

undershirts bore a circle of bloodstains in the area of the right shoulder.

This reminded Brother Modestino that he had once read about a devotion to the shoulder wound of Jesus, caused by his bearing of the heavy cross beam, the *patibulum*, to calvary. The beam could weigh up to 100 pounds. Part of this devotion to the shoulder wound of Christ is to pray daily three Our Father's, Hail Mary's and Glory Be's, to honor the severe pains and lacerations Our Lord suffered from the weight of the *patibulum*.

On that very evening of February 4, 1971, Brother Modestino asked Padre Pio in prayer to enlighten him about the meaning of the bloodstain undershirt. He asked Padre Pio to give him a sign if he truly bore Christ's shoulder wound. Then he went to sleep, awakening at 1:00 am with a terrible, excruciating pain in his shoulder, as if he had been sliced with a knife up to the shoulder bone. He felt that he would die from the pain if it continued, but it lasted only a short time. Then the room became filled with the aroma of a heavenly perfume of flowers-the sign of Padre Pio's presence-and he heard a voice saying- "Cosi ho sofferto io"- "This is what I had to suffer!" Modestino remarked that he had a strange sensation after the pain subsided: that being deprived of this pain was also a suffering. His body had also suffered from it, but his soul had desired it. He said, "It was painful and sweet at the same time."

What is the mystical and spiritual significance of the shoulder wound of Padre Pio? Journalist Saverio Gaeta, reported that Padre Pio said about his spiritual children: "When the Lord entrusts a soul to me, I place it on my shoulder and never let go." From this statement, it can be inferred that the saint offered up the suffering and the extreme pain of his shoulder wound for his spiritual children. Later that same day Padre Pio, while telling the story of St. Christopher, and how he had carried the child Jesus on his shoulders across a river, Padre turned to Gaeta and said: "On my shoulders is the whole world."

** (excerpted from: www.4marks.com)

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The Shoulder Wound of Jesus

(The Unrecorded Wound of the Passion)



**... "Honor this Wound with thy devotion,
and I will grant thee whatever thou does ask
through its virtue and merit" ...**

The Shoulder Wound of Jesus

(The Secret Unrecorded Wound of the Passion)

*It is related in the annals of Clairvaux that St. Bernard asked Our Lord which was His greatest unrecorded suffering, and he answered: *"I had on My Shoulder while I bore My Cross on the Way of Sorrows, a grievous Wound which was more painful than the others, and which is not recorded by men. Honor this Wound with thy devotion, and I will grant thee whatever thou does ask through its virtue and merit. And in regard to all those who shall venerate this wound, I will remit to them all their venial sins, and will no longer remember their mortal sins."*

Prayer to the Shoulder Wound of Christ:

Most loving Jesus, meek Lamb of God, I, a miserable sinner, salute and worship the most Sacred Wound of Thy Shoulder on which Thou didst bear Thy heavy Cross which so tore Thy flesh and laid bare Thy Bones as to inflict on thee an anguish greater than any other wound of Thy most Blessed Body. I adore Thee, O Jesus most sorrowful; I praise and glorify Thee, and give Thee thanks for this most sacred and painful Wound, beseeching Thee by that exceeding pain, and by the crushing burden of Thy heavy Cross to be merciful to me, a sinner, to forgive me all my mortal and venial sins, and to lead me on towards Heaven along the Way of Thy Cross. Amen.

*(excerpted from: www.freepublic.com)

Padre Pio's Secret: His Shoulder Wound

**Shortly after World War II was over, a young Polish priest who was studying in Rome, Fr. Karol Wojtyla, visited Padre Pio in San Giovanni Rotondo. This encounter took place around 1947 or 1948. At that time in post-war Italy, it was possible to have access to Padre Pio, since travel was difficult and great crowds were not besieging the Friary. The young priest spent almost a week in San Giovanni Rotondo during his visit, and was able to attend Padre Pio's Mass and make his confession to the saint. Apparently, this was just a casual encounter, and the two spoke together at length during Fr. Wojtyla's stay. Their conversation gave rise to rumors in later years, after the Polish prelate

had been elevated to the Papacy, that Padre Pio had told him he would become Pope. The story persists to the present day, even though on two or three occasions "Papa Wojtyla" denied it.

Recently, new information about this visit has come to light, according to a new book in Italian published by Padre Pio's Friary, *Il Papa e Il Frate*, written by Stefano Campanella. As reported in the book, the future Pope and future Saint had a very interesting conversation. During this exchange, Fr. Wojtyla asked Padre Pio which of his wounds caused the greatest suffering. From this kind of a personal question, we can see that they must have already talked together for some time and had become at ease with each other. The priest expected Padre Pio to say it was his chest wound, but instead the Padre replied, "It is my shoulder wound, which no one knows about and has never been cured or treated." This is extremely significant, not only because it reveals that Padre Pio bore this wound, but because, as far as is known, the future pope is the only one to whom Padre Pio ever revealed the existence of this secret wound.

Centuries earlier, Our Lord himself had revealed to St. Bernard of Clairvaux in a vision, that his shoulder wound from carrying the heavy wooden cross caused him his greatest suffering, and that the cross tore into the flesh right up to the shoulder bone.

At one time, Padre had confided to his *paisano* from Pietrelcina, Brother Modestino Fucci, that his greatest pains occurred when he changed his undershirt. (Brother Modestino is currently the doorkeeper at Padre Pio's friary in San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy). Modestino, like Fr. Wojtyla, thought Padre Pio was referring to the pains from the chest wound. Then, on February 4, 1971 Modestino was assigned the task of taking inventory of all the items in the deceased Padre's cell in the friary, and also his belongings in the archives. That day he discovered that one of Padre Pio's