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WORDS OF WISDOM FROM **ST. PIER GIORGIO FRASSATI**

A black and white portrait of St. Pier Giorgio Frassati. He is a young man with dark hair, wearing a dark suit jacket, a white shirt, and a patterned tie. He has his arms crossed and is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile.

**“THE MAN
OF THE EIGHT
BEATITUDES”**

Words of Wisdom from St. Pier Giorgio Frassati



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Quotes taken from *Pier Giorgio Frassati: Letters to His Friends and Family*
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Introduction

In 1925, Pier Giorgio Frassati died from polio at the age of 24. By certain standards, he had been an average young man. He was an athlete and an engineering student. He fell in love with a young woman and, along with his closest friends, created a tongue-in-cheek association called “Tipi Loschi” (“The Shady Characters”). He enjoyed mountain climbing, art, poetry, and photography. His care for others was evident, and his happiness was infectious.

For all his interests, the great love of his life was the Catholic Faith. Frassati, a daily communicant and Dominican tertiary, had a deep love for the Holy Eucharist and the Blessed Mother. Pope St. John Paul II, who was inspired by him in his own youth, said, “The life of this ‘normal’ young man shows that we can be holy.”

And now he’s been proclaimed a saint.

Born in Turin in 1901, Frassati was part of a wealthy and influential family. His mother was an artist, and his father, the owner of the newspaper *La Stampa*, in 1920 became the Italian ambassador to Germany.

Like his father, he was against Fascism, then gaining ground in Italy. While attending university, Frassati was involved in social action groups and was an active member of the People’s Party, which was based on Catholic social teaching. In these groups, he made many friends and gently encouraged members to grow in holiness and virtue, often asking them to attend Mass, pray the Rosary, and read Sacred Scripture.

While his family had considerable wealth, he found great joy in visiting the poor and giving them money. In fact, when he died after a very short time with polio, it is believed he contracted the illness while visiting the poor. And the night before his death, he asked a friend to take medicine to a poor man he had been helping, as he was unable to go.

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Words of Wisdom from St. Pier Giorgio Frassati

Countless people attended his funeral, much to the surprise of his family. In his 24 years, he touched so many: wealthy and poor, holy and secular, influential and forgotten. And he continues to touch lives today.

Months before he was elected to the papacy, Pope St. John Paul II attended a Frassati exhibit and said, “Behold the man of the eight beatitudes who bears in himself the grace of the Gospel, the Good News, the joy of salvation offered to us by Christ.”

Through reading these quotes, mostly from letters Pier Giorgio wrote to his friends and family, you’ll better understand this holy young man who sought God in his daily life.



Being a Witness for Christ

“Modern society is drowning in the sorrows of human passions and it is distancing itself from every ideal of love and peace. Catholics, we and you, must bring the breath of goodness that can only spring from faith in Christ.”

* * *

“... I send you my best wishes, rather just one, but I believe it to be the only wish that a true friend can make to a dear friend and it is this: the Peace of the Lord be with you always because when you possess peace every day you will be truly rich.”

* * *

“... I hope that just as life rises anew at Easter, so the world will arise to a more intense Christian life.”

* * *

“There is another thing which should unite us and it is Holy Love, holy because it is the everlasting Fire which ought to consume a Christian heart; we should be nourished by it because without Charity every other virtue has no worth.”

* * *

“As far as I am concerned it’s better to be alone, but with a clear conscience, than be together with all the others but with a huge stain on one’s conscience.”

* * *

“Since peace cannot return to the world without God, at least may you, as men of good will, cherish in your hearts Him Who in the stable was announced by the Angels as the Savior of Humanity.”

(continued)



Words of Wisdom from St. Pier Giorgio Frassati

“We Catholics and especially we students have a serious responsibility to fulfill: our own formation.

“We, who by the grace of God are Catholics, should not waste the most wonderful years of our life, as unfortunately do so many unhappy young people, who are preoccupied with enjoying the good life, which does not result in good, but which brings the fruit of immorality into our modern society. We should steel ourselves to be ready to carry on the battles we shall certainly have to fight in order to fulfill our program and thus to give to our country, in a not-too-distant future, happier days and a morally healthy society.”



Following the Path to God

“I hope with the Grace of God to continue along the path of Catholic Ideals and to be able one day, in whatever state God wills, to defend and propagate these rare and true things.”

* * *

“Every day that passes by convinces me all the more how ugly the world is, how much misery there is and unfortunately good people are suffering while we who have been given many graces by God have alas! paid Him back so poorly. It’s a terrible admission which torments my brain while I am studying. Every now and then I ask myself: shall I go on trying to follow the right path? Will I have the good fortune to persevere to the end? In this tremendous clash of doubts, the Faith given to me in Baptism suggests to me with a sure voice: ‘By yourself you can do nothing, but if you have God as the center of your every action then, yes, you will reach the goal.’ And I would like to be able to do precisely that and to take as a maxim the saying of St. Augustine: ‘Lord, our heart is restless until it rests in you.’”

