

Stahlstich v. Carl Mayer's Kunstanstalt Nürnberg

### MARIA MADRE DEL BUON CONSIGLIO.

In me gratia omnis viae et veritatis, in me omnis spes vitae  
et virtutis, Tranfite ad me omnes. Eccl. xxv 25. 26.

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

THE VIRGIN MOTHER  
OF  
GOOD COUNSEL.

A HISTORY  
OF THE ANCIENT SANCTUARY  
OF OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL IN GENAZZANO,  
AND OF THE WONDERFUL APPARITION  
AND MIRACULOUS TRANSLATION OF HER SACRED IMAGE  
FROM SCUTARI IN ALBANIA TO GENAZZANO  
• IN 1467.

WITH AN APPENDIX  
ON THE MIRACULOUS CRUCIFIX,  
SAN PIO,  
ROMAN ECCLESIASTICAL EDUCATION ETC.

BY  
THE REV'D. GEORGE F. DILLON D. D.  
A VISITOR FROM SYDNEY TO THE SHRINE

---

ROME  
PRINTED AT THE OFFICES OF THE SACRED CONGREGATION  
OF THE PROPAGANDA FIDE  
1884.

[*The author reserves all rights of reprinting and translation.*]

PRIVATE USE ONLY

TO THE MOST EMINENT  
AND MOST REVEREND  
**THOMAS M. CARDINAL MARTINELLI,**  
**CARDINAL BISHOP OF SABINA,**  
**PREFECT OF THE SACRED CONGREGATION OF THE INDEX,**  
**ETC. ETC.**

Most Eminent Prince,

The writer, with the deepest sense of gratitude, taking advantage of your kind permission, — a permission all the more valued because never accorded to any author before — most respectfully dedicates this book to Your Eminence.

The reason why Your Eminence has been pleased to grant this permission is not, in this particular instance, difficult to understand.

The work treats of a venerable Sanctuary of Our Lady confided to Fathers of the great Order of which you are Cardinal Protector. It aims, according to the humble ability of the writer, at extending the deep and tender devotion to the

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

Immaculate Virgin Mother of God, so characteristic of the land of your birth, and so specially dear to you, to the people to whom the writer belongs, — a people whom you love, and whose widespread migrations have carried the Faith whose purity Your Eminence as Cardinal Prefect of the Index, guards so ably and so vigilantly, to many parts of the world.

Ever since your elevation to the sacred purple it has pleased Your Eminence to make your home in the Eternal City with representatives of that people. The young levites of your ancient institute destined to continue amongst them the ministrations of religion which the sons of St. Augustine never ceased to carry on through terrible and long continued trials now happily passed away, have had the consolation and the advantage of your daily presence in their midst, during the last ten years. It has been your delight to consecrate to their instruction and edification whatever moments you could spare from the weighty charges laid upon you by the Vicar of Christ, — to join with them in the long continued exercises of piety which usher in each day's holy labour, — to unite with them at night in the prayer and thanksgiving which

PRIVATE USE ONLY

precede repose, — to conduct for them during your short intervals of rest from the severe labours of your high office, the invaluable retreats and other spiritual exercises which so well prepare them for the work they are to do for the Church in after years.

It has been the good fortune of the writer to participate largely in these advantages during his stay in Rome. And now as this stay draws to its close, he is indeed happy to be permitted to associate the venerated name of Your Eminence with this effort to make Mary in one of Her most beautiful prerogatives — that of Virgin Mother of Good Counsel — better known and better loved amongst that great section of God's people to which he belongs. He trusts his work may not be wanting in a blessing if for no other reason than that it was written under the same roof where the saintly and laborious life of Your Eminence edifies the inmates and manifests the latent strength, the real glory and identity of the Rome of our own day with the Rome of the past, in giving a true picture of the lives — lives so little understood by the world at large, lives so often misconceived and misrepresented by the

enemies of Catholicity — of those who nearest to the sacred person of the Supreme Pastor, sustain with him the burden of the guidance, the guardianship, and the government of the Church of God.

Begging Your Eminence's blessing the writer remains with profound respect.

Your most grateful humble servant.

Santa Maria in Posterula, 143 Tordinona, Rome,  
Feast of the Immaculate Conception. 1883.

---

PRIVATE USE ONLY

## PREFACE

---

Italy is still preëminently a land of faith and fervour. Invasions, secret societies, revolutions, and persecutions have done their worst to make it otherwise during the past hundred years. Writers of books of travel, newspaper correspondents, and others who cater for the prevailing anti-Catholic prejudices of the majority of those who speak the English language, generally represent it as having grown at least indifferent, if not worse, under these trials. But the truth is that at no past period of its Christian history were the mass of the inhabitants of the country more attached to their religion, more firmly fixed in its principles, or more devoted to its practices than at the present moment.

The writer of the following pages upon one of the most beautiful and useful manifestations of the faith

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

of Italy, has had ample opportunity of witnessing what he here asserts. He visited that country for the first time early in the spring of the past year; and he confesses, he was prepared to see everywhere a great decay of religion in a nation where the Church had been universally plundered, where the Supreme Pontiff was dethroned and imprisoned, where the religious orders were suppressed, where the public observance of the Lord's Day and of many Christian practices had been legally abolished, where the recognition of Catholicity by the State was made a cruel farce, and where, in fine, the most formidable atheism the world has ever seen was, with supreme political power in its hands, astutely planning the eradication of Christianity from the social, political, and even individual life of the people.

The aspect of some streets in several great cities on Sundays and festivals, the casual conversation of *employés* and others interested in the existing government, the language of journals circulating amongst the party in power, were calculated, at first, to confirm his worst fears. But fortunately for a more correct knowledge of Italy his stay was prolonged. Impaired in health after twenty years of missionary labour in Australia, he was advised to try for a

PRIVATE USE ONLY

considerable period, the effects of change of air and locality, in the mild climate and varied scenery of that beautiful and historic land. This brought him gradually into communication with all classes of the people on the mainland and in Sicily. Their real condition, therefore, became thoroughly known to him. So far from being in sympathy with the wrongs done to their religion, or affected with the infidelity of the ruling faction, he found them heart and soul with the Church, and as hostile as ever to the inroads of atheism and heresy. The masses in Italy are, in fact, as he everywhere witnessed, as sorely tried as their clergy, and bear in patience burdens which no other people in Europe so situated are called upon to sustain. At least nine-tenths of them are earnest and practical Catholics, and therefore they suffer rather than become revolutionists. As a rule they keep out of political affairs — meaning, at present, the affairs of the Continental Freemasons. To all attempts upon their religion they oppose a passive but determined resistance, which no effort of the infidels has been able to shake. In general, family life amongst them equals the purity and innocence of the farm-homes of Ireland. They live in truth by faith. But above all, that which in the eyes

of the writer most distinguishes them, and in which they are unsurpassed by any other people he has ever seen, is their intense and universal devotion to the Virgin Mother of God.

Every practice of this devotion, common to the most fervent Catholics, is general amongst them, while they have besides a hundred beautiful ways of manifesting it, peculiar to themselves alone. It is shown in public, on the entrance gates, and streets, and squares of cities; on the fronts of houses and vineyards; on the road-sides; and to an unusual extent, in the churches and public edifices of the country. Then over the whole land, special sanctuaries of the Madonna are scattered with great profusion. To some of these, millions flock annually; and to the least frequented, thousands come. Pilgrimages, chantings, silent prayer, alms-deeds, and fervent reception of the sacraments, are everywhere called forth by these wonderful shrines. No one is ashamed to confess and to honour Mary. Her presence fills every home and is constantly before the minds of the inmates. In a word, devotion to Our Lady, so to speak, saturates the land. And it is not too much to say — indeed it is what the Catholics of Italy themselves thankfully proclaim — that

PRIVATE USE ONLY

this deep devotion has been the cause of saving their faith from so many open and secret foes during the past three generations.

It was only natural that the writer, when he became acquainted with a devotion to God's Mother so vivid and productive of good, should endeavour to have it adopted, so far as circumstances should permit, by his own race, by those who speak the same language as he does, and above all by that portion of them to whose service he had devoted his life. Although he well knew the love which millions who speak the English language have for Mary, he could not be blind to the fact that they live in an atmosphere which everywhere out of Ireland is filled with hostility to the Catholic religion, and to no portion of it more than to the honour which is given to the Virgin Mother of God. This atmosphere and other influences are sometimes so strong as to lead to the loss of the faith itself. But they never prevail where the love of Mary is real and abiding. Whatever, therefore, can enkindle or preserve devotion to Her is an inestimable advantage. The use of beads and scapulars, household altars, novenas, and other holy customs observed in private and public, are all good for the purpose wherever

they are adopted. But something is required which may reach the many who cannot be got to practise so much; something more simple and more general; something which may be able to reach the heart at once, seize upon it, and retain it; something which, while capable of increasing the devotion of the most fervent, would at the same time attract the most indifferent; something which could enkindle amongst us the love which all classes of the Italian people have for Mary.

The writer believes that the devotion which he tries to make known in this volume supplies all the above conditions. Its nature, scope, and history will be found summarized in the introduction and given fully in the rest of the book. He is persuaded that to know that devotion is to love it, and therefore he believes that all who read what he has written upon it will endeavour to advance it. For this, every one can do something. The Pastors of God's people can do much. There are at their disposal the means given by the Church, which are explained in separate chapters. The Feast, the Proper Mass and Office, the dedication of churches, oratories, and chapels, are all calculated to bring the devotion and its many indulgences under the notice of those committed to their keeping. But

PRIVATE USE ONLY

the simple spread of copies of the sacred Image, which have worked such wonders in Italy and elsewhere, is a powerful means within the reach of all, and which all can adopt to some extent.

In the course of his work the writer has sometimes digressed from his main subject to give the history and describe the physical features of the locality in which the venerable Shrine of Our Lady of Good Counsel is situated. His object in this has been to make the place itself, its antiquities, and scenery known to the many English speaking visitors who come to Rome, as well as to manifest the design of Divine Providence in selecting it as the resting place of the miraculous Image. And as he knows that nothing connected with the well-being of the Church can be indifferent to those for whom he writes, he has added in an appendix some matters of moment as well as of interest, which do not directly fall within the scope of his subject. He would call the reader's attention to what he has said upon the spoliation of the Propaganda at page 605 and page 647,—a subject of the deepest importance to Catholics everywhere, but especially to those in English speaking countries.

He has had to treat largely of the supernatural; yet he desires to say that no one ever came to the Shrine

of Our Lady of Good Counsel less inclined to be credulous than he was. But in the sight of miracles wrought before one's eyes and carefully examined and proved, one can only say that the Hand of God is not shortened, and that miracles wrought through the intercession of His Mother will never cease. The facts narrated will speak for themselves. With regard to these facts the writer has endeavoured to be scrupulously accurate, and in this, at least, he believes he has succeeded. For the rest, he leaves the work in the hands of his readers, in the hope that through the intercession of Mary, his efforts, to advance Her honour, at a season when ill health rendered him incapable of other labour, may prove of some use to those for whom he writes, and to whose indulgence and prayers he commends himself. \*

---

\* *Regarding some literal errors which could hardly be avoided in a work put in type by compositors unacquainted with English, the reader is referred to what is said in the introduction page 23.*

---

PRIVATE USE ONLY

## CONTENTS

## CHAPTER I.

## INTRODUCTION



## CHAPTER II.

## LATIUM

1. Its original inhabitants. — 2. Rome formed and ruled by them. — 3. Physical features, mountains, cities, memories connected with the country. — 4. General beauty

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

of the scenery. — Dreariness of the Campagna. — 5. Malaria of the Campagna. — Calumny on the Pontifical Government — Real cause. — 6. The Revolutionists promise much and perform little. — 7. Hope comes from Australia and the persecuted monks of Italy. — 8. Beauty of the rest of Latium. — The way to see it. — 9. Habit of the agricultural population to live in towns. — 10. The reason. — 11. Ruins in Latium. — 12. Its capital, Palestrina — Injustice of a guide-book writer to its modern inhabitants. — 13. The ancient city. — Its fortunes. — 14. Palestrina Christian. — First view of Rome taken by St. Peter from its citadel. — 15. Dome of St. Peter's. — 16. Latium a Christian Land. . . . .	page 24
NOTE on Carpineto the birth place of Leo XIII. . . . .	page 26
" on the Campagna, the Tre Fontane where St. Paul was decapitated, planting of the Eucalyptus etc. . . . .	" 32
" on Valmontone, and Paliano the birth place of Cardinal Simeoni . . . . .	" 43

## CHAPTER III.

## GENAZZANO

1. Latium a great centre of idolatry. — Its celebrated temples. — 2. Practice of the Romans to blend religion with public amusements. — 3. Increase of Pagan practices in Latium during the Imperial period. — Floral games. — Place of celebration near Palestrina. — Its beauty and adaptability. — Consequences, cruel and immoral. — 4. That spot destined to be the scene of the triumph of the Cross, through the Virgin Mother of Jesus. — 5. Our means of knowing this. — 6. The Calendar of Verius Flaccus found in Palestrina. — 7. Its order for the celebration of the Floral Games in April. — The inscription. — The place. — 8. Proofs of the locality being the modern Genazzano. — Licentiousness undoubted. — Name of Genazzano derived from the *ludi ginnici*. — 9. Other derivations of the name. — 10. Increase of vice in the games when the neighbouring Claudian Villa became an Im-

PRIVATE USE ONLY

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

## CHAPTER V.

## THE WONDERFUL APPARITION

1. The 25<sup>th</sup> of April, the feast of Genazzano.—2. Its celebration in 1467.—Condition of the Church of Santa Maria that day. — 3. Petruccia. — 4. Her triumph complete. — 5. The people hear music in the air. — The white cloud appears. — Rests on the unfinished walls.— 6. An Image is disclosed to all.— The words.— The excitement.— The miracles. — 7. The bells rung by supernatural agency.— 8. The coming of “all Italy” to the Sanctuary.— Completion of the Church and convent. — 9. Death of Petruccia. — Her burial. — Monument. — 10. Proofs placed after narration. . . . . page 75

## CHAPTER VI.

## THE SACRED IMAGE

1. Did it come from Paradise?— Its beauty.— 2. Notice of it by the Church.— 3. Its nature, size, colours, and art value. — 4. Position of the figures.— The Mother.— The Child. — 5. Expression melancholy.— Reason. — 6. Picture agrees with traditional account of Mary’s appearance and likeness to Jesus. — 7. Notice of miraculous changes in colour.— Experience of the writer. — 8. Testimony of Vasquez, Bacci, Rodotà. — 9. Formal statement of Luigi Tosi and others. . . . . page 83

