

CHAPTER SEVEN

Stigmatists

Some of you may have heard of the phenomenon of the stigmata, but perhaps not known its significance. There have been many stigmatists in the history of the Catholic Church, around 300. About 44 of them are Canonized Saints. One thing they all had in common was that at some point in their lives the Lord deigned to place the marks of his own crucifixion upon them and allow them to share in a mysterious way the sufferings of Christ; often actually mystically participating in the crucifixion on Fridays or other special holy days in relation to the cross of Christ.

I'm going to show you several examples of medieval stigmatists some of whose images were done with the stigmata shown and others not. Then I will show you the photographs taken of some modern day stigmatists. Remember that the wounds of Christ were gruesome, and some of these pictures may be shocking. Use care when showing to children, and be sure to explain their meaning.



Stigmatist St. John of God, Granada, Spain, 1550.



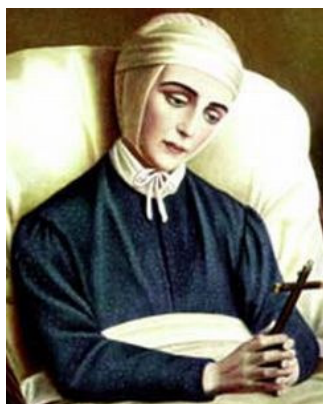
Stigmatist Anne Marie Taigi, Rome, Italy, 1837.



Stigmatist Charles of Sezze, Rome, Italy, 1670.



Stigmatist Angela of Foligno, Foligno, Italy, 1248.



Stigmatist Anne Catherine Emmerich, Germany, 1824.



Stigmatist St. Gemma Galgani, Italy, 1903.



Stigmatist Margaret of Cortona, Cortona, Italy, 1297.



Stigmatist Rose Maria Benedetta, Rome, Italy, 1900.



Stigmatist Ursula Giuliani, Castello, Italy, 1727.



The first known Stigmatist, St. Francis of Assisi, Assisi, Italy, 1226.

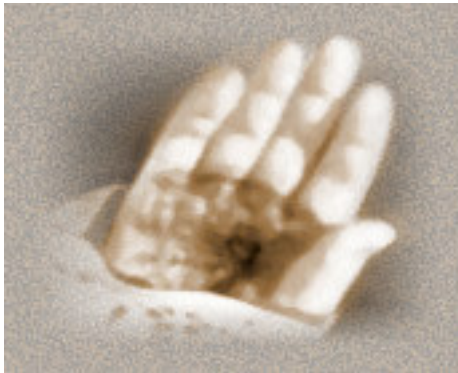
St. Francis of Assisi was not only the very first stigmatist in the Catholic faith (besides the theoretical conjectures made about St. Paul also probably being a stigmatist), he was the first of only two priests in the history of the Catholic Church to receive this sign. Padre Pio, a Franciscan priest in the early twentieth century, was the second of the two known priests to have borne the wounds of Christ.



Stigmatist St. Francis of Assisi, Assisi, Italy, 1226.
St. Francis receives the stigmata from a heavenly messenger shortly before his death.



