

Dear Faithful and dear Devotees of Padre Pio,

At the beginning of Advent, I would like to extend a warm greeting and my best wishes for the new liturgical year we are preparing to experience.

This year coincides with the 2025 Jubilee Year, proclaimed by Pope Francis, which will begin on the upcoming Christmas Eve when he himself will open the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica.

God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us... a hope that does not disappoint because Christ, through His death, has reconciled us to God. (cf. Rom 5:5-11).



It is with this hope that the Pope has invited us to journey as pilgrims through this "Holy Year," which every 25 years opens the "doors" of God's Mercy and leads us on a path of reconciliation and peace.

This Jubilee takes place at a dark and sorrowful time in history for all humanity. Wars, violence, social tensions, physical and moral poverty, and natural disasters seem to echo past dramatic events, with even more disturbing repercussions for the future of humanity.

But precisely in this context, the "Holy Year" can become an opportunity, even amidst so much darkness, to rekindle a light, revive hope, and rediscover the path toward a horizon of life, peace, and fraternity.

In the coming months, we will be delighted to welcome you to our Shrine, where Padre Pio dispensed the gifts of God's mercy through the sacrament of reconciliation and the forgiveness of sins.

As his brothers and custodians of his spiritual heritage, we are at your service so that you may experience a moment of spiritual rest, be renewed inwardly, and prepare worthily for your Jubilee pilgrimage. Together, you may cross the door of Mercy and, with Saint Francis, offer praise and gratitude to God on the 800th anniversary of his *Canticle of the Creatures*.

Especially during Advent and the significant seasons of the liturgical year, we will invite you to participate in initiatives, catechesis, meetings, and celebrations to enrich your spiritual journey and Christian formation.

Thanks to Padre Pio TV and its connected social media platforms, the elderly, the sick, and the incarcerated will be able to join us in spirit for the various events of this Year of Grace.

May Francis of Assisi and Pio of Pietrelcina guide you as forerunners along the months and days of this Holy Year.

May the Virgin of Grace accompany you with motherly affection and lead you to encounter Christ: who is, who was, and who is to come.

Have a blessed Advent journey toward the Holy Year!

The Rector and the Capuchin Friars
of San Giovanni Rotondo