

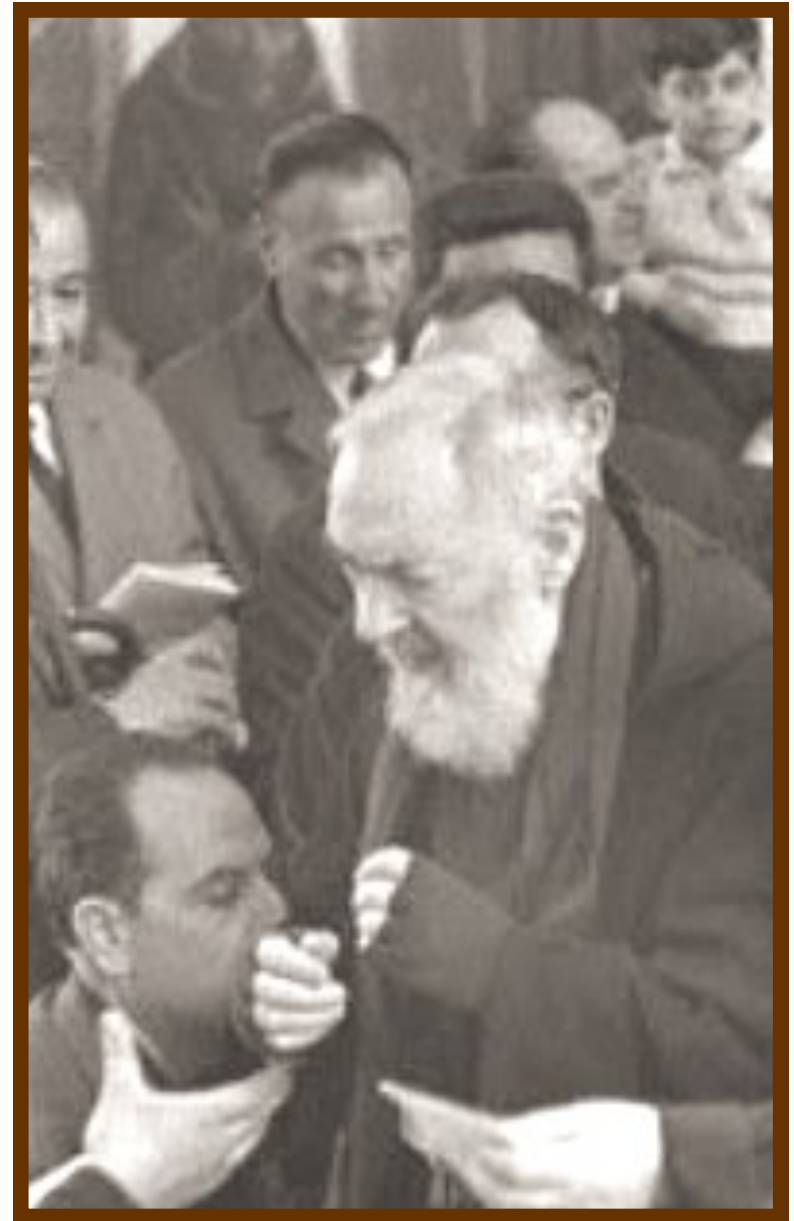
After this account the patient repeated that he felt better. The cousin, a medical physician, examined him and noted a very significant change: the fever had already diminished, and by the next morning he was without any, and the fever never returned. Early that next morning Signora Vacarro went to visit him - the reader will recall that it was she who lent him the photograph of Padre Pio - and joyfully upon seeing him she said:

"The grace has been given! I dreamt of Padre Pio last night and he said to me: *'The grace has been given.'*"

-and truly the grace had been obtained, for a few days afterwards the patient got up cured and went to church to thank Our Lord. Later he had a solemn day of the Blessed Eucharist celebrated in the Church of the Liguorini, where he confessed and received Holy Communion, after having been away from the Sacraments for ten years. From then on Signor Piazzini has never sworn again and he is very grateful to Padre Pio, whose photograph he always carries about with him."

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Padre Pio and Gaspare di Prazzo



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The cure of Gaspare di Prazzo, Cianciana, Agrigento

Mr. Gaspare di Prazzo had a case of Mediterranean Fever which had become very serious. A woman, Signora Vacarro, knew of Padre Pio and recommended the patient invoke Padre Pio's help for a cure and Signora Vacarro gave Gaspare a picture of Padre Pio to use while invoking his intercession. Upon receiving the photo, the patient kissed the photograph of Padre Pio and begged him to cure him.

A few days passed when one evening at 6pm the patient said to his wife: ***"Put someone at the door and don't let anyone in, because Padre Pio is coming, and I don't want to be seen by anyone."***

The wife nodded assent and assured him that their nephew was already near the door.

Later that night, at eleven o'clock, when all were in bed and only his wife was sitting up by the patient's bedside, and the patient had a significant fever he said to his wife: ***"Put out the light because Padre Pio is about to come, and I don't want to be seen by anyone, not even by you."***

His wife obeyed and put out the light. All of a sudden the patient began to speak, very joyfully: ***"Oh! Padre Pio, are you here to heal me? I thank you. Pass your hand from my head to my feet. I cannot go on anymore and I do not want to leave my wife a widow..."***

The patient felt Padre Pio near his bed. He passed his stigmatized hand over all his body. His wife saw nobody, but understood that Padre Pio was beside her beloved spouse, and trembling in a corner of the room on her knees, weeping she also prayed to Padre Pio: ***'As you have come, Padre Pio, ask Our Lord for the grace of my husband's cure.'***

After a few minutes, the wife asked her husband if she could put on the light, and the patient replied: ***'No, because Padre Pio has not gone out yet, he is still by my bedside.'***

Another ten minutes passed, then the husband told his wife to put on the light, because Padre Pio was gone. After putting on the light, his sister and Dr. Giannone came around the bed of the patient, whose eyes were shining, and who was emitting deep sighs. He said he felt better, and then told them the following:

"A little while ago I found myself in a beautiful church, where Padre Pio was celebrating Mass, and I was on my knees. I saw the Holy Ghost in the beautiful form of a dove above the altar. After Mass, I drew closer to him, and he said to me: 'Have faith in God. But you must go to confession and you must not swear any more.' Being thirsty, I asked Padre Pio for water, and he accompanied me to a cistern. I filled a bottle with lovely fresh water; groaning with pain I drank it in one draught, burning with fever. As soon as I had drunk the water I smelt perfume which resembled the smell of vanilla. Then Padre Pio went away."