

Reflections

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Catholic Family Newsletter

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Bringing Light Into a World of Darkness

Promises of Praying Divine Mercy Chaplet

Must Read...Apparitions of Akita Japan

Importance of the Eucharist

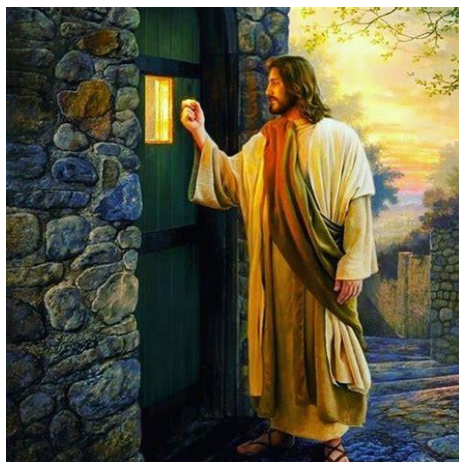
How to Escape the Trap of Pornography

<https://catholicfamilynewsletter.com>

Bible Verse for the Day: Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain. Psalms 127:1

Thoughts for the Day: But above all, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath, but let your "Yes" mean "Yes" and your "No" mean "No," that you may not incur condemnation. James 5:12

What to Prayer for Today: Forgive yourself. We all mess up. Let Jesus in.



Blessing to All:
By: Richard Pickard

One of the greatest blessings we have today is the Divine Mercy of Jesus in the writings of Saint Faustina. ¹The Divine Mercy message is one we can call to mind simply by remembering ABC:

A - Ask for His Mercy. God wants us to approach Him in prayer constantly, repenting of our sins and asking Him to pour His mercy out upon us and upon the whole world.

B - Be merciful. God wants us to receive His mercy and let it flow through us to others. He wants us to extend love and forgiveness to others just as He does to us.

C - Completely trust in Jesus. God wants us to know that all the graces of His mercy can only be received by our trust. The more we open the door of our hearts and our lives to Him with trust, the more we can receive.



Promises for Praying the Chaplet

There is one passage in Saint Faustina's writing that awoke in me the true sense of Jesus' begging us to trust in him. No matter how retched or evil we have been.

Jesus told Sister Faustina...."Oh, what great graces I will grant to souls who say this Chaplet. Write down these words, my daughter. Speak to the world about My mercy; let all mankind recognize my unfathomable mercy. **It is a sign for the end times; after it will come the day of justice. While there is still time, let them have recourse to the fount of my mercy; let them profit from the blood and water which gushed forth for them.**" (Diary, 848)

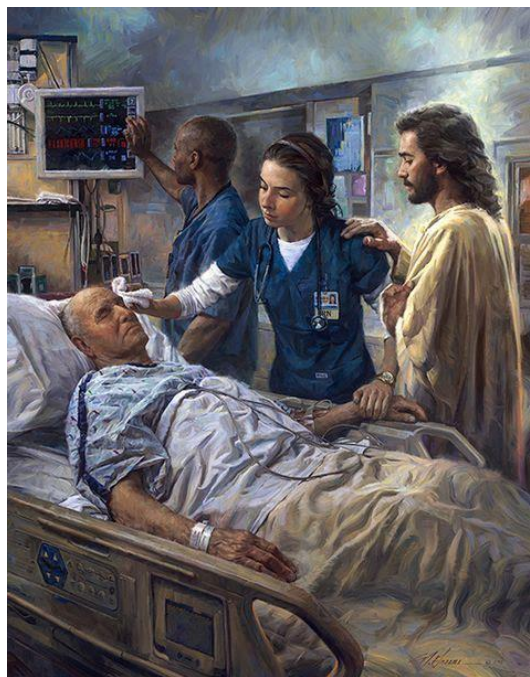
"Say unceasingly the Chaplet that I have taught you. **Whoever will recite it, they will receive great mercy at the hour of death.** Priests will

