According to some estimates, approximately 20 million people have attended the Mass celebrated by Padre Pio.

Concerning the value of the Mass, Padre Pio said: “If men only appreciated the value of a holy Mass they would need traffic officers at church doors every day to keep the crowds in order.”

Padre Pio was asked what his Mass meant to him. He responded: “It is a sacred participation in the passion of Jesus. All that the Lord suffered in His passion, I suffer, to the extent that it is possible to a human being. And that is apart from any merit of mine, but entirely due to His goodness.”

Before Padre Pio offered the unconsecrated host on his Paten, he would run his fingers around the host to make sure there were no loose particles.
Padre Pio: “Every holy Mass, heard with devotion, produces in our souls marvelous effects, abundant spiritual and material graces which we, ourselves, do not know. It is easier for the earth to exist without the sun than without the holy Sacrifice of the Mass.”

Padre Pio: “I am going to the wine-press of the Church, to the holy altar, where from the Blood of that delightful and unusual Grape, is distilled the sacred Wine with which only a few fortunate people are permitted to become inebriated.”

On July 25, 1915, Padre Pio wrote a letter to Annita Rodote on how to properly attend the Holy Mass:

“The Divine Master calls the church the house of prayer. In order to avoid irreverence and imperfections I exhort you in the Lord to:

Enter the church in silence and with great respect. Take the holy water and make the sign of the cross carefully and slowly. Before God in the Blessed Sacrament genuflect devoutly. At your pace, kneel down and render to Jesus the tribute of your presence. Confide to him all your needs, and those of others. Speak to him with filial abandonment. Be very composed when standing up, kneeling down, and sitting. Carry out every religious act with the greatest devotion. Be modest in your glance. Don’t turn you head here and there to see who enters and leaves. Don’t laugh. Don’t speak to anybody, except when requested for charity or other strict necessity. Say the words distinctly, observe the pauses, and never hurry. Behave in such a way that all the presents are edified by you. Don’t leave without asking Jesus for his blessing, and forgiveness for your shortcomings. Leave the church recollected and calm.”

From his own handwriting to his spiritual directors and the spiritual daughter Cleonice Morcaldi, we know that Padre Pio experienced during Mass the Passion of Jesus, including the Agony in the Garden with the sweat of blood, the scourging, the crowning of thorns, the hostile crowds, the Via Crucis, Veronica, Simon of Cyrene, the Crucifixion, the seven words, the sipping of the gall, the death and deposition.
“My Mass is a sacred accomplishment of the Passion of Jesus.”
“In knowing the Passion of Jesus, you will also know my Passion.”
“The Mass is the complete union between Jesus and me.”
“All of Paradise is close to the altar when I say Mass.”
“The angels attend my Mass in legions.”
“The angels around the altar adore and love.”
“The Holy Virgin assists me.”
“During the Consecration a new, awesome and wonderful annihilation and creation happens.”
“I suffer all what Jesus suffered, from the Garden to the Cross.”
“I inadequately suffer to the extent a human creature can possibly suffer.”
“I suffer the agony of death like Jesus in the Garden Gethsemane.”
“The sufferings are so acute that they can neither be described nor imagined.”
“I suffer the bitterness of gall very often during the Mass.”
“I suffer the most from the Consecration to the Communion.”
“My suffering is insignificant compared to the suffering Jesus experienced.”
“I don’t want my Calvary to be alleviated; rather to make it harder. We must suffer.”
“The offertory is the moment when the soul becomes detached from all that is profane.”
“I suffer the crowning of thorns during the Holy Mass and also before and after it.”
“Without the crown of thorns the immolation would not be complete. The thorns are around the whole head.”
“The crown of thorns is never taken away. The head and the heart are the wound that hurt the most.”
“I suffer the scourging from the beginning to the end of the Mass, but more intensely after the Consecration.”
“I also speak the “seven words” that Jesus stated on the Cross.”
“During the Way of the Cross I am Jesus Himself. Jesus himself helps me like Simon of Cyrene and Veronica”
“At the Calvary, there where screams, blasphemies, loud clamor, and threats . . . that was really an uproar.”
“I find my rest on the Cross.”
“In His last gaze the dying Jesus looked towards His Holy Mother.”
“I put last gaze on my brothers in exile.”
“In the Communion I ask the Lord to let me be another Jesus, all Jesus, always Jesus.”

