

VINCENZO COMODO



SPECIAL DEVOTION
Padre Pio's
TO ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

TRAVELING PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

Not everyone knows the full extent of Padre Pio's devotion to St. Michael. It was a devotion that budded early and blossomed during the years of his novitiate and priesthood. It was a devotion grounded on frequent company, primarily due to the assistance he received from the Supreme Commander of the Army of God.

In order to better understand this essential aspect of Padre Pio's holiness, the idea of a traveling photography exhibition slowly matured: a series of images, edited with computer technology and accompanied by apropos explanations, retracing the life of this holy Capuchin "in the light" of the grandeurs of St. Michael.

Yet there is also another aim of this exhibition: launching Padre Pio's invitation to his devotees once more. It is the invitation to open our hearts to Michael the Archangel by asking for his powerful protection on our earthly pilgrimage; loving him for his infinite loyalty to God, magnanimously proven in battle against Satan, who was defeated and driven out of heaven at his hands; and traveling to the Celestial Basilica, his home, where so many saints, blessed, and servants of God went to venerate him and commit themselves to his protection. And Padre Pio was one of them.

This is an ever-current invitation, particularly in today's world in which the Devil is sowing ever more war, violence, hate, crisis, and deception as he prowls about the world looking to devour souls. Let us therefore accept his invitation. Padre Pio will be truly pleased.

Vincenzo Comodo [San Paolo di Civitate (FG), 1969] is a professor of Sociology and communications at the School of Bioethics of the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum (Rome) and the Sociology of consecrated life at the Claretianum Institute of Theology for the Consecrated Life at the Pontifical Lateran University (Rome). He has published: *Cons@crati on line. Rotte per la navigazione dei religiosi in Internet*, Ancora, Milano 2006. *Percorsi di teologia*, Ancora, Milano 2001, e *Cliccate e vi sarà @perto. Spunti per la missione della Chiesa in Internet*, Effatà, Cantalupa (TO) 2002, with Gian Franco Poli. With this and Giuseppe Crea: *La sfida dell'organizzazione nelle comunità religiose* (Rogate, Roma 2003), *Stili di leadership e vita consacrata* (Rogate, Roma 2003), *Leadership e comunicazione nella vita consacrata* (Rogate, Roma 2003), *Leadership e benessere interpersonale nelle comunità religiose* (Rogate, Roma 2003), *Una leadership efficace per le riunioni di comunità* (Rogate, Roma 2004). He is currently conducting research in the communications field.

