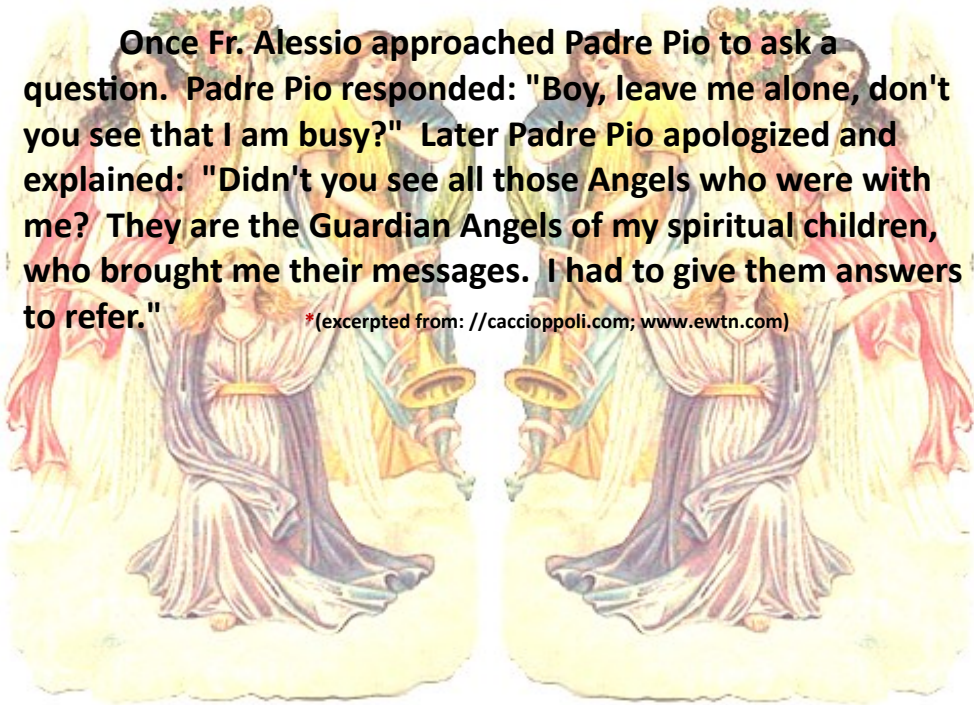


On several occasions Padre Pio expounded further on the role of the angel in his ministry, and in our lives, in this case to his spiritual daughter Raffaolina Cerase. In Padre Pio's Letters, volume II. No. 30, he states: "You tell me in the midst of the sufferings that oppress you, how often you turn to me in your thoughts and call upon me. Well, your good Guardian Angel sometimes transmits these necessities of yours and then I, in my unworthiness, always do my duty with Jesus, recommending you to his fatherly goodness."

In his Letters, volume II, no. 41, Padre Pio says: "Offer to the glory of His Divine Majesty the rest you are about to take, (she was struck down with cancer of the breast at this time), and never forget the Guardian Angel who is always with you, never leaving you for whatever wrong you might do. Oh, the ineffable goodness of this our good Guardian Angel! How many times, alas!, I have made him cry for not having wanted to comply with his wishes, which were also God's. May this our most faithful friend free us from further disloyalty."

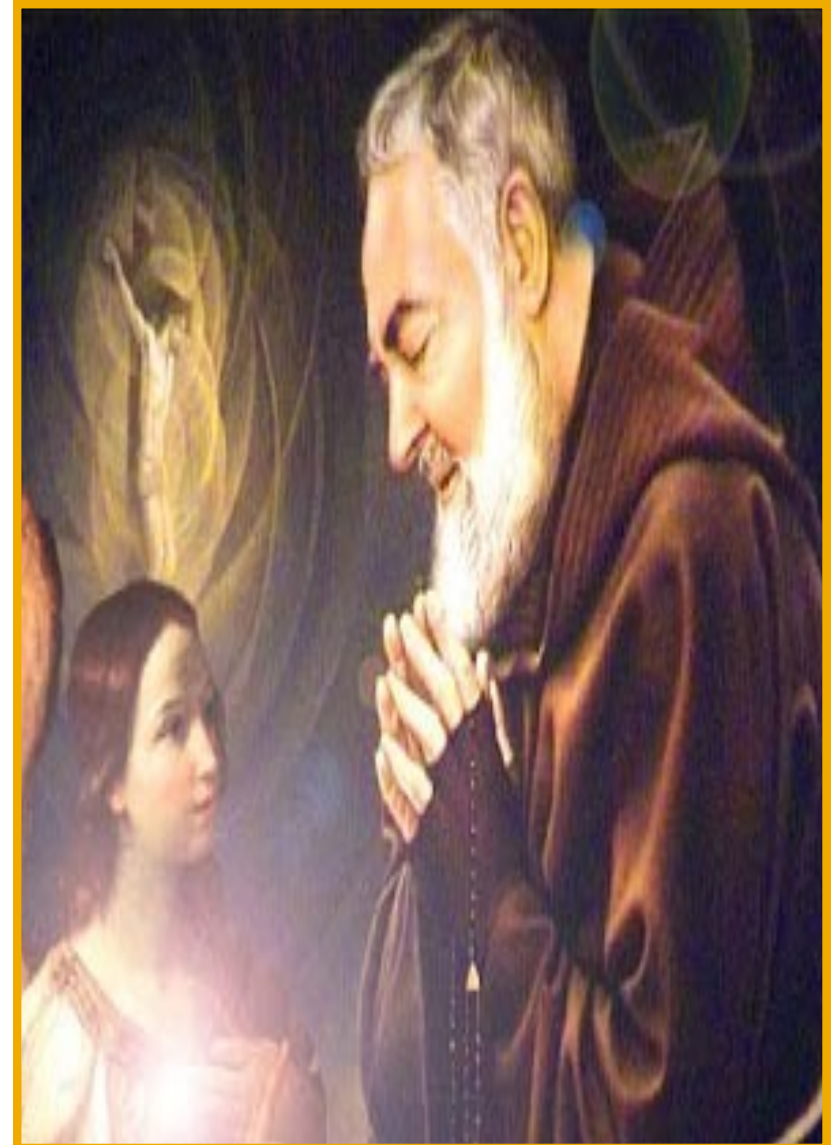
Once Fr. Alessio approached Padre Pio to ask a question. Padre Pio responded: "Boy, leave me alone, don't you see that I am busy?" Later Padre Pio apologized and explained: "Didn't you see all those Angels who were with me? They are the Guardian Angels of my spiritual children, who brought me their messages. I had to give them answers to refer."

