



Padre Pio overlooking Friary at San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy

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Padre Pio and Romeo Gutierrez



Romeo Gutierrez (on crutches) with
Padre Pio on September 22, 1968

Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord. Your decrees are my delight, they are my counselors. You are near, O Lord, and all your commandments are true.

Psalm 119:19,24,151

Padre Pio and Romeo Gutierrez

Romeo Gutierrez— traveled from Mexico to California to be treated for bone cancer. He was twenty two years old. He decided to join some friends who were making a pilgrimage to Lourdes and also to Padre Pio's friary in San Giovanni Rotondo. Romeo's friends agreed to help him on this journey. He had an open wound that needed to be cared for. Sometimes he was able to walk with the aid of crutches but other times he had to be carried on a stretcher.

The day after the group's arrival in San Giovanni Rotondo, Romeo waited in the sacristy to meet Padre Pio. Padre Pio had a look of sadness on his face when he saw Romeo. He gave him a blessing. One of the members of the group asked Padre Pio if Romeo could hope for a miracle. Padre Pio answered this question in one word, "Paradiso!" (Paradise) In other words, Padre Pio was telling them that Romeo would soon be leaving his earthly life to begin his eternal life in Paradise. Romeo said that when Padre Pio, frail and suffering, stood in front of him and blessed him, he lost all fear of dying. This meeting with Padre Pio occurred on September 22, 1968, just one day before Padre Pio's death.

Romeo returned to Mexico and realized that he had received a great spiritual healing. He was given an amazing deepening of faith and renewed strength and courage. He asked his friends not to feel sorry for him for in his own words he said, "Don't be sad. Soon I will be with Padre Pio." Romeo died peacefully three months later.

"Remember the words the divine Master spoke one day to the Apostles and which he says to you today – "Do not let your hearts be troubled." Yes, let not your heart be troubled in the hour of trial because Jesus promised his real assistance to those who follow him." – Padre Pio



Our Lady of Lourdes