

# *Star of the Stormy Sea*

Quarterly Newsletter of the Apostolate of Our Lady of Good Success Summer 2008 Special Edition

“... When your souls suffer temptations and are immersed in grief ...turn to her with confidence and say, ‘Star of the stormy sea of my mortal life, May your light shine upon me so that I do not stray from the path that leads me to heaven.’” (Taken from “The Testament of Mother Mariana de Jesus Torres” January 16th, 1635)

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“Thus do I make it known to you that from the end of the 19th century and from shortly after the middle of the 20th century, in what is today the Colony and will then be the Republic of Ecuador, the passions will erupt and there will be a total corruption of customs, for Satan will reign almost completely by means of the Masonic sects.” (Our Lady of Good Success to Venerable Mother Mariana on January 20th, 1610)

Since April 24th, 2008, an email with the photograph of a body with the likeness of Padre Pio in a glass crypt has been circulating around on the Internet with this quote, “YOU MAY HAVE ALREADY SEEN THIS, BUT IN CASE YOU HAVEN’T...HERE IS PADRE PIO’S INCORRUPT BODY AFTER 40 YEARS!”. This is not the TRUE face of Padre Pio! The body underneath the face may not be the true body of Padre Pio!



## **In Defense of Padre Pio**

This article is dedicated to Anne McGinn Cillis a true and loyal friend of Padre Pio.

In January of 2008, the Internet began circulating the news of an exposition of the body of Padre Pio on April 24th, 2008. On April 7th, 2008 Spirit Daily linked to an article titled, “Pope Ratzinger meets the woman who received the miracle from Saint Pio” This article told about a prophecy that had been made known to the local bishop of the diocese of Brindisi-Ostuni, Monsignor Rocco Talucci. Over the years, Filomena Carriero had been entrusted with visions and premonitions from Padre Pio. During the month of March, Filomena was

having visions of Padre Pio that bore a special message. She told Bishop Talucci that Padre Pio warned her of an impending disaster if his tomb was disturbed.



Twenty years ago, when working as a nurse, Filomena Carriero accidentally drank some radiated chemicals that ruined her internal organs. Padre Pio has been attributed to having saved her life and sustaining it these twenty years. Even her doctor is willing to testify that he believes Padre Pio has intervened many times to save her. Her doctor stated that he truly believed in her visions and the presence of Padre Pio because on one specific occasion Padre Pio gave this doctor instructions via Carriero's visions to re-operate on her. Padre Pio explained that he had left three sponges inside of her from the previous operation. At first, he did not believe this, but she was so adamant about it that he finally operated and found the three sponges in the three exact locations that Padre Pio said that they were located. Carriero has undergone 552 operations under general anesthesia during the past twenty years. Recently, Padre Pio has been speaking to Filomena about this topic of his exhumation. The Pope heard of this particular premonition and wished to meet Mrs Carriero. Filomena Carriero stated that Padre Pio told her that a disaster will befall San Giovanni Rotondo if the ostension [display] occurred on April 24. **(N.B. June 12, 2008, Filomena Carriero had passed away during her 552<sup>nd</sup> operation For reference: <http://www.teleradioerre.it/news/articolo.asp?idart=34419> )**

This article on Filomena Carriero and an article written by Anne Cillis in Catholic Family News issue led to an investigation into the possibility of a chastisement in San Giovanni Rotondo—Is one imminent... and if so why and how?



### **Padre Pio's "Empty Tomb Mystery" – True? False?**

In the September 2002 issue of Catholic Family News, an article written by Anne McGinn Cillis titled, "Saint Padre Pio's Body Not Found in His Tomb" that stated there had been a secret exhumation in the 1990's which was witnessed by Cardinal Oddi. Permission has been granted by the author to copy it here. It read:

#### **"Saint Padre Pio's Body Not Found in His Tomb"**

*"Reportedly, an exhumation was conducted by order from the Vatican, preparatory to his Beatification in Rome on May 2, 1999, and overseen by Silvio Cardinal Oddi [+ June 29, 2001] and other required canonical witnesses.*

*Padre Pio's tomb is encased in Italian marble weighing three tons, originally lowered by a crane over the casket of the Saint, and then cemented to the concrete floor of the crypt in the Capuchin church of Santa Maria della Grazie, attached to the monastery where Padre Pio lived for over fifty years, and who died there in his cell. When the coffin in which his body had been laid to rest after lying in state in the church sanctuary, was opened in the presence of witnesses, it was found to be completely empty, except for three notable items.*

*These items were: his robe, his white cincture and his Franciscan sandals. There was no dust, nor residue of deteriorated remains. Nothing. Only the above mentioned items.*

**John McCaffery** [R.I.P.], the author of "The Friar of San Giovanni: Tales of Padre Pio," was a close friend of Padre Pio. John was also a dear friend of this writer.

Once he told me a fascinating story. "I am only a poor monk who prays," Padre Pio used to say to John, and the sight of vast throngs milling about outside his monastery, truly consternated and perplexed him, so great was his humility.

"Oh Padre " said John "I know that thousands do come. But after you die, pilgrims coming here will be in the millions!"

Apparently, Padre Pio looked at him with a strange expression. "John," he said slowly, emphasizing every word, "**Let them come! I will not be here!**"

I was to have on occasion over the many years that would pass, to ponder, and wonder what these strange words of Padre Pio to my friend, John McCaffery might mean.

This writer has interviewed three prominent and credible traditionalists regarding the origin of this amazing story of the empty tomb in the crypt of Padre Pio's church, in San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy.

All three agree that at the time of the exhumation, "Nothing was said, except they closed the coffin and told everyone nothing."

Father Carl **Pulvermacher, OFM, Cap.**, well-known in the United States and Canada, and who will celebrate his Golden Jubilee of Fifty Years of Priesthood on September 3 of this year, has corroborated this story, and referred me to Robert and Christine di Cecco in Connecticut. I have spoken to both these persons, and apparently the late Cardinal Oddi related the facts to a priest named Chamoine de Porta from France who was the Cardinal's close friend. Chamoine de Porta is also a close friend of Christine di Cecco's family, and told the di Cecco's this story.

