



September 20, 2018

DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

## **The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. Padre Pio Receiving the Stigmata of Jesus Christ and the Wounds of the Church in our Day**

On Thursday, September 20, 2018 we will celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. Padre Pio (1887-1968) receiving the stigmata of Jesus Christ.

The stigmata are the wounds of Christ – in his hands, in his feet and in his side – which he experienced in his passion, crucifixion and death. Certain saints in the history of the Church have been given the gift of the stigmata as a special sign of their union with the Crucified Christ.

As a Capuchin Friar, St. Pio was a son of St. Francis of Assisi (1181/1182--1226) who also received and lived his life with the stigmata. St. Pio's stigmata showed how he lived the Passion and Crucifixion of Christ in a mystical way.

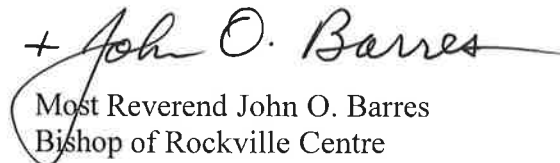
His wounds helped him to understand the cosmic power of the Catholic Mass, the unbloody renewal of Christ's sacrifice on Calvary and the relationship between a holy living of the priesthood and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

His wounds helped him to be a Doctor of Mercy in the confessional and a Doctor of Mercy for those who had experienced all types of trauma in life. St. Pio's wounds gave him a unique understanding of how to heal the wounds of the Church throughout history.

During these painful and traumatic moments for our Church, we ask St. Padre Pio's intercession to help heal the wounds of the Church in our time.

**FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT, WE THANK YOU FOR THE HOLY WITNESS OF YOUR PRIEST, SAINT PADRE PIO, AND THE GIFT OF THE STIGMATA THAT YOU GAVE HIM.**

**WE ASK THROUGH ST. PIO'S INTERCESSION THAT THE WOUNDS AND TRAUMAS OF SURVIVORS OF ABUSE AND THE WOUNDS OF THE ENTIRE CHURCH MAY BE TOUCHED BY THE GLORIFIED WOUNDS OF THE RISEN CHRIST. WE ASK THIS THROUGH CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN.**

  
+ John O. Barres  
Most Reverend John O. Barres  
Bishop of Rockville Centre