



► BR. FRANCESCO WITH BR. MARIANO

THE NEW DIRECTOR

By Francesco D. Colacelli

All human activities as well as having a beginning must necessarily have an end. And those in which we put our whole heart and mind, when we must take our leave, become all the more difficult and sad for us.

I remember still clearly the first editorial that I wrote eight years ago for the December number of 2002, in which I expressed my heartfelt promise to do my utmost on behalf of all of you who read the Voice of Padre Pio.

Over these years we have been able to follow a path of growth in the light of Padre Pio's spiritual teachings and those of the Pope and Church. We wept over John Paul II's death and rejoiced at Benedict XVI's election. We reflected on the difficulties and fears facing mankind today. We shared with you our discoveries from the past that emerged from our researches in history as well as the memorable events that took place in San Giovanni Rotondo such as the dedication of the new church, the exhumation, the canonical recognition and exposition of St. Pio of Pietrelcina's mortal remains, the Holy Father's pastoral visit, and the transfer

of our venerated confrere's relics to the crypt of the new church dedicated to him.

My time of service as Director of the Voice of Padre Pio has ended and I must say goodbye to you. Our Lord and my fellow friars have entrusted me, even though my not deserving it, with the office of Provincial Minister to our religious province of "Sant'Angelo and Padre Pio" and as of September the direction of this magazine, as well as the Foundation of the Voice of Padre Pio, TV and Radio Padre Pio, and Padre Pio of Pietrelcina Editions is in the hands of my successor, Br. Mariano Di Vito.

Br. Mariano is well known to our Italian readers, but not so well known to the English speaking world. Many of his homilies while he was the Provincial Minister were printed in the Italian version of the Voice of Padre Pio, as well as several of his articles on Sacred Scripture in more recent years when he was the Rector of the "St. Lawrence of Brindisi Capuchin International College" in Rome and later as the Guardian of the "Our Lady Immaculate Friary" in Foggia.

He now takes up the reins as

Director of the Voice of Padre Pio. And I am convinced that he will do it with the same dedication, love and enthusiasm that he undertook every other assignment on behalf of the Province and the Order. I am convinced of this because I have known Br. Mariano for many years. I know him as a disciple knows and esteems his teacher. He was, in fact, the first to place his trust in me, despite my inexperience, summoning me as provincial secretary, while he was the Minister of the Province.

To know that I am leaving this magazine in such good hands is a great consolation to me as I say goodbye to you.

To all of you who, in these eight years, have welcomed and supported the evangelisation work through this journal as well as our television and radio channel, I express my heartfelt thanks.

And I ask you if you would please remember me in your prayers for my now still greater responsibility that I have been entrusted with so that the Lord may guide our Province through me, as a docile instrument in His hands, with His wisdom, courage and strength.