

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 #34:

Focus Point: So much has been written about love, all different kinds of love. As the gospel writer John tells us, all love comes from God and leads to God. The sacrificing love of a parent, the understanding love of a friend, the passionate love of newlyweds and the serene love of a mature couple are all some of God's beautiful creations! God created the unconditional and forgiving love of our Savior, Jesus Christ, and created in Him a human heart. Jesus loved His fellow humans through this tender and compassionate heart, and asked us to "Love one another as I have loved you." Those that follow this commandment benefit greatly, for as they express their love for others, they gain the love of God, and feel His presence within their own hearts. As Fr Joy explains, "A loving relationship should never be one sided. God shared His love with us. It is our *duty* to return that love." Show your love for Jesus by spending time with Him during Lent. Show your appreciation for the sacrifices that Jesus offered for our salvation by denying yourself in your own personal way. May this Lent bring you great personal gain and satisfaction!

Prayer for a Lenten Season Dedicated to Showing our Love and Appreciation to Jesus, our Savior:

Dear Lord, please help my love and appreciation for You to grow this Lent. Help me to be less self-centered, and to focus my energies on helping those in need. Help me to exchange some leisure time for prayer time. Make me worthy of Your love by helping me to grow in kindness, generosity, diligence and humility. Help me to engage in sincere and honest conversations with You. Deepen my understanding of *Your* hopes for *my* life's path. Motivate me and strengthen my determination to make meaningful sacrifices this Lent, Help me to spread my enthusiasm for performing acts of love and kindness, and bless me with the joy of knowing that my sincere efforts are pleasing to You!

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!