

Let us try to imitate as best we can, such modest and dignified actions. And let us do our utmost to be, as far as possible, similar to Him on this earth, in order that we may be more perfect and more similar to Him for the whole of eternity in the heavenly Jerusalem."

Finally, let us consider Padre Pio's inspiring words about the infinite value of the Holy Mass. He said, "let us assist whole heartily because it is really Calvary where Jesus accomplished our redemption in the presence of His Father, and let us not leave this mount lightheartedly when Holy Mass is finished as if we had assisted in any ordinary spectacle. Be really sorry for your sins, but at the same time be confident in Divine Justice."



Padre Pio during the consecration of the Holy Mass

PLEASE VISIT THE WEBSITE: www.pamphletstoinspire.com

Padre Pio on Attending Holy Mass



Padre Pio once said:

"The world could exist more easily without the sun than without the Mass".

The sun is the source of our physical existence.
Without it we would all die.

Yet Padre Pio has implied the impossible would happen if there were no Holy Mass.

Padre Pio on Attending Holy Mass

From early childhood Padre Pio had a strong attraction to the spiritual life. As soon as he heard the church bells ringing, he would have a great desire to go to church. He carefully observed the third commandment "Remember to Keep Holy the Sabbath Day." He stopped whatever he was doing, in order to attend Mass. As a child he heard Mass every morning before going to school and in the evening he went to Benediction. Whenever possible he brought a companion to Mass with him, and every Sunday he would attend religious instruction at his parish church. He diligently learned the ten Commandments and especially the third "Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day."

Besides attending Sunday Mass Padre Pio would not tolerate its violation and would try to inspire others to respect the holy days. Once Padre Pio heard the confession of a young woman who worked for a company that made its employees work on Sundays and feast days. When the young woman finished her confession, Padre Pio asked her: "Don't you remember anything else?" The woman replied, "Padre, I have confessed everything." But he reminded her, "You did not go to Mass and you worked on the feast of St. Peter." The woman replied, "yes, Padre," and then the woman said, "now I remember. I worked and did not go to Mass that day because otherwise my boss would have fired me. You know, we are poor." Padre Pio replied "did you not think of the serious offense you gave to God? It would have been better to be fired from your job than to offend God seriously." Then he added, "be careful not to miss Mass on feast days or to ever offend the Lord again."

Another time after having heard a man's confession who had not been to Mass in many years, Padre Pio was seen weeping bitterly. Someone asked him, "Padre, why are you crying? What is torturing your heart?" He replied, "the ingratitude of people towards the Supreme Benefactor. And what more could Jesus have done, poor Jesus, that he did not do?" And a man once told Padre Pio, "I missed Mass on Sunday." Tears came into his eyes and he said, "you say it so lightly."

In 1915, Padre Pio wrote a letter to Anita Rodote describing the exemplary conduct that a Christian should aspire to. The following are excerpts from that letter:

"In order to avoid irreverence and imperfections in the house of God, that is, in His church, which the Divine Master calls the house of prayer, I exhort you in the Lord to practice the following: enter the church in silence and with great respect. Among other pious considerations, remember that our soul is the temple of God and, as such, we must keep it pure and spotless before God and His angels. Then take holy water and make the sign of the cross carefully and slowly.

As soon as you are before God and the Blessed Sacrament, devoutly genuflect. Once you have found your place, kneel down and render the tribute of your devotion to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Confide all your needs to Him along with those of others. Speak to Him with filial abandonment, give free rein to your heart and give Him complete freedom to work in you as He thinks best.

When assisting at Holy Mass be very composed when standing up, kneeling down and sitting, and carry out every religious act with the greatest devotion. Be modest in your glances; do not turn your head here and there to see who enters and leaves. Do not laugh, out of reverence for this Holy Place and also out of respect for those who are near you. Try not to speak to anybody, except when charity or strict necessity requires this.

On leaving the church, you should be recollected and calm. First, take your leave of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Do not leave Him without asking for and having received His paternal blessing.

Once you are outside the church, be as every follower of the Nazarene should be. Above all, be extremely modest in everything, as this is the virtue which, more than any other, reveals the affections of the heart. You must be modest in speech, laughter, in your bearing, and modest when walking.

Therefore, be humble of heart, circumspect in words, prudent in your resolutions. Always be sparing in your speech, attentive in your work, and modest in your conversation.

Always keep in your mind the Divine Master's meekness which according to the expression of the apostle to the Corinthians, is on a par with His gentleness. 'I, Paul, exhort you, by the gentleness and meekness of Christ. ...' After so perfect a model, change all your external actions so that they are a faithful mirror revealing your interior sentiments.

Never forget this Divine Model, Anita. Try to see a certain lovable majesty in His presence, a certain pleasant authority in His manner of speaking, and a certain sweet serenity in His face. Imagine that extremely composed and sweet expression with which He drew the crowds, making them leave cities and castles, leading them to the mountains, the forest, to the solitude and deserted beaches, totally forgetting food, drink and their domestic duties.