Witnesses were evidently told to remain silent, as it appears the monks now occupying Padre Pio's monastery did not want this news to be known. If true, one wonders why..."

During the investigation the facts of this 2002 CFN article further in May 2008, it was reported that **Chamoine de Porta** had a chapel in Versailles, France until his passing in 2003 and **Fr. Pulvermacher O.F.M. Cap.** has since passed away. **Mr. and Mrs. di Cecco** do not wish to be contacted further about this story although they verify that the article is completely true. Information was received confirming that Cardinal Oddi did visit San Giovanni Rotondo before September, 1998. As well, it is believed that at least two of Padre Pio's closest Capuchin friends, **Fr. Alessio Parente** and **Fr. Giuseppe Pio** were present at the secret exhumation but died within months of each other in the first half of 2000 as was related to us by a reliable source.

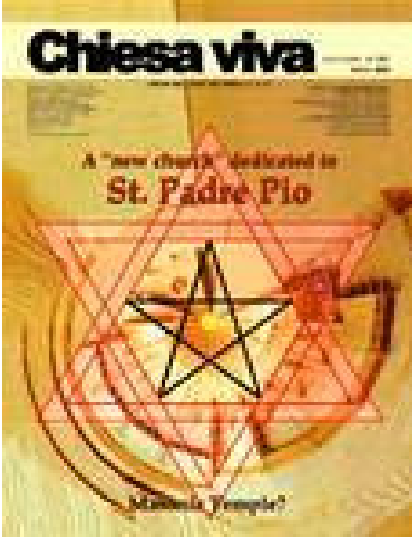


**"The Truth Shall Set You Free"**



The following is an excerpt written by Franco Adessa (**photo on right**) to an Italian journalist from San Giovanni Rotondo in July 2006:

“Over fifty years ago, Padre Pio met **Msgr. Luigi Villa (photo on left)**, whom he entreated to devote his entire life to fight ecclesiastical Freemasonry. The Saint spelled out this task in three meetings with Msgr. Villa, which took place for over more than a decade [1952-1963]. At the close of the third meeting, Padre Pio embraced Msgr. Villa three times, saying to him: **‘Be brave, now...for the church has already been invaded by Freemasonry!’** and then stated: **‘Freemasonry has already made it to the loafers (shoes) of the Pope!’** At the time, the reigning Pope was Paul VI. In order to fight this battle, in 1971 Msgr Villa founded his magazine, “Chiesa Viva” which was immediately attacked by the echelon of the Catholic Church: the magazine was ostracized among the clergy and its collaborators were gradually forced to leave. Then they isolated its Director and his few remaining collaborators. The efforts to silence “Chiesa Viva” once and for all also included six assassination attempts on Msgr. Villa!”



Franco Adessa is an expert on the newest church in San Giovanni Rotondo called the Church of St. Padre Pio. He is also a writer for the Italian Catholic periodical, “Chiesa Viva” mentioned above. The editor of the periodical of “Chiesa Viva”, Msgr. Luigi Villa sent Franco Adessa to carry out a study on this new Church from 1998-2006. The result was a Special Edition on the symbolism of its construction called, **“A ‘New Church’ Dedicated To St. Padre Pio - Masonic Temple?”** He is very aware of all of the past and current happenings surrounding Padre Pio and San Giovanni Rotondo.

However, Franco Adessa had not heard about the article written by Anne Cillis “Saint. He did say that because Padre Pio had been one of the biggest enemies of the Freemasons, certain members of his community and friends in San Giovanni Rotondo were concerned that his body would be stolen from his tomb to be desecrated. Franco had his own story to tell about this subject and declared:

**“Everyone in San Giovanni Rotondo knows the words of Padre Pio before his death,**

**‘When you exhume my body, you will have a surprise!’**

“What “surprise” could this be?

1. His body was incorrupt.
2. His body was gone.”

Then he added,

**“But Padre Pio would not say these words to mean that he would be incorrupt, as it would mean that he was saying he was a saint.”**

### **Christ’s Agony – Freemasonry in the Clergy**

A letter from Padre Pio to his Spiritual Father, in Pietrelcina, dated April 7, 1913 read:

*“My most cherished Father,*

*Friday morning I was still in bed, when Jesus appeared to me. He was in a sorry state and completely disfigured. He showed me a great multitude of regular and secular clergymen of various ecclesiastical levels...*

*I asked Jesus what was happening. Christ didn't answer, but looked at them with horror and disgust as if almost tired of looking at them. Then, He turned to me and two tears were coming down from His eyes. He said: ‘My dear son, do not believe that My agony has lasted just three hours; because of these most privileged souls I will be in agony until the end of the world. During the time of My agony, My son, one cannot sleep. My soul is seeking for some drop of human pity, but unfortunately, these souls leave Me under the weight of indifference. The ingratitude and the sleep of My ministers are aggravating My agony. Alas, how badly they correspond to My Love! What is afflicting Me more is that these people add contempt and incredulity to their indifference. How many times I was at the point of striking them, if I hadn't been held by the Angels and by the souls who love Me...*

*Write to your spiritual father what you have seen and heard from Me this morning. Tell him to show the letter to the Provincial Father...*

*Jesus continued, but what He told me I cannot tell anybody on this earth. This vision caused such a pain in my body, but more in my soul that for the whole day I was prostrate and I thought I was to die if Jesus wouldn't have told me... Jesus, regrettably, has reasons to complain for the ingratitude of His ministers! Too many unfortunate brothers of ours correspond to the love of Jesus by throwing themselves with open arms into the infamous sect of **Freemasonry!** Let's pray for these people to have Our Lord open up their minds and their hearts..."*

### **Should We Be Disturbed by the Recent 2008 Exhumation of Padre Pio?**

When it comes to the process of sainthood, a rigid protocol has always been maintained within the Catholic Church until recently. Prior to the 1983 changes in the Code of Canon Law, the body of the person up for sainthood was always required to be exhumed before the Church bestowed the first titles of "Venerable" or "Blessed", in this process of canonization. Joan Carroll Cruz states in the book titled, "The Incorruptibles" published in 1977: "Further, it must be mentioned that prior to the bestowal of these titles ["Venerable" or "Blessed"], the recognition and examination of the remains are made. Incorrupt bodies are medically and scientifically examined and all phenomena are carefully studied." However the 1983 Code of Canon Law, Can. 1403 §1 states: "Special pontifical law governs the causes of canonization of the servants of God."