* * *

“We Catholics must strive to have our whole life guided by Christian moral law. Then there is the apostolate of charity by going among those who suffer and comforting them, among the unfortunate and saying a comforting word to them, because the Catholic religion is based on charity which is nothing other than the most perfect Love.”

* * *

“I’m always ready because every day I fall in love with the mountains more and more and, if my studies would allow me to do it, I would spend entire days on the mountains contemplating in that pure air the Greatness of the Creator.”

(continued)



Words of Wisdom from St. Pier Giorgio Frassati

“Certainly the Faith is still the sole anchor of salvation to which we must grasp strongly: without it what would our whole life be?”

* * *

“We must sacrifice everything for everything: our ambitions, indeed our entire selves, for the cause of the Faith.

“In order for our life to be Christian, it must be a continual renunciation, a continual sacrifice which however is not burdensome when only we think about what these few years passed in sorrow are, compared with a happy eternity, where joy will have no measure nor end, and where we will enjoy a peace beyond anything we could imagine. And so, young people, learn how to sacrifice from our Lord Jesus Christ. In order to atone for our horrible sins, He sacrificed Himself as an Innocent Victim on Calvary, and He renews this wonderful Sacrifice every day in every part of the world during Holy Mass.”

* * *

[After attending the funeral of an acquaintance]

“I reflected and thought that within a few years I will also be in that same state; I will then also arouse a sense of compassion mixed with disgust and yet I have sometimes been ambitious. And for what? Just for death, this great mystery, the only just one which spares no one, which will dissolve this body of mine and in a short time will turn it into dust. But beyond the material body there is the soul to which we must dedicate all our energy, so that it can present itself before the Supreme Tribunal without fault or at least with little faults, so that after having served some years in Purgatory it will be able to go up to Eternal peace. But how does one prepare oneself for the great Transition and when? Since one does not know when death will come to take him away, it is very prudent to prepare oneself every day as if one is going to die that same day; and so from now on I will try to make every day a little preparation for death, so that I shouldn't find myself unprepared at the point of death and have to regret the beautiful years of youth, wasted from the spiritual side.”



Joy, Even Amid Sorrows

“One lives in a worried state not knowing what one is up against. Only Faith gives one the possibility of living.”

* * *

“The future is in the hands of God and better than that it could not be.”

* * *

“Every day I understand better what a Grace it is to be Catholics. Poor unlucky those who don't have a Faith: to live without a Faith, without a patrimony to defend, without a steady struggle for the Truth, is not living but existing. We must never exist but live, because even through every disappointment we should remember that we are the only ones who possess the Truth, we have a Faith to sustain, a Hope to attain: our Homeland.”

* * *

“As long as Faith gives me strength I will always be joyful; every Catholic cannot but be joyful; sadness ought to be banished from Catholic souls.”

* * *

“Human sorrows touch us, but if they are viewed in the light of Religion, and thus of self-surrender, they are not harmful but helpful, because they purify the Soul of the little and inevitable stains by which we men, due to our wicked nature, dirty ourselves many times.”

* * *

“The purpose for which we have been created shows us the path, even if strewn with many thorns, ... is not a sad path. It is joyful even in the face of sorrow.”

(continued)



Words of Wisdom from St. Pier Giorgio Frassati

“In the world there is only sorrow, and sorrow without Faith is unbearable, while sorrow nourished by the torch of the Faith becomes a beautiful thing because it fortifies the soul in its struggles. In today’s struggle, I cannot but thank God because He has willed in His Infinite Mercy to grant this sorrow to my heart so that by means of these arduous thorns I might return to a life that is more interior, more spiritual.”



“It is wonderful to be alive inasmuch as our true life is the life beyond; otherwise who could bear the burden of this life if there weren’t a prize for suffering, an eternal joy; how could one explain the admirable resignation of so many poor creatures who struggle with life and often die in the breach if it weren’t for the certainty of God’s Justice.

“In the world which has distanced itself from God, there is a lack of Peace, but there is also a lack of Charity that is true and perfect Love. Maybe if all of us listened more to St. Paul, human miseries would be slightly diminished.”



The Next Life

“Our Faith helps us with the great hope that this life is short and that only afterwards comes the true Life, in which Justice will triumph.”

* * *

“Only Faith can be my hope and my comfort in the next life; hence I ask you to pray a lot for me so that every day I can solidify my Faith and have the strength to bear the difficulties that in these latest years of my youth have been impeding my path.”

* * *

“I believe that life should be a continual preparation for the next life, because one doesn't know the day nor the hour of our passing.”



About Us

Founded more than 40 years ago by a Poor Clare of Perpetual Adoration (PCPA), Mother Mary Angelica of the Annunciation, EWTN is the largest religious media network in the world. EWTN's 11 global TV channels are broadcast in multiple languages 24 hours a day, seven days a week to over 435 million television households in more than 160 countries and territories. EWTN platforms also include radio services transmitted through SIRIUS/XM, iHeart Radio, and over 600 domestic and international AM & FM radio affiliates; a worldwide shortwave radio service; one of the largest Catholic websites in the U.S.; electronic and print news services, including Catholic News Agency, *National Catholic Register* newspaper, and several global news wire services; as well as EWTN Publishing, its book publishing division.

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