¹ <https://www.thedivinemercy.org/message>

recommend it to sinners as their last hope of salvation. ***Even if there were a sinner most hardened, if he were to recite this chaplet only once, he would receive grace from My infinite mercy.***" (Diary, 687)

The Promise Of The Grace Of Mercy For The Dying

"It pleases me to grant everything souls ask of me by saying the chaplet. **When hardened sinners say it, I will fill their souls with peace, and the hour of their death will be a happy one.** Write this for the benefit of distressed souls; when a soul sees and realizes the gravity of its sins, when the whole abyss of the misery into which it immersed itself is displayed before its eyes, let it not despair, but with trust, let it throw itself into the arms of My mercy, as a child into the arms of its beloved mother. **Tell them no soul that has called upon My mercy has been disappointed or brought to shame.** I delight particularly in a soul that has placed its trust in My goodness. Write that when they say this Chaplet in the presence of the dying, I will stand between My father and the dying person, not as the Just Judge but as the Merciful Saviour." (Diary, 1541)



"At the hour of their death, I defend every soul that will say this Chaplet as I do my own glory. When this Chaplet is said by the bedside of a dying person, God's anger is placated and His unfathomable mercy envelops the soul." (Diary, 811)

If you have a family member or friend who is dying, please pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet for them. Jesus will accept your pleas for the soul of this person.

Remember, this Chaplet is given by Jesus Himself and takes 5-10 minutes to say. But it can mean eternal joy for yourself by praying it, or for your family if you pray it together, and for a dying person. Trust in Jesus. **You don't have to be at the bedside of the person dying for the promise of Jesus to be realized. Please pray this Chaplet.**

A Message From Our Lady - Akita, Japan



In Akita, Japan on June 12, 1973, Sister Agnes Sasagawa while in prayer witnessed rays of light proceeding from the tabernacle. The miraculous happenings to follow were such that on April 22, 1984, after an 11-year investigation, bishop John Shojiro declared the events to be of supernatural origin.

In the coming days after the rays of light, Sister Agnes was to suffer the wounds of the stigmata on the inside of her left hand. The cross-shaped wounds profusely bleed causing Sister a great deal of pain and suffering.

In the chapel stood a 3-foot statue of the Virgin Mary carved from Katsura wood. While praying on July 6, Sister Agnes heard a voice coming from the statue now glowing in light. A voice came from the statue, which Sister said was indescribably beautiful. Later that day several other sisters noticed the wooden carved statue had drops of blood flowing from its right hand.

On September 29, the bleeding right hand stopped and the statue began to sweat. The sweat sent out the sweet scent of perfume.

On January 4, 1975, the blessed statue started to cry, at different intervals. The crying statue continued to do so for almost 7 years. The weeping statue

has been known to cry a total of 101 times in the course of 6 years and 8 months.

Many people have been present during these manifestations giving testimony and witness to the credible and incredible events. Scientific testing at the University of Akita proves that the blood, tears, and sweat are human in nature.



On three different occasions Our Lady gave Sister Agnes three messages. These messages follow.

JULY 6, 1973

"My daughter, my novice, you have obeyed me well in abandoning all to follow me. Is the infirmity of your ears painful? Your deafness will be healed, be sure. Does the wound of your hand cause you to suffer? Pray in reparation for the sins of men. Each person in this community is my irreplaceable daughter. Do you say well the prayer of the Handmaids of the Eucharist? Then, let us pray it together.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, truly present in Holy Eucharist, I consecrate my body and soul to be entirely one with Your Heart, being sacrificed at every instant on all the altars of the world and giving praise to the Father pleading for the coming of His Kingdom

Most holy Mother of God, never let me be separated from Your Divine Son. Please receive this humble offering of myself. Use me as You will for the glory of the Father and the salvation of souls. Please defend and protect me as Your Special Child. Amen.

