

Translation by
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"Quaderno dell'Amore – Luigi Gaspari".

Edited by C.D.O.L.G. Committee of diffusion of the works by Dr. Luigi Gaspari



Padre Pio and Luigi Gaspari San Giovanni Rotondo 1966

On the 17<sup>th</sup> of October 1968, the first "Book of Love" came into the hands of His Holiness Pope Paul VI. About 10 days later the Pope, through my friend Monsignor V. D'Andrea, thanked me, saying these words among others,

"This is a highly mystical work. How beautiful is this love between Father and son! There is not one superfluous word...".

These words confirmed what Padre Pio had already told me in June 1968, "The Pope will understand everything".

# (Other works by the same author (available in Italian);

- Padre Pio told me...
- Padre Pio's testament: a promise of grace
- Letters vol. I 1945 1970
- Letters vol. II 1971-1995
- Love of truth
- Padre Pio, prophet of the era of love
- Prayer, universal language of the heart
- Padre Pio and Islam

#### **PROLOGUE**

# THE HOLY BIBLE IS A TESTAMENT DICTATED TO MANKIND BY GOD

The voice of GOD made itself heard through the sensitive ears of men chosen to write the Last Will of "GOD—the Father" for the benefit of men sons living on earth.

The Testament of GOD is the Truth, One and Triune, of the will of justice, of mercy and of Love of the three equal and distinct persons of the One GOD, Creator and Father of mankind.

The Third Person of the Most Holy Trinity the Holy Spirit - is the life of Love of the Triune GOD who becomes the Voice and Word of GOD in the hearts of men, son of the Most Holy Trinity of GOD.

The Voice of The Holy Triune Spirit of Love of GOD becomes the Word of Justice and of Mercy of the Father and the Son, in the palpitation of life and of Love in the Heart of a man–son.

The Voice of the Holy Spirit chooses the heart of a man to give the Graces of Life, in love to all the hearts, of the men-sons who welcome the gift of His Living Voice which become "Words".

The Triune Holy Spirit wants to give His Voice to all men of good will, to offer to mortal lives the Eternal Life of GOD, became Word that wishes to reunite, everything, and everyone, into one sole Body, living in the harmonious unity of the Most Holy Trinity.

The Testament of GOD is the immutable Word written in the Holy Bible.

The "Books of Love" were written by my hand through the Testamentary Will expressed to me, in the name of GOD, by the living voice of Padre Pio.

He said to me, "The Books" are, and will continue to be, the Voice of Justice and of Love of the Immutable Will of GOD expressed in His One and Only Eternal Testament.

Discord reigns on earth because in the hearts of men, children of GOD, the Voice of Love has not been made One, in the Knowledge of GOD's Testamentary Will (Holy Scripture).

For this reason, Padre Pio assures me, it is the Will of GOD that the "Books of Love" should go into all the homes in the world, in order to help mankind to love Truth through the knowledge of Holy Scripture.

The words of the "Books of Love" will be the light that shines to increase knowledge of the Truth. Increased knowledge of the Truth of GOD will bring back to mankind the awareness of THE VOICE OF THE ETERNAL LOVE OF GOD.

By means of His Voice, the Eternal Love of GOD will be imprinted in the heart of mankind to unite it in His Peace. The Voice of GOD will dispel the "black clouds" enveloping the minds of men, clouds that prevent the Light of Life of the Thought, SUN OF GOD, from bringing His Life which is love, health, joy and riches to all mankind.

If the Voice of Padre Pio had not called me, I would ask myself, "Why am I here with you?"

The Holy Spirit called me through Padre Pio to tell me of His Life in us.

I must tell you all that He tells me to convey to you:

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS ONE AND HE SPEAKS IN EACH ONE IN WHOM THE FATHER IS.

The Father tells the same Truths to all His true children. He speaks to me in order to have you know of His love for you.

#### I AM LIKE YOU. HE IS US. IN HIM WE ARE: I - YOU – HE.

This is why I had to come to you, because you must come closer to me, and to know better the Love of GOD in you, in me, to recognize me in you who, in Him, are a part of me, just as I am a part of you in Him who is Us. It is easy to know GOD only when one recognizes the bond that makes us one SOLE UNITED LIFE, even though distinct in the persons of Him and Us.

Our life is a joy only when we love to believe that the Love who unites us is He, in the UNITY OF THE SPIRIT, which connects us in order to make of us THE BODY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

LOVING GOD IS LOVING OUR LIFE.

## LOVING EACH OTHER IS RECEIVING THE GIFT OF HIS JOY.

To all you friends and brothers in the world, I wish that the VOICE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT will become the thunder of GOD's Love which tears away all the clouds from your life, in order to enter in and to bring each of you the LIGHT OF HIS SUN.

Luigi Gaspari

And so spring bloomed, your own spring, when you left winter behind you with all its dross and rubble, bearer of worries and illnesses

You have recovered, for you have shrugged off winter. Now it is easy to foresee the evolving and development of your time.

You are free, without the old worry.

The friend you loved has betrayed you, you have let him free to go away, to run, to chase his illusions enthusiastically.

Now the time is yours, for it is spring for you.

Now, alone or in company, you can reap the fruits and recollect yourself with renewed energy.

You do not miss the friend you loved. It is the betrayer-friend who is deprived of you. Your love is living, for it has fully come back to you. Now you can dispose of it better than before because you are richer than you were before. You are rich in knowledge, in suffering. Yours is the love which can be known and can be valued.

Resume your journey freely with the wealth you have earned. Enjoy in silence the goods you have amassed and serenely regard what is going to happen around you.

It is the downfall, the ruin of those who believed that they could despise the profound Good. It is the defeat of those who preferred to chase after illusions.

But you do not see the evil in those hearts.

You do see faces without light that accuse in order not to be accused. Proceed on your way; go forward and you will see further.

There is a great conquest you must make beyond good and evil, it is the conquest of a life which is yours, a life that will be a centre of strength, love and happiness for all eternity.

My Power works through the will you express.

Your will unleashes my power.



My Christmas Is love of the Father. Which allows Me to return To the "manger" of the Earth To give mankind The one and only Bread Which can be multiplied To appease the hunger Of all the bodies who wish to eat me, Because they wish to rediscover The TRUTH of the LAM The WAY in the LIGHT which is LIFE. In the joy and happiness of the Heart. The Truth unites man To the life of GOD's love: Falsehood distances man From GOD and causes him to die, Because only the TRUTH is LIFE! To the inside of the Old Temple

I was introduced only, In the temple of your heart, in fact I was born and will always be present, To be introduced to The new temples of the hearts Which I have not yet entered As King of the Temple of Love, Made up of all good hearts. In these "I WILL REIGN" Occupying the THRONE Of the Love of your heart, Which has become the cradle of the KINGDOM Which is BORN in YOU through ME.

I was, I am your GOD; to help you to understand that I am your truest and sincerest friend, I became man just as you are. I ask you to be my friend, so that I may show you, and I will show you, the greatest, truest and sincerest friendship. To remove your fear of Me, I became a man just as you are. Why should you be afraid of Me? Have I not been, and still am, a man just like you? It is true that I am also your GOD, but I am also truly man. Therefore, Lunderstand all the weaknesses of man L'11 tell you what! Well then, I want to tell you that above all else I am your true friend! What do you think of that? Do you want Me for a friend? I accept your friendship and give you all of mine. Now you must listen to everything that I tell you:

- 1) Remember always to call me your dearest friend;
- 2) Remember that I am also your GOD, when you need great help and a favour from your greatest and most powerful friend;

- 3) I am your Man-friend, to be always beside you as your dearest and most favourite friend;
- 4) I want to be GOD for you, to give you all that only GOD–Friend can give you;
- 5) Therefore, keep me as your dearest friend;
- 6) In exchange I'll give you, as a simple and sincere friend, everything that as GOD you would not dare to ask of Me;
  - 7) Your sincere friendship is all my joy;
- 8) To make our pact of friendship easier and more personal, forget that I am also your GOD:
- 9) Direct your words and your thoughts to Me, as a man turns to his friend; in this confidentiality and friendship between man and man, our understanding will be total and perfect.
- 10) When you speak to Me as you would to a man friend, I feel that your friendship for Me is more true and more sensitive. My joy is so great that as a man I do the impossible to give you, hidden as a man friend, all the love that only as a GOD I can give you. Love me

always, and call Me the Man, your Man-friend. As a true man, I will reciprocate and give you, as a man friend, all that your GOD can give you.

In My friendship for you I want to be your Man friend. In the gifts I wish to offer you I will be delighted to be splendid and generous as a true GOD, Omnipotent and Omniscient, I am a Man who loves you as only GOD knows how to, and is able to love. I am a powerful man who loves to share all power with his friend. I am your friend with all my heart; even though I am great, I have made myself small so that I might live in the love of your small human heart. You are My friend, you are the friend of the man who becomes your GOD when the powerful intervention of your GOD is requested, in order to defend from rapacious men the goodness of the friendship of two men who wish to remain faithful friends forever.

# APRIL 1968 - PADRE PIO TOLD ME, "THE WORDS OF "THE BOOK OF LOVE" ARE WRITTEN... IN HEAVEN".

Then I saw another Angel, mighty, coming down from the Heaven, wrapped in a cloud, with a rainbow about his head; his face shone like the sun and his legs like pillars of fire. In his hand he held a little book which had been opened. He placed his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the Earth...

Then the voice which I had heard from Heaven spoke to me again and said, "Go, take the open book from the hand of the Angel standing on the sea and on the Earth."

Then I went up to the Angel and I said to him, "Give me the little book". He said to me, "Here, take it and eat it! It will be sour in your stomach, but in your mouth it will taste as sweet as honey". I took the little book from the Angel's hand and ate it; in my mouth it tasted sweet as honey, but when I had swallowed it my stomach turned sour.

Then someone said to me, "You must prophesy again for many people and nations, languages and kings"

(Apocalypse, 10 1,2; 8,11)

It is only man who judges his fellow man. Love means forgiveness for all men and for all men's sins.

# Book of Love

#### TO LOVE IS TO GIVE LOVE:

- To the one who does not know it
- To the one who is asking for it
- To the one who does not possess it
- To the one who has not received it as a gift
- To the one who does not know how to ask for it
- To the one who does not know what it is
- To the one who does not know its power
- To the one who believes himself to be unworthy of having it back again after having been unfaithful to it

To My dear Luigi on his birthday, to show him all My love, with gratitude, and to give him enough courage and strength to continue bringing... My Heart into the world...

### Bologna, April $8^{th} - 9^{th}$ , 1968

Tonight I must talk to you, listen to Me! What I want to tell you is important.

It is about Love, it is about Myself that I must make you understand.

I am in everybody's heart and My love lives in men's hearts.

I am happy to live where I am warmly received.

It is My heart which produces union in love.

No bond endures without Me. No union can be called love unless it is for Me and for My Heart.

My Love knows no misery or sadness. Mine is pure joy. There is no joy apart from Me. It is I who lead you to know the uselessness of your covetousness and inordinate desires.

I want to make you understand that all you are seeking lies solely in Me.

What to be worried about? Why?

Just come to Me and you will find all the good you wish.

I am more generous than you think and give you much more than you ask of Me.

What do you want from Me? Ask and you will obtain.

What are you seeking? A true good? I will give it to you immediately.

A good which is not good? I cannot give it to you because I love you.

Which good should I give you?

I would give you everything if you could give Me all your heart.

But you never give Me all your heart.

Often you give Me part of it, but you hold some back in your greed, while you search for things outside of Me.

Useless to try to make you understand that nothing is without Me.

In the corner that you reserve for Me, I often hide Myself, I wait and watch. What is it that I see?

I see you are breathless, tired, disappointed and discontented.

You are always in anguish and you do not want to understand why. The reason is My absence

I look at you, waiting for a sign from you, a call for Me to come out of My hiding place where you have put Me.

I am present if you call Me, and even more so when you love Me. I want to help you to keep Me with you; if you want Me, I will be everything to you.

Your wanting Me must be giving yourself to Me. Giving yourself to Me, makes Me everything to you.

I am tired of seeing you like this, without the strength that only I can give you, without the love that no other than I can give you.

What you long for is almost always bad for you, but you are not aware of this. I will tell you what is truly good for you.

What is good? It is peace of heart. It is to feel a life-giving warmth.

What does warmth do? It warms you and lights up your heart; it brings joy to living, to

loving, and to spreading warmth and love everywhere.