In an official document entitled, "Al Giudice per le Indagini Preliminari C/o Tribunale Ordinario di Foggia - Opposizione alla Richiesta di Archiviazione, Ex Art. 410 C.P.P.(a legal document entitled To the Judge for Preliminary Surveyings c/o Ordinary Court of Foggia Opposition to the demand for Former Recording Art. 410 C.P.P. which happens to be a legal refutation in regards to the exhumation of the body of Padre Pio) it states:

**"In the phase of heroic virtues investigation, Pope John Paul II did not consider necessary the exhumation for the beatification cause and for the canonization cause, beatifying him on May 2, 1999, and making him Saint on June 16, 2002."**

Padre Pio was considered one of the greatest saints of our time; he was the only priest that bore the wounds of Christ. He was also one of the greatest mystics with so many supernatural gifts such as reading souls, bilocation, levitation and odor of sanctity. Because of his unusual charisms, he was also the cause of jealousy and close scrutiny by ecclesiastical authorities. Saint Padre Pio, for example, was censured by the Holy Office and was forbidden for a time to publicly celebrate the sacraments on numerous occasions. Why did the Vatican bypass exhumation? Wouldn't the Vatican be curious to find out the state in which Padre Pio's body was in before declaring sanctity?

At the beginning of this year, 2008, there were news stories reporting that a date had been set for an exhumation of the body of St. Padre Pio on March 3, 2008. An Internet news article stated:

**"The exhumation was authorized by the Vatican in January and was *granted* so that Padre Pio's body could be prepared when it is put on public display next month [on April 24<sup>th</sup>] to commemorate the anniversary of his death 40 years ago."** <http://www.padrepio.org.au/StPadrePio.htm>

The media continually reported that March 3, 2008 was the **first** exhumation done on the body of Padre Pio. Yet the statement: **"so that Padre Pio's body could be prepared when it is put on public display next month to commemorate the anniversary of his death 40 years ago"** leads one to believe that the "powers that be" had an idea of what the body's condition was before the official exhumation. How would anyone know if it had not been previously viewed? They stated that it needed to be prepared. How did they know the condition of the body? How did they know it needed to be prepared and only needed one month to be prepared? When did the preparation really begin?

Considering Padre Pio led a very holy life, there would be good reason to suspect that his body would be incorrupt.

On the flip side, certainly there was a possibility that Padre Pio's body could have decomposed to dust during these past 40 years in the tomb.

What if then there had only been dust? They would have had some mighty large preparation plans if there had been only bones or ashes. And one would imagine it would take longer than one month to prepare it. Something seemed a bit questionable in regards to statements made previously to exhumation as if everything had been set into motion and there was no question as to what state Padre Pio was in.

One of the articles published on the official opening day of the “display of Padre Pio”, titled, “Padre Pio’s Body on Display” states:

*“A wax face was created from photographs by experts in London, replacing what was said to be only skeletal remains to the head. The rest of the body is in its decomposed state, including blackened but still visible fingers.”*

This mask was made by Gems Studio, the London-based Company that makes wax figures for Madame Tussaud’s Wax Museum! What a disappointment!

The same article records:

*“His skull was hidden underneath a cowl, and shoes covered his feet. The saint's intricate stole was made by a company from Treviso that also makes special ceremonial garments for Pope Benedict XVI.”*  
<http://jonmsweeney.wordpress.com/category/padre-pio/>

A letter written by Giuseppe Saldutto, investigative journalist and Vice President of the “Association for Padre Pio - The Man of Suffering” wrote an article in the form of a letter titled, “Saint Padre Pio,- The “Miracle” of the Silicone Mask-The truths about the exhumation that the friars have silenced.” to Editor of “Il Corriere del Sud” that read:

*“...The Bishop, for the event of the exposition of the body of Padre Pio, said: ‘the hair of the beard of Padre Pio are the original ones,’ but he was disavowed by the weekly magazines “Gente” and “Visto”, which stated that, after talking to the silicone mask creators in London, they received this answer from Spiega Bianca Witt, the one responsible in the laboratory: ‘For the beard, we used the hairs of yak, the ox from Tibet. The hair, instead, are from man and we attached them one by one.’*

*And then, do we want to talk about the oath of the friars and of the members of the medical team to whom Bishop D’Ambrosio ordered to say nothing about what they had seen in the coffin just opened?*

*Well then, the secret is always news that circulates only in whispers. But for the exhumation of the body of Saint Padre Pio this hasn’t happened. We have to take note that the oath was intended to establish a complicity in maintaining “secret” an uncomfortable truth not to be disclosed to the public.*

*This secrecy in the exhumation of the body of Saint Pio is a violence made on Padre Pio’s devotees and it is the act that confirms the antidemocratic and unChristian will of who wanted to interrupt the eternal rest of Padre Pio.”*

*The appeal that all Padre Pio devotees and Mr. Russo should throw out to the friars and to the bishop D’Ambrosio, to honour the truth, is the following: “Let us see the photographs of the remains of Saint Padre Pio, taken by F. Carlos when he opened the coffin. No more lies!”*

*Luckily, someone has denounced all to the Court that now is investigating to find out the whereabouts of the remains of Padre Pio. Hopefully, justice will triumph.*

*Attached to this article, I am sending you two other pictures of the wax statues of Padre Pio: one, with the open eyes, located in the confessional; the other, instead, is located in the church. Then, there is another one of Pope Wojtyla.*

*In conclusion, instead of being a Sanctuary, the old church of Our Lady of Grace has become a Wax Museum!”*

If it is to be believed that this is the true body of Padre Pio, this is a great disappointment. Despite all of the “special effects” created for this exhibition, how is this display uplifting for devotees of Padre Pio? After all, the world is filled with beautiful photographs of Padre Pio in all stages of his life. Why then put Padre Pio whose face was gone and his fingers blackened in a glass tomb for people to parade and gawk in front of? Why use hair from a Tibetan yak on this face? After all there is absolutely nothing remarkable about it since we are only seeing someone’s artistic portrayal of the saint’s face and not really the true authentic face.

