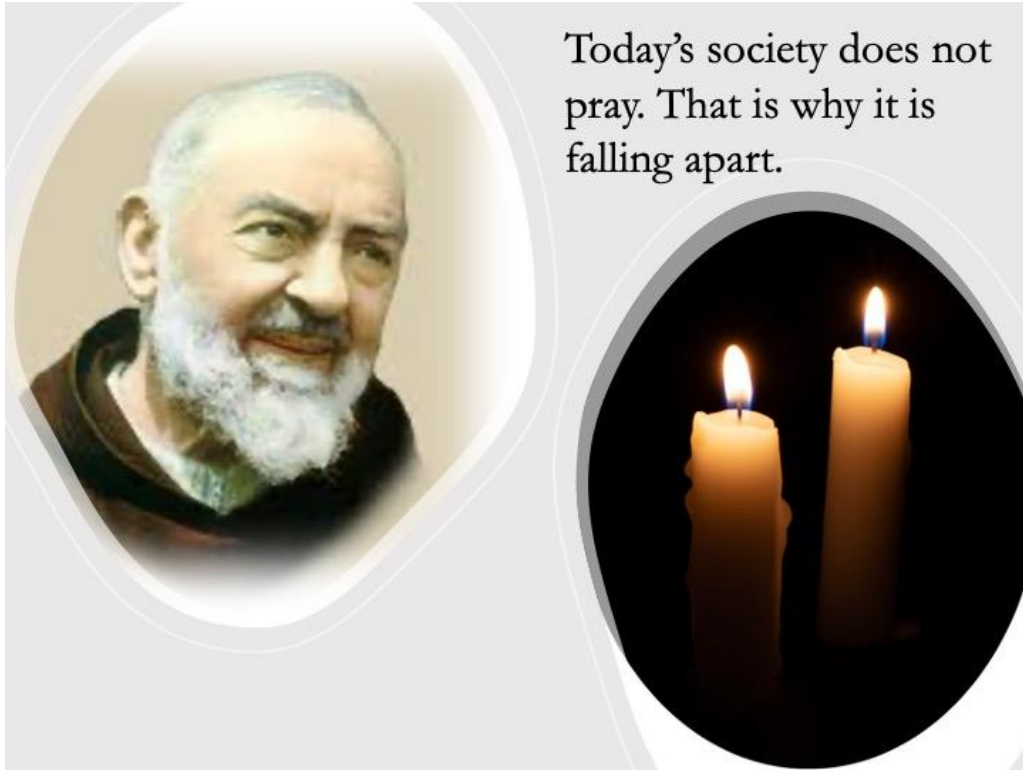


# OPC PRAYER GROUP

October 29, 2023



## FAITH and PATIENCE

### The Sacrament of the Candles<sup>1</sup>

At Christmas time in 1978 I was in Jerusalem (what a powerful place!) visiting as many churches as possible and shrines that I could. I came across a Coptic Christian church dedicated to the teachings of St. John the Evangelist. John wrote the first gospel and started it with “the darkness shall never overcome the Light.” His final work was the Book of Revelation which is a non-literal description of his “vision” of the great and final battle between the darkness and the Light. This church, dedicated to the teachings of John, had two very large white beeswax candles at each end of the altar. I was curious. I had never seen that before. I sought out the sacristan and asked him what the symbolism meant – the two candles. He said that this church is dedicated to the “truth” of the Book of Revelation including what was taught about how to live through it. He said that the candles represented FAITH (TRUST IN GOD’S PLAN) and ENDURANCE (PATIENCE). I later found analogs of this teaching in the masters of the east and implied by our western Carmelite brother,

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<sup>1</sup> The sacristan noted that the devotion of honoring the Two Candles was a sacrament, a channel of grace during difficult times. I tried to get answers to questions I had about the meaning of Revelation, but we did not really speak one another’s languages and communication outside of the basics was difficult. The Concept of Revelation as I understand it has to do with a time of great purification. The Operational aspect is a great and final battle between Good and evil. Technically it would involve the Holy Land and the (potential) destruction of Jerusalem.

Lawrence of the Resurrection and also by Jean-Pierre de Caussade author of “Abandonment to Divine Providence.”<sup>2</sup>

So, during these times I will be focusing us on the Sacrament of the Two Candles - Faith and Patience - the means of “handling” the events unfolding.

Liz and Roger Nally conduct a monthly StillPoint prayer group in Rochester N.Y. In the past I would make a yearly trip to visit with the group. This year I could not make a trip, health issues. I did a mini retreat via Zoom for the Rochester group today, similar to the weekly in-home StillPoint Retreats. In the presentation I touched on the Two Candles and did a visual lexio divina of the teachings of some of the saints as it pertained to Faith and Patience. When I watched it this morning to make sure that it was “good to go,” I realized that it would be worthwhile to share it with the entire OPC and Retreat Group. So, below is information on how to access this on the StillPoint website.

Oh, in the presentation I mentioned that if you wanted a copy of the link call Jamie Banuski. Please don't call Jamie. I am giving you the website information below. Also, the teaching part is 26 minutes long, followed by adoration with the Relic of the True Cross for 10 minutes at the end. (We got the sound problem with the chants fixed)

We will be having a Zoom “Hour of Prayer,” on Halloween (Tuesday) night at 9 PM Eastern. More than ever, we need to stick together and pray for the suffering world. You will receive your Zoom invitation link later Tuesday afternoon.

Only Love,

Keep Faith and Be Patient – “this too shall pass.”

Jerry

P.S. I want to acknowledge, with great gratitude, **Grace Abbene** and **Jamie Banuski**, for putting this presentation into presentable electronic form.

Link for the video presentation: **Sacrament of the Two Candles**, go to:

[StillPointretreats.com](http://StillPointretreats.com):

Click on tab: [Ongoing Retreats](#)

Then click on: [Sacrament of the Two Candles](#)

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<sup>2</sup> This book has a magnificent effect on the reader insofar as it “instills” thought patterns that lead to a sacred surrender, acceptance and inner peace.