

First Communion Preparation – Grade 2 – Lesson 2 Knowing, Loving and Serving God

* The New Saint Joseph First Communion Catechism – Lesson 1, God Made Us, pg. 9-11

*Read and Discuss short article on Padre Pio

Questions and Answers to Memorize (to answer orally):

Q: Why did God make you? A: God made me to show His goodness and to make me happy with Him in heaven.

Q: What must you do to be happy with God in heaven? A: To be happy with God in heaven I must know Him, love Him, and serve Him in this world.

(the colouring page is just for fun. We read about Pius X in the book Little Nellie of Holy God. Pius X enacted the changes that allowed much younger children than in the past to receive their first Holy Communion)

If you have any questions or need help or resources please contact me anytime:

Roberta MacEwan

macewan@ns.sympatico.ca 787-2103



St. Pio of Pietrelcina Sept. 23

Born to a southern Italian farm family, the son of Grazio, a shepherd. At age 15 he entered the novitiate of the Capuchin Friars in Morcone, and joined the order at age 19. He suffered several health problems, and at one point his family thought he had tuberculosis. He was ordained at age 22 on 10 August 1910.

While praying before a cross on September 20, 1918, Padre Pio received the stigmata. He is the first priest ever to be so blessed. As word spread, especially after American soldiers brought home stories of Padre Pio following WWII, the priest himself became a point of pilgrimage for both the pious and the curious. He would hear confessions by the hour, reportedly able to read the consciences of those who held back. He was reportedly able to bi-locate, levitate, and heal by touch.

In 1956 he founded the House for the Relief of Suffering, a hospital that serves 60,000 a year. Today there are over 400,000 members worldwide in prayer groups began by Padre Pio in the 1920's.

His canonization miracle involved the cure of Matteo Pio Colella, age 7, the son of a doctor who works in the House for the Relief of Suffering, the hospital in San Giovanni Rotondo. On the night of June 20, 2000, Matteo was admitted to the intensive care unit of the hospital with meningitis. By morning doctors had lost hope for him as nine of the boy's internal organs had ceased to give signs of life. That night, during a prayer vigil attended by Matteo's mother and some Capuchin friars of Padre Pio's monastery, the child's condition improved suddenly. When he awoke from the coma, Matteo said that he had seen an elderly man with a white beard and a long, brown habit, who said to him: "Don't worry, you will soon be cured." The miracle was approved by the Congregation and Pope John Paul II on 20 December 2001.



Things to Do:

- St. Pio is a saint of the last century, so there are many pictures and biographies to read more about his life. Having this gift of the stigmata was very hard on his life — both physically and emotionally. Find out more about the stigmata and his other mystical gifts, such as bilocation. St. Pio also had great devotion to his guardian angel.
- From the Catholic Culture library: Biography of Padre Pio of Pietrelcina, The Devil and Padre Pio, Five Maxims for Living a Devout Life and His Wounds Spoke of God's Love for All. There are many other documents in the library which may be found by searching for "pio".