Sad to say, this whole three-ring circus has made a mockery out of Padre Pio. Would Padre Pio have ever wanted this counterfeit display?

Many of the local people as saying they were not happy about viewing Padre Pio with a silicone mask over his skeletal remains. What could have been their reaction? --“Wow! That is a great silicone face that our patron saint, Padre Pio, is wearing! He sure looks great in that fancy Capuchin robe made by Pope Benedict XVI's personal tailor!”

Again we come back to his words that everyone remembered in San Giovanni Rotondo:

**“When you exhume my body, you will have a surprise!”**

But surely they must be asking their beloved Padre Pio:

“Where is that surprise you promised? Certainly, it cannot be this display?”

A prominent family in San Giovanni Rotondo not happy with the exhumation and exposition of the saint happens to be the niece of Padre Pio, **Pia Forgione and her eight adult children**. An Italian organization called "Associazione Pro Padre Pio - L'Uomo della Sofferenza," (in English: Association for Padre Pio - The Man of Suffering) has been vocal in their defense of Pia Forgione. This organization is fighting a legal battle to stop the exposition of the body and return into to its rightful place in the crypt of the Old Church of Our Lady of Grace. This organization accuses Bishop D'Ambrosio of the acts of: "violation of tomb" and "vilification of corpse." The organization has been reported as saying in an article, “Padre Pio tomb 'desecrated” that:

*“it wants to press charges against the Capuchin friars of San Giovanni Rotondo for allegedly desecrating the saint's tomb before the date of his official exhumation in March.*

*The President of the Pro Padre Pio Association, the lawyer, Francesco Traversi, said he would report the friars to police later today after a popular TV satirical news show revealed on Tuesday that the saint's tomb had been tampered with by someone taking a sneak preview at the body.*

*"From photographs shown, it is clear that the wax seals on the glass (of the coffin) had been altered when compared with those applied during the burial of Padre Pio," Traversi explained.*

*He said he would ask police to press criminal charges against "the friars responsible" as well as Provincial Capuchin Governor Aldo Broccato and local Archbishop Domenico Umberto D'Ambrosio.*

*But the Capuchin friars dismissed the claims as "fanciful", explaining that in the days prior to the saint's burial in 1968 the wax seals had been removed from the coffin a number of times for checks on the body.*

*They said that after the zinc edges of the coffin were finally soldered shut, the six definitive wax seals were placed over the metal rather than the glass of the casket.”*

[www.italymag.co.uk/italy/religion/padre-pio-tomb-desecrated](http://www.italymag.co.uk/italy/religion/padre-pio-tomb-desecrated)

This Association believes that the official documents pronounced by the Vatican on the exhumation of the body of Padre Pio had only given permission for exhumation and **absolutely not any permission** granted for an exhibition of the remains as has been done.

Traversi makes clear in an official document that the authorization given by the "Congregation for the Causes of the Saints" for the exhumation was given only with these intents:

1. Coffin opening and detailed description of Padre Pio remains;
2. If the recognition could not be concluded in one day, the coffin had to be closed to avoid any danger of robbery or profanation;
3. Conservation of body remains in the same urn or in a new one;
4. The Monsignor, or his delegate, may remove some particles from the body, to satisfy the devotion of the faithful and the remains then be dressed with clothing according to the ones he was found in;
5. The urn must be closed with ribbons carrying the seal of the Bishop.

Traversi notes that:

1. There hasn't been a detailed description of the remains of St. Padre Pio;
2. The authorization was for the exhumation and **not for the treatment of the remains** of St. Padre Pio.

(<http://www.associazionepropadrepio.it/download/opposizione.pdf>)

Since The Pro Padre Pio Association believes that the tomb had been tampered with before March 3, 2008, that would definitely tie in with the report of the secret exhumation in the 1990's by Cardinal Oddi.

## Why the Church's sudden interest in exhuming the body of Padre Pio now?

Let's repeat:

**“In the phase of heroic virtues investigation, Pope John Paul II did not consider necessary the exhumation for the beatification cause and for the canonization cause, beatifying him on May 2, 1999, and making him Saint on June 16, 2002.”**

So why this exhumation in 2008? Newspaper articles abounded with the idea that the main purpose for this exhumation was for the faithful devotees of Padre Pio:

*“The body of the mystic monk Padre Pio, one of the Roman Catholic world's most revered saints who died 40 years ago, **has been exhumed to be prepared for display to his many devotees.**”*

<http://www.reuters.com/article/oddlyEnoughNews/idUSEIC37645320080303>

However, contrary to this, is a statement from Italian News sources which states:

*“On March 17, 2008, a survey made by the TV program: **COMINCIAMO BENE**, on TV Channel 3d, said that **75% of the people were against exhumation of the remains of Saint P. Pio.**”*

Interesting! So if Italian Catholics who are known to love Padre Pio are against the exhumation then which “devotees” are they talking about? Ones in the Netherlands or the Antarctic? You would think that Italians would be the most devoted of all to Padre Pio as just recently Padre Pio was named patron of volunteers in Italy- so surely he has not been forgotten.

