

Miracle Story: Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati is a 24 year-old young man from Italy who died in 1924. He is one step away from being canonized a saint. Kevin Becker from Lynbrook was in a coma after falling off the roof of his dorm house in college. The accident damaged four lobes of his brain. While in the coma, Pier Giorgio appeared to him and Kevin had a miraculous healing. His testimony has been documented and submitted to Rome. It could become the miracle for the final process of canonization of Pier Giorgio.



About Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati

He was born in Turin, Italy, on Holy Saturday, April 6, 1901. He was a charismatic and heroic young man who overcame the obstacle of being raised in a wealthy family which, while Catholic, had very little religious faith. Through a true devotion to the Holy Eucharist and the Blessed Mother, he developed a deep spiritual life which he shared with everyone.

By age 17, he dedicated much of his time to serving the sick, needy and orphans, as well as assisting servicemen returning from World War I. For the next seven years, he tirelessly cared for the spiritual, physical and educational needs of a countless number of people through his work with the

conferences of St. Vincent de Paul. He decided to become a mining engineer, studying at the Royal Polytechnic University of Turin, so he could “serve Christ better among the miners,” as he told a friend. Because he did most of his work anonymously, even his family had no idea of how many people he served. He considered it a privilege to give completely of himself to help the poor. His charity was fed by daily communion with Christ in the Holy Eucharist, praying the Rosary and much time spent in nocturnal adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. He often sacrificed vacations at the Frassati summer home in Pollane (near Turin) because, as he said, “If everybody leaves Turin, who will take care of the poor?”

Handsome, athletic and cultured, Pier Giorgio is a shining example of how to live in the world – and yet not be of the world. He loved all sports, but mountain climbing was his favorite. It was said that he “cared for his friends’ souls as much as he cared for his own,” and this was very visible during outings in the mountains. He never lost the chance to lead them to Holy Mass, Adoration, reading the Scripture and praying the Rosary. He often challenged them at sports, and said if he was the winner, they would all join him in Adoration. He rarely lost his bet.

He was politically active in defense of the Church against the anti-clerical Fascists. He spoke at large rallies to the youth of Italy, inspiring them to follow the teachings of the Church; that is, to follow Christ.

Pier Giorgio contracted polio while caring for the sick. After a six-day battle, he died at age 24 on July 4, 1925. His funeral was a triumph; his parents were amazed at the thousands of people, most unknown to them, who attended his funeral. The poor and the needy whom he had served unselfishly for seven years were also surprised to learn that Brother Girolamo (*the name he chose as a Lay Dominican*) was a member of the wealthy Frassati family. Inspired by the example of their son, his parents decided to heal their troubled marriage and his father, a lapsed Catholic, returned to regular attendance at Mass.

In 1981, with the cause of his sainthood underway, the Church exhumed his body. It was found to be completely incorrupt, with a smile on his face and the rosary, with which he was buried, in his hands. In 1989, Pope John Paul visited the original tomb of Pier Giorgio and said, “I wanted to pay homage to a young man who was able to witness to Christ with singular effectiveness in this century of ours. When I was a young man, I, too, felt the beneficial influence of his example and, as a student, I was impressed by the force of his testimony.” Pier Giorgio Frassati, named “Man of the Eight Beatitudes” by Pope John Paul II was beatified by him on May 20, 1990 in St. Peter’s Square in Rome. Many pilgrims, especially the young, come to his tomb in Italy to seek favors and the courage to follow his example.

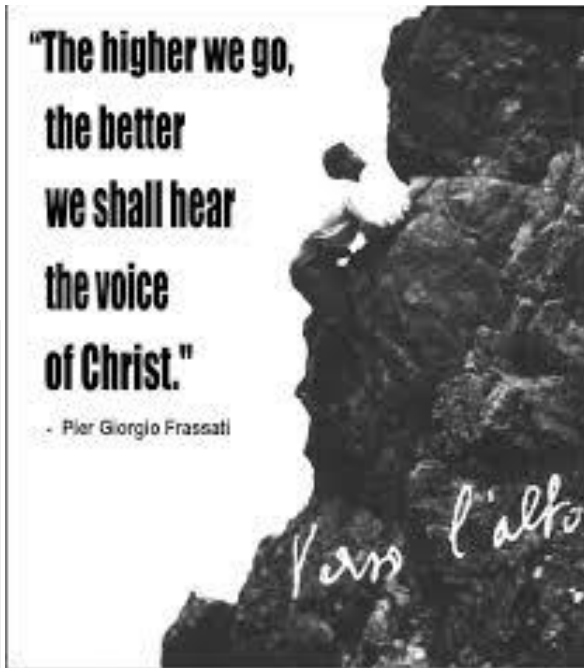
Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati

~ son, friend, athlete, lover of the poor, worker for social justice, future Saint ~

Those who think of saints as shy and reclusive people who disdain this life while pining for the next world will be surprised by the figure of Blessed Giorgio Frassati. A practical joker known as “Robespierre” or “the Holy Terror” by his friends whom he gathered together in a club call “The Sinister Ones”, Frassati was a friend to the poor, in whom he saw Christ. And today’s laity, especially young people who are looking for a role model, will find someone with whom they can identify in this strapping young outdoorsman who combined political activism and work for social justice, and who lived his short life “to the full”.

“To live without faith, without a heritage to defend, without battling constantly for truth, is not to live but to 'get along'; we must never just 'get along'.” -Pier Giorgio

“Prayer is the noble supplication which we lift up to the throne of the Most High. It is the most efficient means to obtain from God the graces which we need.” -Pier Giorgio



“The end for which we are created invites us to walk a road that is surely sown with a lot of thorns, but it is not sad; through even the sorrow, it is illuminated by joy.” -Pier Giorgio

“If you have God at the center of all your action, you will reach the goal.” -Pier Giorgio



“I urge you with all the strength of my soul to approach the Eucharistic Table as often as possible. Feed on this Bread of the Angels from which you will draw the strength to fight inner struggles, the struggles against passions and against all adversities, because Jesus Christ has promised to those who feed themselves with the most Holy Eucharist, eternal life and the necessary graces to obtain it. And when you are totally consumed by the Eucharistic fire, then you will be able more consciously to thank God, who has called you to become part of His family. Then you will enjoy the peace that those who are happy in this world have never experienced, because true happiness, oh young people, does not consist in the pleasures of this world, or in earthly things, but in peace of conscience, which we only have if we are pure of heart and mind.”

Pier Giorgio