

Sister's Spin

September 23, 2021

Today the Church celebrates what we might call a modern saint--that is, one officially canonized within the past 25 years. It is the feast of St. Pius Pietrelcina, otherwise known simply as Padre Pio. He was canonized by Pope John Paul II in 2002 and is most known for having received the stigmata--that is, the wounds of our Lord in his hands, feet and side, when he experienced a vision while praying. Padre Pio suffered with these wounds for 50 years, from 1918 to his death in 1968. For some years he was forbidden to do any public ministry in the Church, except to say Mass privately while the Church investigated the wounds and finally pronounced them as coming from God. After this, he spent hours in the confessional as well as praying his daily Mass, even when the wounds at times bled. He worked to have a hospital built near the remote area in which he lived in his monastery and that hospital still flourishes today. To be canonized so soon after his death is rare in the Catholic Church, and testifies to his humility and sanctity. He often told people who came to him for spiritual advice, "Pray, hope and don't worry. Worry is useless. God is merciful and will hear your prayer." Devotion to him is widespread all around the world and many have experienced great blessings from praying to him.

-Sister Marcianne