In another article dated January 8, 2008 from [guardian.co.uk](http://guardian.co.uk) reads:

*To mark the anniversary of his death, the local archbishop, Domenico Umberto D'Ambrosio, said on Sunday that the Capuchin friar's body would be exhumed from its tomb at the sanctuary church "to check on the state of it and to carry out all the necessary work to guarantee the best conditions for its conservation."*

*When the work is completed, the body will go on display in April for 'a few months', he added. Antonio Belpiede, spokesman for Padre Pio's Franciscan chapter, denied reports that the procedure would also be a chance to remove relics from the saint's remains. **'This is not on the agenda,'** he said...*

***'There is however no reason to check to see if the body has miraculously remained intact. That has nothing to do with sanctity,'** said one Vatican insider.”* <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2008/jan/08/italy.catholicism>

***So they admit that obtaining relics and discovering if the body was intact was not on the agenda! Also they state that incorruption has nothing to do with sanctity! How do you like that?***

Franco Adessa gave insights into the real reason for the exhumation by giving some data about the past history of San Giovanni Rotondo.

*“At the prime of the devotion to Padre Pio, 11 million pilgrims traveled to San Giovanni Rotondo per year.” They would spend time there, stay at hotels and spend their money in the shops and restaurants. Giving an average conservative expenditure of Euro 200/each (\$ 300/each) the 11 million pilgrims would spend **\$ 3,300,000,000** per year in San Giovanni Rotondo! Now it is down to **1 million pilgrims** per year, with an average expenditure lower compared to the past. The pilgrims are not staying in hotels and not spending much money. They go to pray and leave. Currently there are 140 hotels in San Giovanni Rotondo. Sixty of them are now closed with a number more heading towards bankruptcy. The economic industry based on the sanctity of Padre Pio is “at the point of collapse”*

For many businesses this exposition of Padre Pio has been looked upon as a boon for Italy's economy:

**"This is an opportunity we have to turn religious tourism into mass tourism,"** said Massimiliano Ostilio, who is in charge of tourism for the region of Puglia, which makes up the heel on Italy's boot.  
<http://www.iht.com/articles/2008/04/25/europe/25padre.php?page=1>

Before April 24th, 2008, the Italian newspapers were reporting that an estimated 200,000 people were expected to attend the exposition of Padre Pio, from April 24<sup>th</sup> to September 23<sup>rd</sup> 2008, the 40th anniversary of the death of Padre Pio. For months and months, the Italian media was only talking about one thing- Padre Pio. On that opening weekend only five to six thousand were present. The weather was terribly cold and windy- so cold that the people just left and went home or to the hotel after viewing the body. It was a common belief that day among the locals, that Padre Pio was telling them to go home!

The following two excerpts of articles found online support Franco Adessa belief that this exhumation was staged for monetary purposes along with proof that the Vatican has its hands in the events in San Giovanni Rotondo:

### **“Padre Pio becomes the Saviour of San Giovanni Rotondo Hotels”**

*“The exhibition on 24th April of the exhumed corpse of Padre Pio, the elderly, miracle working, stigmatic, capuchin monk, who died in 1968 and was sainted by John Paul II in 2002 and now ranks close to the Virgin Mary herself in Rome’s enormous pantheon, must be financial salvation to the shrine’s hoteliers.*

*When BCN featured the shrine on 14 October 2005, it was suggested that the vast building program of hotels and rental apartments had overextended itself in the frenzy to cash in on the apparently never ending, cash-generating, Pio brand.*

*Indeed, problems had already arisen in 2003 when the worried Vatican angered the local monks by seizing control of their business. To make matters worse, non-Vatican sponsored, worldwide satellite and Internet PP Radio and PP TV continue to make personal pilgrimage to the Pio shrine unnecessary.”*

[http://www.ianpaisley.org/new\\_details.asp?ID=568](http://www.ianpaisley.org/new_details.asp?ID=568)

### **“Saint's town angry over Vatican move”**

*The Vatican has angered Capuchin monks in the southern Italian town of San Giovanni Rotondo by removing the sanctuary from their control.*

*The move also sparked protests among local residents who blocked the square in front of the church where the mystic Padre Pio is buried.*

*We feel like we are returning to the dark time that Padre Pio knew, with a decision that seems to us hostile and punitive*

Italian media reports suggested the Vatican was concerned about excessive commercialization of the saint's image, which generates millions of dollars. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/3002615.stm>

## **The Churches of San Giovanni Rotondo**

Was there yet another purpose for the exhumation of Padre Pio’s body? Was this a tool to get pilgrims to start coming back to San Giovanni Rotondo and view its newest church built by Renzo Piano? Was this church only built to bring back some of the economic security and even wealth to San Giovanni Rotondo? Or was there something more to it? Look at the comparison of the churches below:

### **The Basilica and Church of Our Lady of Grace**

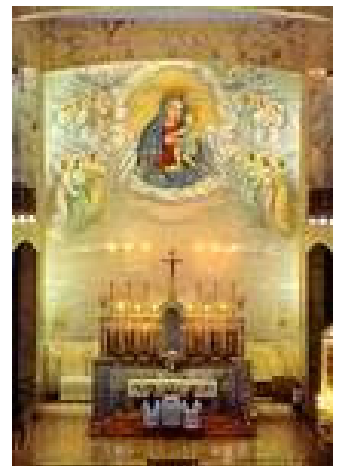
The original crypt of Padre Pio is located in the church of Our Lady of Grace. This church was inaugurated in 1959 and completed with the blessing of the crypt- Padre Pio’s final resting place- before Padre Pio’s death in 1968. Adjoining this church is the original church of Our Lady of Grace built in the 1600’s. This is a very small antique church that was quickly outgrown with the arrival of the numerous pilgrims to San Giovanni Rotondo to visit Padre Pio.

**These two churches were the two main centers of the life of Padre Pio. It is within these churches that Padre Pio:**

1. received the stigmata
2. offered daily Mass
3. heard confessions,
4. obtained conversions
5. prayed for sinners
6. performed thousands of miracles

The larger and newer church of 1959 was able to keep up with the demand of the millions of pilgrims that came to San Giovanni Rotondo each year during the period in which there was the greatest traffic to these churches.