Is it not so? Yes, you know it is, because sometimes you have experienced it. But why have you experienced it only sometimes? It is because in those moments it was I who was warming you. It was I who was doing everything for you, to make you know Me, to make you love Me. And then? And then you did not know how, or did not want, to keep Me.

I left you free to follow other ways. And so? See what you have done. Now you are arid and tired, you are apart from Me. But I still live in you because the smallest corner that you leave Me is enough for Me.

I remain and wait there. I await the hour of your suffering, of your pain, to share your pains and sufferings with you. You have caused your own sufferings. I did not want that for you. But your suffering makes Me come to your aid. And what if you do not call Me: I hear you just the same and rush immediately to help you. How? If you call Me, I am already there. If you yourself do not call, I come by another way. Which way?

My way is a man, just like you, a man who, if not entirely, is at least partly mine. That part in that man which is mine I send to help you. But it is always Me, helping you through that man.

And what do you do? You often do not recognize Me and do not see Me, because I work through a man. A man like you. But inside that man there is Me, your GOD.

What do you want of Me? I can give you everything. I can give you everything because everything is mine. I have created everything.

Nothing is impossible for you because everything is possible for Me. I belong to you, I am yours; therefore, what is mine is yours. So why are you troubled?

You have everything I have. You have only to want it. What do I ask of you? I ask you to believe Me, to ask Me, to open your heart to Me and to give yourself to Me.

Are you afraid to give Me? To give what?

What you give Me is nothing; what I will give you is everything.

What is everything?

Everything is the knowledge of Me, of yourselves, of whatever is, of whatever you see and do not know. What you can know is the unknoweable for you. The unknoweable, you can know it through Me only.

Why do I love you so much?

Because for you I created and continue to create all that can make you more happy, more grateful and filled with love for Me.

Why do I ask you for love? Because as the love in you increases, I increase your joy, your happiness. My good is infinite and therefore I always increase your love for Me.

As your love increases, I increase your knowledge of Me. The more you love Me, the more you will know Me. I make Myself known only to those who know how to love Me.

I grant love to those who give Me their love. I take away love from those who do not love Me. And since I am love itself, love belongs solely to Me.

You cannot possess what is mine, exclusively mine, if I do not give it to you. The gift I give you is a proof. The proof lies only in your will; you merely have to demonstrate your willingness to love Me.

I will do all the rest for you, because I am everything to you.

My Heart is a huge ever-burning lamp; it is a fire burning for you. My fire makes you alive. Life could not exist without My warmth. My warmth makes up for the coldness of your barren hearts. Each heart ought to keep alive a particle of Creation. When your heart is barren, extinguished, that part of Creation should disappear, because it is the heart's love which sustains everything.

And what do I do?

Through My warmth, I warm for you. Through my Heart, I make up for the barrenness of yours. I sustain you and sustain life through the warmth of My Heart.

Why do I do this?

It is for love; it is for a reciprocation of love that I wait. And thus I take your place in what should be your mission. I am the reserve of Energy that intervenes to avoid the disaster caused by your wasting the energy I gave you. I am an extra Heart serving all of you.

Why do you not love Me? Why don't you want to recognize Me? Why do you wish to reject Me?

It is your mind that is not stable. Your mind is fickle because it lets itself to be driven by external impressions, by tumultuous worldly thoughts.

The inconstant mind cools your heart and rejects love.

How can you control your mind? How can you restrain it? You must try not to listen to thoughts that are not good, not about love.

You must overcome your instability by always heeding the law of love.

When a man who is like yourself asks for a bit of love, do not ask him who he is. Give the love he seeks. That love will bind him to you and, through My love which is in you, I will bind him to Me.

It is I who send men to ask you for good and love, to bring them back to Me, to My Heart, by means of that part of Me which is in you. Do not ever forsake all of those whom I send you, for they are part of you, for I shall be yours in them, through the love that you were able to give them.

It is I who wished to unite you, to keep you more firmly bound in My Heart, You are a whole in Me

The loss of one of them is a diminution of yourselves. You are bound with a link which is invisible to your eye. The link is here, inside My Heart.

Love is one. And you are one thing sharing in the infinite joy inscribed in My Heart, which will be yours. Be united and fear nothing.

Nothing is grave for Me!

Only your separation is grave for Me. You who wish to love Me cannot separate yourselves from Me. I cannot divide My Heart. And you, to enter it, to have the right to enter it, must be absolutely united. To separate from Me is to render impossible union with Me, in My Heart which is one. Be docile and

benevolent among yourselves; help and correct one another, but never separate from each other.

Your union is My joy, I will fill you with Graces for the effort you expend in loving one another and never separating from one another.

When one of you is tempted to reject someone else, I immediately intervene. I intervene with all energy to prevent it.

This is My will: let each one of you take a small step towards the other and I will set in motion the power of My Heart.

When you are far away, remember one another; in remembering, you will cause Me to live in you.

I will always be among you only if you help one another to be united more and more.

Do not fear for him who wants to turn away from you. Your love for that person will enable you to overcome every obstacle.

In your longing for love, My will is at work. My will is stronger than any kind of resistance.

Persevere in seeking union, in loving the one who tries to flee. I know ways to bring the runaway back to you. He will not be able to escape, and I will tell you why.

The man I sent you was chosen by Me.

You have brought him back to My Heart and that man is now tied by My invisible bonds. Your will keeps those bonds connected to My Heart. Through those bonds I keep in touch with the one who tries to run away, who wants to turn back. My relationship with him causes pain and disturbances which will last until he spontaneously admits that he has failed to keep the agreement of union with you, with Me.

I defend your rights over those whom you have loved and who are trying to run away from you. To run away from you is to run away from Me. Ask Me for help when you feel helpless. I will immediately intervene in your favour, because your union is My will.

Union among yourselves is union with Me. Your separation from each other is separation from Me. Today I am 42 years old; it is midnight. I still feel close to everyone's heart, to GOD's Heart. He has wished me a happy birthday. He is good and loving to me and wants to keep me in His company.

I am somewhat confused; I do not know why. I listen in silence to the beatings of this Divine Heart which is so full of love for me.

I know I am not worthy of so much but I am

I know I am not worthy of so much, but I am certain that I am not wrong.

He Himself is watching me, talking to me and keeping me company. I do not feel alone; as a matter of fact, I have never had such a strong feeling of satisfaction, of not lacking in anything. Tonight it seems that I have everything in me.

What is this Heart which is beating in me?

It is GOD who knows my need of Him, my desire to have Him close to me. Tonight I would be alone with my many thoughts, and perhaps even sad.

Everything has changed because I hear His voice which is telling me to be calm, to trust in the good that He will give me tomorrow, too.

Today is a new day, everything seems to me like a return to the past. A past that I do not remember, but that still exists in His everpresent Heart; because in His Heart, in GOD's Heart, everything is present. My infancy, my youth, the age of my maturity are written there, and I can see and live again every instant with Him.

I have lost only the memory of all my faults and my numerous occasions of unfaithfulness towards Him.

Why on earth can I no longer remember the sins that I have committed? Perhaps it is His birthday wish for me, the gift He is giving me. It is a gift that only He, who is so generous, could give me: to let me forget the evil I have done. Indeed, this talk of His Heart is a call to me to have courage, trust and a complete conviction that He will make all things right.

What does the Heart of GOD want of me?

He does not ask me anything. He is telling me to love Him as much as I can, and then my love for Him will bring to me to feel Him ever closer. It will lead me to see Him and recognize the places dear to Him. It is in those places that I shall see Him tomorrow. From His hiding places He will let me hear Him and perhaps even see Him.

He is tired of hiding Himself, He wants to come out, make Himself seen; and this is why He has decided to come to me.

I cannot tell Him that I feel unworthy because He makes me believe that He is happy to stay with me. I would offend Him if I told Him that I do not deserve so much, and then I embrace Him and hold Him close to me as my dearest friend

What else can I give Him?

I have nothing to offer Him except my genuine friendship and my uttermost trust. Perhaps I have a bit of love, and I give Him the little I have and thus it is now He who does everything for me.

He is my friend, the friend I have always been searching for but had never been able to find. Now I have Him; I have everything; My friend is GOD. It is the Heart of GOD which has granted me His friendship. It is His friendship which will make me a friend of all of those who are His friends, all those who wish to become His friends, also a friend of the one who does not even know that there is only one true friend, HIM.

I recall who was not my friend. Now that I have His friendship, I am certain that I can have all the friendships I want. I will definitely get them all; all those I desire, to share them with Him. Now it is He who provides everything for me.

It is He who guides every step and will not allow those He chose for Himself to run away from Him, on the pretext of going away from me.

It will be a return of all those He called. Now there will be the roll call, and woe to the one who does not answer.

There is no time to lose. We must come back, come back to the sheepfold.

It is He who wants that, who has decided it! His decision is to have His Heart triumph in the hearts of all who love. The storm which scattered the sheep is over; now the rainbow is inviting us to come back, all together, in order to heed His will.

Many are the ills in the world, yet; one is disease. Disease is our not understanding how powerful is His love, and our love for Him. It is an endless ocean of goods, of happiness, of riches which very few people know, and just about no one wishes to make use of. The remedy is there, in that limitless ocean where we can obtain everything, and instead, till now we have availed ourselves of almost nothing.

The good which has come to us has been given by Him spontaneously, but now He wants us to learn to attain it and ask for it. The supply of these goods is inexhaustible; the riches that are available to all are limitless, and they will be given only to the one who knows how to ask for them and desire them.

To attain means to turn to Him; only one ray coming from His Heart would put us in touch with that supply which will be the joy of all. Sometimes love can make you prisoner of a heart, but I shall release you from that heart to set you free and you will be only one heart with Me.

In My Heart you will listen to Me; in your heart I speak and tell you what is for your own good.

The good I want to give you is to hear My voice always. Learn to listen and you will feel the truth entering into you. In Me you will hear the voice of all those whom you have loved. They are in My heart through the love which united them to you. Their love for you, your love for them, it was Me.

The love you have received or given, is always here and lives for ever. Your every act of love lives and relives in My heart. Listen to its voice, which is Mine. It is here that you will find again everything you have loved, and all those whom you love.

You, who bring love into the world, I have always known you. It is I who take you because you come from Me. It was I who wanted you and it was My Heart which gave you to the world, for you are Me who is living, you are My Heart which brings warmth into the world.

Whoever loves you, loves Me; he, who truly loves Me, will recognize Me in you, for I reveal Myself through you. Those who distance themselves from you, distance themselves from Me.

If you should happen to weep, it is I who weep; your joy is my joy.

It is not your grief which makes you weep, but rather it is the consciousness of My presence which makes you feel the grave wrong that is being done to Me, and you comfort Me in wishing forgiveness for all, in desiring the return of all to you for My sake; because the return to you is a return to Me.

My love for you is health for all those who turn to you and will turn to you; the good that binds Me to you is so great that your requests to give Myself are an order for Me, and I give Myself and donate to all those whom you bring to My attention.

Instead, those whom I bring to your attention and I send to you are those who had direct recourse to Me with the smallest act of love in a moment of distress. It is such an act which makes Me send them to you. I send them to you because you know Me and you will make Me known to those who are searching for Me, without a clear understanding of who I am and what I am able to give. You only know what I can because you yourself can, by the bond which unites you to Me.

Today is a day of great feast for you, for Me, for everybody. It is the feast of My most intimate conversation with you, conversation with your friends; it is a conversation with the world that asks for and searches for the truth.

The truth will be known by all those who want to know it. Those, who will believe in Me for what I have already said, will believe what I am going to tell you.

It is I who have chosen this day to talk to you, to talk to everyone, it is your forty-second

birthday. On this day, I am here close to you to give you the strength and courage to go forward, to continue to search for the way to bring stable and lasting joy and peace to anxious and unhappy hearts. This has always been your greatest desire, I know it because this was My wish and I have kindled it in you.

Now you know Me as much as you have wanted to, as much as you have known how to look for Me in the hearts of all the people whom you have met. Now I will let you know in Me the program which had been established.

It is a program of victorious conquests. You must not worry about searching for anything; I will give you all that you need, I will give you every day, every instant, something new. I will show you things that you have not yet seen. I will let you know what you, up to now, did not know.

You must never ask me why I do this. You must only believe that it is thus established by Me. Now it is premature, but one day you will also know the reason. Your life must proceed like this, like many other men's lives; the difference in you will be My constant presence.