When the prayer was finished, the Heavenly Voice said:

Pray very much for the Pope, Bishops, and Priests. Since your Baptism you have always prayed faithfully for them. Continue to pray very much...very much. Tell your superior all that passed today and obey him in everything that he will tell you. He has asked that you pray with fervor."

AUGUST 3, 1973

"My daughter, my novice, do you love the Lord? If you love the Lord, listen to what I have to say to you.

It is very important...You will convey it to your superior. Many men in this world afflict the Lord. I desire souls to console Him to soften the anger of the Heavenly Father. I wish, with my Son, for souls who will repair by their suffering and their poverty for the sinners and ingrates. In order that the world might know His anger, the Heavenly Father is preparing to inflict a great chastisement on all mankind. With my Son I have intervened so many times to appease the wrath of the Father. I have prevented the coming of calamities by offering Him the sufferings of the Son on the Cross, His Precious Blood, and beloved souls who console Him forming a cohort of victim souls. Prayer, penance and courageous sacrifices can soften the Father's anger. I desire this also from your community...that it love poverty, that it sanctify itself and pray in reparation for the ingratitude and outrages of so many men.

Recite the prayer of the Handmaids of the Eucharist with awareness of its meaning; put it into practice; offer in reparation (whatever God may send) for sins. Let each one endeavor, according to capacity and position, to offer herself entirely to the Lord.

Even in a secular institute prayer is necessary. Already souls who wish to pray are on the way to being gathered together. Without attaching to much attention to the form, be faithful and fervent in prayer to console the Master.

(After a silence:)

Is what you think in your heart true? Are you truly decided to become the rejected stone? My novice, you who wish to belong without reserve to the Lord, to become the spouse worthy of the Spouse, make your vows knowing that you must be fastened to the Cross with three nails. These three nails are poverty, chastity, and obedience. Of the three, obedience is the foundation. In total abandon, let yourself be led by your superior. He will know how to understand you and to direct you."

OCTOBER 13, 1973

"My dear daughter, listen well to what I have to say to you. You will inform your superior."

(After a short silence:)



"As I told you, if men do not repent and better themselves, the Father will inflict a terrible punishment on all humanity. It will be a punishment greater than the deluge, such as one has never seen before. Fire will fall from the sky and will wipe out a great part of humanity, the good as well as the bad, sparing neither priests

nor faithful. The survivors will find themselves so desolate that they will envy the dead. The only arms which will remain for you will be the Rosary and the Sign left by My Son. Each day recite the prayers of the Rosary. With the Rosary, pray for the Pope, the bishops, and priests.



The work of the devil will infiltrate even into the Church in such a way that one will see cardinals opposing cardinals, bishops against bishops. The priests who venerate me will be scorned and opposed by their confreres...churches and altars sacked; the Church will be full of those who accept compromises and the demon will press many priests and consecrated souls to leave the service of the Lord.

The demon will be especially implacable against souls consecrated to God. The thought of the loss of so many souls is the cause of my sadness. If sins increase in number and gravity, there will be no longer pardon for them.

With courage, speak to your superior. He will know how to encourage each one of you to pray and to accomplish works of reparation.

It is Bishop Ito, who directs your community.