But according to a flyer put out by the Capuchins, the new Renzo Piano Church of St. Padre Pio was built because Our Lady of Grace Church “was insufficient to contain the nonstop influx of pilgrims.”



As the number of pilgrims to San Giovanni Rotondo has decreased considerably over the past years, the reasoning is questionable.

### **New Church of St. Padre Pio :**

*“The Padre Pio Pilgrimage Church is a church in San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy owned by the Ordine dei Frati Minori Cappuccini di Foggia. It was built in devotion to Saint Pio of Pietrelcina. It can accommodate 6,500 people seated at worship, with standing room for 30,000 people outside. The Genoan architect Renzo Piano designed the church. It is located in front of Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza, a big Italian Hospital and Research Center, founded by Saint Pio of Pietrelcina.”* [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Padre\\_Pio\\_Pilgrimage\\_Church](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Padre_Pio_Pilgrimage_Church)

In the brochure put out by the Capuchins about the new church, it begins with the quote **“Upon this rock build my Church. (Mt 16:18)”** This is a brazenly distorted alteration of the verse of Matthew 16:18 which is supposed to read:

*“And I say to thee: That thou art Peter; and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”*

Some may say it is a “play on words” but this is a definite and deliberate alteration of the words of Christ to St Peter. It is sacrilegious!

After that quote it goes on:

*“It is stone, extracted from the **bowels** of the mountain, that composes the arches, the Great Cross and dazzles the **Sacred Zone** surrounding the church, enhances the altar and the pulpit. The materials, stone and wood, together are **respectful of the intimacy of spiritual dialogue** and the **new dimension of space and of time**, from which this **intimacy** is derived...All share in the one body, taking on a new life from the **living stone**.”*

Do you notice the “buzz words” highlighted above? They are used to create an illusion of receiving a “warm fuzzy feeling” when present in this church. But in reality, if you were to visit this building that would be the last thing that would come to mind. Its appearance is cold and ominous.

After having received more than \$ 150,000,000 in offers for the construction of the “new church” dedicated to Padre Pio (and who knows how much they spent for it, instead!) , one would think that the Capuchins could have written a better introduction on this “new church” instead of a misquote from the Bible and a warm fuzzy feeling from a “living stone”?

This new Church was studied in detail by Mr. Franco Adessa. He has voiced his concerns over this creation. He believes that:

1. The powers that be are using Padre Pio for purely monetary gain as a grievous wrongdoing.
2. That a much more sinister plot is working behind the scenes in San Giovanni Rotondo.
3. This new Church has been designed as a **Masonic-Satanic Temple** to enshrine the Triple Masonic Trinity and crown Lucifer as God.

He has written a very in-depth Dossier consisting of 62 pages with diagrams of how each stone and each piece of artwork was carefully investigated.

He has given a critical analysis on each focal point in the church. This detail by detail account, which took 8 years to write, has exposed the cryptic Masonic meanings attached to the mysterious hieroglyphics and illustrations within this monstrous and fiendish “new church.”



### Renzo Piano Church of St. Padre Pio

**This new Church is riddled and embedded with Masonic Imagery and Symbolism. Amongst the hundreds of Masonic symbols**

**drawn into the blueprints and also depicted in the artwork within and around the church, here is the essence:**

***This “new church” is not a Catholic church but a “Masonic Temple”, or better, a “Satanic Temple” which glorifies Masonry and its “god,” Lucifer. The most horrible impiety, committed in this church, is the replacement of the Most Holy Trinity with the blasphemous, Satanic and Masonic Triple Trinity; the replacement of Christ by Lucifer as man’s Redeemer and the replacement of Christ by Lucifer as King of the Universe!***

A few of the highlights in the dossier are listed below:

1. Why a **“spiral-shaped” church?** Because the spiral, according to Masonic symbolism, represents the Devil, Satan, Lucifer.
2. Why **11 external arches** and **15 internal ones?** Because they, all together, are creating the geometry that represents the Masonry of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite: a 5-pointed star inscribed into a 6-pointed star.
3. Looking at the blueprints, the 11 + 15 arches are generating 3 numbers 6: a huge **“666”**, the **first “Mark of the Beast”** and the number of the Antichrist.
4. The second “Mark of the Beast” is represented by the 6-pointed star that has a total of 18 segments. The number 18 represents 6 + 6 + 6 which is “666”.
5. The third “Mark of the Beast” is represented by the 5-pointed star which, being the overlap of three golden triangles, (each one represented by the number 6) is another representation of “666”.
6. Three times “666” is the “signature” of Masonry, the expression of his sole “dogma”: to declare and move war on God!
7. The Bronze Doors of the Entrance and Baptistery are literally covered with Masonic symbolism which represents the Ritual of the first degree: the Baptism of the Candidate and the entrance into the “Temple of Freemasonry”.
8. The geometry of the 5-pointed star inscribed into the 6-pointed star is hiding the Masonic deepest secret: **the Masonic “Triple Trinity”** This represents the blasphemous replacement of the Most Holy Trinity **with the Masonic “Triple Trinity”!**
9. This Satanic **“Triple Trinity”** is imprinted **five times** into the church (are these the five Satanic wounds of the anti-Christ?):
  - The **arch structure bears the Masonic Symbolism** which represents the “Divinized Creation” and the “Cult of Phallus”, leading to the “Godless Man” eliminating Catholic Virtue;
  - The **altar combined** with the **“Glorious Cross”** which represents the “Divinized Man” and the “Cult of Man”, leading to the “Man who makes himself God”, eliminating the Catholic Morals;

