Padre Pio to Padre Agostino

 Pietrelcina, 7 April 1913

My very dear Father,

On Friday morning while I was still in bed, Jesus appeared to me. He was in a sorry state and quite disfigured. He showed me a great multitude of priests, regular and secular, among whom were several high ecclesiastical dignitaries. Some were celebrating Mass, while others were vesting or taking off the sacred vestments.

The sight of Jesus in distress was very painful to me, so I asked Him why He was suffering so much. There was no reply, but His gaze turned on those priests. Shortly afterwards, as if terrified and weary of looking at them, He withdrew His gaze. Then He raised His eyes and looked at me and to my great horror I observed two tears coursing down His cheeks. He drew back from that crowd of priest with an expression of great disgust on His face and cried out: “Butchers!” Then turning to me He said, “My son, do not think that My agony lasted three hours. No, on account of the souls who have received most from Me, I shall be in agony until the end of the world. **During My agony, My son, nobody should sleep. My soul goes in search of a drop of human compassion but alas, I am left alone beneath the weight of indifference**. The ingratitude and the sleep of my ministers makes my agony all the more grievous.”

“Alas, how little they correspond to My love! What afflicts Me most is that they add contempt and unbelief to their indifference. Many times I have been on the point of annihilating them, had I not been held back by the Angels and by souls who are filled with love for Me. Write to your (spiritual) father and tell him what you have seen and heard from Me this morning. Tell him to show your letter to Father Provincial.”

Jesus continued to speak, but what He said I could never reveal to any creature in this world. This apparition caused Me such bodily pain and even greater pain of soul that I was prostrate for the entire day and believed I should die of this suffering, had our most sweet Jesus not revealed to me….(left blank by Padre Pio).”

 Fra. Pio

*(This text was taken from the book, “Padre Pio of Pietrelcina – Letters I, Pages. 394-396)*

***PRAYERS FOR PRIESTS***

O Almighty, Eternal God, look upon the Face of Your Son and for love of Him, who is the Eternal High Priest, have pity on Your priests. Remember, O most compassionate God that they are but weak and frail human beings. Stir up in them the grace of their vocation which is in them by the imposition of the bishop’s hands. Keep them close to You, lest the enemy prevail against them, so that they may never do anything in the slightest degree unworthy of their sublime vocation.

O Jesus, I pray for Your faithful and fervent priests; for Your unfaithful and tepid priests; for Your priests laboring at home or abroad in distant mission fields; for Your tempted priests; for the lonely and desolate priests; for Your young priests; for Your dying priests; for the souls of Your priests in Purgatory. Above all, I commend to You the priests dearest to me, the priest who baptized me, the priests who have absolved me from my sins, the priests at whose Masses I have assisted and who have offered me Your Body and Blood in Holy Communion, the priests who have taught and instructed me or helped and encouraged me, and the priests to whom I am indebted in any other way.

O Jesus, keep them all close to Your Heart, and bless them abundantly in time and in eternity. Amen.

Cardinal Cushing

**PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS**

O God, Who has chosen the apostles to make disciples of all nations and Who by Baptism and Confirmation have called us to build up Your Holy Church, we earnestly implore You to choose from among us, Your children, many priests, deacons and religious brothers and sisters who will love You with their whole heart and will gladly spend their entire lives to make You known and loved by all.

Amen.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, grant Your Church many and holy priests.

Queen of the Apostles, pray for us.