## CHAPTER VII.

## THE MIRACULOUS TRANSLATION

1. The people of Genazzano undeceived.— 2. The Pilgrims from Albania.— 3. Their names. — 4. Their story. — 5. True history of the Translation. — Its coming to Scutari. — 6. Decay of devotion to it in Albania. — Scanderbeg. — 7. Prayer of the pilgrims. — Orders of Mary. — 9. The Image in air, followed by pilgrims, leaves Scutari.—

PRIVATE USE ONLY

10. Miraculous passage of the Adriatic.— 11. The Image disappears at Rome — Pilgrims' grief. — 12. News reaches Rome of the wonderful apparition. — They find the Image. — 13. They live and die, and leave their families in Genazzano. . . . . page 103

## CHAPTER VIII.

### SCANDERBEG AND ALBANIA

1. Reason for this chapter.— Description of Albania.— Physical features — Fortresses.— 2. It is Christianized — Leans to schism.— Is punished with the Greeks. — 3. The condition of the East. — Its destruction by Mahomedanism. — 4. Conduct of the West. — The Turks. — Their early Caliphs. — Conquest of the European East. — 5. Rise of Scanderbeg.— His captivity under Amurath II.— The Janizaries. — Education of Scanderbeg. — His military genius and position with the Sultan. — Abandons the Turks. — Frees Albania. — 6. Efforts of Amurath's generals and armies against him fruitless. — Amurath with 200,000 men defeated at Croja, dies of a broken heart in consequence.— 7. Evident protection of Mary.— 8. Fall of Constantinople.— 9. Efforts of Mahomet's generals against Scanderbeg, defeated always — Truce. — 10. Scanderbeg in Italy. — 11. Truce broken. — Scanderbeg defeats the whole force of Mahomet in person. — 12. Gives Scutari to the Venetians. — 13. Scanderbeg's dying hours at Lissa. — Miraculous recovery and defeat of the last effort of the Turks. — His death. — Tradition regarding the sacred Image in Albania. . . page 112

**NOTE.** On certain notices of Scanderbeg, especially that in Chambers's Encyclopaedia. . . . . page 123

## CHAPTER VIII. (continued)

### OVERTHROW OF ISLAM

1. State of Europe.— 2. Heresy of Luther.— Siege of Rhodes by Soliman. — Of Vienna. — Conduct of Charles V. —

CHAPTER IX.

## PROOFS OF THE APPARITION

1. Unanimity of historians regarding facts given.— 2. Proofs examined by Vatican Archivists. — 3. Loss of early documents. — 4. Investigation ordered by Paul II.— 5. Vatican Codex.— 6. Testimony of Coriolanus.— 7. Registry of miracles. — Prayer of the copyist. — 8. Documents relative to Petruccia. — 9. Ancient inscriptions on the church and holy Chapel. — 10. Proofs of the manner of the coming of the sacred Image. — 11. Ancient works on the subject. — 12. The donations of Sixtus IV. and Cardinal D'Estouteville. . . . . . . . . . page 145

NOTE on Father Mariano of Genazzano . . . . .	page	148
" Original of the prayer of the copyist of the first record miracles. . . . .	"	161
" Senni on Petruccia . . . . .	"	166
" on the churches built in Rome by Sixtus IV. and Cardinal D'Estouteville in honour of the coming of the Ma- donna. . . . .	"	174
" on the hopes of finding additional documents . . . . .	"	178

PRIVATE USE ONLY

**CHAPTER X.****PROOFS OF THE TRANSLATION**

1. Quality of the testimony of the pilgrims. — 2. Silence of written, coeval documents.— Examination. — Papal delegation.— 3. Agreement between the pilgrims' narrative and that of other Albanians.— 4. The two parties in Genazzano. — Quotation from Senni in reference to them. — 5. Regarding the action of Sixtus IV. — 6. Deductions from the action of the Pope. — 7. Value of the different titles of the Madonna as evidence. — 8. The tradition in Genazzano.— Devotion of the Albanians in Italy.— Early writers. — 9. Pilgrimage of Urban VIII. — Testimony of Colonna, Duke of Paliano and his secretary. — 10. Testimony on oath of the oldest inhabitants of Genazzano in 1779. — 11. Family tree of the descendants of the pilgrim Giorgio. . . . . page 179

**CHAPTER XI.****THE ALBANIAN TRADITION**

1. Reasons why no evidence of the miraculous translation was obtained after the fall of Scutari.— 2. Nature of Turkish conquests.— Condition of the vanquished.— 3. Surveillance over Scutari. — 4. Its relaxation. — Immediate information regarding the sacred Image. — 5. Letter of Count Stephen Medin regarding the translation. — 6. Inquiries made this century. — 7. Letter of Father Mariano of Palmanova. — 8. Letter from Monsgr. Radoja, V. G. of Scutari. — 9. More recent and hitherto inedited documents. — 10. Conclusion. . . . . . . . . . . page 200

**CHAPTER XII.****MIRACLES AT THE SHRINE**

1. More wonderful than in Scutari. — 2. Grace-producing power. — 3. Temporal benefits. — 4. Objections against

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

- shrines met. — 5. The first 161 miracles and others registered. — 6. Impossibility of registering all. — 7. A miraculous cure witnessed by the writer at the Shrine in 1882. — 8. Difficulties of finding proofs obviated. — 9. Documents attesting sickness and cure of Lydia Vernini. — 10. Another miracle. — 11. Proved by time. — 12. Other miracles. — 13. Incredulous punished. — 14. The arrow of the Hungarian. — 15. Preservation of the Colonnas. — 16. Resurrection of the dead. — 17. Release of a criminal condemned to decapitation in Sienna. — 18. Liberation from devils — Records of unregistered miracles. — 19. Miraculous liberation of Cardinal Acton. — 20. Remarkable preservation of Genazzano from cholera and plague. — 21. A pilgrimage saves Capranica from cholera. — 22. Genazzano freed from many public calamities. . . . . page 233

NOTE regarding the position of the sacred Image . . . . page 233

## CHAPTER XIII.

MIRACULOUS COPIES



NOTE of De Orgio on miraculous copies. . . . . . . . . . page 306

PRIVATE USE ONLY

## CHAPTER XIV.

## DEVOTION OF POPES ETC.



## CHAPTER XV.

## PILGRIMAGES TO THE SHRINE

1. Religious customs of purely Catholic nations ill understood in Protestant countries. — Want of reason in this. — 2. The people of Italy in their manner of worshipping Our Lady of Genazzano. — 3. Pilgrims and pilgrimages. — 4. The pilgrimages from afar on the great feasts of the Sanctuary. — 5. The Church on these occasions.— The Confessions.— The Communions.— 6. Deep religion of the pilgrims. — 7. The waiting for the twenty — second hour. — 8. The *festa* in the town.— Conduct of the pilgrims. — 9. Who they are and why they come. — 10. The merit in their act.— Its warranty and antiquity. — 11. The reason in it. — 12. The Pil-

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

grims on the road. — 13. The formation, gathering, and departure of each company. — 14. Devotional works directing them. — Father Belgrano's advices. — Prayers to be said before setting out and on the road. — 15. Pilgrims met upon the road. — 16. Action of each band on seeing Genazzano. — Prayer to Mary. — 17. Entering the town. — Going to the Sanctuary. — 18. Cardinal Castracani's attempts at "improving the occasion" by preaching. — His failure. — 19. The pilgrims at the Shrine. — 20. Asking for graces. — An instance. — 21. Pilgrims at night. — At early morn. — 22. Grief and tears of the pilgrims leaving. — Retiring backwards from the Sacred Image. — 23. The pilgrims' return home. — 24. Efforts of the Revolutionary Government to stop the pilgrimages to Genazzano. — The officer appointed to stop them. — 25. Grief of the dispersed pilgrims. — Disquiet of the Italian population grows dangerous, and pilgrimages allowed to take their course. — 26. Fate of the officer who dispersed the pilgrims. — Opinion of the people thereupon. . *page 337*

## CHAPTER XVI.

### APOSTLES OF THE DEVOTION

1. The Augustinians. — Their history. — Their saints. —
2. Celebrities in the past. — Position in Rome. — 3. Their Cardinal Protector. — Cardinals in Curia. — 4. Living, learned professors. — 5. The Ven. Menochio, Sacristan and Companion of Pius VII. — The Ven. Bellesini, the modern Apostle of Genazzano. — 6. Devotion of their Generals to the Sanctuary. — 7. The Sanctuary "the apple of the eye" of the order. — 8. General Vasquez. —
9. Commissary General Neno. — 10. Augustinians at the Sanctuary. — Remarks of Buonanno. — 11. Why Our Lady of Good Counsel selected the Augustinians and their church of Genazzano. — 12. The devotion not confined to the Augustinians. — 13. St. Alphonsus Mary

PRIVATE USE ONLY

- di Liguori and the Redemptorists. — 14. The Image of the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel « his heart ». — 15. Graces received. — The dying sinner at Avenzo. — 16. Devotion of Redemptorists in Belgium. . page 362

## CHAPTER XVII.

CANON BACCI

1. Other Apostles. — 2. Devotion of Andrew Bacci, Canon of St. Mark's. — 3. His works. — 4. His celebrated letter. — 5. Image at St. Mark's. — 6. His death at the Sanctuary. — His epitaphs. . . . . page 383

## CHAPTER XVIII.

DON STEPHEN ANDREA RODOTÀ

1. Devotion of the Albanians in Italy. — 2. Their colony in Calabria. — 3. Their Apostle, Don Stephen Andrea Rodotà. — 4. Letter regarding his labours from Don John Francis Avato, to Father De Orgio. . . . . page 399

NOTE on Italian titles to the clergy . . . . . page 400

## CHAPTER XIX.

THE PROPER MASS AND OFFICE

1. Value of granting a Proper Mass and Office as a proof of the approval of the Church. — 2. First Office granted in 1727. — 3. The Proper Office sought for. — 4. Delay in granting it to Loreto. — 5. Genazzano more favoured. — 6. Investigation.— Proper Mass and Office granted in 1789. — 7. Description of the liturgy. — 8. The Proper Office from the Roman Breviary. — 9. Its extension through the devotion of many bishops, religious orders, and people. . . . . page 414

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

## CHAPTER XX.

## INDULGENCES AT THE SHRINE

1. Privileged Altars.— 2. Votive Proper Mass.— 3. Plenary  
Indulgences. — Partial Indulgences. . . . . page 432

## CHAPTER XXI.

## THE PIOUS UNION

1. Feeling of loving regret, on the part of those who visit  
the Shrine when leaving. — Instances. — Urban VIII.  
and others. — 2. An every day instance. — 3. Rise,  
therefore, of the Pious Union. — 4. Its advantages for  
those not able to visit the Shrine. — 5. Its duties. —  
6. Its approval by Benedict XIV. who became its first  
member. — 7. His example useful for pastors of souls  
and other superiors. — 8. His Brief *Injunctae nobis*  
in the original Latin and in English. — 9. Value of this  
Bull, as warranting the facts of the Miraculous Trans-  
lation from Scutari. — 10. Example of Benedict XIV.  
followed by many. — French Revolution. — 12. Present  
position of the Pious Union. — 13. Increase of indul-  
gences in 1860. — 14. Duties. — 15. Indulgences Plenary  
and Partial. — 16. Special advantages to members given  
by the guardians of the Sanctuary. . . . . page 436

## CHAPTER XXII.

## THE CHURCH AND SANCTUARY

1. The old church. — 2. The old alto-rilievo in marble of  
Our Lady of Good Counsel. — 3. The Sanctuary. —  
4. The church of Father Felix Leoncelli of Cave. —  
5. Subsequent improvements. — Works by Canon Bacci. —  
6. The convent built by Prior Bosca. — The ejection of  
the religious from it by the Revolutionists. — 7. Im-  
provements by Vasquez and others. — 8. Consequences  
to church and convent on the coming of the French

PRIVATE USE ONLY

and Bonaparte to the Papal States. — Valuables contributed to the exactions from Pius VI. — 9. New exactions of the French from the Pontiff and new contributions from the Sanctuary. — Lists. — 10. The French take Rome and carry off the Pope to France. — Final spoliation of the Sanctuary. — List of valuables taken. — 11. Some objects restored. — Fate of sacrilegious spoliators. — 12. Santa Maria during Napoleon's tyranny. — 13. Its rise on the return of Pius VII. — 14. Improvements effected by Father Fanucchi. — 15. Cardinal Pedicini renovates the Sanctuary. — Its frescoes and artists. . . . .	<i>page 467</i>
<b>NOTE on the paintings in the church . . . . .</b>	<i>page 487</i>

### CHAPTER XXIII.

#### DEVOTION OF THE ITALIAN PEOPLE

1. Extent of devotion to Our Lady in Italy. — 2. Its manifestations. — 3. Exhibition of it in works of genius. — 4. Practical devotion of the people. — 5. Open manifestation. — Shrines. — Their number. — 6. The people as such « saturated » with devotion to Mary. — Proofs. — Churches, chapels, sanctuaries, houses, streets, shops, familiar discourse, exclamations. — 7. Objections made about the Sunday in Italy. — The condition of the Church and the Holy Father etc. etc. — 8. Damage done outside Italy by these objections. — Notwithstanding their want of reason. — 9. Answer in brief. — 10. Explanation about the « Sabbath ». — 11. « Externalism » in religion. — The Italian Catholic's day. — The early morning Masses. — Practices of piety. — A reason for the existence of beggars. — 12. Purity of the Italian Catholics. — 13. The Clergy of Italy. — Slanders of the Protestant press. — Reason of the number of the clergy. — The Regulars. — The Cloister. — 14. The Seculars. — Their selection. — Training in the world. — 15. Religion in great cities. — In Rome. — 16. Conclusion. . . . .	<i>page 491</i>
--	-----------------