- The **Tabernacle black stone column** geometry which represents the “Divinized Lucifer” and the “Cult of Lucifer”, leading to the “Man who fights God”, eliminating the Catholic Authority.
  - The **13th silver tile of the Pelican**, covering the niche where the ciborium is which represents the meaning of “Divinized Triple Trinity”, replacing the Most Holy Trinity.
  - The 40 m high **Stone Cross**: with the meaning of the “New Tower of Babel” where Lucifer-god is replacing Christ as “King of the Universe”!
10. The symbolism of the whole “new church” is a glorification of the **destruction of the Catholic Church and Catholic Civilization**, and the deadly weapon, Masonry, is celebrating with its symbology is the **“Masonic Ecumenism”**: the reunion of all the Religions under the direction of Masonry. This ecumenism is symbolized by the “Magic Square” or “Tetragrammaton”, with its **number 72**, “which attributes 72 Names to the Kabbalistic Name of the God-Lucifer”. The number 72 is all over the “new church”, while the “Magic Square” is imprinted on the Altar (this same type of “Magic Square” can be found in the Meditation Room of the UN), on the 13th silver tile and on the 40 m high Stone Cross.
11. Masonry, under its symbology, in the **Thirteen Silver Tiles** has hidden another deadly and secret aim: **the transformation of the “Catholic Clergy” into “Political Class”** at the service of a New World Order where the Clergy must have only a political task, where the Religion is merely considered the very essence, the double, triple, fourth, fifth essence of... politics!

The conclusion of Franco Adessa’s in-depth analysis is that this Church is in reality the **Temple of the “Ecumenical Counter-Church” of the Antichrist!**

After you read about all of this Masonic/ Satanic symbolism implanted into this church, the final coup de grace and ultimate act of defiance against God, is the fact **that those in charge are planning to entomb the remains of Padre Pio in the base of this temple- in the crypt below.**

As Padre Pio bore the five wounds of Christ (two in his hands and feet and one in his side), suffered the Crown of Thorns, the scourging and the transverberation of the heart, sweat blood, and even was beat up daily by the devil himself for the salvation of sinners, this is a most diabolical act!

In Modern times, Padre Pio is considered one of the holiest and greatest of “Alter Christus.” *“The Alter Christus reenacts an action by or to Our Lord as being an exposition of the Agony, Death and Passion of our Divine Lord from Holy Thursday night until forty days after His resurrection, when He gave the final command to the Apostles to go forth and preach the Gospel to the world.”*



(<http://www.dailycatholic.org/2004alt.htm>)

These re-enactions of the Passion were witnessed daily by thousands when Padre Pio offered the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. At the altar, he was literally at the foot of the Cross with Mary and wept throughout the Canon of the Mass as he reenacted Christ’s Passion as he felt the same pains in his own body. He suffered all of this and more to make up for what was lacking as St. Paul wrote: *“[I] rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up those things that are wanting of the sufferings of Christ, in my flesh, for his body, which is the church.”* (Col. 24) But moreover, He was the “living crucifix” personified!

He was a victim soul for our times, for the Church but most especially for the clergy!

**John McCaffery**, author of *“The Friar of San Giovanni: Tales of Padre Pio”* and a close friend of Padre Pio, asked Padre Pio one day, *“What is your greatest suffering? Is it the Stigmata?”* *“No!”* Padre answered immediately, and almost angrily. *“It is the Catholic clergy!”*

Padre Pio was one of the greatest fighters against Freemasonry and Communism that the Church has ever known. He fought his battles daily in the Monastery at San Giovanni Rotondo. If we are to believe in a spiritual battle that is being waged daily for souls, that there is a kingdom to be fought for and a prize to be won, if we are to believe that there are soldiers fighting in this battle, as Padre Pio did, would it not appear as though the enemies of the Church are making a statement to those fighting in this battle? Does it not become visible to all

of us that this is a final act of defiance against God in this bold step to physically imprison the remains of one of His greatest warriors- **that is IF we are to believe that it is Padre Pio's body!**

And so you see what comes into play with the unfolding of all of these events in San Giovanni Rotondo. Though Padre Pio has passed into the next world, there is a battle that continues to be waged in the Gargano Mountains in Italy. This battle continues to be fought by our warrior, Padre Pio. It is a war for souls. After all did he not say:

*"I will stand at the gates of Heaven and will not enter until all my spiritual children have entered."*

### **Signs of a Coming Chastisement for San Giovanni Rotondo**

Franco Adessa states that because Padre Pio was such a resolute fighter against Freemasonry, thus, it only follows then that in due time Padre Pio will chastise those who have used his name against God and His Catholic Church. He writes, "The existence of such a Satanic Temple is a scandal of such magnitude as to cry out for vengeance before God and not so auspicious of blessings for San Giovanni Rotondo; hence this "Satanic Temple" will have to be razed to the ground!"

This sort of crime never goes unpunished!

When questioned about a coming catastrophe on San Giovanni Rotondo as Filomena Carriero has predicted, Mr. Adessa replied that there have been "signs" given to the people of San Giovanni Rotondo. Definitive signs given to them to help them understand that something is most definitely wrong with the creation of this new church.

The signs were these:

- 1) **On September 23rd, 1998**, the 30th anniversary of the death of Padre Pio, at the same day, the same hour, the same minute, there was an earthquake under this new Church-Masonic Temple.
- 2) **On July 1st, 2004**, the day of the inauguration of the new Church of St. Padre Pio, transferring the statue of Padre Pio from the old church of Our Lady of Grace to the new church of St. Padre Pio, the people were attacked by tens of thousands of huge grasshoppers, come out of nowhere. Everybody ran away leaving the statue of Padre Pio in the "new church" square. The grasshoppers then descended upon the "new church" and entered into it to cover and stick to the walls. (Incidentally this date of July 1st, is Masonic in meaning for on July 1st, 1776 the satanic Order of the Illuminati of Bavaria, the satanic sect that is at the top of all the Masonic Institutions, was founded. It is of interest to remember that the founder of the Illuminati, Adam Weishaupt, in his secret correspondence, outlined a plan for the destruction of the Catholic Church: to create a "new christian religion" without dogmas and ecumenical, which they could easily eliminate whenever they decided to do so. Is this "new church" the symbol of this "new christian religion"?)
- 3) **On June 11th, 2005**, at 11 o'clock, a bronze bell on the new Church of Padre Pio, after the eleventh hammer touch, had its fixing broke free and, with a terrible cracking noise, the bell fell breaking into thousands pieces. This bell was the biggest one of 8 bells placed close to the 40 m high Stone Cross, representing Lucifer "King of the Universe". The bell weighed 18 hundred kilos ( $18 = 6 + 6 + 6 = 666$  which represents the "Mark of the Beast" and the number of the Antichrist). All eight bells had been dedicated to a Saint. This bell was significant, as it was the only bell dedicated to two Saints: **Saint Michael the Archangel**, the fiercest enemy of Lucifer, and **Padre Pio**, the fiercest enemy of Masonry. It bore an image of both. This bell has not been replaced as of June, 2008.