What you are going to do will be My will; nothing will happen by chance; it is all preordained by Me.

I shall not allow anyone to judge what you do. The moment has already come to speak clearly and with authority. It is necessary that I make you influential. By being authoritative, you will be able to become better known. You will make my program known through your authority. I will make your word authoritative; authority is given to you because you have loved those whom I sent you sick, for the noncognisance of Me

This is what I wanted from you; this is what I would like from everyone, especially from those who say they are at My service. But I do not serve those who want to be served, pretending that they are serving Me. Actually these men would like Me at their service because they know how powerful I am. They know that everything is in My hands and thus they bow to Me.

By bowing to Me they recognize My omnipotence, My presence. But this bowing to Me, this attitude is not what I want. I prefer those who do not kneel before Me only because they do not know how much I can. These people are less responsible. I could obtain much from them, if I revealed Myself to them.

He who bows before Me, who beseeches Me, who prays to Me is not always the one who loves Me. More often He is the one who wants to make Me bow to His selfish desires. This happens even to you who love Me. These know and feel that, for love of you I cannot say no, therefore they often ask you for that which they do not obtain from Me, because it was either unjust or they did not deserve it. This is why sometimes you happen to be disappointed by the one who turns to you with apparent love.

Those, whose wishes I granted only for love of you, believe that they have succeeded in deceiving you. They are wrong! They tried to deceive you through Me, but I already knew their plans and had foreseen everything!

What I have granted them I did in order to commit them to you who have loved them; whatever they have received from Me without their meriting it, and only through your supplications to Me, all belongs to you

Those gifts are still mine and yours; those gifts you asked of Me for their joy, and which I granted, will be the fire burning them if they fail to be grateful to you and to Me.

I am never vindictive because no rebellion can take Me by surprise. I know men's hearts. I often intervene energetically against all of those who obstruct My plans. My intervention is immediate towards those who are against you, who love to be part of My pre-established plans. I do not take revenge, I defend My order concerning everything and everyone.

I shall never allow any intelligent, cunning, malicious, evil man to express the slightest judgment about you who love and want to serve Me. I shall be the severest judge of all of those who dare to judge you, who are My Heart in the world. My love for you is condemnation for all of those who despise you; My love for you is mercy and love for all those who show

you respect and love, even if they are great sinners. I will be the friend of all those who are your friends.

If I were not as I am telling you, how could you believe that I love you, that I am with you and that I defend everything that concerns you?

I shall do for you even more than what you can see and can imagine. I will take upon myself all your sins.

I am not wounded by the desires the world stirs up in you. I have put you in the world, in contact with illusions of the world. In this world I want to temper you. The knowledge you made about evil, I know how to transform it into goodness. Your experience is cognizance. The knowledge of the evil in you is the means I use to combat it in those whom I send you.

I want you to be fearless; fear is a sign of weakness, is a lack of faith in My strength. My strength is higher than every world's allurement, My strength nullifies every fall of yours.

I only ask you to keep Me in your heart, to believe My strength wipes out all your weakness. I am your strength.

Always think that *I shall never be your judge. I want to be your trustworthy advisor.* I ask you never to doubt My love for you. Whatever can make you happier, I shall give it to you.

I shall remove any sadness from you. Entrust to Me all your sufferings and I will give you joy in return. I am your total good, because I have put you in the world. You are in My heart; I am in yours.

The good you offer Me is an increase of mercy for everybody. My great love for you makes Me more lenient with everyone. Everybody will benefit from the good you give Me, for I cannot be severe because of My love for you.

I am very strict when someone offends the love which binds you to Me. Union with Me is nothing more than letting Me do everything.

When you are looking for a remedy for your error or some else's injustice, just give me full freedom to act. I am often obstructed by your course of action. Your mind is influenced by the suggestions of men acting in bad faith, I know the suggestions and those who make them, and therefore, let Me act for you.

I need your permission because My love for you makes Me respectful of your wishes, of your mistakes. Nothing is more precious than free consent. I respect your free choice and I often consent to wrong choices that you make.

Your mistake does not worry Me; I can remedy everything. While I ask to listen to Me,

I give you the chance to make a choice; listening to Me does not mean losing the freedom of choice.

You can live your life in the way that pleases you most; the ways are many. If you wish, I can point out the easiest way, less risky and most beautiful for you. I do not care about the occupation and state you wish to choose. What is important is that you keep Me as a guide to your steps.

I will prevent you from perils that you cannot see with your own eyes; the snares of your and My enemies, I know them all.

The assets which you seek you sometimes already posses without knowing it, they are close at hand. My intervention is needed to open your eyes.

All that which I have reserved for you, you often fail to obtain, because your cunning enemies either hide it or try to steal it.

Ask Me, I shall tell you what is yours, I shall prevent others from taking what rightfully belongs to you.

The requests you make of Me must be very clear, because I must hold to the words you say in granting your wish.

Your word engraves itself in My Heart just as you pronounce it. It is important to think and reflect well before making a request of Me. Try to focus well on exactly what you want from Me. If you are not certain of your wishes, if you fear asking Me for things that would not be good for you in the future, then you can ask Me for advice. I will advise you about what is most urgent for you, for your best, for your greater happiness and the happiness of those dear to you.

You will be able to hear My answers simply and clearly; I give you the inner certainty of My advice. But it is necessary that you put yourselves in a condition that you still be able to hear Me. It will be your humble and patient waiting that will prepare and dispose you to listen.

You should never be in a hurry, nor too certain of yourselves; distrust your own desires. When you are doubtful of yourselves, of your wishes, then indeed you will start listening to

Me and heeding Me. Only then will you understand without doubt that I am the One who is speaking to you.

You will understand My word, because it will be the most simple, the most convincing. When I Myself advise you, every doubt disappears from you. When in doubt, however, it is always I who make Myself heard in order to try to make you wait. I stir up doubt in you when I want you to turn to Me for advice. Always wait for the certainty that I will give you after you have patiently and humbly asked to have the doubt removed.

The knowledge that most interests you in order to feel richer, stronger, happier will be the real wealth for your spirit, for your life, when you learn to have it under My guidance.

I can make you understand in a day, in a moment, all that you would not be able to understand in a lifetime. Self-knowledge itself is possible only in direct contact with Me.

I know who you are, where you come from, where you must go, because your life is energy emanating from My will to give what I am, what I possess.

My energy has formed the flesh which has served to give a face to your spirit. Your spirit existed before it was covered by your flesh. Your being is My spirit which was infused in the first man; it is that very spirit of Mine that, giving life to Adam, through diverse channels, has reached you. It is these channels that have defiled the spirit that was Mine.

The spirit channeled in your mind directs your heart and controls it. The love in your heart is My constant presence in you. Your heart is good because of My love for you.

If My love makes your heart good, your mind can direct your heart to excessive passions, defiling your spirit; the spirit, defiled by various passions (flesh, greed, envy, etc.) directs and defiles your thoughts. Your thoughts engage your mind in desires which kill the spirit of love in you. Without the spirit of love, you are the prey and the victim of carnal passions.

Carnal passions divide you and set you against one another (envy). Only your heart can save you because it is the magnet I have

placed inside you. I use this magnet to draw you to Me.

Even if defiled by the mind which can turn it to a passion opposed to love, your heart remains the centre of My love for you. To draw your heart to Me is to force your mind to renounce all unhealthy intentions.

My love is stronger than any passion. Therefore, by your love for the one who is the victim of passions, you take Me to the heart of that person. The love that I bring to that heart is a light beacon which illuminates the mind. The mind, enlightened by My love, draws My Holy Spirit which will direct the intellect and will stir up fertile thoughts for your joy and your peace, for clear harmony between your mind and your heart.

## Rome, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 1968 – Holy Thursday

I became a man like you. I let you kill Me in order to be able to enter into your hearts and give you the love which is My Heart.

My Heart is at your disposal and it becomes yours for the conquest of men's hearts. This is the path I showed you with My Passion; to enter into hearts.

The mind can be influenced, but the heart can only be conquered; a firmly conquered heart will be the master of the mind and will induce it to desire only what the heart commands and desires. It is never violence that wins the heart of a man. Rather it is meekness, goodness, sacrifice, renunciation, perseverance of the will.

It is a violence solely consisting of the will never to give up the desire to enter into that heart. It was My death on the cross that opened this door for you. I have even put at your disposal the key to enter when you find it closed. The key is My Heart which becomes yours every time you ask Me to open the closed door of a heart.

I will enter together with you, because if I entered alone I would not create the bond among you. Each of you would be tied only to Me. Instead I want to bind you all together in Me, through Me. This is the reason why I have always chosen, and I still choose, one of you, to whom I have given Myself and continue to give Myself in order to enter into everyone.

The choice was made by Me on the wood of the cross, during My Agony. It was then that The Father allowed Me to choose, among all of you, the ones most capable of expressing themselves and of bringing you the knowledge of Me, of everything I obtained from the Father for you, of everything you can do through Me.

Your hope for a return to peace, to joyous and harmonious living among yourselves, is all based on those choices I made at that time.

Those men, who played such a great role in saving the world from ruin, were among the ones whom I chose at that time. The few who are in the world today and live to give

themselves to others still bring more and more effectively the mercy and forgiveness of the Father, which I asked for and obtained for all of you. These men, who live among you, continue to receive a power which controls the instability created by the dominion of ambition and passion.

It is the power of My Love which reaches you all, through the channels already chosen during My Agony. The source of all goodness, of all available riches is in Me. I send it to you through My channels.

If you do not recognize the source, the origin in Me of every good, you will be forced to go on a quest that will confuse you and cause you to lose the happy enjoyment of what you have freely received. Only gratitude will give you lasting enjoyment of My gifts.

There is no point in asking the reason for all that you do not understand. Rather, you could understand everything if only you were able to refrain from asking why. The solution to everything is the patient and serene waiting for the light that will be turned on in you. It will light up when you are content, happy with what

you already know and have, when you do not claim any right to know, to possess, to see. All your being must express, always and only, gratitude and love. At this point you will be able to know, to possess, to see either much or all that you have not claimed. Your gratitude will give you a right, the right to the love of the One who can enable you to know, to possess and to see everything.

When your love rests on a man who does not long to know Me, who neither seeks nor loves the truth, this man is the instrument that I use to induce you to remain more intimately united to Me. I want you to be more confident, more anxious to have Me at your side; I speak to you in the silence of that man who does not talk to you, who does not want to hear you talking about Me. That silence becomes a yearning for you who love Me, who love Me even more because you do not find Me present in that man who does not make you feel My presence. My silence becomes a search, makes you fear that you might have lost Me, that you might have offended Me to the point I have left

you alone, that I have lost the interest, the love, the will to accomplish My plans for you.

I never have second thoughts, I do not change the choices made for established plans; nor do I neglect even for an instant My interest, caring and love for you.

I guide you so as to keep alive and more effective the impulse of the search for the Truth and the Goods, which I had already decided to place at your disposal, in order to give you the joy of acting on My behalf, to give you the authority to say, to do what the world does not know how to say and do.

I want to spare you from the confusion and the ideas of straying humanity, which could deprive you of the serenity and enthusiasm which you need, in order to continue seeking and spreading only the Truth.

It is only for love that I will allow you to meet with falsehood; it is to make you love ever more, to keep yourselves more closely united and fond of truth and justice.

I have chosen you to be the mirror of the truth.

I will defend you from falsehood and you will never be caught in the snares of deceit, because I take away the power of suggestion from every lying spirit, highlighting the truth. I leave in the shadows every false and malicious assault on the truth. Shadow is the absence of energy, absence of vital force; it is decay and certain death.

All that is living and that will live is only all that receives warmth from My rays of light; all that I leave in shadow dies.

That one is in the truth who commits himself entirely to desiring to understand and to carry out a program of deeper understanding of the truth. It is humble self-searching that will lead you to the awareness of the fact that it is impossible for you to create your own truth.

The truth that man creates for himself and wants to impose on others is the imposition of falsehood only. The one who seeks a truth to impose as a dominant rule on others imposes himself, not the truth.

My truth leaves even falsehood free; the lie makes noise, makes violence, trembles because is afraid of the power of the truth. The power of the truth is in patient waiting for the collapse, for the death of what cannot survive without the warmth of My true light.

You, who are in touch with men's lies, will fight within yourselves every spirit of nontruth, of meanness, in seeing the evil caused by the imposition of lies. I can help you to hasten the return of your welfare only in truth. Your duty is to desire My intervention in demolishing the false beliefs imposed by men thirsting for revenge and seeking dominion over everyone and everything.