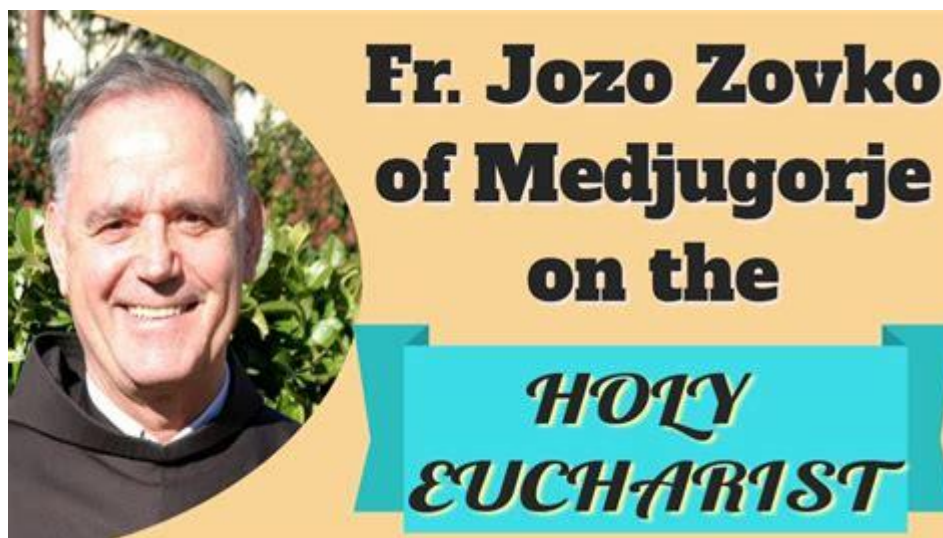


(And She smiled and then said:)
You have still something to ask? Today is the last time that I will speak to you in living voice. From now on you will obey the one sent to you and your superior.

Pray **very much the prayers of the Rosary**. I alone am able still to save you from the calamities which approach. Those who place their confidence in me will be saved."

Importance of the Eucharist

Fr. Jozo Zovko, O.F.M.



Place your life upon this altar. You will witness how a priest will place a drop of water within a chalice full of wine. That drop of water intermingles with the wine and signifies you in the Holy Mass. You can become one, unite with, and intermingle with Jesus. That is why the Holy Mass is called Communion ...union with God ...you and your God together ...that is the Holy Eucharist.

All of us together and Jesus. That is the church, and that is where the one, holy Catholic apostolic church comes from. He who can separate you from the altar is your only enemy. There is no other. Every time we come into the church and celebrate the Holy Mass, that is our embrace, our hanging onto Our Lord and saying, "Lord where would we go, for you are the Word of Life." Where did the martyrs gain so much strength from? In the Church, where did the witnesses gain their strength from?

To date, in this year (2000), 23 missionaries have been murdered around the world in four months. That is a lot. How can a man give his life for Jesus simply, with delight? It is the Holy Mass that does this within us, so that for you I'm able to give my very eyes, my arms and my life, my everything as Jesus gave His all; and the same way the Christian must give his all. Yes, once again, I must return to the Holy Mass and the Holy Eucharist.

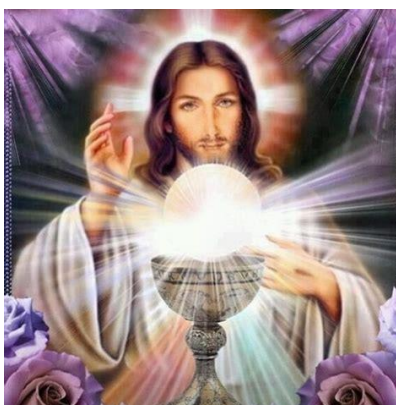


Why is it that churches and sects do not tolerate the Mass, do not respect Our Lady? Because they go hand-in-hand. Yes, they go together. Our Lady teaches to come to love Jesus, to fall in love with Him, and that is why she places us before the Holy Eucharist, and pleads with us to pray before this holy, blessed Sacrament, so from Jesus we may learn to become bread for others; so that I not have fear to say, "Take this, all of you, of me, and eat of it."

I know a lot of Anglican and Protestant priests, ministers, that were in Medjugorje. I know of a Presbyterian bishop that I have met from Washington. He had sent a multitude of his priests to Medjugorje as well. When I was in Washington a few years ago, I visited him because he visited me and came to Medjugorje. He had a problem, a cross, that was inflicted upon him. His son was shot in Vietnam and became paralyzed. When his son returned from the war, he said to his wife, "Let us make a pilgrimage to Medjugorje. I believe Our Lady will hear us." And Our Lady gave a miracle. The son was healed and converted the parents. The bishop desired that all of his priests come to know Our Lady. Eight of those priests to date have become Catholic priests, without any shouts, without publication, without media.

