



St. Padre Pio: Trust

Introductory Prayer: Lord, I believe that you are in with me every day of my life. I trust in you, for you have the power to save me. I love you for you love me beyond all reckoning. St. Padre Pio modeled this faith, hope and love in the midst of great trial. Help to learn from his example how to persevere to the end.

Feast Day: Sept. 23 **Father James Kelleher, SOLT video #1**

(www.youtube.com/watch?v=_00bvPlntbc)

Mark 4:35-41 Jesus Calms the Storm.

On that day, as evening drew on, he said to them, "Let us cross to the other side." Leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat just as he was. And other boats were with him. A violent squall came up and waves were breaking over the boat, so that it was already filling up. Jesus was in the stern, asleep on a cushion. They woke him and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" He woke up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Quiet! Be still!" The wind ceased and there was great calm. Then he asked them, "Why are you terrified? Do you not yet have faith?" They were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this whom even wind and sea obey?"

Father James Kelleher, SOLT video #2 (www.youtube.com/watch?v=3q5uJEGXLa4)

Discussion questions (credit to Father Walter Schu, LC for framework of reflections and questions):

1. *Crossing to the Other Side:* We know that we will not remain on earth forever. There is another shore that is our home. Christ has come to remind us of this and show us how to get to that place. Through the many mystical experiences of Padre Pio, his awareness of heaven and other spiritual realities was very acute. The Blessed Mother was a near constant companion of Padre Pio, and led him to a profound relationship with Christ, her son.

- a) Do I take Christ into my boat and let him indicate what I must do in my life? Or do I hold myself back, not accepting the adventure of putting out into the deep with Christ? What is it that holds me back?
- b) As each day passes, I am one day closer to my individual judgement, where I will have to give an account for my life to God. Have I allowed Mary to bring me to a closer relationship with her Son? Do I pray a daily Rosary to meditate upon the mysteries of Christ?

2. *Teacher, We Are Perishing!* Christ allows our boat to be tossed by difficulties that sometimes seem insurmountable. Having him in our boat is not a guarantee that things will go smoothly. We need to discover that he is working in the midst of difficulties. Yet many times we find that we let our confidence in him slip when things get rough. For more than 50 years, St. Padre Pio bore the stigmata (bleeding wounds) of Christ. He was a man who knew suffering and was frequently misunderstood by his brother priests and fellow religious.

- a) When suffering comes my way, how do handle it? What could I do better?
- b) The Blessed Mother shared in Christ's redemptive mission – and that included his suffering. What can I learn from her by accompanying her along the way of the Cross?

3. *The Lord of the Wind and the Sea:* We need to keep in mind that Christ has the ultimate victory. He allowed Padre Pio to endure many difficulties so that he could grow in trust and abandonment to the Lord. When life hurts and it makes no sense, we need to deepen our faith and trust in the One who has conquered sin and death. This takes no small amount of courage. But if we trust Him, He will write the final chapter in our life. He will bring us to the safe harbor. In continuing to sail this boat in the midst of the storm, we are giving Christ total control over our destiny.

- a) The Blessed Mother courageously trusted God with abandon when she gave her "fiat," her yes to become the mother of the Messiah. Talk about a time that you showed courage and trust, even when the odds were against you.

- b) Christ and His Church give us tools to prepare for the major trials of life. It is important that we use these tools now to prepare/train for the battles ahead. Name a few of these tools and how they prepare us.

Men's / Women's parish team resolution for the month (choose one or suggest your own):

- Pray the daily Rosary as a family for the next month.
- Commit to going to daily Mass at least once per week.
- Read "Secrets of the Rosary" by Saint Louis De Montfort.

Closing Prayer: Pray one decade of Scripture Rosary: the fifth Glorious Mystery, the Crowning of Mary.

The verses to be recited before each Hail Mary:

1. Who is this that comes forth like the dawn, as beautiful as the moon, as resplendent as the sun? (Cant. 6:10)
2. Like the rainbow appearing in the cloudy sky; like the blossoms on the branches in springtime. (Sir. 50:8-9)
3. I am the mother of fair love, and of fear, and of knowledge, and of holy hope. (Sir. 24:24)
4. In me is all grace of the way and of truth, in me is all hope of life and of virtue. (Sir. 24:25)
5. Come to me, all you that yearn for me, and be filled with my fruits. (Sir. 24:26)
6. The LORD is at the head of the column. He leads them with a shout. This is his mighty army, and they follow his orders. (Joel 2:11)
7. So now, children, listen to me; instruction and wisdom do not reject! (Prov. 8:32-33)
8. Blessed be the LORD my strength, who trains my hands for war, and my fingers to fight. (Ps. 144:1)
9. For he who finds me finds life, and wins favor from the Lord. (Prov. 8:35)
10. Hail, O Queen of Mercy, protect us from the enemy, and receive us at the hour of death. (Queenship of the B.V.M., Gradual)

(Taken from www.ourcatholicprayers.com)

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