The collapse of these false myths will be inexorable and inevitable. I will bring forward this collapse when you lovingly ask Me to do so. Your request will unmask everything and all the centres for the spreading of lies which bring incalculable ruin to the whole world. The power I give you will not be to impose the truth; it will be the power to unmask the lies. The truth will make headway every time a lie is unmasked. The collapse of a single lie is the anticipated triumph of truth, of goodness, of love, which is the triumph of greater happiness

and well-being for you all, because, with the truth, I Myself enter.

I alone am your GOD who can give you order, peace, riches, happiness. To combat falsehood is to spread goodness around you, is to induce Me to make other truths known to you. When you love truth, you love Me. The one who is truthful for love of truth, loves Me and knows Me. It is the love of truth that will bring you to know the truth, to live it with Me.

To accept a truth by suggestion, by imposition, by fear is not to love the truth, because it is love alone that gives you intimate union with Me; it will always be love of truth that will make you know the truth, because the truth is only in Me.

I know all the falsehood that is spread around you.

The smallest lie, as also the largest, is the greatest obstacle to your living in peace, to your attaining that progress, that spiritual and harmonious elevation of yourself which is true happiness.

Many good men do not produce anything good for themselves and for others; their

goodness is limited to not doing any evil to others and, for the love of living in peace, they avoid taking any position of resistance to the spreading of errors that they can see and recognize.

These individuals are not called good by Me. They are responsible for the spreading of lies and evils that will strike everyone. Their passivity renders all the more active the spirits who are bearers of disorder.

It is only the one who does not accept, who fights against, who stops in himself, for himself, and for the others the imposed lie, it is he, who induces Me to lend him support that will make him triumph over all the enemies of the truth. The one who lowers himself to compromise with the lies of men will never have Me at his side. I cannot agree to help a man who accepts the lies of other men and expects not only My help, but also My seal of approval for his compromise with lies.

That man I will not help, because he does not believe in Me; he does not believe in the invincible power of truth. He will fight alone and will be crushed by the lies that he has accepted. The prayers that he will address to Me, even if constant, will not lend to the triumph of the cause that has been undertaken.

The causes which I defend, the prayers I answer, are those of the ones who have agreed to serve one cause only: the truth; for the triumph of justice and love.

Any prayer that does not lead to this end is not heeded. If the goal that you propose for vourself is the one indicated by Me, I will correct your errors; I will make plain the path that you will have to follow; I will defend you and the persons dear to you from snares and enemies; I will keep at a distance from you all those who try to put obstacles in your way, in order to deceive and to isolate you. I will never permit anyone to block your way to the conquest of those who want to listen to you and follow you in this path. No one, no matter how intelligent or in whatever position of power, will succeed in confusing you. I, in you, will confuse all those who try to confuse you. I will not neglect to beat down the pride of all of those who intend to, or dare to humiliate you. I will humiliate and render powerless all those

who deem themselves authorized to stop you from speaking the truth which you know. Useless will be criticism against you, against your lifestyle, and against your weaknesses as a man. Every criticism leveled against you will be a great punishment for those who made it. They will repent bitterly having dared to treat you like individuals who have no means or ability to defend themselves. My defense will be sudden and will be a warning for everyone. The few victims of their evil speech are the ones who will assure you of My help.

It is for love of the triumph of a Superior Good that I will remove power from the evil ones; it is for the welfare of all that I will make known the great hope that will be you, who love Me, to find again the right path. It is the path that will lead to true belief in the possibility of obtaining My constant presence and assistance for everyone.

## San Giovanni Rotondo, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 1968 Holy Saturday

I am present in a special way where there is the desire to know Me, the will to love Me. Your desire to know Me becomes My donation of what you wish and what I wish from you.

To persevere and loving Me after having known Me is a commitment of your will. Your will shall be one, just with mine, when you love Me. You must ask Me for perseverance; ask Me for the will to persevere in loving Me.

The prayer will be an encounter with Me, in a conversation which is the gift of your heart with all the love that it holds.

Your words, pronounced in silence, will be creative; they will create for you a world which will be similar to Mine, because My world will be yours for the love that you desire to give Me.

My spirit will create for you all that your word has asked of Me, with love, and for My love.

My thought will be transferred into yours, to show you all that I think and wish:

what I wish will be what you think.

The light of My eyes will be reflected in yours.

My gaze in you will rest wherever you will not find My light reflected. In those places, deprived of light, it will be necessary to increase the intensity of your light. The intensity of your light will increase in the increasing of fervor in your prayers addressed to Me. Fervor increases My love for you; it will increase the intensity of the light in your look; you will be able to see in darkness and to illuminate it

The discovery of feeling yourself too close to the Creator will give you the certainty of being able to create with Him, to re-create a life of the Spirit where the Spirit is missing.

The creative word of contact will bring back the light into man. The word addressed to the Holy Spirit is the love of the heart of a man for his Creator.

It is the word that becomes prayer, becomes gratitude, becomes a donation of love. In the donation of love, the word of a man becomes creator of all and of all good.

It is by donating to Me all that little which you have received, it is by offering everything to Me through love that I will create for you whatever you ask Me with the love expressed by your words. In such conditions, the words you speak will be the expression of My will.

The creative power of each one of your words will be the manifest power of My Creative Spirit which acts to give form to the desire expressed by your words and by your thoughts.

The thoughts that you address to Me in silence are your intimate conversation with Me; they are the words that only I can hear and keep secret for My Heart and yours. All your thoughts are the secret contact between Me and you.

The thoughts that keep you far from Me cannot detach Me from you; I am always present, even when you believe that I am absent, or you would like Me to be. My presence is invisible because of the hardness of the heart which has devoted itself completely to the conquest of creatures or things created by a greed for possession, a thirst for power.

The possession of all that I have created for you does not lastingly satisfy your heart's yearnings. The unsatisfied longings of the heart induce you, induces your mind, to seek more and more new possessions in an attempt to satisfy the never-ending demands of your heart.

All that you have succeeded in possessing, all that you will ever possess of creation, will never relieve you of your heart's dissatisfaction. You will never be able to satisfy your heart even if you possess in its entirety all that I have created for you. Your possessing does not satisfy you because everything was created by Me for you, as a means.

Creation is the means that I have made available to you to enable you to rediscover your Creator in it, to find Him in creatures like yourself, to love Him in the creatures who have rediscovered Him, to love Him in those who are seeking Him, to love Him in those in whom He hides Himself in order to invite you to search for Him. As for individuals who say they can live without recognizing My

existence, you will have certain proof of My presence even in them.

The power of My love for you who love Me will show you that I am present in those who claim to be Godless.

I only wait for you to ask Me to conquer, through your heart in union with Mine, the love of all hearts of men who cannot love Me, do not want to love Me, who say they do not know Me, that they do not need Me, that I do not exist, only because they have not yet received the warmth of your hearts, of the hearts to whom I gave My love, in order to give it to all, through you, who received it from Me. It is to unite all of you in Me that I am waiting to bind you to those to whom you request that I donate Myself as a favour to you.

I am already present in atheists; I am there to wait for you; I am waiting for your prayer of union. This will be the prayer that will enable you to discover My constant presence in that place where My existence is denied. It is I who hide Myself in those very men; I hide Myself in order to summon you there where you can

better give proof of the sincerity of your love for Me.

I call you not to discuss My existence, My Presence; I call you only to love Me in those, to love the return to the light, the triumph of all the joys that you know are available in Me for all of you.

You must not look for forced meetings with atheists whom you do not know; love them in Me. You must desire, ask for, offer love, in order to achieve the satisfaction of the craving of your insatiable heart.

The Heart asks you only this: love for the creatures, for the Creation, for the unity of all in one Heart only, the Heart that will always be happy and fulfilled in the embrace of all its creatures.

The path that each one of you must follow will be indicated by My love which will direct your heart.

You will stop where you find greater obstacles, in order to overcome them, to demolish them, and continue on your way.

The obstacles are all barriers to be overcome in order to grow in knowledge. I am always on the other side of the obstacle, waiting to help you whenever you are not able to overcome it.

Love moves ever forward, higher; in this way it invites you to always keep walking, to search for it, to find it greater than when you lost it, to know it better.

I move Myself a step or more to wait for you at a higher level, in order to make you see and know all from above.

The path of love never stops. Its motor is My Heart that My Spirit directs to win resistances in yours. I drag yours into My Heart, to make of it a single motor.

During the stops, in the accidents, in the dangers that threaten you, I am waiting for you, ready to respond to your call for help.

I draw you with My motor to remove you from the stop, to repair the breakdown, to avoid new, grave dangers.

Together with Me, you will start again on the course that will have you reach the peak that I have prepared for you.



"Now, no one has gone up to Heaven except the One who came down from there, the Son of Man who is in Heaven. Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that all who believe in Him may have eternal life. Whoever believes in Him avoids condemnation; but he who does not believe is already condemned for not believing in the NAME of GOD's only SON. The cause of the condemnation lies in this: the Light came into the world, but men preferred the darkness rather than the light...".

(John 3, 13-15; 18-19)

## San Giovanni Rotondo, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 1968 Holy Easter Feast of the Resurrection

In all created things the creator is present. I am resurrected today to bring to the Father the life of everyone of you. I have reconciled you with Him and I have brought for each one of you the offering of My sacrifice. The Father has accepted the offering and in My Resurrection. He has resurrected all of you from death.

The gift that I have left of Myself in order to demonstrate to you My continuous presence you will be able to find in all of creation, in every creature. The gift has been the return of all creation, and of all of you, to the love of the Father.

My heart has bled and has ceased to live, to give life to your heart. The life that My Heart has brought to you has established the covenant of union with Me and with the Father.

The blood of My Heart has become one with yours. For the love of My blood the Father has brought, through mine, love to your

blood, to your life. Your life lives now in love of GOD.

The love of The Father for Me has become love for each one of you. All created things have re-entered into love together with your lives, with My life in you. It is for this reason that you will be able to obtain everything, living united with Me; it is because in creation, in the things you most love in creation, is present, the One who possesses them.

The desire to possess what you love, for love to Him who possesses it, is the only way to obtain all that you ask for. It is the law of My heart; it is the law of love. He who asks for love from one who loves him is certain to obtain love and all the things that love possesses; he will be sure to receive everything that love has created and can create.

My Resurrection for you has given you the light to ask and offer; to ask in order to receive; to offer the little that you already possess in exchange for inexhaustible good. Because of the acquired right, you are heirs with Me of My entire inheritance. I wish to divide everything with you. Nothing is mine that is not yours.

I died on the cross for you, to suffer in your stead, in order to have the right to ask you to love Me for all the love that I have shown you. I have resurrected, not to distance Myself from you, but to make you resurrect with Me. I have returned to the Kingdom of the Father in order to prepare for you a most beautiful mansion. I have retaken My place in order to help you to occupy yours.

My return among you, as it has already taken place, will be a return to ask you to keep Me with you. My Body, My Blood, have remained there waiting to be given.

My Spirit does nothing but listen for anyone who needs to receive It, who wants to receive It.

I cannot wait for the call that I need for helping you, therefore I have sent you, and I always send you, a man who has knowhow to call Me, to hold Me, in his heart. That man whom I send you to help you will know how to tell you about Me, for the love that united us and unites us, that man whom I send you is resurrected with Me.

In order to make you resurrect, I have sent you a man who has already risen, a man who will teach you to resurrect every time that you feel you want Me, to make Me resurrect.

My resurrection, your resurrection, is to make My life revive in yours. It is to give you again, make you receive again love of life, love for Me, in a resurrected and renewed pact of union which is the triumph and conquest of all good, of all that risen love is and can give.

Love is providence. It provides everything, provides for everything and for everyone, it provides nourishment, for the growth of love, with the intention of making itself known and recognized.

The gifts that are donated to you by Divine Providence, you often do not want to acknowledge. The absence in you of gratitude is an impediment to the knowledge of the ways that maintain direct, continuous contact with Me, the One who has provided and continues to provide you with every good.

I cannot allow you to lack anything of what you ask, with the purpose of giving yourself to Me more fully. I am compelled to give you every good and all riches, when you use them to increase in yourself the possibility of donating Me to others. Then, what you desire will be provided, if you know how to increase your gratitude for the Divine Providence.

Thank Me, for that little which you already possess.

