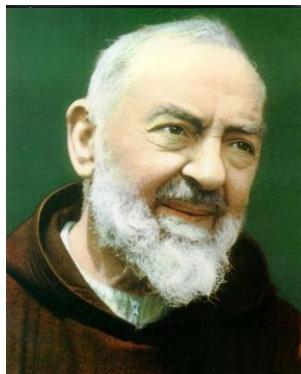


## Testimony in honor of Padre Pio

### Diane Meyer

As I sit here tonight and reflect on today, I am overwhelmed with gratitude and emotion. Today certainly did not go as I expected. Robbie had to undergo another (too many to count) endoscopy and colonoscopy. A year and half ago, we were told that he appeared to be in remission. Scars could be seen in his GI tract as evidence of where the Crohns was active but there was no active disease. We decided to stop all meds. A few months ago, symptoms started to reappear and his blood work was off, indicating that the disease was spreading again. So today i nervously but prayerfully waited to hear how bad it had spread. As the doctor approached me in the waiting room to discuss results, I raised my heart in prayer that medication would be enough and a surgical intervention was not necessary. Instead, i heard the words that they told me that i never would, "Robert is cured of Crohns. He has no sign of disease and the scarring that was present has disappeared."

As I began to cry and thank his doctor, he told me that he did not deserve the thanks and to go visit Padre Pio's shrine to give thanks. You see when Rob was diagnosed as in remission, I had shared with this doctor that i had devoted Robert to Padre Pio's care for him to implore our Lord to cure Robert.



This is a picture of Saint Pio (Padre Pio). He is a saint of the Catholic Church who lived a life dedicated to the Lord. He suffered much Physical pain and illness throughout his life. He suffered from the stigmata, and many illness including a chronic gastro-intestinal one. For that reason and many others, i chose to pray to him for intercession.

So i share this tonight, even though i had not intended to but could not silence the voice in my head to give thanks and praise where it is deserved. Robbie begins a new life tomorrow free from the chronic illness that has plagued us for the past 9 years, yet strengthened and shaped by the experience of it. Thank you all that have traveled this journey with us. Your prayers, hugs, tears and understanding have fortified us . I leave you with Padre Pio's own words, "Pray, hope, and don't worry. Worry is useless. God is merciful and will hear your prayer."