**CHAPTER XXIV.****THE WORSHIP OF MARY**

1. Its effects. — 2. Shipwreck in faith through its absence.—  
 3. Need of Good Counsel from Mary. — 4. The doctrine  
 of the worship and invocation of Mary. — 5. An ob-  
 jection in the Protestant mind. — 6. The nature of the  
 Catholic worship of God and His saints explained. —  
 7. The knowledge of our affairs and the interest in  
 them of the angels and saints.— Their power with God.—  
 Admission of Protestants.— 8. Mary's superior dignity.—  
 In Her creation. — 9. The progress of Her merit. — Her  
 childhood. — Her condition before the Annunciation. —  
 10. Her merit after. — 11. Her trials. — 12. Her merit  
 from them. — 13. An ordinary objection met. — 14. Util-  
 ity of prayer to the saints and especially to Mary.—  
 15. Mary left by Jesus to us at the Cross. — Her love.—  
 16. Value of the honour paid Her. — 17. Necessity for  
 devotion to Mary in these times. — 18. Mary opposed  
 to Satan's arts in our days. — 19. Her quality as Vir-  
 gin Mother of Good Counsel. . . . . page 507

**APPENDIX****CHAPTER XXV.****THE ALTAR OF THE CRUCIFIXION**

*Page.* . . . . . : . . . . . 536

**CHAPTER XXVI.****SAN PIO**

1. Circumstances favouring the extension of devotion to  
 the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel. — 2. Purchase of  
 San Pio for the Irish Augustinians by Prior Glynn. —  
 Its destination. — 3. Situation of its buildings. — 4. Its

**PRIVATE USE ONLY**

grounds, the site of the Imperial Antonine Villa. — 5. Ancient aqueducts. — Their uses for baths and fish-ponds.— 6. Size of the Villa.— Balmy air.— Distinguished occupants. — 7. Genazzano, the Palace of the Colonnas etc. built from its ruins. — 8. The villa of Ovid adjoining its grounds. — His banishment decreed because of occurrences which took place there. — Æneas Sylvius (Pius II.) weeps over the ruins. — 9. Pius II. through Father Philip da Massa founds St. Pio. — 10. Reasons for calling the convent by that name. — Oddo Colonna, Pope Martin V. builds the church of St. Nicholas and floors St. John Lateran from the ruins. — 11. The Capuchins settled in them before the Conventuals. — The Architect of San Pio. — Plan of its church and monastery. — 12. The Conventuals hold San Pio until the coming of the French under Bonaparte. — Suppression. — Return. — 13. Final suppression. — 14. Circumstances of its purchase by Prior Glynn. — 15. The Irish Augustinian students there, a guard of honour to the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Good Counsel. — 16. Its alumni destined to carry the Gospel abroad. — 17. The words of Leo XIII. to the Bishop of Sandhurst and Prior Glynn. — Irish generosity. — Subscriptions. — Altars. — Article from Dublin Freeman. . . . page 540

## CHAPTER XXVII.

### ROMAN ECCLESIASTICAL EDUCATION

1. Words of the Holy Father in encouragement of a Roman ecclesiastical education. — 2. Irish faith. — 3. Its perpetuity in distant lands, interested in a Roman ecclesiastical education. — 4. Review of the past connection of Rome and Ireland. — 5. The days of religious persecution. — 6. Colleges established for the Irish by the Pontiffs. — Houses given in Rome to the Irish Dominicans. — Father John O'Connor. — To the Augustinians. — To the Franciscans. — Father Luke Wadding. — The

Irish College. — Cardinal Ludovisi.— Jesuits, Carmelites and other religious orders. — Houses elsewhere for the Irish. — 7. Benefits of a Roman education to Irish faith. — 8. Help from the Popes for education in Ireland. — 9. Knowledge obtained of Ireland's wants by the Holy See. — 10. Colleges in Rome for England and Scotland. — 11. Greater necessity now than before. — 12. State of the Church in distant colonies. — 13. General dangers intensified at a distance. — 14. The best possible ecclesiastical education obtainable anywhere to be had in Rome. — 15. Reasons. — Unity increased by the love the student has for his Alma Mater. — 16. Effects of Rome on a student. — The past and present Rome. — 17. Retrospect of the Roman theological schools. — The Catacombs. — The period of the early Councils and early Fathers. — The middle ages. — 18. Roman ecclesiastical education in our own days. — Students of various nationalities in the city. — Their manner of life. — 19. The great schools of Rome. — Recent events not able to disturb ecclesiastical learning. — The Sapienza and its chairs. — Transferred to the Apollinare. — 20. Other schools. — The Dominicans at the Minerva. — The Roman College. — 21. The Propaganda. — 22. Other schools. — 23. Students as seen in Rome. — 24. Utility in their association. — 25. Canon Law in Rome. — 26. Association with the Roman clergy. — 27. Value of a student's recreation in Rome. — Christian and Pagan monuments. — 28. Student's vacations. — 29. A College for Australia in Rome. . . . page 560

NOTE on the English speaking Colleges of Rome . . . . .	page	595
" St. Isidore's Irish Franciscan College . . . . .	"	595
" St. Augustine's old Irish College . . . . .	"	597
" The Dominican Irish College of San Clemente . . . . .	"	597
" The Irish Secular College . . . . .	"	601
" The North American College . . . . .	"	603
" The English College . . . . .	"	603
" The Scotch College . . . . .	"	604
" SPOLIATION OF THE PROPAGANDA . . . . .	"	605

PRIVATE USE ONLY

## CHAPTER XXVIII.

## THE IRISH AUGUSTINIANS

1. Augustinians, the Guardians of the Sanctuary and propagators of devotion to Our Lady of Good Counsel everywhere else, will be so in English speaking lands.—
2. Their position in England and Ireland in the past.— Their suppression. — Persecutions. — 3. Their condition during the penal days in Ireland.— 4. Love of the Irish for the Augustinians.— Its reason.— Bishop Comerford.—
5. Their condition when toleration was first granted to Catholics. — 6. Famous Augustinians. — Dr. Gahan O. S. A. — His sermons. — His Catholic Piety. — His Church History etc. — 7. Dr. Doyle Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin.— 8. The Augustinian novitiate in Grants-town in which he was professed. — Coimbra. — Effect of Dr. Doyle's writings on English statesmen.— 9. Other Irish Augustinians. — 10. Foundation of the American Province.— Its progress.— Present condition.— 11. Action of Irish Augustinians in Australia. — 12. Mgr. James Alipius Goold, first Bishop and Archbishop of Melbourne. — 13. Reasons of his going to Australia. — Condition of the Catholics in the penal settlements of New Holland. — Their sufferings. — Archpriest O'Flynn sent by Rome and sent back by the Governor. — 14. Father Therry. — 15. His works for the scattered Catholics. — His influence and labours. — Consequences to Catholicity. — 16. Appointment of the first Bishop and coming of Father Goold. — His works as a missionary and appointment as first Bishop of Melbourne. — His career as Bishop and Archbishop. — 17. Monsgr. Crane first Bishop of Sandhurst. — 18. Conclusion. . . page 608

NOTE ON THE SACRED CONGREGATION OF THE PROPAGANDA  
FIDE AND ITS RECENT SPOILATION. . . . page 647

---

We the undersigned deputed by the Most Reverend the Master of the Sacred Apostolic Palace to examine the work entitled « The Virgin Mother of Good Counsel » written in the English language by the Very Revd. George F. Dillon D. D. of the Archdiocese of Sydney in Australia, hereby declare that not only have we not found anything therein contrary to faith and morals, but on the contrary, much calculated to edify the faithful and to promote amongst them devotion to the Mother of God.

Fr. SEBASTIAN MARTINELLI Q. S. A.  
Master in Sacred Theology, Regent  
of Sacred Studies in Santa Maria  
in Posterula.

Fr. JOSEPH J. M. CARBERY O.P. Master  
in Sacred Theology, Provincial of  
Scotland, and Assistant to the  
Most Revd. the General of the  
Order of Friars Preachers.

Convent of Santa Maria sopra Minerva. Rome, April 16<sup>th</sup> 1883.

IMPRIMATUR

Fr. Augustinus Bausa Ord. Præd. S. Pal. Ap. Magister.

IMPRIMATUR

Julius Lenti Archiep. Siden. Vicesgerens.

PROTEST

In obedience to the decrees of the Supreme Pontiffs and especially to that of Urban VIII., the author submits absolutely all that is written in this work, as well as whatever else he has already written or may hereafter write, to the judgement of the Holy See; and he likewise protests that in narrating miraculous occurrences, or in giving the name of « Saint » or « Blessed » to any person not canonized by the Church, he intends to do so solely according to the usage prevailing amongst the faithful.

PRIVATE USE ONLY

# THE VIRGIN MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL

---

## Chapter I.

### INTRODUCTION

1. Object of the writer — Nature of devotion to the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel. — 2. Its rise. — 3. The locality. — 4. Translation of the miraculous Image. — 5. Advance of the devotion — St. Alphonsus Liguori, St. Aloysius, etc. — 6. Present necessity. — 7. Proofs. — 8. The Madonna of Genazzano formidable against Islam — Scanderbeg, Mark Antony Colonna, Innocent XI., — Sobieski. — 9. The Islam of our days. — 10. The Madonna of Good Counsel destined to overcome it. — 11. Rewards. — 12. Special necessity for the devotion in new countries. — 13. Its consoling power for all. — 14. Faith of the Italian people preserved by the Virgin Mother. — 15. Reasons — Plan of the work — Division and contents. — 16. Miraculous cures. — 17. Chapters added on the miraculous fresco of the Crucifixion — St. Pio — Roman Ecclesiastical Education — Irish Augustinians. — 18. Works consulted — Thanks to friends.

1. The object of the writer of the following pages is to make known to English speaking readers a valuable and very beautiful devotion which has been practised in Italy for many generations, and which has made its way to several nations of Continental Europe, without being, as yet, much heard of throughout that extensive dominion which the Church now possesses in English speaking countries.

1

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

This devotion aims at obtaining all that the gift of Good Counsel gives through the intercession of Mary, the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God, to Whom the Infallible Spouse of Christ attributes the very words of the Holy Ghost « In me is Counsel. » While, therefore, the sincere believer instinctively recognises the pregnancy of meaning and the promise of assistance, involved in a title so expressive as that of « Virgin Mother of Good Counsel, » it will console him to know, that close by the city of the Successors of St. Peter, it has pleased Divine Providence to cause a Sanctuary in honour of Mary to arise, whither thousands flock, as they have flocked for ages, to receive the blessings of Good Counsel at Her feet; and that this Sanctuary has been enriched with supernatural favours of a nature so extraordinary, that, except perhaps in the case of the Holy House of Loreto, we can find no parallel for them in the history of the shrines of the Church.

2. Moreover, the devotion which is manifested with such extraordinary fervour at the Shrine itself, is not confined there, but spreads its blessings by means of a Pious Union wherever it finds adherents. It sprang up, as will be seen, almost at the same time with the rise of Christianity upon the ruins of paganism in the Roman Empire. The very spot where the beautiful Image of Mary and Jesus now reposes, was once the scene of the foulest rites of idol worship in honour of Venus. There, every April for centuries, came from far and near the men and the women of Latium for the Robigal Games. There, year after year they abandoned themselves to all the abominations

PRIVATE USE ONLY

not only tolerated, but prescribed, by the pagan *Jus Pontificium* of the Romans. No civilized nation of antiquity that we know of, had rites more demoralizing than these proud masters of the world; and nowhere, not even in the Flavian Amphitheatre, do the same rites seem to have been carried to greater excess, than near the site of the present temple of the Madonna in the borough of Genazzano, where, when the worship of idols had given place to that of the one true God, the statue of the foulest goddess of heathendom fell to make way for the Shrine and the sway of the Purest of God's creatures, His Virgin Mother. It was meet and, no doubt, was so arranged by a merciful and wise Providence, that the mother and synonyme of a vice which, with order dark and sorrowful characters, has folly emphatically stamped upon it, should be succeeded, when faith shed its light upon Latium, by the Mother and Synonyme of purity and supernal wisdom, the Mother « of fair love » and of « holy hope, » of consolation and of Counsel.

3. To make the contrast here indicated more clear, the writer has thought it of use to give a sketch of the history and locality of Genazzano. This cannot fail from its classical as well as Christian recollections to interest the English speaking visitor to Rome, who can get but scant and, in a Catholic sense, almost no reliable information from the guide-books published in his language; and, to enable the reader at a distance to realize the full meaning of the devotion, it is necessary. It will serve to show to all, that, though confined to one locality, the devotion existed from a very early period. When God willed

its extension it was by means of a most striking and significant miracle. A beautiful Image of His Mother holding the Divine Infant in Her sacred arms, passed from a land just taken by the Turks to the very spot where the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel had been honoured for over a thousand years. The translation of this Image was effected without human interference and amidst many prodigies. It naturally created a wide-spread and deep impression at the time. On a festival, it appeared amidst a multitude in the public square, and rested near the wall of the church where it still remains. The fervour it created amongst the people of God, the graces, the consolations, and the miraculous favours obtained at its Shrine, continue to this day. It has thus become the fountain of devotion to the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel for all the faithful of Christ, in all the lands which own the sway of His Vicar on earth.

4. The writer has therefore entered very fully into the history of this sacred Image; and the reader, to become convinced of a fact so extraordinary as its wonderful translation from Scutari in Albania to Genazzano, must have the patience to read what he has written on that point. All that is said, is proved by facts as well authenticated as any other facts of past history. And here a possible thought may be met. The reader may never have heard of the miracle before. He may deem such an occurrence strange and unaccountable. He may perhaps, be somewhat influenced, although unconsciously, by that atmosphere of incredulity which surrounds Catholics in all English speaking lands, and which is prone, while

PRIVATE USE ONLY

receiving scriptural miracles with a kind of passive acquiescence, to regard modern ones as impossible or absurd. And it thus happens that even Catholics who maintain the antecedent possibility of miracles reject as improbable, or explain away upon natural grounds, the phenomena held to be supernatural in Catholic countries. Miracles, however, do occur and will continue to occur till the end of time. They are facts just as ascertainable as other facts. In the Church, the Catholic has a sure guide as to what he may believe and what he must not believe in their regard. When she permits a devotion, when she herself shows that she does not doubt the miracles performed by its means, when she blesses it and rewards those who practise it, the devout Catholic has the best guarantee that in practising that devotion he does what is right. All this she does with regard to the sacred Image of the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel and the devotion of which its Shrine in Genazzano is the centre and the spring. During the progress of this history it will be seen that, in its passage from Scutari to Genazzano, the Image was followed over land and sea, by two trustworthy witnesses who afterwards lived and died and left their families in Latium. It will be seen that its appearance in Genazzano occurred in broad day-light, and in the presence of thousands; that miraculous light and celestial chanting, the ringing of church bells by no human hand, and other circumstances of an extraordinary kind accompanied its coming; and that innumerable miraculous cures which have never since ceased, were worked in favour of those who came piously to visit it.