*(excerpted from: //caccioppoli.com; www.ewtn.com)



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Padre Pio and Guardian Angels



Padre Pio and Guardian Angels

*It is the conviction of the Church that every human being is assigned an angel of God to be his guardian, an angel who has as his task to **"lead (us) to the place that (God) has prepared," heaven**. Not everyone listens attentively to their Guardian Angel, however, as he seeks to enlighten them through the voice of conscience to avoid sin, or gives them good inspirations to the love and service of God and neighbor. Certainly Padre Pio was one who did, from the earliest years of life, so that God granted him the vision not only of his own Guardian Angel but those of others. Many times it was through the Guardian Angel of a person that their need was brought to Padre Pio's attention, who then prayed for that person.

One might ask, why would the angel bring the need to Padre Pio, rather than directly to God? First, people often *sent* their angel to Padre Pio to ask for prayer. The angels, for their part, like true friends were happy to perform this little service for their protégés, especially the ones who habitually listened to their guidance. Since the angel can do nothing contrary to the will of God, God Himself must have desired it, as well. As with the other forms of intercession and mediation acknowledged by the Church, God has ordained that the true magnificence of His own glory be shown through His working through creatures (angelic and human). As Saint Paul noted, God chooses the weak to show up the strong (I Cor. 1: 27).

Padre Pio was especially careful for the well-being, spiritual and material, of those whom he had accepted as his spiritual son or daughter. He would look after them from a distance, with the help of their guardian angel. In the book *Send Me Your Guardian Angel* by Fr. Alessio Parente, OFM Cap., Padre Pio's relationship with the angels is related in the stories contained in the book. Fr. Alessio had the privilege of taking care of Padre Pio in the later years of his life.

Besides having the privilege of having his Guardian Angel visibly beside him all of his life, Padre Pio played with him when he was a child. The Guardian Angel would even sing for him when he was sad. Padre Pio said about his Guardian Angel: "Little companion of my infancy, Angiolino, Angioletto, my secretary, inseparable companion,

celestial person, celestial messenger, brother, friend who prevents danger, one of the family, and also translates for me the letters in other languages. I send him to console people who are suffering. This angel prevents them from stumbling, he never leaves us alone for an instant from the cradle to the grave, or, even when we are sinning. It will be a great joy when at the moment of death, we will be able to see our Guardian Angel."

Once a person was accepted as Padre Pio's spiritual child, he would never abandon them, no matter what danger they were in. Even if he did not visit them personally, they would receive his help through his Guardian Angel.

A story related in Fr. Alessio's book concerns one of Padre Pio's spiritual children. Cecil Humphrey-Smith, a well known gentleman from England, while in Italy, during the time Padre Pio was alive, had a car crash and was very seriously injured. A friend of his, seeing Cecil in such a bad condition, went to the Post office and sent a telegram to Padre Pio requesting his prayers for his injured friend Cecil. When he presented the telegram at the desk, the man gave him back a telegram from Padre Pio assuring his prayers for Cecil Humphrey-Smith's recovery.

It was some months before Cecil was in good enough shape to travel again, but immediately after he had recovered, he went to San Giovanni Rotondo. On this occasion, both Cecil and his friend met Padre Pio and they thanked him for his prayers. At the same time, they were curious as to how he came to know about the accident and how a telegram had arrived in such a short space of time. In response to their questions, Padre Pio, in his humoristic way said: **"Do you think the Angels go as slowly as the planes?"** God had given Padre Pio the light to see his spiritual child in danger of death and, as usual, Padre Pio sent his Guardian Angel to assure Cecil of his prayers and protection.