

Bl. Pier Giorgio Frassati

Feast Day: July 4th

Pier Giorgio was born into a wealthy family in Turin, Italy on April 6, 1901. As he grew up, he developed a love for the outdoors, hiking, and hanging out with friends. At the core of his life was his relationship with Christ. He was known for asking his friends to attend Mass or pray a rosary before going on an adventure. Pier knew that prayer was the most important part of his life, and because of this, Pier had a Christ-like joy and energy that was contagious to all who encountered him.

Because Pier's father was the owner of the Italian newspaper known as *La Stampa*, Pier grew up in a comfortable home and was able to afford a good education. Despite his father's hopes for Pier to follow in his footsteps, Pier was not satisfied with this way of life and had a passion for serving the poor. His parents were confused by Pier's generosity and did not like how much he gave to the poor. However, Pier knew that Christ was calling him to serve in this way; he would even give some of his own belongings to the poor in Turin. One time, a young boy came to his door to ask for money. Pier did not have any of his own left to give but after noticing the broken and worn out shoes on the child's feet, he gave him a pair of his own.

When Pier was only 24, he contracted a fatal disease known as polio and died three days after being diagnosed. At his funeral, his parents were astounded to see thousands of the poor and sick that Pier Giorgio helped throughout his short life. They flooded the streets praying and thanking God for the kind witness to Christ that Pier Giorgio had been to them.