5. A most important fact will be noticed in the inquiry which was instituted some two months after its appearance by the then reigning Pontiff, Pope Paul II., at the very period when, according to Coriolanus, all Italy was going out in procession to visit it. The devotion of his immediate successor, Sixtus IV., the continued devotion of other Popes, as well as of monarchs, cardinals, and distinguished personages, which continues to this day, is also well worthy of notice. Amongst these we may mention the deep, tender, and life-long devotion of St. Alphonsus Liguori. It is a representation of the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel that is usually painted with portraits of that saint. Many copies too of the sacred Image have proved miraculous. That picture of Our Lady which spoke so often and so lovingly to the angelic youth St. Aloysius Gonzaga, was a copy. Other copies have worked wonderful prodigies in Rome, Naples, Genoa, Lucca, Frosinone, San Benedetto Ullano and numbers of cities in Italy and Germany.

6. Thus the devotion has progressed to meet the increasing needs of Christendom, and the writer believes that now more than ever, it is destined for an immense development.

His reasons for believing this are many. There are circumstances connected with the devotion itself, with the Sanctuary, and especially with the Pious Union, which manifest a providential preparation for a very wide extension. But the existence of a great necessity is the principal reason. Never before was there manifest more need of Good Counsel for all classes of Christians than at this hour. For parents

PRIVATE USE ONLY

and for children, for pastors and for people, — for all in God's Church whether rulers or ruled, its value cannot be over-estimated.

7. We have only to look upon the state of Europe and of the world at large to realize this. The evils which threaten mankind socially and religiously were never before so formidable. A delirium of folly and crime has fallen upon the nations generally. Only supernatural power can save us. And where can we better look for that, than where it was always found, — in Mary Whom God has established to be as Solomon saw Her, not only increasing in grandeur and power as time rolls on, to meet every emergency of man « as the aurora advancing; » not only « fair as the moon » to console us, and « bright as the sun » to give us light, but « formidable as an army set in battle array » to defend us from the infernal designs of our enemy.

8. As She was in the past, so must She be in the present and in the future. When the miraculous translation of Her sacred Image occurred, the Eastern Church had well nigh disappeared before the advancing arms of Islam. In the progress of this history, it will be seen that the last stand made against that foe, was by the heroic Scanderbeg, — King George Castriota, of Albania, — who, because he received help and counsel at the Shrine of this very Image then in his country, was able to defeat again and again the whole power of Amurat II., and afterwards to drive with terrific slaughter the hundreds of thousands of Mahomet II., the captor of Constantinople, from the walls of Croja, his little Capital. For twenty

years he saved his own country and Christendom. He had but just passed to his reward, when Mary caused Her miraculous Image to break away from the walls of Her temple in Scutari and to pass to Latium. His ashes were not cold, when the Turks in unconquerable might, swept over the land and passed to the Adriatic. Italy, preserved anew by Mary, presented an impregnable barrier; and the Pontiffs ceased not to oppose the foe, until finally the new home of Mary produced a second Scanderbeg. At a moment of supreme danger, St. Pius V., a most devout client of the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel, had called to the command of his fleet Mark Antony Colonna, Lord of Genazzano, and Protector, as Scanderbeg once was, of the sacred Image and Sanctuary of the Madonna of Good Counsel.

Like George Castriota, Colonna was a devoted son of God's Virgin Mother. Wonderfully did She aid him. The Turks, as omnipotent in the Mediterranean as upon land, meditated new invasions. The Christians were in imminent peril in Italy and all along the European seaboard. But the client of Mary prevailed. At Lepanto, the Pope's Admiral conjointly with Don John of Austria, gave a blow to the preëminence of the Turk upon water from which Islam has never since recovered. And later, as upon water so upon land, it was the power of Good Counsel given by Mary that finally crushed this foe of the Christian name. Innocent XI., after many unsuccessful attempts to unite Christendom against the tremendous armaments of Moslem might launched against Austria, had no sooner ordered the Chapter of St. Peter's to crown with diadems the sacred Image of Our Lady at Ge-

PRIVATE USE ONLY

nazzano, than his efforts were blessed with complete success. The army of Sobieski and the forces of Charles of Lorraine united, and a death-blow to the advance of the Turk upon land was dealt within a year at the walls of Vienna. Slowly but surely the mighty tide of Mahomedan power has since receded, until we find it at the ebb which soon must tell that the Cross, after a contest of twelve hundred years, has obliterated all trace of the Crescent. The Caliphs are passing to the oblivion and impotence of the Caesars, but the reign of Christ continues, and to-day His Vicar rules a wider domain than he ever ruled before. It is not too much to say, that this is owing to the help — to the Counsel and strength — which Mary is powerful enough to obtain for God's people. To Her the Church attributes the victory. « Be glad and rejoice; O Virgin Mary, for THOU ALONE hast overcome all heresies throughout the whole world. »

9. But now more than ever the power of Mary is required to meet a far more deadly foe than that symbolized by the Crescent. A new Islam has arisen upon the world, which, with more malignant hatred than that of the fanatics of Mahomet, and with a more subtle force than the astuteness of Greek or Roman persecutor could devise, seeks the life of Christ. More intellectual than physical, it aims not so much at the soul by killing the body, as at the soul direct. It aims also at the soul by the corruption of mind and body. It is banded by the powers of secrecy in one formidable phalanx, invisible and impalpable to outsiders; and that phalanx is everywhere. It is found in every language, amidst every colour, mixed up and

asserting itself in every nation and people and tribe of men. It has obtained power — the power in every form of human government. It is filling itself with riches. It uses its position, its influence, its wealth, to win proselytes. It has paralyzed the action of the Church in every country with more or less effect. It strikes off her armour and puts chains on her hands and feet. It deprives her of every human resource; and day by day weaves new webs to compass her destruction. It has succeeded in driving her from every public concern. In scarcely a single nation of the world is she permitted to control the education of her own children. And everywhere, the new system of instruction framed by her enemy, is made as far as possible, first to exclude and then to ridicule God and his saints. Wherever this formidable power can do so, she is banished from the family, which, unhinged by a baneful divorce law, must be undirected by her voice and unassisted by her ministrations. And alas! both rulers and statesmen terrified in the toils of this secret foe of themselves as well as of the Church, live on deaf to her voice, until the hour comes when their people, demoralized and lost without religion, fall victims to the attempts of the socialist.

This wide-spread conspiracy is determined and active in the propagandism of every species of immorality and of every species of atheism. It is astute and vigilant, subtle and intelligent, elaborate in its contrivances to deceive and to ruin men. Its great aim is to kill divine faith; and if not possible to kill it at a blow, then to weaken, decrease, and unnerve it in the minds and hearts of the people. For this

PRIVATE USE ONLY

purpose it forms alliance with every enemy of the Church; with the heretic and the schismatic; with the hypocrite and the traitor; with the abandoned ecclesiastic; with the disobedient and the nominal Catholic; with the fallen religious; with whomsoever may be found to speak or write against any principle, interest, or person of advantage to the cause of order and of God. The infernal cunning of the serpent who is in truth the master-spirit, the author of its vitality, of its enmity, of its strange unity and ubiquity, is everywhere manifested in dark designs against truth and religion.

10. All this to be thoroughly understood, need but be illustrated by what takes place in France before our eyes, and what has already occurred in Italy and other once fervently Catholic nations. Its progress in all lands is terrible. But it must fail as all that went before it failed. The Cross must triumph over its power as surely as it does over expiring Islam. Thank Heaven! the Church of Christ cannot be destroyed. All this is true on the unerring assurance of God Himself. But, alas! how many millions will perish while the contest progresses. Great as the triumph of the Church must be, that triumph cannot cure the eternal despair of those who are lost in the contest.

For the sake then of millions of our fellow creatures in danger — for our own sake — we must have recourse more fervently than ever to that wisdom and power which God has used in the past to baffle Islam, and which He has destined to be the destroyer of every form of seduction, which the head of the infernal serpent has been able to invent for the deception and

the destruction of our race. There is surely great force and meaning in every part of that prophecy, which in the darkest hour of our misfortune gave the first hope to the fallen source of our earthly origin, but especially in that part which says that the woman, « the second Eve, » the real « mother of the living, » should crush the serpent's very head; that is to say should bring to naught all the machinations his perverted intelligence could frame for the ruin of man. This certainly is best done by the force of that wisdom with which Mary, as the Church is never weary of telling us, is preëminently endowed. And this will be done for nations and individuals by the gift of Good Counsel so characteristic of the Virgin Mother of God, and which She is specially empowered to grant by the inscrutable and merciful designs of Him, Who wills, as many holy doctors distinctly teach, that all grace and salvation should come to us through Mary.

11. The writer, therefore, feels that by bringing devotion to the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel — a devotion which he knows to have effected much already in Italy — under the notice of his brethren who speak the English language, he will do a work beneficial to them, and, he humbly trusts, acceptable to Her, Whom he knows they love tenderly. She « loves them that love Her. » His own reward and he trusts the reward of many who may read this humble effort, and by it be disposed not only to love the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel, but also to extend devotion by means of Her beautiful Image and the Pious Union, will be — for our Mother in heaven cannot deceive us — that

PRIVATE USE ONLY

promised in the words « *Qui elucidant me vitam aeternam habebunt* » They who explain me shall have life everlasting.

12. In addition to the millions of Catholics who live in comparative spiritual security in faithful Ireland, and the millions of Catholics now in Great Britain, the writer has special reasons to think most of all of those other millions who leave Catholic homes for a life among strangers the majority of whom differ from them in religion, in distant lands such as America and the principal English speaking colonies. Twenty years experience in Australia has convinced him, that a greater and more constant devotion to Mary is now more than ever needed to keep the faith alive in themselves and in their children. They have to encounter all the perils which come from the infidel movements now supreme over the vital question of primary education in the United States, in Australia, and almost everywhere in English speaking countries. In England, and even in Ireland, a strong effort is being made to go with the universal current against religion upon this and other most important points.

Then in new countries more than in old ones, the tendency is very great to contract mixed marriages, to frequent dangerous associations and reunions, and to lose the ring and vigour of sound faith by concession to the prevailing spirit of a worldliness invariably anti-Catholic. The « fulness of bread » unaccompanied by the wholesome restraints of religion, proves perilous to the old and still more so to the young. So it happens that faith, even in cases where we should be least prepared to expect such a catastrophe, becomes de-

bilitated; and the sons and daughters of men — and even the very men themselves — who have suffered much for their faith become victims of infidel movements. They are sometimes found not only deprived of Catholicity, but in the very camp of its enemies. The consequences to themselves and to others here and hereafter can easily be imagined. Some cannot see this, because deprived of the spirit of Good Counsel. The wisdom of the fiend has in their case supplanted the wisdom of the Cross. A shriek of despair from a death-bed is often the only sign we receive of the knowledge of their loss. That shriek dies away without effect upon others. It is heard and forgotten. The folly continues, and thousands are lost to the Church and to heaven.

An infallible remedy for all these evils, the writer believes, would be found in such devotion as is practised amongst the clients of the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel. If families and individuals would adopt it, the spirit of wisdom from on high would reign. Souls otherwise likely to be ruined would be saved. Catholic principles would be preserved and strengthened; and the enemy of God and man would be deprived of his triumph, through Mary.

13. Moreover, this devotion is for all, one of particular help and consolation. Many, very many, will read with pleasure and thanksgiving such experience of Mary's assistance as that given in the seventeenth chapter of this work by Canon Bacci, a great apostle of the devotion to Our Lady of Good Counsel, in Rome. For all the wounds of the spirit, those who have devout recourse to Her, will, like him, find a certain, consolatory, and efficacious remedy. Never

PRIVATE USE ONLY

has it been known that sufferers from loss of friends or position, estate or honour, went to Mary's Shrine at Genazzano and returned unconsoled, unhelped, unsatisfied. The miracles of bodily health restored are numerous and continual. In chapter the thirteenth, in that on the Pious Union, and elsewhere throughout the work, it will be seen that this help is infallibly extended to those who faithfully practise devotion to Our Lady of Good Counsel at a distance, as well as to those favoured by the happy opportunity of visiting Her Sanctuary.

14. There is another important matter which the devotion has brought under the writer's notice and to which he refers. It is this.

While employed in the very grateful task of making the observations and researches necessary for the present work, he was, of course, obliged to mix much with the Italian people, and especially with those of the Pontifical States in which Latium lies. Seeking for health, he travelled over nearly every portion of the Pope's territory, and many parts of Italy besides. He met with the Italian people in every condition of life. He studied to ascertain their most intimate feelings and convictions, especially on two very interesting points. The first was with regard to religion, and the next with regard to the Pope, not only as spiritual chief but also as temporal sovereign. He found that upon both points the people were continually and shamefully misrepresented by almost every secular and Protestant English writer. He found that no people on this earth could be more devoted to their religion than the mass of the people of Italy;

and that they had kept their faith under trials well calculated to subvert it. And as to the temporal sovereignty of the Pope, he found that, so far from being opposed to it, the bulk of the people in the Roman States would gladly receive back the temporal government of their beloved Pontiff to-morrow. They have abundant reason, and they know it well. The new regime has brought upon them an intolerable burden of taxation. It brings the *leva* or conscription to desolate many a happy home. It gives liberty to sin, to desecrate the Sabbath, to insult religion and ruin morals; but it forges chains for the Church, for the ministers of the altar, and in a hundred ways harasses both the religion and the religious sentiments of the people. It makes continual efforts by means of hired mobs and newspaper correspondents, to blind public opinion in England and France, which — and not the Italian people as a whole — created united Italy. Therefore the stories from Rome about popular hatred for religion, and the sad episodes of insults to pilgrims, and outrages such as that which was offered to the remains of the late venerated Pontiff Pius IX.

15. The nature of the trials through which the Catholic people of Italy have passed in this generation is known to all. No people on this earth have experienced to a greater extent the dark, insidious, and long continued efforts of the infidel, secret-societies. But neither persecution nor seduction has been able to destroy or even to weaken their faith. So far as the great bulk of the population is concerned, that faith is to-day stronger and more fervent than ever. The writer believes this to be owing to their intense

PRIVATE USE ONLY

devotion to the Virgin Mother of God and to the GOOD COUNSEL which She in return, has obtained for them. He has given his reasons for this belief at length. The same devotion is powerful enough to save the rest of the world from the same dangers through which Italy has passed, and which not only threaten but assail Catholicity at this moment, in every English speaking country. To prove this — to excite devotion to the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel by showing Her power and goodness in the past — is the chief object of this work, the plan of which is arranged as follows.

