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September 23, 2022  
Feast of St. Padre Pio

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Greetings and best wishes as you commemorate the Feast of Saint Padre Pio de Pietrelcina. May his faith, life and ministry inspire you to cultivate a vibrant parish community evangelizing and inviting people to a deeper, personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

In his homily at the Mass proclaiming Padre Pio a saint, Pope John Paul II observed that, "Padre Pio was a generous dispenser of divine mercy, making himself available to all by welcoming them..." As you build on the traditions and histories of Saint Hilary and Transfiguration communities in this unified parish of Saint Padre Pio, I thank you for your efforts to foster a welcoming parish community, and to strengthen and sustain this combined parish. May you look to your patron saint's example as you work with your pastor, Father Aloysius Funtilla, building new traditions and reimagining what it means to be Church in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. My hope is that like Saint Padre Pio, parishioners continue to grow in grace, faith and service and thereby help to inspire current and future generations to follow Christ.

Padre Pio persevered in serving the Lord, the Church and the faithful despite many challenges and much suffering – both physical and spiritual. Known for his long hours spent in prayer and hearing confessions, he also had a sense of humor and fondness for storytelling. May Saint Padre Pio's prayerful disposition guide your parish in forming committed disciples of Christ who joyously share the Good News and their own stories of faith, hope and God's love as they accompany others on their faith journey.

As I thank God for many gifts, I offer each of you my pledge of prayers, asking God to bring to fulfillment the good work begun in you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

  
Archbishop of Chicago

*Saint Padre Pio Parish  
Celebration of the Feast of  
Saint Padre Pio de Pietrelcina*