The thanks that comes to Me will increase

your enjoyment of what you do possess, because, while you thank Me, I increase in My love for you, love for the gifts that you have recognized as My gifts to you. It is My love infused in those gifts that can bring you to their enjoyment.

Everything that My Providence has given, and still gives you, is to make itself known and to make you recognize the power of love.

Gratitude is to acknowledge how much I love you; it is to believe that I wish to give you all that I possess.

I will give you everything that you wish to possess, if in your desire of possession you demonstrate that you want to increase your possession of Me, of My love for you, of your love for Me, because only in love, in recognizing the presence of My love in everything, will you have true enjoyment of how much My love can enrich you.

Increase your love for Me, increase your gratitude for My Providence. In exchange, you will obtain, surely increased, my own favours and gifts of Mine, which will become your Divine Providence.

Give Me all the love that you have. I will give you all My Providence, with all My love. In giving you My Heart, I will be giving you everything. All-powerful is the love that lives in you, in the heart that was Mine and now is yours. I have accepted the offer of your little heart, because you have given it entirely to Me.

It is in the gift of the little whole which belonged to you that makes irresistible My desire to give you in exchange the whole of My great Heart. I know how to hold in your little heart all My great Heart. You will love and will obtain everything that is created and creature of love.

I love you at the point that you cannot imagine. I offer Myself continuously so that you avoid punishments much graver than what you are already a victim of. It is not Me who sends the punishments to you; it is you who provoke them by the erroneous use you make of created things and, through these, of your lives.

The love that you deny Me does nothing but subtract love from yourself and from the love of the things that I have created for you. Only My love can make exist, grow, and prosper everything that this love has created for its creatures. The good things that I gave for your pleasure, you make them become bad, you transform My good into evil for you. Transformed into evil for you, is whatever you do not cultivate in love, which you do not know how to make grow and prosper with renewed love. It is My love that keeps you alive, and with the things you make use of. The absence or scarcity of love for Me, is to let love, which is life, recede from yourselves, from Creation, because everything and you all will live, only if you become a whole with love.

Punishments are not provoked by Me. It is by separating yourselves from life, that you render impossible any form of life in created things, which are not fed at the fountain that keeps them alive: My love.

If you do not accept the love I give you, that I ask you of, I am compelled to distance Myself from you, only because you do not desire Me. When you push Me away, you are pushing away the One who gave you life and who can keep you alive only by a relation of love.

The love rejected by you, if it distances itself, deprives you of all the gifts that only love can give to you and keep them alive.

The nature that surrounds you cannot live without the light, without the warmth of the love which is life. Your life does not withstand icy cold, the absence of the warmth of My love. There is no peace in you without the light, that gives you knowledge and love to be united among yourselves. The absence of My love is the absence of love among yourselves; it is hatred that chills you, that chills the relationship among yourselves; it is hatred that wounds you, makes you bleed and then die.

I want to teach you how to conquer My Heart, to make you live in love. My Heart will teach you how to conquer the hearts of men. I will teach you to bring to all men the love that will be the only way to bring back peace to people, the only guarantee to re-establish harmony among the peoples who war against each other, in the name of their justice which is hatred that divides them and kills them, in the name of their truth, which is the absence of freedom; it is slavery to egoism that wants to dominate, through the passions of men, the freedom that is only in My Spirit infused in man.

My Spirit which is life, which supports your life, is the Spirit of liberty. My Spirit leaves you free to give Me the love that I have placed in your heart. I have left you free to love more than Me the vain ambitions to dominate one over the other, the one free to wish to possess the Gifts of the Spirit, the Gifts created by Me that I gave to the other one. I have granted you complete freedom because it is only in the free

choice of Me, that I can renew the gratitude of those who donate everything to Me because they know and believe that they have received everything from Me.

Your faithfulness to Me, who, with life, has given you everything, is to recognize Me as your everything, your true GOD. Faithfulness in gratitude to Me unites you into a wholeness which is happiness, peace and harmony.

Infidelity is to make o god of each of you, to make a god of each of your passions, of each one of your untruths. The ego that wants to make a god of a man is a cause of the division among men, a cause of fighting, of wars, of ruin, of unhappiness and death. Justice is just one; justice is love for the truth of the GOD of all.

I have called you to bring My Heart into the world, to make everyone know that there is only one truth, only one justice, love to Me, to My Divine Heart.

Only in the Heart of GOD will you find the whole truth, the whole justice that you have searched for in vain, and that you search for elsewhere. It is My Heart, the Heart of your GOD, which invites all of you who have known Me to be united, you who love Me, you who say you love Me.

Your union is My invitation to help you reciprocally to know Me better, to posses Me evermore, to love Me more. You will increase in your Faith in My power, you will feel able to conquer for Me the hearts that you love, to conquer the hearts of

those who do not possess Me, those who do not know Me, those who have not received the gift of Me, those who have not known how to seek Me, those who do not know whom I am, those who ask you about Me, those who do not know how much I can. those who consider themselves unworthy to have Me again after having been unfaithful to Me.

Do not be disturbed by the hardness of hearts which do not choose to listen to you, which do not wish to hear talk about Me, which have rejected Me and continue to reject Me,

Your commitment to love all those who have not listened to you will never be in vain. Continue to want love to enter into them, continue to persevere in loving all of them in Me. My love for you will open many of those hearts which you though were indifferent to the calls of yours, of my love. For many of these indifferent ones, your love will be My mercy in their final-hour.

My love for you will become mercy for all of those, even though not having wanted to listen to you, have always remained in your heart; in your heart they found the love that you knew how to offer Me in their stead. I will not waste the love that you have given with perseverance to those whom you wanted to lead to Me.

Your perseverance in the love of those who have been deaf to you was My perseverance in wanting to bring them into My heart; I sent them to you to ask you to lend them the love that will be the most pleasing loan that you will have given Me. The loan of love that you give to one who does not know how, who does not wish to love Me, is to give health, to give life to

give life to those who are on the verge of dying, who would be destined to lose Me forever, I whom I am the true and eternal life

Your love towards all those who do not love Me will gain you My gratitude. My gratitude will be an increase of love for you, an increase of all the goods that I will put at your disposal. I will fill you with My benevolence. You will enjoy My constant presence in you.

My presence at your side will remove all the fears that the world, that life in the world, can cause you. You, with Me at your side, will always be serene and will not undergo the sufferings of the world, you will know with Me the joy of elevating the sufferings of the world. With Me, you will transform the sufferings of the others into joy, with Me, you will bring to hearts the hope of finding again peace that was lost. With Me, you will face the dangers of the world. But I will not allow you to become victims of the dangers of the world.

In the strength that enables you to overcome the snares of the world, you will recognize My strength, the strength of My great love for you. It is the strength that will make you sure of victory, it is the certainty of victory that I promised to the one who wants, who knows how to keep Me at his side.

My fidelity to the promises that I have made to you is fidelity in loving the salvation of you who love Me, of all those whom you love, of all those who love you, because in you, who love Me, they will love Me. Their fidelity to you will be fidelity to Me. Their gratitude for your love for them is gratitude to Me, because the Love that they are able to recognize in you, it is Me who am recognized and faithfully loved in you. Your victory is My victory against your enemies, you will be able to recognize them when I come to judge the earth.

Now, keep in your heart the certainty of my victory and yours, certain of the goodness and fidelity of your GOD who, when He comes back on earth, will know to judge with justice the enemies of justice, the enemies of the truth. My heart knows all the enemies who remain enemies. The enemies whom I shall come to judge, will be the enemies of truth, those who

will not be able to love Me because they have loved and love their untruth.

I will come to judge only the world of the proud who, rejecting the truth, brought among you the kingdom of their injustice, which is a kingdom of falsehoods a kingdom of pride, a kingdom of vanity.

I will bring to you the kingdom of truth which will be a kingdom of humility, a kingdom of love.

Sing out the advent of My Kingdom. In the canticle that is the psalm sung by David to the people whom the Father had chosen, in order to make Himself known and loved by all the peoples of the earth.

"Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done wondrous deeds! His right hand has won victory for Him, His holy arm. The Lord has made His salvation known; in the sight of the nations He has revealed His justice. He has remembered His kindness and His faithfulness toward the house of Israel. All the ends of the Earth have seen the salvation by our GOD. Sing joyfully to the Lord, all you lands; break into song: sing praise! Sing praise to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and

melodious song! With trumpets and sound of the horn sing joyfully before the King, the Lord! Let the sea and what fills it resound, the world and those who dwell in it; Let the rivers clap their hands, the mountains shout with them for joy before the Lord, for He comes, for He comes to rule the Earth; He will rule the World with justice and the peoples with equity".

(Psalm 98/97)

...I heard these words... I understood that they come from the same TRUTH:

"It is not little that which I do for you, in fact, this is one of the graces for which you owe Me more.

All the evil of the WORLD comes from not knowing clearly the TRUTH of the HOLY SCRIPTURES. There is not even one word in it that will not come true one day".

It seemed to me that I had always believed this, and that everyone else believed likewise. But He added,

"Alas, daughter, how few are those who really love Me! If they loved Me truly I would not hide My secret from them!

Do you know what it means to love Me truly? It is to persuade oneself that everything I do not like is a falsehood. You will understand clearly what you do not understand now, from the benefit that your soul will receive"

(From the writings of St. Teresa of Avila)

Behold that CHRIST IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. Death came through a man, hence the RESSURECTION from the dead comes through a man also. Just as in Adam all die, so in CHRIST all will come to life again but each one in proper order: Christ the first fruits and then, at His coming, all those who belong to Him.

After that will come the end, when, after having destroyed EVERY SOVEREIGNTY, AUTHORITY and POWER, He will hand over the Kingdom to GOD The Father. Christ must reign until "He has put all enemies under His feet".

The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Scripture reads that "GOD has placed all things under His feet".

But when it says that everything has been made subject, it is clear that He who has made everything subject to Christ is excluded. When, finally, all has been subjected to the SON, He will then subject Himself to the one who made all things subject to Him, SO THAT GOD MAY BE ALL IN ALL.

(1 Corinthians 15, 20-28)

...But Samuel replied to him,

"Does the Lord so delight in holocausts and sacrifices as much as obedience to His VOICE? (voice of GOD)

Obedience is better than sacrifice, and submission better than the fat of rams.

For a sin like divination is rebellion, and presumption is the crime of idolatry.

Because you have rejected the command of the Lord, He, too, has rejected you as ruler".

Then Saul replied to Samuel,

"I have sinned, for I have disobeyed the command of the Lord and your instruction. *In my fear of the people I did what they said.* 

Now forgive my sin and return with me that I may worship the Lord".

But Samuel said to Saul,

"I will not return with you because you rejected THE WORD of the Lord... and the Lord rejects you".

(1 Samuel 15, 22-26)

Oh GOD, who is like You? Though You have made me feel many bitter afflictions,

You will again revive me; from the depths of the earth You will once more raise me.

Renew your benefits toward me.

Renew your benefits toward me, and comfort me over and over.

(Psalm 71/70, 19b-21)

King David then went in, sat down in the Lord's presence and said: "Who am I, Lord GOD, and what is my lineage, that You have led me as far as this? ...

Yet, to You, O GOD, this seemed too little, and now You extend Your promises for your

servant's family into the distant future, making me see as it were a whole succession of men, and it is Lord GOD Himself who raises it up... Yes, Lord, You are GOD indeed, and You have made this generous promise to Your servant. What is more, You have deigned to bless Your servant's dynasty, so that it may remain for ever before You; and since You, Lord, have BLESSED it, BLESSED will it be for ever".

(1 Chronicles 17, 16-17; 26-27)

"Do not touch My anointed ones, to My prophets you may do no harm!" He called down famine on the land, He took away their food supply.

(Psalm 105/104, 15-16)

Padre Pio assured me, to my grief, that this prophesy of Psalm 105/104 shall be repeated for the fault of those rebelling against GOD's Will of love – which is expressed in "The Book of Love".

#### **AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL NOTES**

# "...If you are good, when you are grown up, I will send you to the Holy Prophet".

These words often return and relive in my memory of my Mother: that Holy Prophet was Padre Pio. My Mother was teaching me, the tenth son, to know how to recognize and love in the Prophet the messenger of God.

The wonderful stories about the prodigies and the goodness of Padre Pio through those beloved words became a topic of conversations. The conversations aroused in me an interest in knowing the Prophet more intimately, the Prophet that my mother promised to give me as a guide to knowing God.

