

A Prayer

by Saint Pio of Pietrelcina

**May Jesus comfort you
in all your afflictions.**

**May He sustain you in dangers,
watch over you always with His grace**

**and indicate the safe path
that leads to eternal salvation.**

**And may He render you always
dearer to His Divine Heart**

**and always more worthy of Paradise.
Amen**



Padre Pio and the Heavenly Homeland



**...may your heart always be turned towards
the heavenly Homeland...**

Padre Pio and the Heavenly Homeland

(Letter dated by Padre Pio on 15 March 1915, Letters III, page 68,
to Annita Rodote, Pietrelcina, Italy)

Annita of Jesus,

May the Most Holy Trinity always be blessed, and reign in the hearts of all creatures. May Jesus and Mary make you holy and make you taste the sweetness of the cross more and more. Amen.

Keep your spirit always raised on high; may your heart always be turned towards the heavenly Homeland and do not take your gaze from there except in order to check where you are walking, so as to avoid making a mistake, and once again to see the road on which you are to travel in order to get to Jesus.

Yes, Annita, may your way of life be totally heavenly; we are bound to this as Christians and also as children of the Seraphic Father, St. Francis. In imitation of this Seraphic Father let us love Jesus in his Passion more than anything else. Let us often meditate on the suffering of the God-Man and then it will not be long before the great desire to suffer more for love of Jesus is awakened in us. Love for the cross has always been the distinctive sign of chosen souls. Being burdened with the cross has always been a sign of predilection on the part of the heavenly Father for those souls. And our Seraphic Father understood well that without love for the cross, one cannot make much progress in the ways of Christian perfection. Therefore he continually carried, sculpted in his soul, the Passion, Death and the whole mortal life of the Son of God made Man. The fruit of such assiduous meditation was the generating in his heart of love for suffering without limit, so that often enraptured in loving ecstasy he would exclaim: "The good that awaits me is so great that all suffering is my delight."

Annita, let us show ourselves to be worthy children of such a great Father. Jesus also invites us to climb to Calvary with Him, so let us not refuse. Ascending the painful mount with Jesus will be a joy for us.

In the course of life, mortifications will not be lacking for us, either. Let us love them; let us embrace them with a cheerful soul, and let us always be blessed the good God in everything.

I end this letter here as my state does not permit me to do anything else.

Padre Pio

