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## Pietà coming to "The Shrine of St. Padre Pio"

Where: The Shrine of St. Padre Pio 3843 Bulverde Pkwy. San Antonio, Texas 78259

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# Michelangelo MICHELANGELO

(FLORENCE 1475-1564 ROME)

## PIETÀ

Coming to "The Shrine of St. Padre Pio"

THE MICHELANGELO PIETÀ LEGACY MISSION.

Five hundred years ago Michelangelo unveiled what would come to be regarded as one of the world's great masterpieces of inspired art and perhaps the most beautiful sculpture ever created. The Pietà was both the consummate expression of Michelangelo's artistic abilities and an embodiment of the divine inspiration that guided his work.

Licensed by the Vatican's Observatory Foundation, Arte Divine has been authorized to create only 100 Pietà marble castings. We are asking for generous private and corporate benefactors, along with any families to make a donation to keep the Pietà at the Shrine of St. Padre Pio.

In conjunction with the Vatican Observatory Foundation, we are hoping to make a permanent placement of this iconic image of our Christian faith into the Shrine of St. Padre Pio so we might elevate the hearts and minds of the faithful who will never have the opportunity to travel to St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican City and personally experience the beauty and inspiration of Michelangelo's masterpiece, Pietà.



Shrine of St. Padre Pio  
3843 Bulverde Parkway  
San Antonio, Tx. 78259  
Unveiling and blessing by Archbishop Gustavo  
October 21, 2016 at 6:30pm



SAVE THE DATE! An Exact Marble Casting of Michelangelo's Pietà will be placed at the Shrine of Padre Pio of Pietrelcina.

Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller, M.Sp.S. will do the unveiling of the Pietá and blessing which will occur on October 21, 2016 at 6:30pm. This is the only Pietá that will be in the city of San Antonio.

San Antonio, Texas (October 10, 2016) - The Shrine of St. Padre Pio and Arte Divine, in conjunction with the Archdiocese of San Antonio, today announced that a life-size marble casting of Michelangelo's 'Pietà' will be placed at the Shrine of St. Padre Pio on October 21, 2016.

This famous work of art depicts the body of Jesus on the lap of his mother Mary after the crucifixion. The Vatican Observatory Foundation has authorized and licensed the creation of only 100 Pietà marble castings from a mold derived from the original Pietà. While some have been acquired by private collectors, most of these castings are being acquired by generous private or corporate benefactors and then donated to Catholic cathedrals, churches, hospitals, and academic settings as legacy gifts. Perhaps the most beautiful sculpture ever created, the Pietá is the only piece of art Michelangelo ever signed. He considered it to be the consummate expression of both his personal talent and the Divine inspiration that he believed to be the guiding hand behind his work. Under an exclusive license with the Vatican Observatory Foundation, Arte Divine has created this magnificent sculpture in cast Carrara marble from moldings derived from the original Pietà. The result is a precise, exact casting that is faithful to the original Pietà in every detail.

"We are so grateful to have the Shrine of St. Padre Pio selected for an exact replica of one of the greatest works of religious art ever created," said Monsignor Patrick J. Ragsdale, Pastor of St. Padre Pio. "To be able to share this truly moving sculpture with our parishioners, the Archdiocese of San Antonio and faithful visitors coming from all parts of Texas is an extraordinary opportunity."

Monsignor Ragsdale also announced that Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller, M.Sp.S. will celebrate the placement with an official unveiling and ceremony on October 21, 2016 at 6:30pm.

"We are honored to place Michelangelo's masterpiece, the Pietà, at the Shrine of St. Padre Pio said Pat Kerivan of Arte Divine. "It is Arte Divine's mission to place Michelangelo's Pietà in 100 sacred and secular settings around the world. In so doing we hope to elevate the hearts and minds of millions of the faithful who may not have the opportunity to travel to Saint Peter's Basilica in Vatican City, Rome and personally experience the transcendent beauty of this divinely inspired work that is Michelangelo's Pietà."

The Shrine of St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina was officially and canonically established on August 15, 2001, on the Feast of the Assumption of Mary. Our first Mass was held on September 23, 2001, in a local public school cafeteria and after moving to two other cafeterias, we finally dedicated our current worship space and six religious education classrooms in 2008. In 2014, we added six more classrooms and a professional kitchen to accommodate our growth.

Today, because of the steady growth of our faith community and surrounding area, Archbishop Garcia-Siller has asked that we build a new worship space that will be the largest in the Archdiocese of San Antonio. The vision for this project is not just for use by our parish, but larger archdiocesan celebrations that other church/facilities are currently unable to accommodate, and as a holy site of prayer and worship for thousands who will make a pilgrimage in devotion to St. Padre Pio.

#### About Arte Divine/Vatican Observatory Foundation

Arte Divine is a worldwide distributor of the Vatican Observatory Foundation's licensed reproduction of Michelangelo Buonarroti's Pietà and his many other sculptures. For information on how your church can participate in this limited opportunity contact Pat Kerivan @ 602-952-9210, patkerivan@artedivine.com or [artedivine.com](http://artedivine.com).

The Vatican Observatory Foundation (VOF) generates revenue in support of the Vatican Observatory to foster its mission of scientific education, research and discovery. VOF brings together scientists, philanthropists and the Catholic Church to facilitate and promote scientific research of the heavens through support of the Vatican Advanced Technology Telescope and educational initiatives around the world.

For information regarding the upcoming events please contact Patty Mendoza @ 210-497-6101. About the Shrine of Padre Pio of Pietrelcina: 3843 Bulverde Parkway, San Antonio, TX.