My interest in knowing Padre Pio increased together with my desire to become older more quickly.

I was born in San Felice sul Panaro on April, 9th, 1926, where my parents, along with other partners, were in charge of a mill. My father was an indefatigable worker. Due to this, he lived in surroundings which were least propitious for cultivating and increasing his knowledge of the problems of the spirit.

The faith and love of my mother gave continuous nourishment to the life of the Spirit of God. As for my beloved father, many remember, and will continue to remember, the exceptional trials of his love for his neighbour in extreme humility.

The gift of God in my father, owing to the good faith of his nature, brought him to excesses of trust in man, hence of generosity towards people who, not in good faith, took advantage of him.

The commandament of God, "Love your neighbour as yourself", in the great heart of my father ended up by being love for the neighbour more than for himself. For this reason, in the years preceding and immediately following my birth, my parents found themselves in very grave difficulties. They had to start again from nothing, after having spent a life of very hard work and with nine children to take care of.

Divine Providence, always loved and invoked by the unfailing faith of the spirit of my mother, did not delay in extending Its hand, Its

Counsel. The counsel of the Holy Spirit arrived in the guise of a letter from Padre Pio to the house in San Felice where it was expected, it was invoked by a mother and a father of nine children, humiliated by the indifference of men for the loss of the fruit of their labour.

The Holy Spirit advised my mother to adhere to His words given by the Prophet, the humble friar of Pietrelcina, at that time barely known, and even less recognized by the majority of men, as a man of God.

The counsel given by Padre Pio was not to listen to the bad advisors, who were trying to influence my father, in order to induce him to take the wrong path.

The right path indicated by Divine Providence was to transfer the family to Pavignane. Padre Pio assured us that work in that little centre would not be lacking and would have compensated my father for all the sacrifices and bitterness, for all his work that had not been repaid.

I was two years old when I went to Pavignane and, during my five year stay there, I heard the first stories about the wonderful life of Padre Pio.

With great admiration I used to look at the picture of the man who was so fascinating for his mysteriousness. I was learning to love and feel him to be a living member of my family, as an invisible, beloved guide of my life.

In the year 1933, a second counsel addressed to my mother came to us from Padre Pio. Part of the family, my parents and myself included, should move to San Matteo della Decima, a suburb of San Giovanni in Persiceto.

After living for seven years in Decima, my mother kept the promise made to me in my infancy to send me to the Prophet of GOD when I became older.

At the age of 14, I met Padre Pio for the first time. The reality was not inferior to the expectation that, according to my mother, would be exceptional. I did not understand which was the mysterious way that had given so much knowledge, faith and love to my mother through the instrumentality of GOD that not all men recognized as such.

San Matteo della Decima is about 600 kilometres from San Giovanni Rotondo.

My mother had never had any conversation with Padre Pio. Only once, in 1949, she went to San Giovanni Rotondo for a brief visit.

From very few people, in my numerous travels to San Giovanni Rotondo, have I heard such convincing and wise words as those that my mother was able to say, in order to make known and loved Padre Pio as the Prophet sent by GOD.

This mystery was clarified for me by Padre Pio himself, many years after that first encounter with Him.

### FIRST TRIP TO SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO

On March 15th, 1940, I left Bologna for San Giovanni Rotondo.

In our group, led by Signor Tonino Tonelli, were also two of my sisters, Gabriella and Anna. We reached San Giovanni Rotondo the next day, and found lodgings at Signorina Clorinda's in the old part of the city.

I found myself a bit lost in that windy town, so very different from mine.

The whole group at four in the morning was awakened by Signorina Clorinda. We had to walk about two kilometres to attend Padre Pio's Holy Mass in the little chapel of the convent of Santa Maria delle Grazie.

I was anxious to see close up the great and mysterious Padre Pio. The figure of the Padre that I had admired in photographs, appeared familiar.

Padre Pio, whom I was observing for the first time while attending Holy Mass, captured completely my boyish attention.

The penetrating and sweet eyes of Padre gave rise to a filial love in the depths of my heart.

The people whom I had met at the boarding house and in the church had described Padre Pio to me as being very severe.

When my turn for confession arrived, I began to be afraid. I felt attracted by the love of the heart of Padre Pio, but I was afraid of not

deserving to be received as a son of the Holy Friar, whom I had always loved.

In the old sacristy of the convent, while I was waiting and preparing myself for confession, my interest in history and art distracted me. Instead of reflecting on, and repenting my sins, I was observing the similarity between that sacristy and the interior of old Russian convents that I had admired in a book. Suddenly I was invited by Signor Tonelli to approach the confessional of Padre Pio. Completely taken up by the desire to come close to the Padre, I had forgotten that I was in the presence of the Priest to whom I should have to confess my sins!

Padre Pio asked me some questions, then he looked at me, waiting for a response. Confused, I told him: "I don't remember well if I have committed this sin."

Forcefully he replied, "Go away! Go away! What do you want from me? Prepare yourself well for confession! I have no time to waste".

The next day, after deeper and more intense preparation, I returned to the confessional. Contrary to my expectation, I found in Padre a

limitless sweetness that made me forget about the scolding of the previous day.

Padre Pio said to me: "Yes, I accept you as my spiritual son... and you must always behave well." He did not ask me any questions, either about my studies or about the town from which I came

I returned to Bologna happy to have finally met the "Prophet".

I resumed my studies at the "Istituto Aldini-Valeriani". I did not like that kind of studies, but I had not confided my pain to anyone. I studied very little and, deep inside me, I was thinking of dropping out of the school. My spiritual life was much full. I did my merciful duties with love. I received Holy Communion often, but I prayed with little fervour to Jesus-Host. At the age of eleven, I had heard a gentlemen, whom I held in great esteem, say: "I have never believed that a piece of bread could transform itself during the Consecration into the Body and Blood of Christ." I did not realise it, but now I am certain that those same words returned in my thoughts each time that I received Jesus in the Host

On the fifth of May 1940, while I was in Bologna, I received a very important letter that revealed to me a great gift from Padre Pio. From San Giovanni Rotondo he had been able to read the innermost secrets of my heart: my intentions to abandon my studies and the little fervour I had in praying to Jesus-Host, a fact which only GOD knew.

During the three days of my stay in San Giovanni Rotondo at Clorinda's house, my sisters and I had met a Signorina, Olimpia Cristallini from Perugia, who also was a guest at the boarding house.

Upon leaving for Bologna, we had left our address with Signorina Olimpia to whom, however, I had not told anything about myself.

With great surprise, I received a letter from her dated May 3rd, 1940. I quote its essential points:

## "My Good Luigi,

I have wanted to write to you for a long time... but now I can no longer postpone writing to express the Padre's desire...this much I am compelled to do through obedience, because as his spiritual daughter I cannot deny him anything, even if it should mean sacrificing my life.

Some days ago he entrusted me to tell you on his behalf that he would like Luigi from Bologna to study more diligently, because in his prayers he sees that you are not studying, so much so that you will not be promoted to the next grade, if he does not tell you about it. He told me this in a gentle way. It seemed as if those gentle words wanted to express the pain that his heart suffers, because of this negligence on your part.

It hurt me more than I could express. However, he told me that he is pleased with your behavior insofar as it relates to church matters, and you must persevere, but with a little more fervour in praying to Jesus in the Host when you receive Him.

My dear Luigi, you are fortunate that Padre advises you about what Jesus wants from you. Poor Padre! How much he suffers when his spiritual children do not keep the promises they made to him. He is responsible for it in the presence of GOD's Majesty. But we don't do

this, do we? But I am certain beyond any doubt that my dear Luigi, who has such a good heart, does not want our dear Padre, our victim, to suffer on account of our not passing an exam in school. He sees your future and has already established your position.

I beg of you, my dear, make sure that, on reading this letter, the Padre may no longer have to see what his son Luigi does here that causes his soul to suffer and causes his wounds to bleed so much...let each one of you put forth a strong, a very strong, willingness to do what our Holy Padre expressly desires.

Let us together try to console his saddened heart, because his heart is the very Heart of Jesus.

Hoping for the best...

The Holy Benediction of Padre to all.

Your sister in Jesus

Olimpia Pia Cristallini"

The prayers of the Padre and his words encouraging me to study helped me decide not to leave the Technical Institute.

At the beginning of the academic year 1942-43, I was attending the fifth year at the "Istituto Aldini"; I needed only three years to obtain my diploma.

One day, in October 1942, the Institute's teacher of literature, Dr. Lia Ceneri, said to me: "How is it that you, Gaspari, did not choose a school of classical studies?". I answered that would have been my preference, but that I had to resign myself to obtaining a diploma from a technical school.

The good and generous teacher said to me: "I am sure that you will be able to pass the exam to go on to the Liceo Scientifico. During this school year I will give you private lessons in Latin...".

The enthusiasm and generosity of Dr. Ceneri encouraged me to give it a try. In the evenings, after eight hours of school at "Istituto Aldini", I went to the home of Dr. Ceneri to start my study of Latin, from zero.

Certainly, it was Padre Pio's prayers, offered to GOD unbeknowst to me, that sent me this generous teacher, and also the will to study which I did not have before.

In the summer of 1943, I managed to pass the exam and the next year I transferred to Liceo Scientifico "Augusto Righi" in Bologna. I received my degree in Pharmacy in the year 1950.

For a good fourteen years, from 1940 to 1954, I did not see Padre Pio again.

In the September of 1954, I discovered, among my schoolbooks, in the attic, the letter I had received from San Giovanni Rotondo on May 5th, 1940.

I reread with great attention the letter which I thought had been lost, and I understood better the meaning of many trials.

My beloved father Augusto had died on November 26th, 1953

My mother, tired and saddened, needed me; I wanted to help her resolve the grave problems that had arisen in our family after my father's death.

My father had wanted to see his nine living children always united.

Because of this desire for unity, among so many children, family affairs went very well while my father was alive; but at his death some dissension arose, due to the difficulty of keeping united by a common interest the new families which my brothers had formed, in the beneficent shadow of our father who was such a loving and generous Head of the Household.

My Father had a staunch belief in the unity of the family. His heart, so full of love and generosity, was incapable of facing the problem of sending out his married children, with different goals, from his home.

In the summer of 1954, I decided to settle in San Matteo della Decima, in order to put myself at the disposal of my family and to comfort, with my modest help and love, the Angel of my house.

I did not like living in small villages, much less occupying myself with mills. Love for my mother and the duties towards my family made me overcome my difficulty in getting accustomed to it.

The sufferings of that year made me understand the value of the letter that I had found in the attic at Decima. I then decided to go back to San Giovanni Rotondo.

#### SECOND TRIP TO SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO

While I was getting ready to leave, my thoughts returned to that distant first meeting with the Padre, some fourteen years before. How could have I not felt the need to go back to San Giovanni Rotondo for all those fourteen years? I could not explain it to myself.

I left alone and arrived at San Giovanni Rotondo in a very emotional state. The little road that led from the town to the convent where Padre Pio was living was greatly changed. A new city had arisen.

I attended Padre Pio's Holy Mass in the morning at five o'clock, as I had done many years before. Time had left traces of suffering in the body and facial appearance of the beloved Padre. During Holy Mass, I almost felt guilty to have been away for so many years and I was overtaken by so intense an emotion, that I burst into long cry. At the end of the Mass, I took my place in the sacristy, among a great crowd of men. The Padre passed in front of me, on his way to his cell. I was serene, without any visible sign of the emotion that I had felt during the Holy Mass. Very great was my surprise in seeing Padre Pio stop in front of me, with the self-assurance of his manner and the regard of someone who could see in me, not a man, but the little fearful boy of so many years before.

I had no doubt at all that the Padre could recognize in the man the little fourteen year old boy, Luigi. I felt I did not have the right to still be recognized as his son.

Padre Pio, with the voice of a true Father, with the loving gesture of his hand extended towards a son, touched me forcefully and said to me: "My son, you are finally here! Why were you crying? You know that I do not like tears!"

Overcome by such much paternal love, my own love for the Padre increased. In the love of Padre Pio, I rediscovered, increased, all the love of my beloved father, who had gone back to Heaven

I later understood that, most respectful of the authority of parents, Padre Pio wished that in the fourteen years from 1940 to 1954 I had lived as much as possible near my beloved parents, in order to give them all my love as a son, out of respect for the commandment of love toward the authority of father and mother.