The victory of the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel over Paganism, and over the foul worship of Venus especially, is treated of in the first three chapters, which contain a description of Latium and of the town of Genazzano. Her power over Mahomedanism, the most formidable of the opponents of the Church after Paganism, is shown in the following chapters which treat of the miraculous translation of Her sacred Image from Scutari to Her Shrine in Latium, and of Scanderbeg and Albania. The proofs of the wonderful apparition and translation, are critically examined in three chapters. Two chapters are then devoted to the legally authenticated miracles, — for those not so authenticated are innumerable, — wrought both in the Sanctuary and by means of copies of the sacred Image.

16. The writer would here call the reader's special attention to the first of these chapters (XII), where a miraculous cure witnessed by himself and many others, and afterwards duly attested by the Archpriest and by the official physician of the city

of Zagarolo. It was a case of incurable blindness combined with severe epilepsy which had brought the sufferer to the brink of the grave.

To show the value that Popes and illustrious persons, ecclesiastical and secular, have placed upon the devotion, and the zeal of those who may be called its apostles, the three following chapters have been written. And in these, the reader's attention is again specially directed to the letter of Canon Bacci (Chapter XVII.), where he speaks of the miraculous power of Our Lady of Good Counsel, manifested both in Her sacred Image of Genazzano and in copies of it in other places. The nature of popular devotion at the Sanctuary is treated at length in Chapter XV., where special prominence is given to the public pilgrimages made by people living at great distances. The spiritual treasures of the Shrine, the proper Mass and Office, the indulgences, plenary and partial, are treated in Chapters XIX. and XX. The Pious Union of Genazzano, a league which the devout clients of Mary established to preserve the remembrance of Her goodness, and the first member of which was the celebrated Pontiff Benedict the XIV., is described in Chapter XXI. The fortunes of the church in which the holy Chapel is found are given in Chapter XXII. Chapter XXIII. is devoted to a description of the religious condition of the Italian people and of the means they employ to honour Our Lady. And finally, in Chapter XXIV. a popular explanation is given of the Catholic doctrine of the worship and invocation of Mary, for the benefit of Protestants especially.

17. A few chapters have been added on some mat-

PRIVATE USE ONLY

ters of particular interest connected with the Sanctuary. The first is upon a miraculous fresco of the Crucifixion, which bled on being struck by an enraged soldier in the reign of Paul III. The second is upon the venerable convent of San Pio, occupying the site of the ancient Imperial or Antonine Villa near Genazzano, and which, after having been taken from the Conventual Franciscans by the revolutionary Government, was regained for religion under remarkable circumstances by the zeal and good fortune of the Very Reverend P. J. Glynn, Prior of the Irish Augustinian Convent in Rome. He wished, in addition to the blessings of a Roman education for the members of his Order, to train them at the feet of the Miraculous Image of the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel. The value of a Roman education for ecclesiastics has appeared to the writer to be so great, that he has written the next chapter upon it. And finally, as he composed this work chiefly in the beautiful convent of the Irish Augustinians, overlooking the Sanctuary of Mary, he has closed by a chapter upon that remarkable division of the sons of Saint Augustine who battled so nobly for Irish faith in the dark days of persecution.

18. It is almost needless to say that in writing such a book as this, the author had to make the freest use of the labours of those who had gone before him. He is indebted for valuable documents to the now rare work of De Orgio, published in the last century at the instance of Canon Bacci<sup>1</sup>. He has

---

<sup>1</sup> «Istoriche notizie della prodigiosa apparizione dell'immagine di Maria Santissima del Buon Consiglio nella chiesa-

availed himself of the historical memoirs of the learned Archpriest Senni, but with such allowance for the *amor patriae* of a foremost citizen of Genazzano as circumstances required<sup>1</sup>. It will be seen that he has quoted here and there from the excellent work of the accomplished and erudite Luigi Vannutelli, who held the position of Notary under the Pontifical government<sup>2</sup>. The work of Father Buonanno of the Neapolitan Oratory is perhaps the largest that has yet appeared on the Madonna of Genazzano in Italy<sup>3</sup>. It has been of considerable help to the writer. That of Father Belgrano is large but mostly of a devotional cast<sup>4</sup>. He has used it also. He has besides consulted the works of Coriolanus and of the Archaeologists Caetano and Calisto Marini<sup>5</sup>; and veri-

*dei Padri Agostiniani di Genazzano, opera del P. M. Fr. Angelo M. De Orgio dello stesso Istituto, consagrata alla grande Imperatrice de' Cieli, con una succinta narrazione del portentoso Crocifisso che si adora nella medesima chiesa.»*

<sup>1</sup> «Memorie di Genazzano e dei vicini paesi, dell' arciprete Girolamo Senni.»

<sup>2</sup> «Cenni storici sul Santuario di Maria Santissima del Buon Consiglio di Genazzano. Roma 1839.»

<sup>3</sup> «Della immagine di Maria Santissima del Buon Consiglio che si venera in Genazzano, memorie storiche per Rafaele Buonanno prete dell' Oratorio napoletano.» Napoli 1880.

<sup>4</sup> «La Madre del Buon Consiglio, manuale di letture e di preghiere per i divoti di Maria Santissima del Buon Consiglio, la cui prodigiosa immagine si venera in Genazzano nella chiesa dei religiosi Agostiniani, compilato dal P. M. Pietro Belgrano agostiniano.» Roma 1880.

<sup>5</sup> «Esame critico di alcuni monumenti spettanti all'apparizione della Madonna del Buon Consiglio, fatto d'ordine della Sacra Congregazione de'Riti dai Custodi degli archivi secreti Pontificii.» 1779.

fied in most instances such extracts from rare and learned works, as were given by previous writers. The documents relative to Scutari, he obtained in the archives of the convent at Genazzano. Some of these have never before appeared in print, even in any Italian treatise on the Sanctuary. In cases where original documents appear for the first time, the original is given as well as the translation. The translations, in order to preserve their value as evidence, have, in nearly every instance, been given literally.

As the work may be required for reference, he has further attempted an innovation on the custom of English writers. He has not only divided the book into chapters, but the chapters into sections; and he has numbered these sections according to the custom of many Italian authors. This has been suggested to him by the venerable and saintly Rector of the Irish College of St. Agatha in Rome, the Right Rev. Monsgr. Kirby, Bishop of Lita, who has taken the greatest interest in the work and encouraged the writer by every means in his power. His Lordship is a zealous member of the Pious Union, and most devoted to the Madonna of Good Counsel. He has venerated Her beautiful Image at the Shrine in Genazzano, and, in order to extend a devotion he loves so much, endeavours to influence the many Prelates and other distinguished personages he meets with in Rome to follow his example. He well knows the graces that will surely follow, for the benefit of themselves and of their people.

Here, the writer desires to return his thanks to him and to the very many other friends in Rome,

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

who have given with much courtesy and zeal all the assistance in their power. In this way he is under special obligations to his Eminence Cardinal Martinnelli, Prefect of the Index; to his brother Dr. Martinnelli, Regent of Studies of the Irish Augustinians in Rome, and Postulator for the causes of the saints of the Augustinian Order and for the saints of Ireland; to the Most Rev. Doctor Neno, Commissary General of the Augustinian Order; to Father Lanteri its learned historian; to the Very Rev. Prior and community of Posterula; to the Very Rev. Prior and community of Santa Maria in Genazzano, the Guardians of the Sanctuary; and specially to the venerable Father Berio, the Sub-Prior and oldest of the Fathers in that Convent, who has been indefatigable in providing documents and every other information; to the Very Rev. Father Pifferi Sub-Sacristan to His Holiness at the Vatican; to the Very Rev. Father Belgrano, Chaplain to the Dowager Empress of Austria at Prague, who has sent most valuable, and hitherto unpublished information to the writer; to Mgr. Carbery, Bishop of Hamilton, late Assistant General of the Dominicans; to the Very Rev. Dr. Walsh, President of St. Patrick's College Maynooth, Ireland, who this year visited the Sanctuary during the festival of the Wonderful Apparition, and, in consequence of what he there witnessed, took as deep an interest as the writer in this, the first work in English which treats at any length of the devotion; to Mgr. Crane, Bishop of Sandhurst, Victoria, an old and most devoted client of Our Lady of Good Counsel, whose earnest desire to spread the devotion in Australia,

PRIVATE USE ONLY

is the chief reason why this work appears at all; to the Very Rev. Don Filippo Vannutelli, Vicar Forane at Genazzano; to the Advocate Cavaliere Manzella; to the Very Rev. Father Carey O. S. F. Guardian, of St. Isidore's; to the Very Rev. Father O'Callaghan O. P. Prior of San Clemente, and to all who have kindly given information or other assistance during the progress of the work.

Lastly, the writer has to ask the reader's indulgence for errors unavoidable in a work put in type by compositors unacquainted with the language in which it is written. The proof sheets, moreover, had to be corrected by the author himself at a distance from Rome, and sometimes while travelling through Italy and France. It was therefore morally impossible that some errors should not remain through oversight on his part. These, however, he hopes will be found to be comparatively few and unimportant; and of these few, the greater number are noticed in the list of errata at the end of the volume. That errors should appear at all, must be his own fault, for notwithstanding the difficulties of a strange language, nothing has been left undone by the Cavaliere Melandri, the able director of the extensive *Stamperia* of the Sacred Congregation of the Propaganda and his efficient staff, to bring out the work as perfect as possible. For this the writer is indebted to His Eminence Cardinal Simeoni, the Prefect of that Sacred Congregation, who with great kindness has given him every facility for the completion of the work in the magnificent Catholic institution over which His Eminence presides.

## Chapter II.

### LATIUM

1. Its original inhabitants. — 2. Rome formed and ruled by them. —
3. Physical features, mountains, cities, memories connected with the country. — 4. General beauty of the scenery — Dreariness of the Campagna. — 5. Malaria of the Campagna — Calumny on the Pontifical Government — Real cause. — 6. The Revolutionists promise much and perform little. — 7. Hope comes from Australia and the persecuted monks of Italy.— 8. Beauty of the rest of Latium — The way to see it. — 9. Habit of the agricultural population to live in towns. —
10. The reason. — 11. Ruins in Latium. — 12. Its capital, Palestrina — Injustice of a guide-book writer to its modern inhabitants.—
13. The ancient city — Its fortunes. — 14. Palestrina Christian — First view of Rome taken by St. Peter from its citadel.— 15. Dome of St. Peter's. — 16. Latium a Christian Land.

1. There is not in Europe, nor, if we except Palestine, in the world, a locality more full of interest for the scholar, the antiquary, and the Christian, than that little tract of country which lies between the Tiber and the Volscian mountains, and is bounded by the Sabine Ranges and the sea. From time immemorial it was called Latium. It would little serve our present purpose to inquire into the origin of its primitive population. That they were not Etruscans, as some state, that they were of a more

PRIVATE USE ONLY

intellectual and aesthetic build, though not of a less practical nature than the Etruscans, is now fairly established. But whether they came from Greece or from the other side of the Hellespont, whether *Aeneas* found there a population upon his arrival, or whether he and his Trojans ever went there at all, are questions which to use Lord Macaulay's celebrated phrase, are likely to remain « lost in the twilight of fable. »

2. One thing alone is certain. The country was already well inhabited : It had its Kings and its wars and its politics, when upon a cluster of green hills about midway on its river boundary, there arose a city, which gradually but surely advanced in strength, until by a rare blending of policy and force it made itself supreme over the rival factions of Latium. It then spread its dominion over all the states of Italy ; and finally, never ceased to advance in its conquering career, until the world as known to the ancients, submitted with a docility as perfect as that of its own inhabitants, to the omnipotence of its sway. That city was Rome. And it is the glory of the little territory we speak of, that whatever may have been the splendour and the power reached by Rome's citizens, it is beyond doubt that for the most part they were formed of the tribes, Albans, Volscians, or Sabines, as they may have been, who blended with the Latins proper, and formed the little province to which Latium gave its name.

We may, perhaps, admit the Ernici at the other side of the narrow Sacco to a share in this distinction. With this addition, the country continued to be, and still remains, the peculiar territory, the nursery of

Rome, the recruiting ground of her master-spirits. For, not only did the Sabines give the first mothers to the young colony of Romulus, but the Imperial City has never ceased to welcome a ruler born within the borders described, from the days that saw Numa Pompilius called from Sabina to be its second king, until our own days, when the most real and extended dominion Rome ever possessed, is governed by the Supreme Pontiff Leo XIII., born at Carpineto in the country of the Ernici, near the opposite Volselian heights<sup>1</sup>.

