



# ST. PEREGRINE LAZIOSI

PATRON SAINT OF THOSE SUFFERING FROM CANCER  
AND OTHER LIFE-THREATENING ILLNESSES

1265 – 1345

*“In my distress I called upon  
the Lord, to my God I cried  
for help. From his temple  
he heard my voice, and my cry  
to him reaches his ears.”*

## PSALM 18:7

As we stop to reflect on our call to care for poor and vulnerable persons, take a moment to listen to the story of St. Peregrine [peh-ruh-gruhn] Laziosi, of Forli, Italy, who dedicated his life to serve poor and vulnerable persons because he understood suffering from personal experience.

A 13th-century Servite brother whose prayer and presence comforted the sick and dying, Peregrine Laziosi, a restless and rebellious youth, was deeply touched by the forgiveness of a Servite peacemaker whom Peregrine had physically attacked. He followed a call to serve God and maintained a special devotion to Mary, mother of Jesus. He assumed an ascetic and penitential life, standing most of the time, kneeling to pray and never sleeping in a bed. His physical infliction of penance led to a cancer of his right leg. The night before his planned amputation, he went to pray in front of the crucifix where he saw Jesus descend from the cross and heal his leg.

The news of the miracle spread, and people sought his intercession for their own illnesses. Peregrine is seen as someone who knew suffering and sickness as well as the power of divine grace helping him.



St. Peregrine spent his life engaged in intense contemplation, which moved him to reach out to needy persons in whom he saw the presence of Christ. His love of caring for others has been described as a ministry of mercy to the humble and troubled. In his time of greatest suffering, when all hope was lost, he turned to God for comfort and healing and made space for God to work in his life.

- ✦ Where do we turn when treatment is not the answer?
- ✦ How do we seek God for comfort and healing for those in our care and for ourselves?
- ✦ How might our experience of Jesus' healing ministry compel us to serve persons who are poor and vulnerable?

## O HOLY MYSTERY OF LOVE,

*In your power, you healed the sick and restored St. Peregrine to vitality.  
Renew in us a belief in miracles and a desire to accompany those who suffer.*

*Recommit us today to serve you earnestly  
With our hands, our eyes, our thoughts, and our hearts.*

*All you Holy Men and Women: pray for us.*

**AMEN.**