

The FIAT Newsletter

A Family Ministry Publication

St. Robert Bellarmine Parish & School, Omaha, NE.

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New Changes to the St. Robert Bellarmine Website **Find information to enhance your spiritual journey**

Take some time to visit the new St. Robert Bellarmine website at www.stroberts.com. Besides being able to review schedules, calendar of events and bulletins, **the website provides valuable links to enhance your spiritual journey. Explore the links to: The saint of the day, daily Mass readings, and Catholic world news.** In addition, the current FIAT Newsletter and back issues can be found under the "Formation" heading on the St. Robert home page.

"Half an hour's meditation each day is essential, except when you are busy. Then a full hour is needed." – St. Francis de Sales

What should we be doing when the priest is praying during the Mass?

At Mass, we are not an audience but a congregation. There is a difference. An audience is there to be entertained, whereas a congregation is present to join in the sacrifice offered to God. **We are called to full, active, and conscious participation in the Mass.**

But what does it mean to actively participate when the priest has a part to say and we don't? **In these moments, active participation demands attentive listening and praying with the priest in our hearts.** And, as the priest holds up Jesus in the Eucharist, we are called to be as Mary was at the foot of the Cross, cooperating in His offering. **In our hearts, we should offer Jesus to God the Father with the priest for the salvation and sanctification of the world.** And we should offer ourselves to the Father through Him, with Him, and in Him for the salvation of the world, too.

From: [Do I Have to Go? 101 Questions about the Mass, the Eucharist, and Your Spiritual Life](#) by Matthew Pinto and Chris Stefanick.

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Rediscovering the Mass

Beginning with the First Sunday of Advent, November 27, 2011, the Catholic Church in the United States will worship according to the new translation of the Roman Missal. This column will explore the meaning behind some of the changes.

The Greeting

One of the most noticeable changes in the Mass **parts is the people's response to the priest's greeting, "The Lord be with you." In the new translation, we will reply, "And with your spirit."** This more adequately reflects the Latin text of the Mass and the biblical language of St. Paul (see Galatians 6:18; Philippians 4:23; 2 Timothy 4:22).

It also more fully expresses an important theological point. When we said, "And also with you" in the older translation, one might get the impression that our response was merely intended to express an exchange of personal greetings or reciprocal good will: "May the Lord be with you too, Father."

But there is much more to this response. When a man is ordained a priest, the Holy Spirit comes upon him in a unique way, enabling him to perform the sacred rites of the Mass and consecrate the Eucharist. **By responding, "And with your spirit," we acknowledge the Spirit's activity through the priest during the sacred liturgy.** It is Jesus Christ who is the head of the community gathered for Mass and it is his Spirit who is the primary actor in the liturgy, regardless who the particular priest celebrating the Mass may be.

Source: [A Guide to the New Translation of the Mass](#) by Edward Sri

Profile of a Saint
St. Padre Pio
(1887-1968)
Feast Day September 23

Francesco Forgione, named in honor of St. Francis of Assisi, was born to peasant farmers in the small Italian village of Pietrelcina on May 25, 1887. From an early age, it was evident that he was a special child of God. Francesco was very devout and at during his childhood felt drawn to the priesthood. He became a Capuchin novice at the age of sixteen and received the habit in 1902. Francesco was ordained to the priesthood in 1910 after seven years of study and became known as Padre Pio.

A strange illness prevented his staying permanently in friaries for nearly a decade until he was sent to the isolated monastery of San Giovanni Rotondo in southern Italy. There, extraordinary phenomena marked the life of Padre Pio – miracles, prophecy, bilocation, reading of consciences, and the stigmata.

On September 20, 1918, while kneeling in front of a large crucifix, Pio received the visible marks of the crucifixion. This would be a source of torture and embarrassment for fifty years until his death. Padre Pio would especially suffer while he celebrated Mass each day. Like Jesus, he would lose much blood from his wounds. He always offered up these sufferings for the salvation of the world.

His extraordinary gifts touched thousands of people who became his loyal followers. Padre Pio had the ability to read the hearts of the penitents who flocked to him for confession which he heard for ten or twelve hours per day. Pio used the confessional to bring both sinners and devout souls closer to God; he would know just the right word of counsel or encouragement that was needed.

Padre Pio died on September 23, 1968 at the age of eighty-one. Upon his death, the wounds of the stigmata were no longer visible. In fact, there was no scarring and the skin was completely renewed. Pio had predicted 50 years earlier that upon his death the wounds would heal.

On June 16, 2002, over 500,000 Padre Pio devotees gathered in Rome to witness Pope John Paul II proclaim Padre Pio, Saint Pio of Pietrelcina.

Sources: [Voices of the Saints](#) by Bert Ghezzi, [www.catholic.org](#), Padre Pio by Rev. Jude Winkler, OFM

“Pray, Hope and Don’t Worry”
-St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina

A Reflection on
Finding the Meaning in Suffering

Saint Padre Pio often found his own trials unbearable. But his spiritual teaching helped many understand the reasons God allowed their pain, as he does in these sayings on finding meaning in suffering:

There’s a woman who is embroidering. Her son, seated on a low stool, sees her work, but in reverse. He sees the knots of the embroidery, the tangled threads. He says, “Mother, what are you doing? I can’t make out what you are doing!” Then the mother lowers the embroidery hoop and shows the good part of the work. Each color is in place and the various threads form a harmonious design. So, we see the reverse side of the embroidery because we are seated on the low stool.

From [Voices of the Saints](#) by Bert Ghezzi

Padre Pio’s Prayer After
Holy Communion

Stay with me, Lord,
for it is necessary to have You present
so that I do not forget You.
You know how easily I abandon You.

Stay with me, Lord,
because I am weak and I need Your strength,
that I may not fall so often.

Stay with me, Lord,
for You are my life and without
You I am without fervor.

Stay with me, Lord,
for You are my light and without
You I am in darkness.

Stay with me, Lord,
to show me Your will.

Stay with me, Lord
so that I hear Your voice and follow You.

Stay with me, Lord,
for I desire to love You very much
and always be in Your company.

Stay with me, Lord,
if You wish me to be faithful to You.

Stay with me, Lord,
as poor as my soul is I want to be a place
of consolation for You, a nest of Love.

From [Capuchin Franciscan Friars](#) [www.capuchinfrriors.org](#)