Our Lady works in miraculous ways. She was always the sign, the sign of a better world, the sign of peace and unity in the Church, the sign of our salvation. May it also truly be the same in your city or town. Let us commence this Holy Mass by preparing ourselves and involving this great grace.

You must never grow weary of doing what is right. -2 Thes 3:3



How Do I Escape the Trap of Pornography



Pornography has become one of the most destructive forces in our culture today. Never has it been so widespread ... and never has it been so easy to find.

What we would call “hard-core pornography”—the more explicit images, videos, or descriptions of erotic behavior—has grown rapidly during the last two decades. In the past, pornography was available only at stores or through the mail. But the pornography industry is often the first to take advantage of new media technology—and now with cable television, DVDs, cell phones, iPods, and especially the Internet, it is easier than ever to find, and harder than ever to resist.

Internet pornography has earned itself a reputation for being the crack cocaine of sexual addiction. “It works so quickly and it’s so instantly intense,” says Dr. Robert Weiss of the Sexual Recovery Institute in Los Angeles. “We’re seeing a whole population of clients who have never had a history with the problem, but for the first time, they’re beginning one particular activity and getting hooked.”



Jesus said in Matthew 6:22-23, “The lamp of the body is the eye; if therefore your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness.” This is a perfect description of what happens when you choose to view pornographic material—it brings darkness into your body.

Pornography takes something that is beautiful when it occurs between a married man and woman and makes it dirty. God created the act of sexual union as a special gift for a husband and wife. It is a celebration of love that strengthens a marriage and builds oneness.

But pornography twists and perverts the beauty and biblical design of God’s creation. The focus on sensual pleasure becomes such a powerful drug that it destroys all that is important in the rest of their lives. It leads men and women to look at each other as nothing more than sex objects. It causes them to fantasize about sexual relationships with other people, and that’s a terrible blow to their marital commitment.

Here are a few real-life letters and emails received on the website called *²Family Life*.



“Before we were married, my husband had confessed that he was into pornography “somewhat”, but it stopped once our relationship grew. I found out that wasn’t the end of it. A few months back I was heartsick to find almost 100 photos of graphic nature on my computer. A lot has happened since then, a confrontation, many fights, but the hardest for me has been the loss of trust and feeling I

truly was my husband’s best friend and fantasy. It hurts a lot and I don’t see how our relationship will ever be the same or I can have that total trust in his character and integrity again.”

“Please pray for deliverance. I am a Christian that is addicted to pornography, especially on the web. Pray that God would give me the power to withstand under the temptation and be victorious. I know that this is hurting my marriage.”

² <https://www.familylife.com/articles/topics/life-issues/challenges/pornography/how-do-i-escape-the-trap-of-pornography-in-my-life/>

"Your broadcast on pornography over the last two days has had a profound effect on me. I was amazed at the accurate description of how pornography affects your whole being. The last 18 months have been the worst because of the easy access I had to pornography on the Internet. I progressed to the point where I would spend hours at a time to find pictures that would stimulate me. Just as with a drug addict, it took more and more pornography to satisfy my addiction. I began to push my wife away in many direct and indirect ways. I would delay going outside to play with my six-year-old son because I was on the Internet ...



"My wife gradually spent more and more time with her best girlfriend across the street because I was emotionally dead inside. The life had literally been sucked out of me. I felt as though my ability to think clearly was greatly affected. I had trouble repeating phone numbers because I was consumed with guilt and shame. I gradually lost respect for my wife as a person. It was almost impossible for us to carry on a conversation. These changes occurred so gradually that I did not realize it was the pornography that was affecting me."

These are just a few examples of the frustration, shame, and guilt that habitual use of pornography brings to a life. Sin can be alluring, and can bring temporary pleasure, but in the end, [serious] sin will destroy you. James 1:14-5 says, "But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death."