It was only after the death of my father that Padre Pio substituted as a father in directing my spirit to the love of GOD and to the knowledge of the problems of this earthly life. From 1954, my trips to San Giovanni Rotondo became much more frequent.

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In the month of June 1956, on the sixth day to be precise, I found myself at San Giovanni Rotondo. After Holy Mass, Padre Pio saw me in the sacristy. He approached me and said: "What are you doing here? Do not waste any time; go home right away". I was very disturbed at the request to leave immediately for Decima. I left on the first train going to Bologna; I arrived at San Matteo the following day. I found my beloved mother very near death, but still mentally alert. Upon seeing me near her bed, my mother radiated an indescribable joy and said: "You are here Luigi! I have prayed to Padre Pio so much to send you home. I wanted to see you one more time before dying. I am grateful to GOD and to Padre Pio for having answered my prayers. Now I can die happy because I know...".

Then my mother asked me: "Luigi, what feast is it tomorrow? I hear the bells ringing for a holy day, but I don't know which holy day tomorrow is." I replied that the bells were not ringing at all, and that the next day was not a religious holy day. I wanted to make sure by looking at the calendar.

The eighth of June was dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. My mother's physical condition worsened by the hour until, almost blind and without any possibility either of speaking or of sitting up in bed, she made a sign that she wanted to write. All the children were close to mother, together with the pastor of Decima, Don Balestrazzi, the nuns and some friends. In some way, and with supernatural strength, Mother managed to write until almost the last moments of her life.

I transcribe some of the thoughts written by my mother during her joyous last agony and her meeting with GOD:

"I leave this life with serenity, knowing that I have no stains before men and before GOD.

My end is near, my strength is failing, but not my mind...

Luigi we are leaving each other; be always good and serene with everyone – I shall pray for everyone. – This is how life ends.

Are you there, Luigi? Do not cry for me. I am with the Lord – I will always be near you – The Divine Providence is near me.

I have always heard the sound of the feast day bells.

Your father is waiting for me – This is how the life of this earth ends, not with men, but with GOD – This is how it will be for you, too.

I leave for all of you the advice to follow my path: - Charity and honesty – It is a passage – I am finished.

I leave to all my acquaintances the most beautiful wishes – GOD has my breath – Peace and joy to everyone – Goodbye! Mamma".

The words written by my mother during her agony left no doubt whatsoever that an extraordinary intervention by GOD had given her the grace and the ability to write them.

The sound of the feast day bells that Mother had heard - up until the last moment — was the joyous feast in Heaven for the return of the Heart of Mother into the Heart of Jesus.

The eighth of June, 1956, the bells actually did ring, for the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and for my mother who was returning to

Heaven. A few days after the funeral, I left for San Giovanni Rotondo.

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I found myself in the convent corridor; numerous prints hung on the walls. Padre Pio came out of his cell and I had an opportunity to receive comforting words for my great sorrow which he shared with me. Padre's eyes, so full of love for all men, in that moment, were not able to ease the sorrow of my heart.

I managed to say only these words: "My mother loved you so much, Padre. She had Faith, and it seemed like she knew you intimately, even though she had never spoken to you." Padre Pio walked slowly along the corridor towards the choir loft of the little old church.

It seemed that he did not want to answer my words. He stared at me with his big eyes filled with goodness and love. He stopped suddenly, raised his hand, and with his finger, pointed at one of the prints hanging on the wall as if he had seen it for the first time. He read what was

written and I read with him, "The communion of the Saints".

The Wisdom of GOD in Padre Pio found an unusual way of explaining a mystery which since my childhood, through my mother's stories, has aroused my interest to be known.

As a result of that revealed mystery, I had a greater knowledge of the Man who of that mystery must have been part for the knowledge of many divine secrets.

Padre Pio helped me to alleviate my suffering through greater knowledge.

In that answer, I was told of GOD's love for my mother's soul which Padre Pio showed that he loved as much as I did.

The promise made to me, from my childhood, by the love of GOD was a promise given by GOD to my mother, to be maintained by His Spirit in the words of Padre Pio.

The first promise, not understood, was revealed to me in part by the reading of those written words. I saw more clearly the meaning of the letter that Padre Pio had sent me in Bologna, three months after my first meeting with him.

The Will of Love of the Word accepted, recognized, loved by the mother is a promise of the Word of Love, which gives itself in order to be maintained by the fidelity of the Word to the Love of its promises.

The fidelity of my mother in wanting to receive, to put into practice, the counsels of the Divine Spirit, through the words of the faithful Priest of GOD, Padre Pio, became a promise of fidelity on the part of Padre Pio who wanted to be my loving spiritual Father in order to teach me to know the Spirit of GOD, to reject in man the spirit which is not of GOD. All the men whom the humble goodness of my father did love, without knowing how to recognize the spirit that animated many of them, brought him to the verge of material ruin. It was the intervention of the spirit of love of Padre Pio that saved, with his advice, the family from misery, from rebellion and from confusion, which always comes to the spirit by not seeing clearly which one is the true spirit that spreads evil among men.

The promise of the Spirit of GOD in Padre Pio and in my mother, was an exchange of a promise of the spirit of love, in the love of the promise of GOD given to man.

The counsels that come to man from the spirit that rebels against GOD, which was, is and will be the enemy of GOD and man until the day appointed, are the evil of the world.

The promise of victory over his enemies was given by the Supreme Word to indicate the way of right counsel to all men who love hearing only the counsels given by the spirit of the word of GOD.

In this century, in particular, the confusion of ideas created by the spirits of evil, has divided men in a fight which is absence of reciprocal love, for the absence of love in wishing to understand the Word of GOD.

The love of GOD sent Padre Pio to teach men of good will to love the true cognisance of the will of GOD expressed in the Holy Scriptures.

The Holy Scriptures, Padre Pio used to say, are not loved enough by the spirit of man who,

for absence of love for the Word of GOD, will not be able to understand and love the truths revealed by the Divine Word.

The absence of love for the Word of GOD is a diminution of Grace; it is an absence of knowledge which leads to the dominion of the infernal spirits who, by conquering the spirit of man, divide men.

Padre Pio received as a gift from GOD the discernment of spirits; I personally had proofs of this divine gift.

The spirits of evil who know how to hide in sheep's clothing have never confused the spirit of Padre Pio, who knew how to recognize the source and origin of the spirits that animate men.

The love of holy humility, which knows how to recognize as gifts of Divine Wisdom the sorrows and joys of the life of men, is the teaching that the word of Padre Pio has given to the world.

Apparently severe, Padre Pio cared for, with particular love, the souls who did not know the gravity of sin. He loved the humble who, overtaken by the spirit of evil, did not

know how to recognize the origin of their ills for the non-cognizance of the will of love expressed by the Word of GOD.

Padre Pio taught me that "The humble one speaks of GOD even when he does not know anything about GOD". Only in humility is practiced the charity that GOD desires.

In the humble man who does not speak about GOD, GOD confounds the proud one who says he speaks of GOD, in the Name of GOD.

In the name of GOD the proud who spoke of GOD caused the Son of GOD to be crucified, GOD become man for the love of man.

Out of love for man, GOD allowed himself to be crucified by men who in his name judged His Name.

The life of Padre Pio, offered to the Love of the Name of GOD, wants to offer itself in the spirit of love to all the souls who, to the love of GOD, offer their hearts.

The heart of man offered to GOD will know how to speak of GOD every time that it pronounces the Name of GOD. To that Heart, GOD will reveal the intimate mystery enclosed in his Word. In the Word of GOD the Heart of GOD speaks.

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I ended my stay at San Giovanni Rotondo in June 1956 with an unexpected meeting: a pharmacist colleague from Capodimonte (Viterbo) saw me in the convent square. After a friendly talk, she invited me to join her group going to Naples and Pompei. I decided not to accept the invitation because I had to go back home, but in my last conversation with Padre Pio before my departure, while saying goodbye, he pointed at an image of the Madonna in the convent corridor. He wanted me to pray with him and said to me: "Go to Pompei, your mother lives in the Heart of Jesus: now the Madonna is your mother". I then realized that meeting with my colleague from Capodimonte and her group going just to Pompei had not been incidental. The same day, I left with them for Naples and Pompei.

The things that happened showed me that THE MOTHERHOOD OF THE VIRGIN IS TRUTH. The love of Padre Pio had known how to give me this certainty.

By the increased certainty of the Love of the Mother of GOD, I found again my lost joy and the wish to give it to those who do not have it.

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On Christmas Eve 1956 I went back to San Giovanni Rotondo. At Foggia station I met a kind, elderly lady, the Baroness Bianca Remy de Turicque of Rome. After exchanging a few friendly words, we proceeded together to san Giovanni Rotondo. I spent a happy Christmas, between the love of the Padre and the kind company of the Baroness who, at the moment of her departure, invited me warmly to visit her in Rome.

Our common interest in things of the spirit, the love of GOD and of Padre Pio, created a link of very deep fraternal friendship between Remy and me. The constant search for GOD in exceptional joy and enthusiasm gave such vitality to this seventy-year-old lady as to make me spend hours in her company as if they were minutes.

After the religious function on December 26th, 1956, in the corridors of the convent, a great number of people who had come from all over Italy and from abroad gathered around Padre Pio.

I could not get near the Padre but, even from a distance, I managed to hear a few words of a conversation between the Padre and some high Prelates and lay people.

I understood that one of these illustrious persons had asked Padre Pio for an explanation about a very difficult and important question. It was not possible for me to hear exactly what the question posed to Padre Pio was. I did however clearly hear the reply of Padre Pio who addressing those gentlemen said: "You intellectuals complicate things too much! I would know how to answer the question about the Angels, but I keep it in my heart and I cannot reveal it to you."

Shortly afterwards, I was in front of the

fireplace of the hotel where I was staying in San Giovanni Rotondo. Beside me was a distinguished gentleman who kindly introduced himself. He was a high magistrate in Rome.

The lawyer asked me if I had been present during the conversation between Padre Pio and some theologians. He told me which was the inquiry from the Bible put to Padre Pio for a clear solution.

The lawyer spoke to me for a few hours, always going back in his conversation to the very interesting and difficult question to be solved.

I tried in vain to distract him with other conversations on spiritual subjects

The next morning, after Holy Mass, Padre Pio gave me the explanation of the question, without my having asked for it. Padre said: "You must give only to the lawyer of Rome the explanation that I have given to you about the question of the Angels".

About an hour later, I again saw the lawyer at the bar of the hotel. All that the illustrious lawyer wished to know about the question, I related to him, using the exact words given to me by Padre Pio.

The lawyer was moved to tears and the next day, as he was leaving for Rome, he urged me to pay him a visit in his city.

On January 1th, 1957, I said goodbye to my beloved Padre Pio and returned to San Matteo della Decima.

About two months later, at the beginning of March 1957, I was again in the corridors of the Convent of San Giovanni Rotondo. I encountered Padre Pio listening attentively to the words of the Mayor of the town and of the Father Guardian of the Convent. The Mayor was telling Padre Pio that the application made by the city of San Giovanni Rotondo to the "Cassa del Mezzogiorno", to obtain financing for public road works and urgent others, had been rejected. Involuntarily, I heard the Mayor's words since I was behind Padre.

Suddenly, Padre Pio turned towards me and said: "You must go to Rome and busy yourself with this matter at the 'Cassa del Mezzogiorno'". I was surprised, astounded and I answered: "Padre, I do not know Rome and I

do not have friends who can help me in this task."

The Padre with gentleness and firmness answered: "You don't have to cross the ocean to go to Rome. Be on your way; leave at once; with the blessing of GOD I will accompany you."

The Mayor and the Father Guardian described the situation to me and the correct requests to be made at the 'Cassa del Mezzogiorno'.

I left that same day for Rome, accompanied only by my faith in the guidance of Padre Pio.

On the train for Rome, I met a young lawyer. We spoke at length about various things. Before getting off at the station in Rome, the lawyer gave me his address encouraging me to go to him if I needed any advice. The lawyer was an expert in matters concerning applications for funds at the 'Cassa del Mezzogiorno'. His work took place in the offices of the High Commissariat of Tourism.

Bentile Bottore,

in relations alle presure de les rivaluess, Le sommeire the sequents operes

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[longt Terment la Greca]

Seate Section (Selogne)

123

Cassa del Mezzogiorno The V. President

## Dear Doctor:

With reference to your request I wish to inform you that the following works:

- the construction of a new road along route 685, between the township of Santa Maria delle Grazie and the nearby provincial road S. Marco in Lamis;
- the realization of a 2,800 sq.ms. car-park in front of the hospital.
- the completion and paving of the square in front of the church, which should resolve the problems of traffic and parking in San Giovanni Rotondo, will be included in the next budget for tourist infrastructures, which is being finalized and is expected to be submitted for approval by October 3rd.

