



## THE PASSING OF THE TORCH...

*By Bro. Mariano Di Vito, ofm cap.*

For many years I have contributed articles to the Voice of Padre Pio, and I have always done so with immense pleasure. I never imagined that one day I would become the director!

My appointment was no doubt an act of trust on the part of my Superiors and particularly of my predecessor, Bro. Francesco Colacelli, who has been called to be the Provincial Minister, the highest responsibility in the province. I thank him with all my heart. And with my promise to do my best to continue following the path that he has set out in these past splendid eight years of his direction, I wish also to thank him for his "exaggerated" words on my behalf in his last editorial. It is going to be for me a challenge to follow his example and with his same enthusiasm and untiring dedication.

The journal of the "Voice of Padre Pio" is a living and vibrant means of communication by which we wish to enter in an exchange of dialogue and friendship, and with the greatest deference, the homes of Padre Pio's many devotees. So it is from you, dear readers, that I must earn that esteem that was very generously anticipated to me by my Superiors.

There are many of us who contribute to this work. Our work is

like that of a large orchestra, that in these last 40 years has been able to produce an always more splendid and varied symphony with the objective, above all, of making echo out that "voice," that our journal, since its beginning, chose as its mission and continuing editorial goal. Writing to a spiritual child, Padre Pio confided that his greatest desire was to be a worthy son of St. Francis. This was an arduous and awesome ideal to follow and which he pursued faithfully everyday of his life in response to the Lord, always more consumed by that boundless love for the One who is "the Saviour of mankind who came down from heaven and took on flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary." My wish, as well as that of all who work for the Voice, is the same, even if the distance that separates our meagre efforts to the massive accomplishments of Padre Pio is beyond measure. My wish is that our journal with its articles, its insights on religion and society, its reflections on the Word of God and the Church's teachings, on Padre Pio's spiritual life, its pages dedicated to the life and events taking place at the shrine, as well as those pages we reserve for our readers news... is that all this may assist us in comprehending the ever

living message of the Gospel, that was lived and testified to in such an extraordinary way by Padre Pio, a truly great and worthy son of St. Francis.

The torch as the Director of this journal was passed over to me in the month of October for a special reason. This is the month in which we traditionally recount the events that take place during the liturgical feast day of Saint Pio as well as that of the Seraphic Father. It is a time intimately connected with the Passion and a time of renewal that is appropriate to "The Voice of Padre Pio" in its ongoing announcement of the Gospel to mankind today, using its language and amazing technology, but above all with that respect and courtesy, that is the priceless inheritance left to us by Francis of Assisi, and that compassion for man's sufferings that, as in Padre Pio, recall and remind us of those of Christ the Lord.

I begin this new "ministry" with trepidation but, at the same time, serenity, since I am certain that I can depend on the kind and faithful reception of our readers, as well as the "certain" assistance of Padre Pio. After all we wish only to allow everyone to continue to listen to his "voice," which is a crystalline and splendid echo of that of Christ's!