Sometimes pornography is described as a "victimless crime," but in reality, you are a victim, your wife is a victim, your children are victims, and your marriage is a victim.

Breaking Free From the Trap

If you want to break free from sexual sin and lust fueled by pornography, the first thing you need to realize is that you can't do it in your own power. You need the presence of God in your life.

In fact, if you have never understood what it means to be a Christian, and how you can know God personally, please read this [clear presentation of the gospel](#). It will be the most important decision of your life



Confess Your Sin to the Lord

When you try to keep such sin secret, your spirit will become increasingly troubled. Remember the comment from one of the e-mails above, where one man said he became “emotionally dead” and that life was “sucked out of me”? Compare those words to those of King David in Psalm 32:3-4:

“When I kept silent about my sin, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my vitality was drained away as with the fever heat of summer.”

King David realized he could not go on until he confessed his sin to God: “I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I did not hide; I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the LORD’; And You forgave the guilt of my sin” (Psalm 32:5).

On one hand, confession is simply agreeing with God about sin in your life. Jesus said in Matthew 5:28, “Everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”

When you look at those pictures or images to stimulate you sexually, you are committing adultery in your heart. When you confess this to the Lord, you simply say, “Yes, I was lusting after that woman. I sinned against You, Father.”

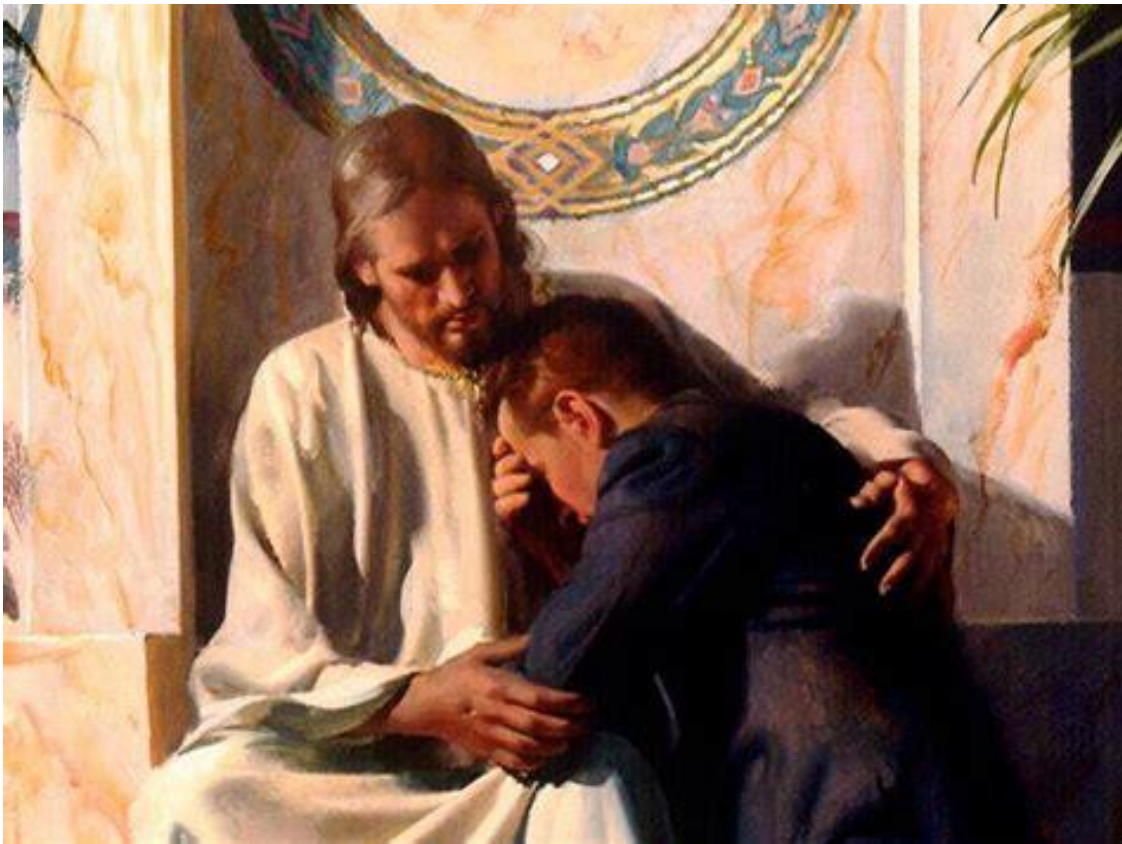
You may be thinking, “I’ve done that. But nothing changed.” That’s because, when faced with a deep-rooted sin such as this—one that has involved numerous poor choices over a period of time—your confession must come with a broken heart that shows that you are repentant—ready to turn away from your sin.

