

## “Clear” Future Ahead for the Rosebud Tribe

Almost all Native Americans on Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota suffer from severe astigmatism that makes their vision fuzzy without glasses. It is a desperately poor part of our country with almost no vision care and the need is great. **That is why we helped the NATIVE EYES team of ophthalmic specialists provide free vision care for 900 tribal members.** Over the course of one week, they fitted 763 people with prescription glasses and found that 108 patients had underlying health issues, such as diabetes.

**Correcting vision in young children prevents learning difficulties from developing.** The pediatric ophthalmologist even fitted a three-month-old baby with strap-on glasses! Next year, the medical team will include additional pediatric specialists to accommodate the large number of children that still require eye exams. Padre Pio of America staff member and registered nurse,



Krissy, worked alongside the team and was profoundly touched by the experience, sharing stories with us through tears. She told us how one young woman could barely walk away from the optical machine. **Seeing clearly for the first time was an overwhelming experience for her and for many others!**

We also wanted to add a little fun for the children. We surprised each of them with a new basketball and WOW were they thrilled. Krissy said, “when we gave them the basketballs as they left the clinic, all I can remember is how happy they were and their smiles!”



Krissy giving eye drops ❤️



Happiness is a basketball!

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NATIVE EYES Clinic

## Preserving Churches in Padre Pio’s Beloved Home Town

Santa Anna Church in Padre Pio’s home town of Pietrelcina was very special to our beloved Saint. This small church is where he was baptized, grew in his faith, and celebrated Mass as a new priest. An earthquake, the elements and time have weathered this old and humble church inside and out. If you look up upon entering Santa Anna, you will see a stained glass window depicting a young Francesco Forgione kneeling in the church and consecrating himself to Jesus.



Santa Anna Church entrance

**YOUR love and support helps us to maintain churches like Santa Anna and Santa Maria Degli Angeli in Pietrelcina that were so important to Padre Pio and his religious calling.** We have replaced Santa Anna’s doors, electrical systems, the roof, pews, and recently restored the ancient pulpit that was falling down. The Padre Pio Foundation of America has played an integral role in Padre Pio’s hometown for decades. All around town you can see plaques saying “donated by the benefactors of the Padre Pio Foundation of America.”



Old pulpit stairs



Restored pulpit



Santa Anna’s altar

**The friars in Pietrelcina are so grateful for your support and send you this message:** “Thank YOU!! We pray for YOU every day and ask Padre Pio to intercede for you, your loved ones and all your needs.”

# Everyday Intercessions

Our benefactors regularly tell us about the miracles they experience as they pray to Padre Pio. For many it is a special and memorable once-in-a-lifetime event, but others are fortunate to receive Padre Pio's help more often.

In 1952 Carmela was living in Eritrea, Africa, with her husband and ten children. Originally from Naples, Italy, the family had spent many years traveling and working in Africa, where their last two children were born.

**Her many pregnancies had exhausted her body and Carmela became very ill.** The doctors decided that she needed a hysterectomy.

The night before the surgery, Carmela had a vivid dream about a bearded friar in a brown robe who told her not to worry. The morning of the surgery she was visited by her friend, Antoinette, who worked at the hospital and was godmother to her youngest daughter, Anna. The dream had disturbed Carmela so much that she felt compelled to share it with her friend. When Antoinette heard the story, she pulled out a picture of a young Padre Pio and showed it to Carmela who immediately recognized him as the friar in her dream! Even though Carmela had never heard of Padre Pio before, Antoinette had grown up in Foggia and knew that he was sending Carmela a message...but what could it be?

Carmela was taken into the operating room. **As the surgeon made the incision, he was surprised to see that everything looked completely healthy.** There was no need for a hysterectomy. He carefully stitched Carmela up again and told her the good news when she woke up from the anesthesia. **Now Padre Pio's message was clear!**

From that day on, Carmela was devoted to Padre Pio. After the family returned to Italy in 1958, she visited him twice in San Giovanni Rotondo and was confessed by him. A few years later, her family emigrated to the United States. **One night, she had another vivid dream of Padre Pio.** He was gripping her hand so hard it hurt. Carmela thought he was scolding her for leaving Italy. She tried to explain to him that she could not return and that her life was now with her family in America, but he just kept squeezing her hand. When she woke up, Carmela found that a ganglion cyst on her hand had vanished overnight! Instead of scolding her, Padre Pio had interceded for her again to heal her hand. Carmela passed away 26 years ago, but her daughter Anna started a Padre Pio prayer group in 1999. Like her mother, she feels the presence of our favorite saint and continues to pray to him daily.



*"Prayer is the best weapon we have; it is the key to God's heart. You must speak to Jesus not only with your lips, but with your heart. In fact, on certain occasions you should only speak to Him with your heart."*

*~ St. Pio of Pietrelcina ~*

## Join our Monthly Giving Club

Padre Pio's Guardian Angel Club is our monthly giving program. Each day we get calls, letters and emails from people who are spiritually, emotionally and physically in need. Your gift allows us to send a prayer card, a medal or information to those people. **You may never know how much your generosity has touched a life.** Together we are keeping Padre Pio's legacy alive.

As a member you will enjoy a special monthly Mass, an exclusive angel pin and our monthly newsletter along with advance notice about promotions, projects, and special events.

Call us or visit us at [www.padrepio.com](http://www.padrepio.com) to join.



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