**Stigmatist Padre Pio, San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy,
Around 1920.**



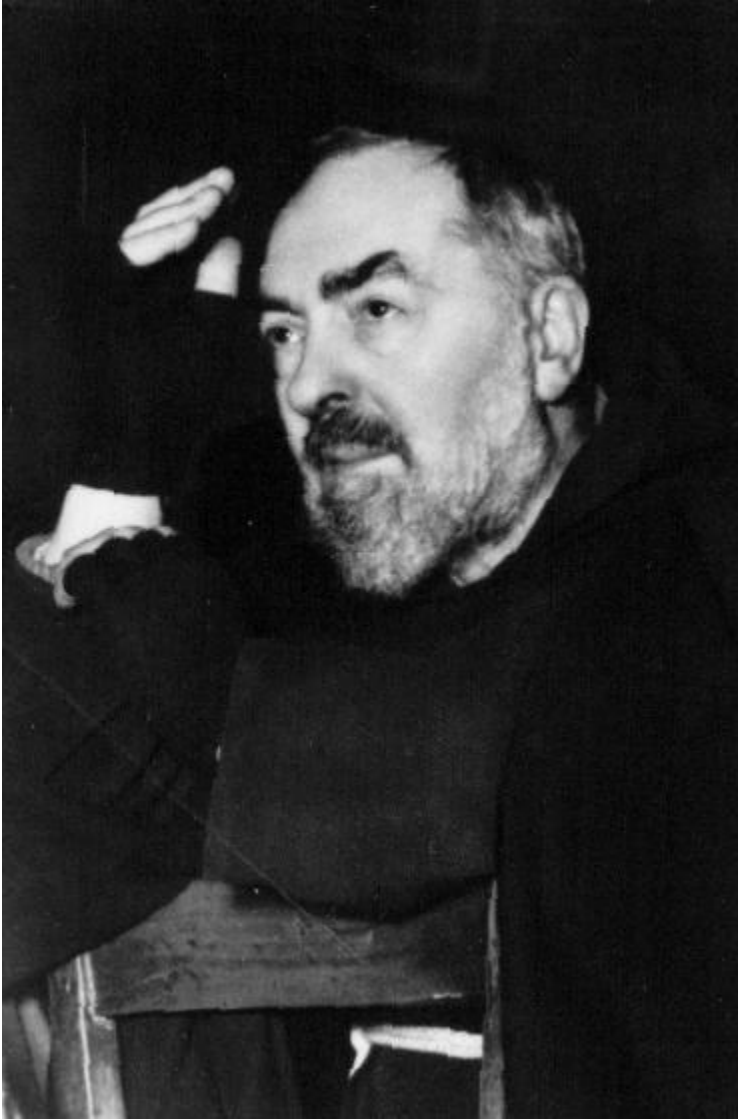
Padre Pio, San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy.
Picture of his hands bleeding while performing the Holy
Mass.



**Stigmatist Padre Pio, San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy,
1950's.**



**Stigmatist Padre Pio, San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy,
1950's.**



**Stigmatist and Saint Padre Pio, San Giovanni Rotondo,
Italy, 1950's.**

Padre Pio bore the wounds of Christ in his hands, feet and side, all of which would bleed more profusely while he was performing the Holy Mass.



**Stigmatist Father Zlatko Sudac, Croatia, Medjugorje,
Present Day.**



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Present Day.**



**Stigmatist Father Zlatko Sudac, Croatia, Medjugorje,
Present Day.**



**Stigmatist Father Zlatko Sudac, Croatia, Medjugorje,
Present Day.**

Father Zlatko received the Stigmata on the anniversary of Padre Pio's Death. Many of the stigmatists do not like to have their wounds photographed, but he bears the mark of the cross on the forehead. This mark on the forehead has been shared by a few other stigmatists through the centuries including but not limited to . . .



Stigmatist Jeanne Des Anges of Loudon, 17th Century.
Bore the bleeding mark of the cross on her forehead along
with traditional stigmata.



**Stigmatist Therese Neumann as a young woman,
Germany, 1920's.**



**Therese Neumann's hand during an ecstasy, Germany,
1940's.**



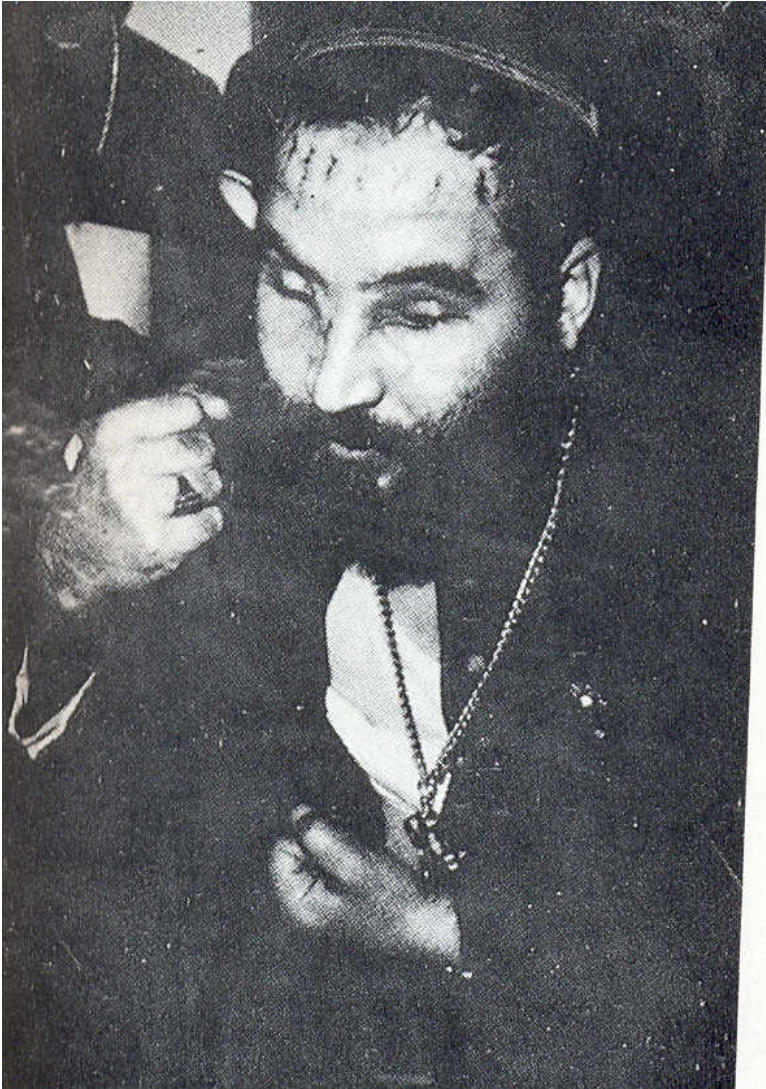
Therese Neumann during an ecstasy, Germany, 1950's.