---

<sup>1</sup> Carpineto, the birth place of Leo XIII, is now an object of considerable interest to the Catholic tourist. Its situation is one of the most beautiful and romantic that could be imagined. It nestles, so to speak, in a slight depression between two lofty peaks of the Lepine or Volselian ranges and is itself, considerably elevated. It lies about 15 miles from the railway station at Segni, where a diligence meets the morning train from Rome. The drive is a most interesting one. The road passes first by Gavignano, then winds round the base of the mountain of Segni, and finally sweeps through a defile of several miles by the side of a mountain torrent, the bed of which is remarkable for the fine quality of its limestone rocks. About four miles from Carpineto, Montelanico, a good substantial looking town, is passed through. Then, an excellent road ascends the steep and gradually narrowing defile to the Pope's native city. About a mile from it, the visitor is struck by the appearance of a chateau of the French character amidst a grove of ancient chestnuts, and well situated on a large platform of good land, which rises in the midst of the depression between the mountains. This is the villeggiatura of the Counts Pecci, whose palace is in the city above. As you enter the town, one of the most remarkable structures of the place challenges attention. It is in every sense modern, very wide and deep, and some six stories in height. It would suit for some colossal hotel; and one is apt to think, it is being erected by some speculator to accommodate summer visitors of the better class, who may choose to select

PRIVATE USE ONLY

3. Three noble masses of mountains rise from the general level of this territory. In the centre, facing Rome on the North, are the Alban Hills, those

---

the cool, bracing air and romantic scenery of those mountains for the sake of health. But it is for a better purpose. It is the school-house just erected by the Pope for the children of Carpineto. It is meant to accommodate a number of religious ladies destined to conduct in the vast establishment, first a pension, then a high-school, and finally a day-school for all the infants and female children of every age in the neighbourhood. On a height opposite the town and not far from these schools, is an extensive Franciscan monastery. Workmen are employed making improvements in one of its wings. Possibly a seminary, or a school for boys, or both may be formed here. The poor friars after being turned out by the Revolutionists, were reinstated by the charity of the Holy Father who bought their property for them and is repairing it at his own expense. In the town, the Palace of the Counts Pecci is the principal object of interest. Adjoining this is a large and excellent parish church solidly and sensibly built. At one side it has appartments for the clergy, and at the other there is accommodation given for the inmates of the palace to attend the services of the sacred edifice. One is pleased to hear that this fine building has taken the place of an old, ruined parish church, and that it now gives ample room to some two or three thousand persons. Through the courtesy of the gentleman in charge of the palace of Count Pecci who was absent, the writer was shown through the now interesting building, in which Leo XIII. was born on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March 1810. It is a fine old specimen of the Italian palazzo, large and well kept. It is splendidly situated on the loftiest plateau of Carpineto. From it, grand views of the country may be obtained. It contains several fine rooms covered with antique tapestry. But the visitor is most struck by the family portraits which are numerous. The most remarkable amongst them are those of the parents of the Pope. His father, who when his likeness was taken, must have been a singularly handsome man of about thirty years of age, appears in the uniform of a French colonel of the period of Napoleon the First. The reason is, probably, because Napo-

long silent volcanoes whose craters are now filled with the beautiful, still waters of the lakes of Albano and Nemi, and whose lava forms the pozzolana and tufo employed in all the buildings of Rome, and whose soft but withal adhesive nature has made the excavation of the catacombs possible. On each side of these isolated hills, arise the Volscian and the Sabine Ranges. The former facing the sea, roll on towards Gaeta; and the latter sweep off in splendid file until they blend with the distant Apennines.

4. All this expanse of country may be seen on a clear day from the Tiber's bank outside Rome, or better, from the dome of St. Peter's. Thrilling memories of the past are connected with almost every spot of it. Taking a central stand, say, on the summit of Mount Artimisio, a hundred scenes of world-wide celebrity at once come under view.

---

leon forced the young nobles of Italy into his military service during the many years his influence lasted over the country. The mother of the Pope, however, is perhaps the most remarkable figure. She was a native of the ancient Cori, and it is probably through her, that a part of the property of the family of the Counts Pecci is found there. Her features bear a strong resemblance to both her living children, the Pope and Cardinal Pecci. The traditions of the place represent her exactly as we should expect the mother of Leo XIII. to have been, a lady of great goodness and piety with more than an ordinary share of mental endowments. A fine, soft toned, life-sized figure of the Pope seated, has been added to the group of family likenesses, many of whom have been high dignitaries in the Church. Carpineto though very close to the episcopal see of Segni, belongs to Anagni. Leo XIII. is the last of five Popes, all great men in their time, which this latter diocese has given to the Chair of St. Peter. He is now in his seventy fourth year, being two years younger than his brother, the Cardinal.

PRIVATE USE ONLY

In Velletri at your feet, Augustus, the first Roman Emperor was born. Near it is Civita Lavinia, the ancient Lanuvium, the site of the great temple of Juno, the birthplace of Milo, of Antoninus Pius, of Marcus Aurelius, of Commodus, and in more modern times, of Mark Antony Colonna, the hero of Lepanto. Far in the opposite direction is seen Anagni, the ancient capital of the Ernici, which gave to the Christian world four Popes, amongst whom towers the majestic figure of Innocent the Third. Between these two points, the eye passes over Cori, Segni, Sacro Porto, the valley of the Sacco — the Latin valley,— Artena, and other places famous in the early warfare of the Latin tribes. In front, the long sea coast is visible, from the Circaean Promontory still protecting Antium, at present *Porto d'Anzio*, from the miasma of the Pontine Marshes, to Ostia at the Tiber's mouth. Dotting the dark bosom of the hills beneath are seen Genzano, Ariccia, Albano, Castel Gandolfo, Frascati, and other celebrated suburban retreats of the Rome of to-day as well as of the Rome of antiquity.

Turning to the Sabines, Palestrina, the ancient Praeneste, is seen standing out upon the mid-declivity of its mountain. Near it are Zagarolo, Gallicano, and then a wide plain encircling the hills which run towards Tivoli. Higher up than even Artemisio, is the summit of the Alban range, Monte Cavo, where stood that great altar of Jupiter to which all Latium yearly repaired for sacrifice and prayer. A monastery in the keeping of the Passionist Fathers now takes the place of the Pagan temple and altar. It was built, strange to say, by the Cardinal of York the

last of the Stuart Princes, who had much love for the fine scenery of these hills upon which his bish-  
opric was situated.

5. The memories connected with almost every mile of this territory make it one of the most interesting in the world. But there is much more to be said of it. There is not on the earth, a country of the same extent more beautiful to look upon.

The traveller leaving Rome does not at first realize this. The flat Campagna which expands before him on leaving any of the southern gates of the city, looks dreary and uninviting enough when not diversified by some interesting ruin. This dreariness becomes all the more intense, when the imagination travels back to the period when the vast plain bloomed like a garden under the assiduous care of the husbandman.

6. Amongst other calumnies so common in English speaking countries against the Papal Government, it is accredited with the miasma and consequent desolate appearance of this Campagna. Nothing could be more unjust. Long before the period of the Empire, the wealth of Roman patricians and people had bought out the industrious agriculturists, whose farms over-spread the vast plain. Villas with a wide expanse of grass land, upon which slaves tended the flocks and herds belonging to their masters, took the place of the vineyards and grain-plots of a teeming population. The chestnut, the green-oak, the almond, the olive, the walnut, the alder, and the various fruit trees of the small proprietor, which now make so many portions of the cultivated districts beautiful,

PRIVATE USE ONLY

then diversified the Campagna. They were removed. The plough and the spade no longer pulverized the soil. Crops and trees ceased to drain it. The vast pasturages filled the city with prime meat and made the best return to the great capitalist, but they could not absorb the rainfall. That either percolated through fissures between the layers of pozzolana and tufo beneath and corrupted there; or it remained upon the surface to nourish the poisonous alga, the putrefying animalculae of which are supposed by some scientists to be the most fruitful source of malaria. From both causes probably, the poisonous exhalation arises as it has arisen for two thousand years, at the bidding of the fierce Summer sun each day, again to descend at night in fever-giving vapour.

That dread malaria came thus upon the plain and hung heavily too over the city. And remedy there was none. Augustus with all his desire to free Rome from this bad air, its worst enemy, could do nothing. Other emperors emulated his example, but in vain. Pope after Pope essayed to cure the evil with as little success. Pius VI. drained the Pontine Marshes, but even he could not purify the air of the Campagna.

Just as the Revolutionists were about to take the Papal dominions, the world was assured, that amongst the multitude of good things that were to take place the moment they had control over Rome, the drainage and purification of the infected soil about the city, was to be the first. They have now had twelve years of opportunity, vast resources, the confiscated estates of ecclesiastical corporations in the Campagna itself, but notwithstanding this and after such loud

promising, they have effected, indeed they have attempted, nothing. Immense sums went into the national exchequer from the sale of the property of helpless monks and nuns. No conditions were made with the purchasers. No attempt has been made at drainage. No governmental efforts have been made to plant the Eucalyptus. A small reward offered to proprietors for doing so, is all we have heard of as having been effected by the grasping « liberators of Italy. »

7. The only hope for the salubrity of Rome comes, the writer is happy to say, from Australia.

A company of those poor monks whom the present Italian government are so sedulously employed in exterminating, have been devoted enough to brave the polluted air of the worst part of the Campagna<sup>1</sup>. They have essayed to plant on the long

---

<sup>1</sup> This is at the ancient and celebrated abbey of the Three Fountains « *Tre Fontane* » at the Salvian Waters — *Aquae Salviae* — about a mile beyond the great basilica of San Paolo. One of the churches of the monastery covers the precise spot where the Apostle of the Gentiles was decapitated. Tradition has it, that Nero was present at the execution for a reason of vengeance. The head, upon being severed from the body, made three bounds; and at each bound, as it struck the earth, a fountain of water gushed forth. These three fountains are very close to each other. They have continued to flow ever since. In the sacred edifice which the piety of the faithful placed over them, is also preserved the column upon which the head of the Apostle lay whilst being severed from his body. It is stated by some writers, that milk instead of blood issued from the opened veins. The same locality, which seems to have been a usual place for public executions, was the scene of the martyrdom of St. Zeuo and his companions, to the number of ten thousand, under Diocletian and Maximin. These martyrs were all soldiers. When the tyrants wished to purge the army of Chris-

poisoned soil the Australian Eucalyptus, which has done so much to purify the infected marshes of Algeria, Egypt, and India. And, so far, their experiment has

tians, they and their commander were found steadfast professors of the hated religion. They were first condemned to labour at the baths of Diocletian, and, at the completion of that immense work, were put to death, lest their numbers and bravery might prove dangerous. A church dedicated to Our Lady arose over their remains; and in it St. Bernard, in after ages, had, while celebrating mass, his celebrated vision of souls liberated from purgatory during the holy sacrifice. From the earliest times, the Christians had the deepest devotion for the locality. Notwithstanding its always unhealthy situation, a community of priests celebrated there, night and day, the divine offices. St. Gregory the Great, in 604, gave all the surrounding territory to the Basilica of St. Paul, built where the body of the Apostle lay, and adjoining which, the zealous Pontiff established a community of Benedictine monks. In 626, Honorius I. founded at the Three Fountains a monastery which he dedicated to Sts. Vincent and Anastasius. Greek monks served the basilica of St. Anastasius from 649, when many came from the East to Rome to escape the persecution of the Monothelites. In 1114, Pope Innocent II. withdrew the Benedictines who held the abbey of the Three Fountains for many centuries; and gave over the whole of the churches and the monastery to his friend St. Bernard, for the Cistercians. The first colony which left Clairveaux for this new foundation, had at its head, as abbot, Peter Bernard di Paganelli, who, strange to say, succeeded to the Papacy five years afterwards as Eugenius III. It was on the occasion of the elevation of this son of his, to the highest, but by him, most dreaded dignity, that St. Bernard wrote his celebrated work on « Consideration ». It is worthy of remark, that Eugenius had abandoned high Church preferment, some years before, for the security and peace of the rigid rule of Citeaux. The monastery remained in the hands of the Cistercians until the suppression of religious houses under Napoleon I. It was, many years after, confided, so as not to fall utterly to decay, to the Franciscans, by Leo XII. Pius IX., however, recalled the French Cistercians, and then commenced at once, the work of endeavouring to make the

3

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

succeeded. The far-reaching roots of the Eucalyptus act as a pump upon the water, held in suspense between the varied strata beneath the surface, while

---

place healthy enough to live in, all the year round. In old times, the monks always left the monastery in the middle of the June of each year, and did not return until some time in September. Death from pernicious fever was sure to be the penalty of those who remained to inhale the poisonous air of Summer. However, this new band of Cistercians determined to brave all hazards. In the time of Pius IX., Monsgr. De Merode did much by excavating drains, to render the locality in some degree habitable. On the coming of the Revolutionists, the good monks were permitted, but simply as a company of French agriculturists, to get a recognition from the state, and to become the masters of about 2000 acres of land, principally the confiscated property of some poor nuns in Rome. They also obtained, for payment, the assistance of convict labour. At once, they set about planting the « redgum » and other varieties of the Eucalyptus; and, up to the present, many thousand of these invaluable trees are vigorously growing upon the beautiful, gentle hills and rich, luxuriant soil which no one would suspect as being possessed by the fatal malaria. Scores of acres on the estate are being covered with vines, and are producing wine of excellent quality. The Eucalyptus in the vicinity has favoured the formation of the vineyards, and the vines in turn help to destroy the malaria of Summer. We may remark that the vine-leaves possess an absorbing and respiratory power little inferior to the Eucalyptus. In consequence, the health of the locality is so much improved, that a large community is able to stay there during the hot season. Pernicious, malignant, or fatal fever is already banished. The prisoners enjoy excellent health. They deem it a favour to be sent under the kind and gentle treatment of the good monks. Attempts at escape are unknown. Lately, some convicts brought home a sick guard, arms and all. Many postulants seek admission into the monastery. Consequently, the community, whose grand chants arise once more in the fine old choir of the Cistercians of the most fervent ages, is increasing. The very first of these postulants, Father Joseph Mary, is at present Abbot. He is a native of North Italy. Under his enlightened and able management,

PRIVATE USE ONLY

its leaves deodorize the air above, filling the atmosphere with pungent fragrance. The vine and the fig tree, and ground crops of every kind, come to

---

not only are the religious healthy and happy, but by his intelligent care in the cultivation and drainage of the soil, and above all, by his scientific propagation of the Eucalyptus, he has taught the powers that be, in Italy, how to cure the long existing and fatal malaria of the rich Roman Campagna. Pius the Ninth, and his minister, Monsgr. De Merode, would, most assuredly, have extended the valuable discovery they made at the Tre Fontane to the rest of the Campagna. Unfortunately, however, they had but commenced operations, when they were driven from the power of doing this and many other beneficent works, by the present secular government. This latter, after twelve years of opportunity, and with the successful experience of the monks before its eyes, has attempted nothing. One senator has forced Parliament to grant some small allowance to proprietors who may desire to plant the Eucalyptus in the Campagna. A number of scientific men sit occasionally together at the Tre Fontane. Millions have passed into the national exchequer from the sale of the property of the religious corporations in the Campagna itself. Many unnecessary millions are being borrowed, to keep the uneasy element brought by the Revolution to Rome, quiet by employment. The same money laid out upon the Campagna would make the city healthy, and be remunerative besides. It would make the Agro Romano, instead of being a plague in Summer, bloom as a garden. The policy, however, that prevails, seems to be, to draw all that can be got out of the Pope's dominions, to overload his city with a crushing debt, and when he comes by his own again—as none know better than his enemies, that some day he must—he will have to cure, from his diminished resources, the malaria of the Campagna. It was a Pope who drained the Pontine Marshes, it was a Pope that commenced the work of draining, and planting the Eucalyptus at the Tre Fontane, and a Pope too, notwithstanding the great things we hear of about being commenced, will be left, most likely, to extend the beneficent provisions inaugurated by Pius IX. to all the pestilential country in the neighbourhood of Rome.

