

Each Christian in his or her body suffers the scourging. I have met so many people who have been beaten and scourged physically. Each person in his or her own way has a scourging that we undergo in our hearts. Like Padre Pio, we have that intimate union with Jesus Christ that never leaves us.

Scourging of Jesus

At the Praetorium, Jesus was severely whipped. (Although the severity of the scourging is not discussed in the four gospel accounts, it is implied in one of the epistles [1Peter 2:24]. A detailed word study of the ancient Greek text for this verse indicates that the scourging of Jesus was particularly harsh. It is not known whether the number of lashes was limited to 39, in accordance with Jewish law. The Roman soldiers, amused that this weakened man had claimed to be a king, began to mock him by placing a robe on his shoulders, a crown of thorns on his head, and a wooden staff as a scepter in his right hand. Next, they spat on Jesus and struck him on the head with the wooden staff. Moreover, when the soldiers tore the robe from Jesus' back, they probably reopened the scourging wounds.

The severe scourging, with its intense pain and appreciable blood loss, most probably left Jesus in a pre-shock state. Moreover, hematidrosis had rendered his skin particularly tender. The physical and mental abuse meted out by the Jews and the Romans, as well as the lack of food, water, and sleep, also contributed to his generally weakened state. Therefore, even before the actual crucifixion, Jesus' physical condition was at least serious and possibly critical.



NIGHT SHIRT OF PADRE PIO SHOWING BLOOD FROM SCOURGING.



THE SCOURGING OF PADRE PIO

Padre Agostino, a close friend of the future saint Padre Pio wrote to him in 1915, asking specific questions such as:

1. *when he first experienced visions,*
2. *whether he had been granted the stigmata,*
3. *and whether he felt the pains of the Passion of Christ,*
4. *namely the crowning of thorns and the scourging.*

Padre Pio replied: *that he had been favoured with visions since his novitiate period (1903 to 1904).*

He also said: *that he was indeed experiencing the pain of the crown of thorns and the scourging.*

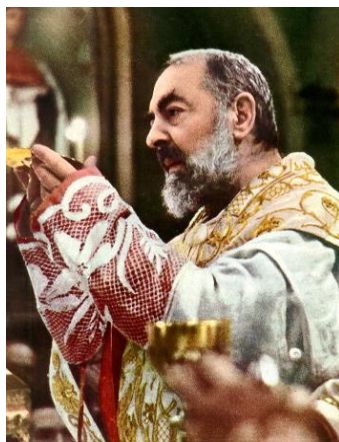
He was not able to clearly indicate the frequency of this experience, but said: *that he had been suffering from them at least once weekly for some years.*

On another occasion Father Tascisio in an interview with Padre Pio asked him:

“At what part of the Mass are you scourged?”

Padre Pio responded:

“From the beginning to the end but more intensely after the Consecrations.”



Cleonice Morcaldi, one of the spiritual daughters of Padre Pio, asked him several times what he felt and lived in each of his Masses. She wrote carefully each of his answers and thanks to her, we have a unique testimony from the Father himself about his Mass. The interview went as follows:

Cleonice – How was Jesus after being scourged?

***Padre Pio – The prophet says:
“He became as a whole sore.
He became like a leper”***

Cleonice – So, you also are like a sore from head to foot?

***Padre Pio — “And is not this our glory?
If there is no place left for more sores,
we will make sores on top of sores”***

***Cleonice — My God, this is too much!
You are, dear Father, a real executioner
of yourself!***

***Padre Pio – “Do not be afraid.
On the contrary rejoice in it.
I do not want the suffering in itself, no,
but the fruits it gives me.
It praises God and saves our brothers.
What else could I wish for?”***

***Cleonice – Father.
When at night you are scourged,
are you alone or does somebody assist you.***

***Padre Pio — “The Holy Virgin assists me,
all of Paradise is present.”***