Repentance means “to turn around.” When you have a habit of sin in your life, it is like getting in a car and driving away from God. When you repent, you stop moving away from God and turn around to face Him, and through His power start moving toward Him again.

Repentance is a sorrow that comes from realizing that you have offended the very holiness of God. You must be willing to turn away from your sin and

toward the life God wants for you. If you are going to deal with your sin successfully, repentance is essential.

What does God do when you come to Him with an attitude of brokenness and repentance? He offers forgiveness and cleansing. 1 John 1:9 tells us, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." You may not be freed from the desire to commit this sin again, but you can be freed from the crushing weight of guilt and shame.

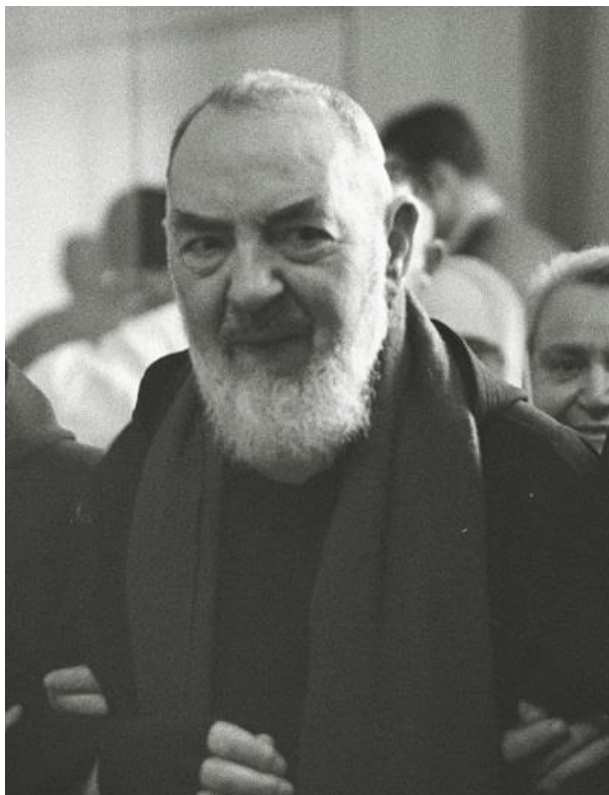


Jesus is waiting for you to come to Him. He won't be mad at you. He will hold you and assure you that He will help you. It might be a process to rid yourself of serious sin but give Jesus a chance to be in your life. If you fall again, run to Jesus.

Prayer for Release from the Addiction of Pornography

Prayer to Saint Padre Pio

O God, You gave Saint Pio, the great privilege of participating in a unique way in the passion of Your Son, grant me through his intercession the grace from the addiction of pornography which I ardently desire; and above all grant me the grace of living in conformity with the death of Jesus, to arrive at the glory of the resurrection. Glory be to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, Amen.



You are important in the salvation of your family. Pray, Pray, Pray.

**The International Catholic Family Newsletter
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**Our mission statement is to motivate people to pray and to
be Christian examples in their work, home and with others,
for those needing the Light in a world of Darkness.**



The Rosary is the 'weapon' for these times. – St. Padre Pio

St. Paul Ministry