

Pier Giorgio Frassati

(1901 - 1925)

1901

APRIL 6

He is born in Turin, Italy, into a noble and influential family: his father, Alfredo, is founder and editor of the newspaper "La Stampa" and a senator; his mother, Adélaïde Ametis, is a renowned painter.

1909

He receives the Eucharist for the first time at the age of 8, developing a deep love for Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Little by little, he starts attending daily Mass, going to frequent confession, and praying the Rosary every day.

His faith grows stronger, even though he is growing up in an agnostic environment. He rejects the comforts of his family's luxury and tries to live a simple life, dedicated to God and people in need.

1918

He enrolls in the Faculty of Engineering at the Polytechnic University of Turin, specialising in mining engineering. He wants to work among the labourers in order to evangelise from within the group.

1919

He joins the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, helping the sick, orphaned children, and poor families. He often gives away his own coat or transportation to help others.

1920

He is known for his generous self-giving and joyful inner strength:

- He is courageous and steadfast in defending the faith. In his late teens and early 20s, he becomes an active member of Catholic Action, the Italian Catholic University Federation, and Catholic political movements opposing fascism (which is on the rise).
- He organizes hiking excursions with groups of friends. They are joyful, prayerful events, reflecting his love for nature, mountaineering, photography, and, above all, his friends. He sees the mountains as a symbol of the path to God and makes *verso l'alto* ("towards the heights") his motto.
- His emotional maturity and capacity for sacrifice are impressive. For instance, he falls in love with a young woman named Laura Hidalgo, but realises that declaring his love will cause problems in his family and chooses to say nothing.

1925

JUNE 30

He begins to suffer severe pain, but hides his suffering so he doesn't interrupt his family's care for his grandmother (who was also seriously ill). He is diagnosed with fulminant polio, probably contracted during his visits to the sick.

JULY 4

He dies at the age of 24. His family expects an small funeral, but hundreds of poor people fill the streets to pay their respects to the young man they considered a "hidden saint."

MAY 20, 1990

He is beatified by Pope St. John Paul II, who calls him "the man of the Beatitudes."

SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

Pope Leo XIV proclaims him a saint.

The liturgical feast of Pier Giorgio Frassati is July 4