Therese Neumann began the sufferings of Christ every Friday (Good Friday being the day that Christ suffered). She had the wounds in her hands and feet, and also cried tears of blood.



Spanish Archbishop Clemente Dominguez.

A view of the wound in his side as he experiences the suffering of Christ.



Spanish Archbishop Clemente Dominguez.

The wounds from the Crown of Thorns can be seen in this picture of him as he undergoes the sufferings of Christ.



I.A.N., Anonymous Stigmatist, Current Day.
View of hand wounds.



I.A.N., Anonymous Stigmatist, Current Day.
View of the wounds on his shoulder from bearing the cross.



I.A.N., Anonymous Stigmatist, Current Day.
View of wounds on feet.



"Francis," an anonymous stigmatist, America, 1990's.
"Francis" is not his real name, but this married man with five children and many grandchildren continues to experience the crucifixion of Christ every week, just like many of the other stigmatists.



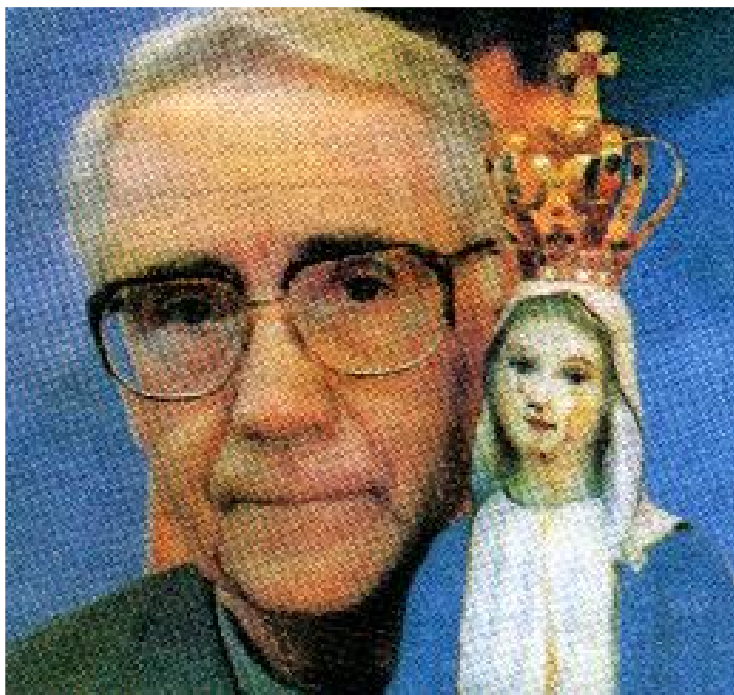
Julia Kim, Naju, Korea, 2000.



Julia Kim, Naju, Korea, 2000.
Experiencing the Passion of Christ.



Julia Kim, Naju, Korea, 2000.
View of her hands during her experience of the crucifixion.



Father Raymond Spies, Naju, Korea.
Julia Kim's Spiritual Director.