

# Saint Pier Giorgio Frassati



Date of birth: April 6, 1901  
Birthplace: Turin, Italy  
Date of death: July 4, 1925  
Canonization: September 7, 2025  
Feast Day: July 4

**Patron Saint of: Students, Mountaineers, Young Catholics**

## About Pier Giorgio:

Pier Giorgio Michelangelo Frassati was born to Adelaide Ametis and Alfredo Frassati. His father was the founder and director of a newspaper and an Italian senator and ambassador to Germany. Though his father was agnostic, Pier Giorgio showed devotion to his faith at a young age, joining the Marian Sodality and obtaining permission to receive daily communion, a rare occurrence at the time. Frassati was also dedicated to caring for the poor, once giving the shoes off his feet to a mother begging for shoes for her son. His devotion to the poor was profound; he once gave his shoes to a beggar and often sacrificed his bus fare, opting to give it away and run home instead.

Frassati enrolled in university in Turin, studying to become a mining engineer with the aim to "serve Christ better among the miners," as he told a friend. At 17 years old, he joined the St. Vincent de Paul Society, and one year later he joined the Apostleship of Prayer and Catholic Action. Frassati served the sick and needy, including the orphans and disabled veterans of World War I. He was arrested in Rome three years later for protesting the reign of Benito Mussolini with the Young Catholic Workers Congress.

In 1922, Frassati joined the Lay Dominicans. In his free time, he would hike the mountains with his friends, often using the opportunity to invite others to Mass, reading scripture, or praying the rosary. Just before graduating university, Pier Giorgio fell ill while boating with his friends. He returned home, and on the same day, his grandmother died. Out of humility, Frassati deflected attention from himself. Just days later, Pier Giorgio Frassati died of polio at age 24. His final preoccupation was to write instructions to take medicine to a sick man he had been caring for. Pier Giorgio's funeral was remarkably well attended, and many of the poor he had cared for in the past 7 years came to pay their respects.

## A word from St. Pier Giorgio:

"Because true happiness, young people, does not consist in the pleasures of the world and in earthly things, but in peace of conscience which we can have only if we are pure in heart and in mind."

## Find out more:

**Websites:** [frassatiusa.org](http://frassatiusa.org)

**Books:** *Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati: an Ordinary Christian* by Maria de Lorenzo

**Formed.org:** Pier Giorgio Frassati: If I Didn't Have Love