

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 #45:

Focus Point: Sacrifice is a word that we associate with the season of Lent. Sacrifice is also a word that sometimes brings about negative and unpleasant feelings. We certainly don't look forward to making a sacrifice. It is something we accept with reluctance, possibly even dread. So, let's try to put a positive spin on our sacrificial opportunities! The fact is, successful sacrificial endeavors bring about **GOOD!** Could you refrain from spending money on yourself in order to be able to donate to charitable organizations or to your church? Could you give up a leisure activity to make the time to participate in an activity to help less fortunate individuals? The neediest members of God's family **COULD** be so much better off! They **COULD** benefit immediately from our good works. But perhaps we are the ones who would benefit the **MOST!** Sacrifice makes us tougher and stronger so that we become more resistant to life's many temptations. It brings nourishing grace into our hearts, minds and souls! And we **COULD** make the experience even more enriching by finding time for extra prayer. Quality time spent with God deepens our relationship, drawing us in closer. It **COULD** be a totally blissful experience! So, let's buy into the program, set our priorities straight, follow the example that Jesus set out for us, make our souls shine and truly **ENJOY THIS LENT!** Fr Joe prays that God will "give us the strength to be faithful and joyful witnesses to the gospel of Jesus Christ!"

Prayer for a Meaningful Lenten Season:

Dear Lord, Sometimes I am self-centered. I look for ways to make my life more pleasant and comfortable. Please, instill in me the desire to make a meaningful Lenten sacrifice, and bring me the determination and the strength to see it through. May my choices be influenced by what Jesus would do, and thus create tremendous good in Your world! May my time in prayer create a more personal and intimate relationship between us, so that I may feel comfortable turning to You when I am confused, troubled or indecisive. May You enrich my heart with the warmth of Your love, and hold me in the palm of Your hand forever. Amen.

