

Padre Pio Prayer Anthology

Our first parish prayer anthology will include many types of prayers. We will begin our collection with prayers that you can use to develop a relationship with God that is more personal and intimate.

Prayer #21

Focus idea: We are now in the midst of the season of Lent, a time for spiritual cleansing, renewing our love for Jesus, and redirecting our energies to model our lives after the life of Christ. We *try* our *best* to be less self-centered, to focus our attention on the needs of others, and to spend time with our Lord in prayer. It is probably God's most favorite liturgical season! God's love for us is infinite and unconditional, but don't you think that He is absolutely thrilled to converse with us through our prayers? And we *must* be warming His heart *every* time we care for others! This Lenten season, let's *really try our very best* to show one another how to be more God centered, more loving and more compassionate toward our fellow human beings by the way we choose to live our lives. The opportunities to do so are countless! As Fr. Doug has said many times, "God reads our hearts. Then He fills our hearts with His love and strength. Our **only** response is to live in love!"

Prayer for Living our Lives in Love:

Dear God, help me to get my priorities straight, to focus on forming a deeper, more satisfying, and lasting relationship with You. Help me to look beyond my own needs and give to those who have less. Remind me that You are with me always, to inspire me and give me strength. Help me to enjoy and to be grateful for my faith. Help me to pray more often, not just for personal comfort but selflessly for the needs of humanity. May this Lent bring the world a big reality check, and be a season of personal renewal and dedication to goodness and self-sacrifice. Amen.

Closing thoughts: Tell Jesus what is in your heart. Thank Him for your gifts and most of all, thank Him for loving you with His most sacred heart!

