

Bl. Pier Giorgio Frassati



1901-1925

Feast Day:

July 4

Pier was born to a wealthy family in Turin, Italy. His friends noticed that although he was an average student in school, he was exceptional in his devotion to Christ. He went to Mass and received Communion daily. He spent many nights in Eucharistic adoration. He loved to go hiking and mountain climbing trips with his friends, and would lead them in song and prayer throughout the day.

Pier joined the St. Vincent de Paul Society when he was 17. He took care of sick people, orphans, and disabled veterans returning from World War I. He wanted to be a mining engineer so that he could serve Christ among the miners. He spent his free time in college helping the poor. When he was 18, he joined a student organization for social reform. He helped in starting a newspaper on the conditions, rights, and duties of workers. He spent summer vacations in Turin to serve the poor, giving them everything he had and doing all he could to help them.

When he was 20, he helped to organize the first convention of Pax Romana, an association for uniting Catholic students from around the world to work together for peace. Just before he was to graduate, he fell sick with polio. He wrote a note to a friend asking that his medicine be given to a poor man who needed it. He died at age 24. At his funeral, his parents were amazed to see huge crowds of the poor people and learn that their son had helped them all.

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