

# Saint Pio of Pietralcina

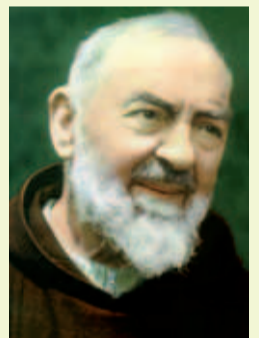
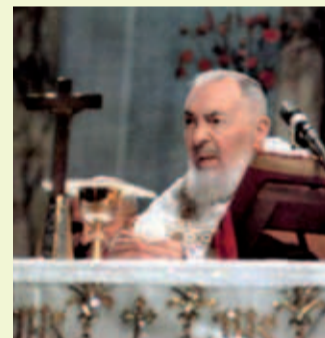
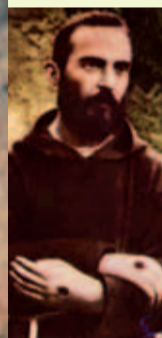
1887-1968

*It's common knowledge* that the life of Padre Pio of Pietralcina has been identified by the presence of his Guardian Angel which from his infancy has helped and defended him from the assaults of the devil.

Padre Pio himself tells us how the devil himself approached, disguised as a penitent wishing to go to confession. "One morning, while I was hearing confessions, a gentleman approached me. He was tall and elegantly dressed in the latest fashion. He began his confession and his sins were of every imaginable type: against God, against his neighbor, against all morality of every kind. All aberrations! One thing did strike me, though. After my counsel and advice from

Padre Pio, has written, "His mission was to redeem with Christ. He himself told me that Satan himself knew this and attempted to destroy him even from his infancy.

"As Herod sought the Child Jesus to destroy Him, the very crib of our tiny Francis (Padre Pio) was surrounded with noise and clamor to frighten him to death. But the vigilance and care of his mother, especially that of Blessed Mary, put an end to the plans of Satan."



Sacred Scripture, the teaching of the Church and the lives of the Saints, the mysterious penitent quickly reacted to all of my advice. He attempted to justify every type of sin with great ability, reducing them to normal, natural and very human behaviour. Without mentioning them directly he did not limit himself to those sins against God, the Blessed Virgin or the Saints. He attempted to justify not only those sins which were so morally perverse but even those that would turn one's stomach into a sewer of filth. His repeated reactions to my arguments shocked and repelled me with their subtlety. As a result of an interior and sudden inspiration, I clearly recognized who it was before me. With a stern and commanding tone of voice, I told him: 'Say: Long live Jesus! Long live Maria!' As soon as these powerful and tender names were pronounced, Satan instantly vanished in a cloud of smoke, leaving behind him an unbearable and fetid stench." Cleonice Morcaldi, the chosen spiritual daughter of

In her "Written Conversations" with Padre Pio, Cleonice once made this observation. "The air, Father, is full of demons?"

Saint Pio: 'There are so many that if they were capable of assuming a form as tiny as a grain of sand, they would block out the sun. Be attentive – for when the enemy is silent it means he is preparing another plan.'

"Why did Lucifer rebel?"

Saint Pio: 'It was an act of pride in himself. He did not wish to adore the God-man, Jesus.'

Father, Satan tells me: 'You'll see – Padre Pio will abandon you.'

Saint Pio: 'Ah, it is Satan. But he can only tell lies. If he ever does speak the truth, it is to derive some evil. He told Adam: 'Eat the forbidden fruit and you will have the knowledge of good and evil.' But this knowledge: what purpose does it have? To lead him to the evil of his damnation.'