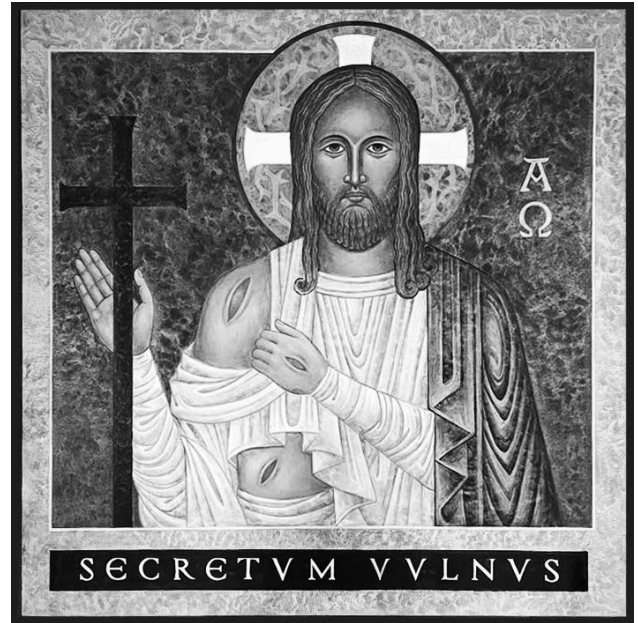




# FRANCISCAN BROTHERS OF PEACE

"TO RECONCILE EVERYTHING IN JESUS...  
MAKING PEACE THROUGH THE BLOOD OF HIS CROSS."



## *The Hidden Wounds of Life will One Day Be Healed*

Holy Week 2026

Dear Friends:

For fifty years, Saint Padre Pio carried in his body the wounds of Jesus. The stigmata in his hands, feet, and side were known throughout the world. However, St. Pio also carried a

**'hidden wound'** in his shoulder that few people knew about. He described this as an intensely painful wound in his shoulder, a sharp and sudden pain that woke him from sleep.

At first, he had difficulty understanding why he was experiencing this pain so suddenly. Then he heard a voice say: **"That is how I have suffered."** At that moment, St. Pio explained that his room was filled with the fragrance of perfume, and his heart overflowed with love for God. Then he understood that Jesus endured the crushing weight of the Cross out of love for us.

There is something deeply spiritual in this, especially as we enter into Holy Week and look forward to the Resurrection and the celebration of the Easter season. Many people saw the visible wounds of St. Pio, but the greatest suffering was the one no one saw. This experience reflects something true in our own lives. **Often the deepest crosses and wounds we carry are the hidden struggles, sorrows, and burdens of the heart that no one else sees or notices.**

*Many of you have sent your prayer intentions to us, revealing these hidden wounds. We pray for healing for you and for the intentions you carry in your hearts. Please keep sending these!*

*continued...*

### "The Hidden Wound of Christ"

*Icon prayerfully written by the hand of  
Nicholas Markell. We are so grateful for  
his permission to share this work.  
[www.Markellstudios.com](http://www.Markellstudios.com)*

Please remember that the wounds we carry are not the end. They can even be given to us for our own purification and as a path toward salvation. As with St. Pio, it is recorded that when he died, the wounds disappeared from his body.

**This is the hope of the Resurrection that we look forward to in the Easter season. Jesus helps us carry our crosses and heals our wounds, and we in turn help each other carry our crosses, visible and invisible.** Even under the crushing weight of the Cross, Jesus is leading us one day to the joy of the Resurrection.

The hidden wounds of our own lives, when united to Christ, can become the very path by which the Lord leads us from the suffering of the Cross to the joy of the Resurrection.

**With gratitude, please continue to send your prayer requests to us , and if you are able, please remember us in your offering in support of our ministries.**

In Jesus and Mary

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fr. Seraphim, fbp".

Fr. Seraphim Wirth, fbp  
Community Servant

*P.S.:*

*One of the most meaningful ways to continue bearing fruit for Christ is by remembering the Franciscan Brothers of Peace in your will or estate plans. If you choose to include us in this way, please feel free to let us know. It would be a privilege for us to thank you for such a gift and to remember your intentions in our prayers.*