



# FROM A SIMPLE IDEA

By Bro FRANCESCO SCARAMUZZI, OFM Cap.

When in July of 1970, the first number of the Voice of Padre Pio was printed, Father Bernardino of Siena - the then Postulator General of the Capuchin Friars - explained in the editorial how this journal's origins was from a simple and spontaneous inspiration: to tell the world about Padre Pio and, at the same time, enable his Voice to reach all of his devotees. From this simple idea began that continuous chronicle of voices that still today is very much alive and thriving with the Capuchin Friars of the Foggia province still spreading the good news of the Gospel through Saint Pio of Pietrelcina, an exemplary disciple and interpreter.

It is through the voice that we are given the possibility to express and reveal ourselves; to make known our own ideas and convictions; to give substance to our hopes, to recount our successes, dreams and setbacks. Through our voice each one of us gives substance to our state of soul, whether conversing, laughing, singing, crying or shouting. Our voice is more than simply a reverberation of sounds. It conveys our state of being, making us audible and, hence, visible. Often the simple tone of our voice

or the emphasis of our words is enough to demonstrate our inner emotions and thoughts. Our voice is so important that those who do not have one risk not being heard, and those not heard remain isolated and ultimately marginalised simply because without a voice. But our voice enables us also to call things to mind; to give names to things and to call them by name. Hence, it is also thanks to our voice that relations between people are possible, allowing us to recognise the other and to be recognised.

It is not accidental that in the Gospel (cf. John 10, 7-14) the good Shepherd is recognised by His voice, by His familiar and trustworthy voice, that stands out from the many others. We know just how difficult it is today to recognise the true voice of the Shepherd among the so many false ones calling us and promising life, well-being and happiness. We can so easily be fooled by these charlatans and imposters, by these "thieves and robbers." How are we to recognise the true Shepherd's voice among all these others? We must learn how to listen.

Padre Pio teaches how himself: "Humble yourself lovingly be-

fore God and men, because God speaks to the humble. Love silence because much talk is never without sin. Withdraw into yourself as much as you can, because in this way the Lord speaks freely to the soul, and the soul is more able to listen to His voice" (Letters III).

In these last 47 years, The Voice of Padre Pio has been heard far and wide, giving substance, colour and savour to Christ's words, and guiding and recalling readers to those essential matters that truly count in life. In this endeavour to familiarise readers with the Truth of the Gospel many have given their minds and wills, and the latest among these Bro Mariano Di Vito, who directed with commitment, fervour and expertise the magazine for seven years so that it grew and prospered.

This task in spreading his voice has now been entrusted to me. To mine will be added those of our writers, colleagues and also readers, who sincerely enamoured of Padre Pio and his teaching, will continue to spread his voice, echoing that of His Master, Jesus Christ, who alone has the words of eternal life, and calls all to Himself. ❖

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