



Friends of Jesus and Mary
Amigos de Jesús y María



Florida Center for Peace

San Pío Pietrelcina



Father Francesco Forgione was born in Pietrelcina, province of Benevento, in Italy, May 25, 1887. He was raised in a peasant farming family who was devoutly Catholic.

He was baptized in the Church of St. Anne in Pietrelcina. He was a sensitive and spiritual child who loved to **PRAY**. He worked on the family farm tending sheep until he was 10 years old.

When he was five years old, he had a vision of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Later, he started to receive apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary which would last the rest of his life.

He had **HOPE** of entering the Order of Capuchin friars in Morcone but wasn't educated enough. After receiving the required tutoring to bring up his education he entered **AND** was eventually ordained a priest. He suffered from bad health his whole life.

After eight years of priesthood, the 20th of September 1918, he receives the stigmata, the wounds of Jesus on his hands, feet, and left side, becoming the first stigmatized priest.

Padre Pio died of a heart attack at Our Lady of Grace in San Giovanni Rotonda on September 23, 1968 and was canonized by Pope John Paul II on June 16, 2002.

Find the words in the text that are capitalized and place in the blank boxes to see Padre Pio's message:

FLORIDA

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