**Other construction aspects of the new church that could lead one to believe that God is not pleased with this new Church:**

- 1) This satanic church has been built on water-bearing stratum ground. The water is already entering the foundation walls. Experts say that, for this reason, the church is doomed to collapse;
- 2) The church square has been built with a funnel-shape. Therefore, every time it rains heavily, the water floods the crypt (the place where they want to transfer the remains of Saint Padre Pio). Every time this happens, the friars are forced to call the fire brigade to pump the water out.

3) The roof is made of wood and some experts say that it will have to be replaced very soon. Many of the local experts believe the strong winds of San Giovanni Rotondo will cause the huge stained-glass window of the new church to shatter and lift the roof off its poorly constructed foundation.

**“In this supreme moment of need of the Church,  
those who should speak will fall silent.”**

**(Our Lady of Good Success to Mother Mariana)**

In the first week of May 2006, the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the opening of Padre Pio’s Hospital for the Suffering took place. Among those present were 150 prelates including the Secretary of State, Cardinal Angelo Sodano. Two months before this celebration, the Special Edition of “Chiesa Viva” N° 381 on the new satanic church came out with a large distribution of thousands of copies all over Italy. The first ones to receive it were: the Pope, the Cardinals, all of the Italian Bishops, and most of the priests and religious of Italy.

So as a result, during the week of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of Padre Pio’s hospital in the day, the Prelates were holding Conferences open to everybody, but at night, in secret, they met to discuss this Special Edition No.381 on the topic of the Masonic-Satanic “new church” dedicated to St. Padre Pio in San Giovanni Rotondo. What came out of these meetings? Was there a cry of outrage? Did these Prelates vow to avenge the name of Padre Pio? Absolutely not! Nothing happened! These Prelates could not refute what was written in this document but rather summarized their opinion of this dossier by these spoken words: **“We will silence this issue!”**

Our Lady of Good Success told us, ***“and those who should speak will fall silent!”***

But those of us who are the most unimportant and lowly of Catholics must make up for their will to silence this issue, and stand up and speak!

The devotees of Padre Pio have a right to know what their donations have been funding for the past ten years. People around the world should be clamoring to the Vatican to destroy this second Babylon and raze it to the ground!

It has been said that over the years, the shrine to Padre Pio at San Giovanni Rotondo had surpassed the Marian Shrines of Lourdes and Fatima in the amount of pilgrims that visited annually! But when the word gets around that the home of St. Padre Pio has been desecrated by the construction of the **largest Satanic Temple in the world**, made not by pagans, but by the very clergy of our One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church, shall not all of Christendom cry to Heaven for vengeance?

In the words of Padre Pio, let us follow him:

*“The palm of glory is reserved only for those who fight valiantly till the end. Therefore, let us begin our holy battle this year. God will help us and crown us with eternal triumph.”*

Let us help fight against this foul attempt to entomb God’s warrior with our prayers. It is a frightening thought to imagine that we have come this far in this battle that looks as if God’s enemies are winning! Will His enemies in this battle, be successful in their attempts to make a mockery of Padre Pio? Do they have the ability to desecrate his remains (if they are HIS remains) by interring him in the very place in which sacrilegious sacrifices to Lucifer are taking place? Will God allow this now very public display of desecration and sacrilege to be carried through to the end or will He show His power over darkness?

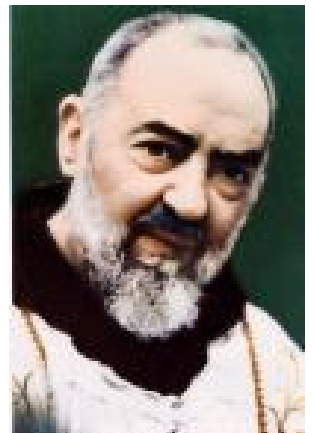
In closing, the words of Padre Pio to his spiritual children are recalled:

**“I will make more noise when I am dead than when I was alive!”**

The fortieth anniversary of Padre Pio’s death, September 23rd, 2008, is just around the corner. Implore Padre Pio, holy fighter and defender of the Catholic Church to continue his assistance! Beg him to intercede for us in the name of God and His Church! And then with the holy virtue of “fear of the Lord”, may we hear his “noise” from Heaven!

And contemplate the final words Franco Adessa wrote on this subject:

***“You cannot imagine with how much trepidation I am waiting to hear that noise!”***



**Much of the material gathered in this article has been given directly by Franco Adessa through his interview and his writings as well as taken from the Special Edition No. 381 of “Chiesa Viva”**

**Anyone wishing to obtain the in-depth SPECIAL EDITON No. 381 of “Chiesa Viva” in English consisting of 62 pages with diagrams of how each stone and each piece of artwork was carefully investigated. \$10.00 Please contact: The Apostolate of Our Lady of Good Success.**

**Quarterly Newsletter** – In 2006, we started this project of a periodical to help spread the devotion to Our Lady of Good Success through the Apostolate members own testimonials. Currently, we are asking a **\$10.00 donation annually**. *We do not send out reminders to our members to send a donation. If you are not interested in this publication, please contact us to remove you from the mailing list. Presently, only 10% of our mailing list have been contributing to the newsletter. Thank you for your continued support! Donations are accepted, greatly needed and appreciated!*  
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