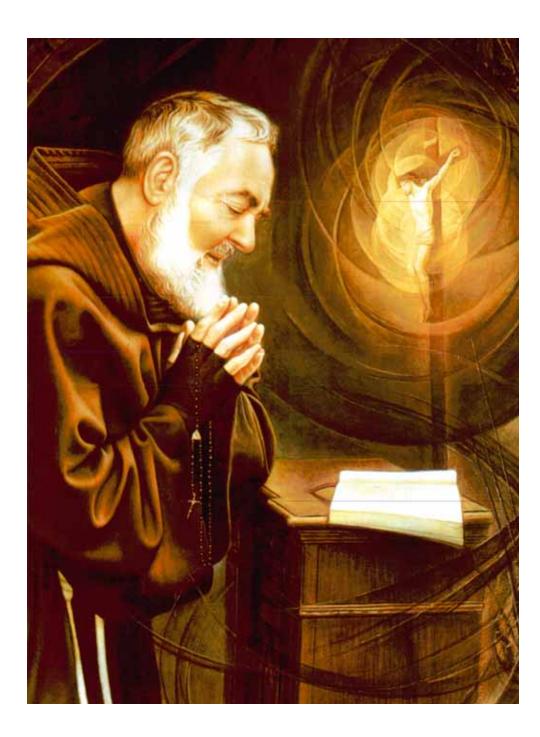
Saint Pio of Pietrelcina 1887-1968

Saint Pio of Pietrelcina had to frequently battle against the devil and he put his spiritual children on guard from the hidden snares of Satan. The Saint wrote to Annita Rodote:

"Despise, as always, all of the evil arts of the devil. To make you conceive horror towards he who directs you, he is the enemy of every good and therefore you do not have to wonder if he trembles with rage not so much towards you as towards me... Do not listen to him, do not ever stop doing my suggestions, guard yourself from entertaining to discourse directly with him... When it happens to you to hear voices and you do not know how to distinguish if it comes from a good spirit or a bad one, turn yourself humbly to Jesus and say to him: 'If you are Jesus, manifest yourself to whom you assigned to me as my director' and then make him repeat 'Jesus Lives', 'Long live Mary Immaculate, always a Virgin.' If he does not want to repeat it, spit in his face and say to Jesus to send him to Hell. To avoid other evil tricks from this unclean spirit, before reading any of my correspondence, you bless yourself with the sign of redemption, then make another sign of the cross on the letter, then sprinkle it with holy water, and finally open it and read it."

And another time he wrote to Raffaellina Cerase: "Holy is the desire you have to see me to tell me many things about Jesus, and do not fear that this is against the Divine Will. I keep you advised to not let yourself be overcome with this desire to see me, even miraculously, because it could be very dangerous for you. When such a desire moves within your soul, get rid of it upon its first appearance. This way you close the door to any trap from that Cossack. The devil, as you know, is a great architect of iniquity. He knows this all too well. Seeing that in you such a desire is much alive, he could try to trick you with some illusion and diabolical apparition, as an angel of light. This wretched apostate even knows how to disguise himself as a Capuchin monk and can play his role very well. Believe it, I beg of you, from someone who was subjected to a similar experience. It is enough for now that which I have said about this point. To me, it seems that I



have said more than that which prudence

would have requested... You wage war also with Satan, both directly – with his evil suggestions, and indirectly – by means of the world and our corrupt nature. Make this wretched apostate clamour – threatening at times even to swallow you. It does not matter. He can do nothing against your soul, which Jesus has already embraced close to Himself."