In the meantime I send you my most cordial regards

Luigi Tavassi La Greca

Dr. Luigi Gaspari Ponte Decima (Bologna)

(Translation of the letter shown in the photo)

I was very warmly welcomed by the Baroness Remy in Rome, a city I was not familiar with.

I went to the "Cassa del Mezzogiorno", accompanied by the notable persons whom I had met, the one in the train and the other in Rome, the same day I arrived. After a period of time, while I was in Bologna, I received a letter, which I still have, from the vice-chairman of the "Cassa del Mezzogiorno". He assured me that funds for the roadworks, for the Convent square and other works, had been approved.

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From 1957 to 1968, I went to San Giovanni Rotondo almost every month.

After each confession, Padre Pio used to tell me: "Go to Rome!". I did not understand very well why I should go to Rome. I obeyed the desire expressed by Padre and I went on going to Rome with an ever increasing enthusiasm. Even so, my home was still in San Matteo della Decima.

Many friends from Rome and other cities used to visit me in my town.

At Decima, I had assembled a group of excellent collaborators, among them was Primo Capponcelli, who later became a tour leader of groups of people wishing to have meetings and maintaining spiritual contacts with the beloved Padre Pio.

The inhabitants of San Matteo della Decima received with joy the invitation of Primo and myself to pay a visit to the holy Capuchin friar of San Giovanni Rotondo.

The prayers and blessing of the Padre produced copious fruits of Graces for many families and, through them, for all the inhabitants of San Matteo della Decima. I recall at this point that my family, too, had a sign of the solicitude and love of Padre Pio and proof that he, even after many years, remembered all our requests for prayers and protection.

In the days between Christmas and the New Year 1967-1968, I was in San Giovanni Rotondo.

The confession with Padre Pio, on one of those days, was longer than usual. Padre told me many things, among others he advised me not to go to Rome for the New Year; instead I was to go to Bologna, and he added: "In the year 1968 we will have a lot of work to do...we have no time to lose...etc.." Gradually, light was shed on the mysterious words spoken to me in that confession.

In fact, during the night between the 8th and 9th of April, 1968, on my forty-second birthday, the REVELATION started. Padre began to give me inspiration for the pages of the "Book of Love". By the end of April, I arranged to have a hand-written copy of the first "Book of Love" delivered to him. He defined it as a "Testament-Promise of Graces, that will be given through the spirit of these words to the spirit of the man who wants to receive them with all the love of his heart." He begged me to publish it as soon as possible and to have it reach the Holy Father, the ecclesiastic hierarchy and the world.

On May 25th, 1968, a great feast in honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus was being

celebrated in St. Louis, in the United States. Padre Pio wanted the "Book of Love" to be available there by that date and he had confided this task to a fervent spiritual son of his, the celebrated composer and orchestra conductor, Alfonso D'Artega. For reasons that I do not know, the maestro was unable to leave and the "Book" did not reach America by that date. Padre was very saddened by this, because he had affirmed that the words of the "Book" were a PROMISE OF GRACES FROM THE HEART OF JESUS offered to a world without peace.

In Rome, in the month of June, 1968, my dearest friends Ugo and Cecilia Ammassari and Michele Famiglietti printed a first edition of the "Book of Love" minus a preface.

This was very useful to me, because Padre Pio had recommended that it be made known as soon as possible in Rome. I understood very soon the reason for such a hurry. One evening, I was invited to the home of Engineer P. Gasparri and, while I was presenting the first edition of the "Book of Love" to a select group of people, a lady who was very familiar with

the religious life of the capital, upon examining the book, marveled at my passionate appeal for the love of the Immaculate Heart. It appeared that in those very days some clergymen had proposed the removal of devotion to, and images of, the Sacred Heart from the churches. They stated that such devotion, born in the period of Jansenism, was no longer necessary.

A short while afterwards, yet another dear friend of mine, himself a devoted spiritual son of Padre Pio, Primo Capponcelli of Decima di San Giovanni in Persiceto, had undertaken to have a second edition of the "Book" printed. In the meantime, I had insisted with Padre Pio that we remove some words and print this book anonymously, but he responded: "You must not remove any words, and then, why print anonymously? You must print the book in your name, including the pictures and the preface."

In fact, the second edition was published complete with a brief preface and a large number of copies was printed in August 1968, by Casa Editrice Istituto Padano di Arti Grafiche di Rovigo.

On the 50th anniversary of the Holy Stigamata which took place on September 20th, Primo Capponcelli organized a pilgrimage of young people to San Giovanni Rotondo to thank and celebrate Padre Pio.

He took along many copies of the "Book of Love" to present to the Padre and to have them blessed. Moreover, in his simplicity as a man of GOD, full of faith and without any malice, he had begun to distribute them to the faithful who had come to San Giovanni. But suddenly, for no reason, he has forbidden to distribute them or to even speak about them. Capponcelli, in the presence of many witnesses, strenuously, but in vain, defended the desire expressed by Padre Pio.

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I, on the other hand, on September 20th, following Padre Pio's advice, had not gone to San Giovanni Rotondo, but rather to Chianciano Terme, with my dear friend Michele Famiglietti of Rome. We took lodgings at Albergo S. Antonio in which in those days, among other friars and priests, Mons. Giuseppe

Bo and Mons. Leoncello Barsotti of Livorno were staying too. On the morning of the 21st, at the Baths, I met Professor Letizia Mariani of Bologna, one of the teachers who had prepared me in the literary subjects for the entrance exams needed for proceeding from Aldini School to the Liceo Scientifico, long before in 1943. I was happy to see her and I gave her as a gift a copy of the "Book of Love". She was surprised and touched.

Around 6 p.m. of that same day, I was at the Terme S. Elena with Michele. Suddenly Padre Pio made himself present to me, Luigi, and said to me: "I must anticipate my departure for Heaven in order to save the salvable. Here on the earth, they do not listen to me any more, not even the many who claimed to be faithful to me. Do not cry! I will follow you from Heaven. There was no faith in the words given to you, words that I told you to call 'TESTAMENT PROMISE OF GRACES...' What could have been saved, through the Promised Testament in the month of June, now (September 1968) can no longer be saved. The writings will serve, equally well, for the benefit of individuals."

The next day, September 22nd, I stayed in the hotel, overcome by an infinite sadness. At about 5:00 p.m., while I was resting in my room, I had a prophetic dream. In the dream, Padre Pio appeared to me in the midst of an innumerable army of very beautiful angels. He was shining with Light and with Love. He came up to me and embraced me very affectionately, saying: "Son, Son, my Son! You must not cry over my death which I announced you yesterday. Remain strong and courageous and serene in my joy: I will put at your disposal my army of Angels. They will obey you in everything! I, your Padre, will always be near you, I will tell you what you must do or say for your own good and for the good of all those who seek to receive your word and mine. I WILL BRING YOUR THOUGHT INTO HEAVEN AND I LEAVE MY THOUGHT WITH YOU!". In saying these last words, he clasped my head tightly between his hands, holding it close to his own. At that touch, my brain seemed as if had emptied itself, to be filled with a new substance.

In that moment Michele Famiglietti knocked repeatedly on the door of my room. I woke up with a terrible headache. I held my head tightly because I had the sensation that it might detach itself from my body. I asked Michele to wait, since I was unable to move. As soon as I could, I opened the door and I replied to his anxious questions: "Padre Pio came again and left me with a wonderful promise...."

I hardly slept at all the night between the 22nd and 23rd of September. I kept hearing in my heart the very sweet voice of the Padre, asking me to read for him the "Book of Love", and I read and reread it till dawn. In the morning, I was passionately hoping to have been the victim of a suggestion but, at about 7 a.m., they called me from Rome to tell me that the great Heart of Padre Pio had stopped beating. The monsignors, the priests and the various friars, who were staying at the hotel, did everything possible to comfort me and had to admit that what I had been saying for the past two days had, alas, actually happened.

That same morning, I received a second telephone call from Rome. It was from Maestro

Alfonso d'Artega, who had been entrusted by Padre Pio to bring the "Book of Love" to America by May 25th. He was profoundly moved by the sad news and he recommended that I go at once to Rome, because the Archbishop of Pittsburgh, Mons. Nicholas T. Elko, wished to meet me and speak to me about Padre Pio and the Book of Love. He had spoken with Padre Pio in San Giovanni Rotondo, two days before his death. Along with my friend Michele, I left for Rome. I had a long conversation with His Excellency Elko in his Roman residence.

From Rome, together with the Baroness Remy, we proceeded to San Giovanni Rotondo. I saw again for the last time the very beloved Padre in mortal rest of his Holy Body. In a few instants, I relived all my life, defended and directed by the wings of the Eagle of Heaven which came to Earth to defend the weak. The Padre, who had been my faithful friend, my strength, no longer spoke. My Eagle had returned to His kingdom.

A short while before flying to Heaven, the Eagle of Heaven had wished to leave his token of love to one of his sons who remained on earth. The beloved Padre had given me as token the "Book of Love", a gift of love to his Luigi and to all his sons who are awaiting to embrace again in Heaven their most beloved Padre. I recalled the Canticle of Moses:

"Give ear, o Heavens, and I will speak; and let the earth hear the words of my mouth. May my teaching drop as the rain, my speech distill as the dew, as the gentle rain upon the tender grass, and as the showers upon the herbage. For I will proclaim the name of the Lord. Ascribe greatness to our GOD! He is the rock, His work is perfection. All His ways are Equity. A faithful GOD, with no iniquity, full of rectitude and justice".

I was crying over the mortal remains of the Padre, when it seemed to me that I heard again his sweet words, spoken to me many years before: "Why did you cry? You know that I do not like tears." I dried my tears and returned immediately to Rome.

On 17th of October 1968, the "Book of Love" and other Books that I was writing, in a manner that was somewhat miraculous.

reached the hands of eminent Roman theologians, who met with me and questioned me at length, marveling that I knew so many secret things.

Thus, what Padre Pio had foretold came true: "The Books of Love must reach as soon as possible the hands of His Holiness and of the ecclesiastical hierarchy. The Pope and any others will understand everything."

I am, perhaps, the only one to understand less than anyone but I have written, and I continue to write, in obedience to Padre Pio, for faith and love to GOD, to Pope Paul VI and the Holy Church.

With the help of Padre Pio and of the Divine Providence, the "Book of Love" has already been translated and published in French, German, Spanish, English, Russian, Polish, Greek, Romanian, Croatian, Arabic, Portuguese and Braille. Future editions in Chinese, Armenian, Serb, Hungarian, Flemish.

Luigi Gaspari



On the  $8^{th}$  of June 1960, Padre Pio wrote with his own hand this dedication of my missal:

"May the Angel of GOD be always and in all things your escort, your support and your guide".

P. Pio, Capuchin

About eight years later, (Summer, 1968) I received from Padre Pio, when he was still living, his last blessing. Padre Pio put his hand on my head and, greatly moved and crying, said, "Son, son, my son," then he repeated the same written words of the dedication, with the variation:

"The Angel of GOD WILL BE always and in all things your escort, your support and your guide".

Luigi Gaspari

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING TO THE HEART OF GOD

For the friendship given to all of those who will believe in the BOOK OF LOVE.

I thank You Heart of GOD
I thank You my Friend,
I thank You Divine Love
I thank You my Child,
I thank You Pure Lily,
I thank You Son of the Sun.

I thank You New Gift
I thank You True Lamb,
I thank You from my heart,
I thank You for Your Love,
I thank You for the great gift,
I thank You for Your pardon.

I thank You Great Joy I thank You my Delight, I thank You my Fortress I thank You my Sweetness.

## I thank You my Infinite Joy

I thank You True Life, I thank You King of Glory I thank You my Victory, I thank You with a smile I thank You O Paradise, I thank You Holy Friend I thank You so very much.

I thank You for the graces.

Thank You FATHER Thank You SON Thank You HOLY SPIRIT

Thank You MARY Most Holy

Primo Capponcelli

The 18th of November 1995 Dr. Luigi Gaspari died in the hospital of Cesenatico (FC) in Italy. He lies in a chapel dedicated to him in the cemetery of the small town.

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