
START

GEMELLI

Not only am I certain, I am fearful
that prolonging his influence
threatens the Vatican's authority,
no less than the authority of the
Church itself.

POPE PIUS XI

Then, I am afraid we have no
choice. He must be controlled. The
faithful need solid bread to
nourish them, not chocolates and
pastries. We must avoid muddled and
obscure kinds of worship that
become nothing more than
superstition.

AMBROSIO

What are your recommendations?

POPE PIUS XI

That Padre Pio no longer says Mass
in public. We must also forbid him
from blessing people, answering
letters, giving spiritual advice,
and most of all, showing his
stigmata publicly.
I also recommend that he be
relocated---a remote friary,
perhaps outside of Italy. And one
other matter. He is not to be alone
with women. There are rumors of
impropriety even within the
sanctity of the confessional.

Ambrosio frowns, shakes his head.

AMBROSIO

We have tried. We sent
instructions. Word of our
intentions traveled quickly

POPE PIUS XI

As it should. But what of it?

AMBROSIO

There were threats of riots. The people rose up in protest.

GEMELLI

From the mayor to the shoemaker, come cries of anger against moving their beloved Pio. I fear worse consequences---armed forces. Yes, an army fighting against us. A war against the Church itself.

AMBROSIO

What were they afraid of losing?

GEMELLI

Not him, but the money from the pilgrims who travel hundreds of miles to see him. More than money--the glory of Padre Pio living in their little godforsaken town.

AMBROSIO

We could not afford an uprising. He would be even more revered were we to exert our force.

POPE PIUS XI

He will stay where he is for the time being, but we must end the idolatry.

GEMELLI

Your Holiness.

POPE PIUS XI

Make sure his hands are covered whatever the cause. The wounds create a stirring among the people that cannot be controlled from Rome.

GEMELLI

From anywhere.

END

A short interlude of Sanctified/Choir Music

END OF FREEZE.