“My Communion is a fusion. Like two candles that fuse together and cannot be distinguished one from the other.”

“I die mystically, at the Holy Communion. The Communion is the culminating point of my suffering.”

“In the communion Jesus put his delight in his creature.”

“The Eucharist gives and idea of the union we will have in heaven.”

“How could I live failing even for a single morning to receive Jesus in the Communion?”

“Help me carry the cross. I that carry it for all.”

“O lord, don’t strike my poor brothers, strike me.”

“I want to expiate the sins of all, like Jesus did on the cross.”

“I take all iniquities on myself, as it is part of the Divine Sacrifice.”

“I see all my children who come to the altar, as if in a mirror. I tell Mary: Here are the children of your Son.”

“If we only knew how God regards it, we would risk our lives to be present at a single Mass.”

“The mass gives to God an infinite glory.”

“Mass is redemption of your soul and reconciliation with God.”

“Listen to the Mass the way the virgin Mary stood at the Calvary”

“The holy Mass regenerates the world.”

“The fruits that we receive at Mass cannot be enumerated. We will know it only in Paradise.”

“I want to save my soul at any cost.”

“I live for Jesus Christ, I live for his glory, I live to serve him, I live to love him.”

“If it depended on me I would never leave the altar.”
HW: Read the article on the Mass with Padre Pio. Answer the following questions.

1. Why is it important to go to Mass?
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   ____________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________

2. Describe what Padre Pio felt celebrating the Mass?
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   ____________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________
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   ____________________________________________________________________

3. What is one quote mentioned in the article that struck you the most. Why?
   ____________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________
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4. How can we prepare ourselves to go to Mass?
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   ____________________________________________________________________
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Fun Facts of Padre Pio

St. Padre Pio (Francesco Forgione) was a priest and friar in the Capuchin order. An Italian, he was beatified and canonized by St. John Paul II and is widely known for various supernatural phenomena such as exhibiting the stigmata, being a catalyst for various miracles, and bilocating.

Padre Pio (1887–1968) is the patron saint of adolescents, stress relief, civil defense volunteers, and January blues. His feast day is Sept. 23. St. Padre Pio, pray for us!

1. **St. Padre Pio was known to have stigmata**

On Sept. 20, 1918, Padre Pio received the stigmata while praying in a church. They remained visible on his body for the rest of his life. The stigmata correspond to the wounds suffered by Jesus during his crucifixion.

2. **St. Padre Pio’s stigmata wounds had a distinct aroma**

The blood that came from Padre Pio’s wounds is said to have smelled like flowers or perfume, a trait referred to as the “odor of sanctity” that has also been exhibited by other saints who manifested stigmata markings.

3. **St. Padre Pio saw and spoke with Jesus, Mary, and his guardian angel as a young boy**

“In his simplicity, Francesco assumed everyone had the same experiences,” according to PadrePioDevotions.org.

4. **St. Padre Pio was religious from a young age**

Padre Pio was deeply connected to his faith starting at an early age. At the age of 5, he consecrated himself to Jesus. When he was 10, his family looked to see how he could become a Capuchin friar.

5. **St. Padre Pio had the gift of bilocation**

There are many eyewitness accounts that claim Padre Pio was able to be in multiple places at once. Some come from his fellow friars who are said to have seen him in prayer outside when they knew he was still in his room. Others come from those who are said to have seen him on different continents the world over. Perhaps the most famous claim is that he appeared in the sky over San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy, during World War II.

**QUESTION:** What fact did you think was the most interesting? Why?

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