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

flourish in the neighbourhood of this inestimable tree. They help its work of desiccation of the soil. So it happens, that already, criminals hired from the government by the monks, enjoy good health. Fevers of the malignant type are unknown; and as these pages are being written, the journals of Rome are full of hope that the long deserted « *Agro Romano* » will again bloom as it did in the days of the Horatii and Curatii.

If so, it will be but one of the many blessings which Australia has conferred on the old world; and some return to that Eternal City, to which, in common with America and the rest of the world, the newest of continents, owes its faith.

8. But the moment the flat fringe of the Campagna is crossed, the beauty of Latium opens with a thousand charms of valley and undulating plain, of glen and highland, of sweeping lowland and lofty, diversified mountain range.

The traveller who journeys by rail meets only a portion of this scenic beauty. The old carriage ways are the best to give a proper idea of the country.

The railway, after leaving the Campagna, skirts the Western extremity of the Alban mountains, then the Eastern fringe of the Volscians; and so passes to the country of the Ernici on its way to Naples.

But besides the rapidity and the inconvenience for sight seeing, inseparable from railway travelling, many interesting localities are not seen at all upon this route. The heart of Latium may be reached by any of the famous old ways, which still leave the Porta Maggiore directly, or the Porta San Giovanni

PRIVATE USE ONLY

by way of Frascati, to Palestrina. By either way you approach that city through a land of indescribable luxuriance. The rich soil appears everywhere kept in the highest state of cultivation. The macadamized road which takes the place of the old Roman one still visible, passes sometimes between stately rows of venerable chestnuts. Generally the view is unimpeded. Only a slight hedge protects the vineyards and orchards on either side. The land is too precious to be occupied with walls or heavy fences, and it is to be supposed the inhabitants are too honest to need them.

The scene changes continually. Now and then the traveller passes through lofty, romantic ravines, cut out ages ago by the torrents from the mountains, and clothed so as to completely exclude all sight of rock or soil, with a thick mantle of dark, green foliage. This is often observed on the roads leading to Cori and Valmontone. Ancient chestnuts too, line the ways to Lugnano and to the railway station of Segni, near which stood the celebrated Porto Sacro where Sylla gave the death blow to the party of Marius.

9. In all this expanse of cultivated ground, there are, strange to say, few dwellings, and these few not always inhabited. There are no farm houses in the open country, such as we see in English speaking countries. The owner and the labourer alike live in towns invariably built upon some commanding eminence, often on a height very difficult of access. Thence the cultivator descends at daybreak and returns not until sunset warns him, as it has warned his fathers since Latium became inhabited, that his

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

day's toil is over. The necessity for self-defence both in pagan and medieval times, made this course the only one; and security is not as yet so great as to warrant the rejection of an old system which, with many draw-backs, has much to recommend it. For thus, a large space is spared for cultivation in a country where every foot of soil has its value, mutual protection is afforded, and families are gathered around church and school.

10. It is evident that from the beginning, every city and village of Latium was erected with the main view that it should serve as a fortress. To this day, in many instances, the Cyclopean walls which protected the most ancient inhabitants, the masonry of the days of the Republic, the brickwork, reticulated and plain, of the period of the Empire, underlie the medieval ramparts and bastions which withstood and yielded to many a foe in the interminable struggles of the Colonnes, the great lords of Latium, with their baronial enemies, and not unfrequently with the hosts of their Sovereign Lord, the Pope. For this reason the ruined defences of Segni, Cori, and Palestrina, are well worthy of the attention of the tourist, while their streets and environs are full of historic recollections.

11. The ruins of ancient temples, palaces, and fortresses are found in strange abundance everywhere. The modern Palestrina stands on the extensive site of the vast temple once dedicated to Fortune which still displays its massive substructions for the examination of the antiquary. Around it on every side are interesting ruins from which art treasures of

PRIVATE USE ONLY

great value are continually being collected. Amongst these may be mentioned the magnificent mosaic representing the Nile, now preserved in the palace of Prince Barberini. Other temples still more ancient yet send their columns high in air like that of Hercules at Cori, and with a grace not inferior to those of the famous temple of the Sybil in Tivoli. And here and there over the plains, the shattered turrets of medieval watch-towers tell of troubled times not so long passed away.

Scenes of great beauty may now be viewed from a hundred points easy of access through this delightful region. Painters, amateur and professional flock to Olevano to luxuriate in the splendid panorama, and to catch the ever varying tints which float over mountain and plain, as seen from that point of vantage. Segni is sought after to command the bold, broken lines of the Sabines, the rich variegated valley of the Sacco, and the country of the Ernici, bristling with its fortress towns, like some great city which throws up from its irregular mass of roofs the domes and spires of churches.

12. But perhaps to the unprofessional tourist, the best view of Latium is from Palestrina itself, where also the historic interest is strongest. The compilers of guide-books fall into rapture upon the varied magnificence which is here presented to the gaze of the tourist, and which increases and becomes diversified at almost every step of the ascent from the city to the site of its lofty citadel. We cannot say that some at least of these writers are as complimentary to the modern inhabitants as they might

be. One gentleman has recorded an experience which is very difficult for those who know the people intimately to realize, and which makes one suspect that his imagination was unusually active on the day of his visit to the native city of Pierluigi the Composer, and of so many other distinguished men of modern times. His description of the savageness, voracity, and uncouth barbarity which he alleges to have been manifested by those he met with, is such as to cause astonishment to persons who, like the writer of this notice, have had occasion to visit the locality frequently. It is the chosen home, because of its healthy situation and its ancient and modern attractions, of many foreigners including some distinguished Englishmen. It contains the villeggiatura of Prince Barberini<sup>1</sup>, of the Cardinal Bishop, and of several families of note. Its inhabitants are, as a rule, as much above want as those of any other European town of its size. They are also just as much to be trusted. They may, like other people, if excited with wine, quarrel amongst themselves. But neither there nor elsewhere in Latium, is there any record of a foreigner having been molested by them. If the writer referred to, however, has been unjust to the inhabitants, he has given an excellent idea of the scenery. The rich plain, the Campagna beyond, the lofty ranges around, the sea blending with the horizon in the distance, in fine, all that can be seen from the summit of the mountain of Palestrina, are well and amply described in his book.

13. But, as will be seen in the next chapter, it is the ancient city that most concerns the object of

PRIVATE USE ONLY

this work. It was amongst the oldest, if not the very oldest, of the cities of Italy. It saw the rise and the fall of Alba Longa and of Veii. It was already venerable when oxen were depastured on the hills of Rome. Like all other ancient cities it was proud of its high antiquity, and held with great tenacity to its traditions, religious and national. It became the recognized capital of Latium. It never yielded its religious superiority. That continued while paganism had vitality. It could not brook even the secular superiority of Rome. It became the centre of the Latin League against the Republic, and led in every effort which the rest of Italy made against the growing fortunes of the Mistress of the World. It saw with a jealous eye the outspreading limits of its rival or rather offspring as Rome may be called. From the ramparts of its lofty citadel, its defenders could see the Capitol piercing the haze by the distant river bank. They believed themselves equal at least to preserve the freedom of their city from its power. When the hour of conflict came, therefore, Palestrina, confident in its mighty walls and in the chivalry of its ancient race, hurled defiance at its ambitious offspring. It held with stubborn determination to its freedom for many a year. But at length it had to submit. Up its terraced heights came the heroes of Camillus. Over those Cyclopean walls which are yet so strong, they passed on even to the almost inaccessible citadel on the lofty summit of the mountain upon the declivity of which the city stood and still stands. Citadel and city fell together and with them may be said to have passed away the last vestige

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

of Latin insubordination to Rome. So fell what a Latin historian of our own day lovingly calls the Lady of Latium — Signora del Latio — but only to rise all the grander with the advancing fortunes of the Empire to which Latium gave birth.

Palestrina afterwards became great enough to lead in the Social Wars, and to sustain against Sylla the fallen fortunes of Marius. Terribly her sons suffered for their fidelity. Sylla took the city and put to the sword all the adult male inhabitants. He parcelled out their lands to his veterans, to whose mercy he further consigned the widows and orphans of the slain.

These were sad days for Latium. But when the fortunes of Caesar enabled him to crush for ever the power of the patricians, the children of the slaughtered men of Palestrina entered into a favour which became intensified when Augustus, one it may be said of themselves, became absolute master of the Empire. He embellished Palestrina anew, and settled its children upon the soil.

14. Thenceforward it continued to prosper. It was amongst the first of the cities of Italy to receive the Gospel. Tradition has it, that from the summit of its mountain, where the church and village of Castel San Pietro now stand, the Prince of the Apostles took his first view of Rome, then a mighty city stretching far over the plain and in the fulness of its pride and power. Little could those who might have then seen that wayworn traveller from distant Judea, have imagined that the city he looked upon was given to him and to his successors by a power

PRIVATE USE ONLY

which no Caesar could gainsay. Yet in time, his line made Rome more mighty in real greatness than ever it had been under King or Consul or Emperor. The name of that Fisherman from Galilee is its glory, the fountain of its power. The spot where he stood and viewed his inheritance is called after him. A beautiful church containing his statue and a valuable painting of the reception of his commission from God Incarnate, graces the locality.

15. From no other point can a better idea be obtained of the vastness of the dome of that glorious fabric, which « of temples old, or altars new, stands alone with none like to it, » and dedicated by a world to the one true God, under the invocation of the Prince of the Apostles. The distance — over twenty miles — dwarfs all the other towers and domes of Rome. The city seems like an incrustation of shells upon some low-lying sea rock. But from its cloudy midst arises, graceful, majestic, and peerless the mighty conception of Michael Angelo, realizing to the full his promise to « suspend the Pantheon in the air. »

16. In Latium there is also a number of modern towns and villages which have an interesting Christian history<sup>1</sup>. But it is essentially an ancient land.

---

<sup>1</sup> Amongst these may be mentioned Valmontone, on the line of railway between Rome and Naples, and Paliano, a remarkable fortress of the feudal period. Valmontone contests with the village of Colonna, the honour of being the site of the ancient Labicum. It contains a magnificent church and a fine palace belonging to the Doria-Pamfili family, the owners of the adjacent territory.

Paliano is in many ways remarkable. Its situation as a

Its inhabitants, whose features are often so like the antique Roman busts seen in museums, love old ways, and seem not to care much to be abreast of modern

---

stronghold could not be surpassed. Built on a steep, detached eminence, just at the entrance of the country of the Ernici, it commanded the surrounding country for miles, while its own fortifications were so constructed; that it could defy any siege in the middle ages, and might be even now considered a position of immense strength. The massive ramparts and bastions which still encircle the town are well worth the inspection of the tourist. Within the walls is a fine old palace of the Colonnas, adjoining which is the parish church. The latter is large and splendidly built. It is served by an archpriest and a number of canons, who owe their benefices to the munificence of the feudal lords. Monuments to leading members of the Colonna family fill the choir, and their bodies rest in the vaults beneath. Amongst the monuments, is one to Marc Antonio Colonna I., and another to Marc Antonio II. Paliano changed hands frequently. It belonged to the Conti, the Colonnas, the Caraffas, and finally to the Colonnas again. It produced many eminent men, amongst whom may be mentioned Cardinal John Simeoni, late Secretary of State to his Holiness Pius IX. and at present Prefect of the Propaganda, of which Congregation his Eminence, previous to his being sent as Papal Nuncio to Madrid, was for many years, Secretary.

In the Church of Paliano may be observed a special altar to Our Lady of Good Counsel Whose Shrine is but six miles distant. In fact, Genazzano forms an excellent centre from which many famous sanctuaries and remarkable places in Latium may be easily visited. Subiaco, the cradle of Western monasticism, the first home of St. Benedict, is but eighteen miles distant. Menturella, the scene of the conversion of St. Eustachius, Martyr, and where one of the oldest and most interesting churches of Italy is built, crowns a mountain not six miles away. Rojate, the place where the impress of the body of St. Benedict is shown in the solid rock, is about mid-way between Genazzano and Subiaco. Tivoli, is not more than eighteen miles. There, an extraordinary miracle takes place yearly on the occasion of the feast of St. Lawrence. Some of the Martyr's

PRIVATE USE ONLY

improvements. Their agriculture is to-day, very like what it was when Virgil wrote his Eclogues. In Pagan times, none surpassed them in the fervour of their idolatry. Since they became Christian, none have excelled them, in the depth of their faith. The traces of great Christian saints are in all the land. The monasteries of St Benedict and St Gregory are scattered over the mountains. The mendicant orders are in all the towns. In the territory, there are placed the sees of five, of the six Cardinal Bishops, and there are other sees besides. In every town there are sanctuaries filled with holy memories and constantly frequented. But the crowning glory of Latium is that Sanctuary in its midst, which was selected by the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel, for one of the most wonderful manifestations of Her power, and which now forms for the devout visitor from other lands to the Eternal City, the chief attraction of Latium.

---

blood, preserved in a phial, gradually liquefies and gradually dries again. By train from Valmontone, Aquino, Monte Cassino, and all the ancient towns and fanes between Rome and Naples, may be reached in a few hours. Palestrina, Cave, San Vito, Capranica, Civitella, Olevano, Guadagnola, are all within a radius of some six miles. A comfortable and not expensive inn has just been opened in Genazzano, chiefly with the view of accommodating English-speaking visitors to the Sanctuary, by the proprietor of the omnibus, which meets the morning and evening trains from Rome to Valmontone, the nearest railway station. The drive is a delightful one, (fare 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  lire) over a new road opened by Pius IX. on the occasion of his famous pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Counsel, in 1864.

## Chapter III.

### GENAZZANO

1. Latium a great centre of idolatry — Its celebrated temples. — 2. Practice of the Romans to blend religion with public amusements — 3. Increase of Pagan practices in Latium during the Imperial period — Floral games — Place of celebration near Palestrina — Its beauty and adaptability — Consequences, cruel and immoral. — That spot destined to be the scene of the triumph of the Cross, through the Virgin Mother of Jesus. — 5. Our means of knowing this — The Calendar of Verius Flaccus found in Palestrina. — 7. Its order for the celebration of the Floral Games in April — The inscription — The place. — 8. Proofs of the locality being the modern Genazzano — Licentiousness undoubted — Name of Genazzano derived from the *ludi ginnici*. — 9. Other derivations of the name. — 10. Increase of vice in the games when the neighbouring Claudian Villa became an Imperial residence — How this happened — Claudius Nero and his wife Livia. — Augustus besieges Livia in Palestrina — forces Claudius to divorce Livia and marries the latter — Gets the villa and the sons of Claudius, Tiberius and Drusus, on the death of their father. — 12. Vices of the locality increased under his successors. — 13. These continue until the conversion of Constantine — He gives the grounds to St Sylvester — Record of the grant. — 14. Pope St Mark, successor of St Sylvester makes the place Christian — Builds its first church, dedicated to Our Lady of Good Counsel — Changes the popular, heathen celebrations into Christian ones — His memory in Genazzano. — 15. Reflections of Father Buonanno on the change effected and its consequences. — 16. Their truth in view of the evils of our day, and the remedy for them in the devotion St Mark established to Our Lady of Good Counsel.

