

Spotlight on WOMAN ONE, WOMAN TWO, MAN ONE. Woman One is dressed in peasant clothing. Woman Two is dressed in modern clothing.

Man One is dressed as a farmer.

WOMAN ONE

He cured my daughter who could not walk. He simply placed his hands over her back and she straightened up.

WOMAN TWO

I prayed the novena to Padre Pio. I'm not a true believer but it was my last resort. Everything changed after that. I lost the craving, the stealing, hurting the ones who tried to help me, who loved me.

MAN ONE

A hundred people witnessed what he did. The crops weren't coming in. All dead, all weeds. We'd have nothing to eat in the winter. He blessed the land and in two weeks it all grew and bloomed.

The women and man all begin speaking rapidly together in prayer and praise.

Cardinal Del Vecchio waves his hand dismissively at the three people. They stop speaking suddenly. Their spotlight goes out.

START

CARDINAL DEL VECCHIO

But there comes a time when the fever pitch of the people exceeds our control. So we do what is asked. In 2008 we exhumed the body of St Pio. 750,000 people walked by him in one week. We will once again gaze upon his hands and ask ourselves what it is we see and more importantly, what it is we want to see. Our eyes are crude instruments.

(MORE)

CARDINAL DEL VECCHIO (CONT'D)

The stars are specks, the moon a man sleeping in the sky, the sun a disc I can hold in my arms. And what did we see when we dug him up from his grave?

In 2010 the body was placed to rest in the golden crypt. There are those who say his face and body are like a translucent pearl. And what of his hands? Not a drop of blood, not a hint of stigmata. What are we to make of this? That they were never there or that by the transfer of his soul to God's graces the bloody holes of Christ crucified made flesh was cured. I'm not one to answer. I pray upon it. That's all I can do. That's all any of us can do.

END

Blackout

Spotlight on Maria De Vito and SCRIBE. The Scribe is taking down the statement of Maria.

SCRIBE

You have nothing to be afraid of. We are placing your statement in the Vatican archives and there is very little chance that it will be examined or considered as any kind of evidence. You are an innocent soul who has been called upon to be a witness. I understand this is a hardship.

MARIA DE VITO

I spent a month with Padre Pio. I have nothing but the greatest admiration for him. I have been praying for faith and strength. Why did this happen to me? I'm no one.

SCRIBE

You only state the facts as you remember them.