



# EMOTIONS...

by bro MARIANO DI VITO OFM Cap.



This number has been dedicated to those days that Padre Pio's relics were provisionally transferred to Rome and their triumphant return journey to San Giovanni Rotondo. To recall those extraordinary days, all the unique and unforeseen demonstrations of love and veneration shown to Padre Pio inspires a sense of wonder. To evoke again those emotions from a 'yesterday', so close and yet so historic as to seem already distant, can become a powerful catalyst to revitalise our Christian lives with Padre Pio's message.

Browsing through the pages of our journal you can look again at the pictures, the people and the celebrations that our great PADRE PIOTV workforce (the technicians, operators, journalists...) brought to you 'live' into your homes, as they do everyday. And also listen again, silently and devoutly, to the inspiring teachings that were given to us by Pope Francis, the many pastors, priests and fellow friars. Our television channel covered all the events and celebrations almost round the clock. To everyone (all the team who came to Rome and all the others no less involved, who remained in our S.G. Rotondo studios), I wish to express again my gratitude and that of all the friars and also, in a very special way, to all those of you who followed us and enthusiastically welcomed this

great and challenging venture. You were all tremendous. Thank you! But let's go back to the side of those reliquaries with the relics of St. Leopold and St. Pio, flanked by their fellow friars, and surrounded by those thousands upon thousands of pilgrims who came to venerate them. More than the news stories, the numbers of people and all the emotions, we should try to gather the significance of their testimony, their real and profound meaning in relation to the year of Mercy, so desired by Pope Francis.

Having been given the opportunity to speak about Padre Pio from the altars and many television studios, the platform of our times, it was possible to both separate Padre Pio from that narrow and deceptive view of him as an outdated saint from the 'dark ages', and to highlight those genuine and always current signs of Christian holiness able to inspire men and women, even in our very secular and almost post-Christian world, to rediscover the beauty of the faith and the courage to give themselves to the Lord and to the loving care of their wounded fellow beings. Padre Pio is a saint who is loved in a visceral way. But, above all, he is a man of God who spreads and testifies to the primacy of charity and its practice, the belief that each and everyone of us is called to do good, and he knocks down that suspect wall

of opposition between God and man. We can be active builders of the earthly city while never losing sight of the heavenly city to which all of history is bound.

The magnificence of the Roman basilicas and the images of the two Capuchin Friars Minor at the tomb of St. Peter below the splendid high altar of the Confession, must be looked at and understood together with those immense crowds of faithful following the reliquaries in the procession through the streets of Rome, with the cheering and waving of handkerchiefs from the sides of the motorways, with those visits to the ordinary places of everyday existence in the squares and town halls, wanted so passionately by the civil authorities and inhabitants. Padre Pio was and continues to be a man who is close to mankind, a generous intercessor of 'God's caress' of mercy. Yesterday, it was from his confessional. Today, instead, he 'speaks' to us from his glorious tomb, to all those many men and women who still wish to do their part, with passion and fervour, in the Lord's vineyard. Do you wish to be included among those many, but always too few? ...if you do, you will attain much more than mere emotions!

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