He built a large hospital to help the sick and suffering, especially those who were poor. He offered God his own sufferings so that as many people as possible would go to heaven.

Padre Pio died on September 23, 1968. Pope John Paul II canonized him on June 16, 2002.

Saint Pio, help us to do what we can to comfort those who are sad or suffering.

Based on Saint Pio of Pietrelcina: Rich in Love. www.paulinekids.org

Front side.

SAINT

Elizabeth Ann Seton

1774–1821
Feastday: January 4

SAINT

Pio of Pietrelcina

1887–1968
Feastday: September 23

SAINT

Juan Diego

1474–1548
Feastday: December 9

SAINT

Francis of Assisi

1181–1226
Feastday: October 4

SAINT

Julie Billiard

1751–1816
Feastday: May 13

SAINT

Martin de Porres

1579–1639
Feastday: November 3

SAINT

Edith Stein

1891–1942
Feastday: August 9

SAINT

Mary, Mother of God

Feastday: January 1

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Therèse of Lisieux

1873–1897
Feastday: October 1

SAINT

Frances Xavier Cabrini

1850–1917
Feastday: November 13

Provide your children with the inspiring stories of each of these friends of God! Full-length biographies are available in the companion Encounter the Saints Series. Visit www.paulinekids.org for details.

