



Pier Giorgio Frassati

Quick facts

Date of Birth: April 6, 1901

Date of Death: July 4, 1925 (aged 24)

Feast Day: July 4

Nationality: Italian

Occupation: Student, Mountaineer, Social Activist

Religion: Catholic

Biography

Pier Giorgio Frassati was an Italian Catholic youth known for his deep faith and passion for social justice. He was born into a wealthy family in Turin, Italy; his father was a newspaper editor and senator, while his mother was an artist. From a young age, he showed a strong interest in religion and a deep concern for social issues.

Education and Career

Frassati studied engineering at the University of Turin and actively participated in various social activities during his time there. He loved mountaineering and frequently climbed the Alps with his friends. For him, climbing was not just a sport but also a way to connect more deeply with God.

Social Activism

Frassati was deeply concerned about poverty and social injustice. He frequently participated in volunteer work, including caring for the sick, looking after orphans, and helping those in difficult circumstances. He was actively involved in various Catholic organizations and groups, one of which was the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. His efforts were not limited to charity; he also actively advocated for social reform and worked to improve the living conditions of marginalized communities.

Faith and Spirituality

Frassati was a devout Catholic, and his faith profoundly influenced his way of life. He regularly attended Mass and Eucharistic Adoration, striving to live out Christ's values in his daily life. He firmly believed that every person should treat others with love and compassion.

Frassati had a deep love for Our Lady. He would often kneel by his bed to pray the Rosary. In the gardens of his family's villa, he planted seeds that could be made into rosary beads and distributed them to others. With great enthusiasm, he frequently recited St. Bernard's prayer to the Virgin and even pinned a handwritten copy of it on the door of his study.





Frassati's life in snapshots

Frassati was a friend to the poor from a young age. One day, someone knocked on the door, and when he opened it, he found a poor woman holding a half-naked, barefoot child, begging for help. His mother was not home, and the servants were afraid to take action, but he had no money to give. Suddenly, young Frassati had an idea. He sat down, took off his shoes and socks, and handed them to the woman, saying, "Madam, take these for your child to wear."

On another day, a man reeking of alcohol came begging for help. His father turned him away. Frassati began to cry and ran to his mother, saying, "A poor man came earlier, and father sent him away... What if he was Jesus? Did we just turn Jesus away?" His mother, deeply moved, said, "Then let's go and bring him back!"

On July 4, 1925, Frassati passed away from polio at his home in Turin. It is believed that he contracted the disease while visiting the poor and sick. The day before his death, even as he was lying on his deathbed, his thoughts were with the poor. He struggled with his greatly weakened hand to write a note to his friends informing them about the assistance for the poor - "Here are the injections for Converso. The pawn ticket is Sappa's. I had forgotten it; renew it on my behalf."

Death and Legacy

In 1925, Frassati passed away from polio at the young age of 24. Despite his short life, his dedication to faith, social justice, and helping the poor made him a role model for many.

His life story continues to inspire countless people to seek higher ideals and find meaning through faith and action. In 1990, he was beatified by Pope St. John Paul II, and is set to be canonized in August 2025.

Conclusion

Pier Giorgio Frassati was a young man whose faith and actions left a lasting impact on others. His story reminds us that everyone can change the world through love and service. His spirit continues to inspire young people today to pursue faith and social justice.

"I urge you with all the strength of my soul to approach the Eucharistic Table as often as possible. Feed on this Bread of the Angels from which you will draw the strength to fight inner struggles, the struggles against passions and against all adversities, because Jesus Christ has promised to those who feed themselves with the most Holy Eucharist, eternal life and the necessary graces to obtain it." — Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati

"Never forget that even if the house is sordid you are getting closer to Christ! ... I see a special light that we do not have around the sick, the poor and the unfortunate."
— Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati

