

Today we celebrate the relatively-new Memorial of St. Pius of Pietrelcina, known more affectionately as Padre Pio.

What's amazing about his life are the miracles associated with him. Not just the ability to bi-locate ... that is, be in two places at once ... or the stigmata - the wounds of Christ that he carried on his body ... or the healings that happened by his prayers ... but the conversions of people who met him ... the changes of heart that occurred from people who went to his early morning Masses or met him in his confessional.

He almost wasn't ordained because he had continued health problems as a young man ... yet he lived to the ripe old age of 81.

One of his catch-phrases was "Pray, hope, and don't worry."

Padre Pio was also a man of constant prayer. He was in the habit of praying 30 or more Rosaries daily.

As we approach this altar to receive the Sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ ... let us persevere in our own prayer ... asking for the grace to become truly people of prayer ... that we might face life's difficulties and "Pray, hope, and [not] worry" ... trusting always in God's grace, love, and mercy.