1. In the last chapter we have attempted to give some idea of the country and its capital, in which the famous Sanctuary of Our Lady of Good

PRIVATE USE ONLY

Counsel was , in God's good time , destined to be formed. We shall now see, that a very special reason existed for its being formed there. It was this. Of all parts of the Roman Empire, Latium was the most devoted to the practices of idolatry. Its gods, rural and urban, were innumerable. The vast temple of Fortune in its chief city, was one of the largest and most famous in the world. At Monte Cavo, arose the great Latin altar to Jupiter. Civita Lavinia possessed the celebrated temple of Juno the Saviouress. There was another fane equally grand , and almost equally frequented, in Antium. The modern cathedral of Velletri stands upon the ruins of an extensive temple of Mars. Every city possessed its peculiar deity , and had its festivals , its rites , and its altars. When Christianity appeared, there was not a hill, or grove, or stream in Latium without its god, or goddess.

2. Then the Romans had a peculiar way of combining public pleasures with the public practices of religion. Festivals were seldom complete without games, shows, and sports. The circus and the theatre went hand in hand with the altar and the sanctuary. The pontifex and the flamen, the priestess and the augur, were never far distant from the charioteer and the gladiator, the comedian , and the athlete. It was one of the masterly strokes of the policy of the Caesars, to concentrate in their own hands the management of the whole of this astute blending of religion with pleasure. The Emperor, thereby, in his quality of Pontifex Maximus, became the centre and the source of all that could hold a pagan people

most in subjection. Therefore, not only in Rome, but wherever the Imperial Court sojourned, altars sprang up, and with them, all the practices common to the Circus Maximus and to the Flavian Amphitheatre. Hence we find the ruins of so many temples, theatres, amphitheatres, baths, and coursing grounds, amongst the still magnificent remains of the Villa of Hadrian at Tivoli, and of all the other Imperial residences of which we have any knowledge.

3. As the most magnificent and numerous villas of the Emperors were situated in Latium, the pagan practices of the country, already so greatly developed, largely increased during the Imperial period. The gods of conquered provinces swelled the number of the native deities. Superstition was needed there more than elsewhere, to help in keeping in satisfied subjection the immense slave population, which ministered to the wants and luxuries of the Conquerors of the World. Its aid was not less useful for the legionaries and guards of the Sovereign. Enormous wealth was spent upon the rural retreats of the patricians, whose luxurious gardens and summer palaces covered the territory from the sea coast to the mountain slopes. The vices and extravagances of public worship increased with riches. The excesses indulged in, to honour the Sabine goddess Flora, were increased a hundred-fold, when Flora developed into Venus. These rites, abominable and demoralizing to a shocking degree as practised in Rome, were much worse as carried on in Latium. There was a special spot set aside for their celebration in the city-territory of Palestrina. This spot also

PRIVATE USE ONLY

adjoined, or belonged to, the first villa which the first Emperor possessed after the last of his rivals disappeared. It lay about five miles from Palestrina, in a locality where nature and art combined to produce a scene fitted in every way for the voluptuous practices of the Floral festivities. There, in baths of every kind, in groves laid out upon undulating mounds and steep hill-sides, in gardens where the famous Praenestine roses bloomed and purling streams meandered, the population of Latium assembled yearly for unholy rites, destined to preserve unholy and cruel practices. There, slavery with its attendant degradation of woman, was consecrated as one of the institutions of the people. There, lust was encouraged by the very sanctions of religion. There, decency and modesty were destroyed, and youth debauched and brutalized.

4. It was on this very spot, then, Providence decreed that a great triumph of the Cross of Christ should take place. Idolatry was destined to fall before the purest worship of the true and living God. The statue of the she-devil was to be broken, and the Unity and Trinity of the Deity alone adored with supreme worship. And finally, Jesus the Incarnate son of God decreed, that on that spot, once so soiled by sin and evil example, the people of Latium and people far beyond its borders, should be able to contemplate the peerless purity of His own sweet Virgin Mother, in all Her immaculate sinlessness, in all the dignity and power which it has pleased His Divine Majesty to confer upon Her. Her example, Her influence with God, Her immense maternal char-

ity, Her heavenly wisdom, all were destined by Him to be employed on that spot, as a healing means for all, to crush in an especial manner the power of lust and cruelty and crime of every kind, to disconcert the machinations and the malignity of the fiend, and to pour into every heart the blessings of heavenly wisdom and of consoling relief.

5. It will be not a little interesting to see how we come to know this. No scholar denies that somewhere in Latium, and probably near its capital, the excesses we speak of in honour of Venus or Flora, took place annually in Pagan times. We shall see further on, that the worship of Our Lady of Good Counsel existed from the earliest Christian times in Genazzano, and that it developed in an extraordinary manner after the coming of the miraculous Image in A. D. 1467. But the matter to be settled is, were the games, the nature of which every student of Roman history knows, carried out yearly in or about Palestrina? and if so, was the locality that upon which the modern Genazzano now stands?

6. These two points may have been more or less in doubt up to the finding of the celebrated Calendar of Palestrina, which may now be inspected at the Vidoni palace in Rome. It was engraved on marble, and placed for the purpose of general information in the most public place of the ancient Praeneste. Its composer was the celebrated Verius Flaccus, a native of that city, who held under Augustus an office which we may call that of his Vicar General or Minister for Pagan worship. Nibby, Senni, and several antiquarians have written largely and learnedly

PRIVATE USE ONLY

upon the nature and historic value of this singular and now celebrated Calendar. It will suffice for our present purpose to remark, that there cannot be the slightest doubt as to its authenticity. It regulated, during the whole period of the Pagan Empire, the rites, and games, and festivals which took place in Palestrina and its immediate territory.

7. Under the date April 25<sup>th</sup>, we have the following ordinance.

FERIAE · ROBIGO · VIA · CLAVDIA · AD · MILLIARIVM · V.  
NE · ROBIGO  
FRVMENTIS · NOCEAT · SACRIFICII · · · ET · LVDI ·  
CVRSORIBVS  
MAIORIBVS · MINORIBVSQ · FIVNT · FESTVS  
EST · PVERORVM  
LINIORVM · QVIA · PROXIMVS · SVPERIOR  
MERETRICVM · EST ·

The games here referred to, and ordered to take place yearly, within five Roman miles of Palestrina, — the exact distance of Genazzano — were such games as could not take place within or very near a city. They were instituted also, for a purpose which would intensely interest an agricultural population such as that of Latium, « lest the rust may injure the corn ». Robigo, the deity of Rust, was to be propitiated at the precise season of the year when his services were most required ; and the way to gain his good will, was by sacrifices and games and chariot races.

8. The historian, Archpriest Senni proves, we believe, beyond question, that the locality indicated was the modern Genazzano. And he is borne out in

this, not only by its five miles distance, but by the extensive ruins of baths, which yet exist in that locality. These never could have been erected by any private individual; and in Pagan times, it is quite certain that no town existed nearer to them than Palestrina. The pillars which yet remain are massive, and are beautifully carved. Sea shells are found as an ornamentation wherever it was possible for the architect to place them. The niches for Venus and Cupid and other deities still remain. In front of the ruins, is the excavation where the water of the baths was stored. The splendid and powerful embankment which retained it, still remains. There are evidences of ascending terraces on each side for spectators; whilst around, is a country well adapted for groves and gardens, containing ruins also of a small temple, such as the Flamens used for Robigal sacrifices. Near at hand, is a large plain where the chariot races and the *ludi ginnici* could take place. The festival and games in honor of Robigo, were, as the calendar indicates, followed immediately by those of Flora or Venus, the most shameless and impure of all the celebrations of a shameless and impure religion. Ovid in his Fasti IV, 139, gives some idea of them, but is far from describing them as they were in reality, and as they are described by other authors<sup>1</sup>.

---

<sup>1</sup> « Rite Deam Latiae colitis Matresque Nurusque  
Et vos queis vittae, longaque vestis abest.  
Aurea Marmoreo redimicula solvite collo,  
Demite divitias; tota lavanda Dea est.  
Aurea siccato redimicula reddite Collo  
Nunc alii flores, nunc nova danda rosa est.

PRIVATE USE ONLY

It would be out of place, here, to go farther into detail regarding them; but it will be sufficient to say, that though Cato is represented as leaving the place of their celebration in Rome, so that his presence may not impede them, yet they were reprehended by the more sober minded amongst the Pagans. Some efforts were made to stop, or, at least, to lessen their enormity. But, as Senni observes, « nevertheless these games prevailed in all the cities and country places ». He proves further, that the « *Via Claudia* » of the Calendar, could be no other than the one passing by the Claudian Villa, built near the ruins of these baths, and which belonged afterwards to the Emperors. He points out with considerable accuracy, that all the circumstances of the Palestrinian games show Genazzano to be the theatre of their performance. He believes that the very name of his native city comes from the *ludi ginnici* which once took place upon its site. « Much I fear » he says « that thence is derived the name Genazzano, and would to heaven » he adds, pathetically, « that my fears were not well founded ».

---

» Vos quoque sub viridi myrto jubet illa lavari,  
Causaque cur jubeat, disite, certa subest.  
Littore siccabat rorantes nuda capillos  
Viderunt Satiri, turba proterva, Deam.  
Sentit, et apposita texit sua corpora mirto,  
Tuta fuit facta: vosque referre iubet  
Discite nunc quare fortunae thura virilli  
Detis eo calida, qua locus humet aqua  
Accipit ille locus posito velamine cunctas,  
Et vitium nudi corporis somne videt  
Ut tegat hoc celetque viros Fortuna Virilis  
Praestat et hoc parvo thure rogat facit. »

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

9. It is but just, also, to mention that others believe the name « Genazzano » to be derived from a family called Genucia, which seems to have come into possession of the Claudian Villa in Christian times. Others again derive it from the plant ginestra or broom, which grows upon many of the adjacent hill-sides. It is, of course, impossible to determine the real derivation, now, with any accuracy. But we can well conceive how the people of the place would prefer to have any other source for the name of their township than that which Senni believes, with such reluctance, to have been its origin.

10. The games, which at the period of the Republic were bad enough, became worse after Augustus obtained possession of the Claudian villa , and made it an Imperial residence. We may mention that this occurred in the following manner.

In the time of the Triumvirate , the Villa and its lands were the property of Claudius Nero, a descendant of both branches of the ancient and powerful patrician family of the Claudii. This nobleman seems to have been greatly tried in the stormy and uncertain period which followed the death of Julius Caesar. When the heads of foremost Romans, were falling like leaves in Vallambrosa, to appease the wrath or jealousy of Augustus, or Mark Antony, or Lepidus, it was a difficult thing for one in his position to know whom to follow. He decided at last to favour Mark Antony; and accordingly, upon the quarrel between that Triumvir and Augustus becoming serious, he was forced to take up arms against the latter. His possessions, backed by the party of An-

PRIVATE USE ONLY

tony, made him very powerful. Palestrina and Perugia declared for him and for his friend, and were both besieged by Augustus. Claudius himself undertook the defence of the more distant city, while the ancient one of Latium and the nearest to his celebrated villa, was held by his wife Livia, a very beautiful but masculine minded Roman lady, whose fame in history is almost equal to that of the young Emperor himself.

11. Augustus besieged Palestrina in person, and, after an obstinate defence, took it. We are told that he, at first, determined to treat its inhabitants with all the severity which Sylla had inflicted upon their fathers in the previous generation. But he suddenly relented. Livia, who could not defeat his legions, completely captivated his affections. And Claudius, her husband, purchased peace for his family by consenting that she should be divorced from himself, in order to become the wife of the conqueror.

She was, at the time, the mother of Tiberius Nero, the immediate successor of Augustus, and about to bring forth the celebrated Drusus. In a very short time Claudius died; and so his villa and vast patrimony passed to his rival, as the guardian and adopted father of the two young Claudi, his orphan sons.

12. We cannot be surprised that the already magnificent villa of the unfortunate Claudius Nero, became still more magnificent under the Caesars. Senni shows that the presence of the court drew the first families of Rome around the locality; and that thus, the games and religious festivals increased in number and in splendour and also in excess. All this was bad enough

under Augustus and worse under Tiberius; but vice increased in the locality to an alarming extent under the Antonines. Palestrina, and this imperial residence especially, became the favourite retreat of Lucius Verus, the colleague of Marcus Aurelius, another Tiberius in vice and in every unbridled excess. Through him, the villa advanced still further in voluptuousness. Marcus Aurelius, though a pronounced philosopher of the austerest school, also visited it; in order, it is said, to restrain by his presence, the excesses of his colleague. He lost a child there, during one of these sojourns. Both princes must have contributed equally to the embellishment of the palace, for it was ever afterwards known as the *Villa Antonina*, and as the *locum marmoreum*, from the name of their adopted father Antoninus Pius, and from the splendour of its marble buildings.

13. It is certain that the foul but popular celebrations continued in the baths and grounds adjoining the villa during the whole Imperial-Pagan period. The hill-sides smoked with sacrifices. The votaries of Flora and of Robigo carried on their gymnic and other nameless practices each year, as April came round. Slave, freedman and master, patrician and plebeian, soldier and merchant, came to the locality from Palestrina and all the cities of Latium. And this continued until it pleased Providence that Constantine should triumph over his rival Maxentius. The vast empire of the Caesars passed completely into the hands of the first Emperor who confessed Christ. With it passed the wide patrimonial domains belonging to the imperial family. The Antonine villa,

PRIVATE USE ONLY

like that of Hadrian and the other villas, became the personal property of Constantine. His policy, as well as his inclination, led him to leave nothing to favour the religion of his rival. He therefore, at first, withdrew the Antonine villa and its grounds from the purposes of Paganism; and then, as he did not require them for his own purposes, he handed them over to St. Sylvester, as a perpetual endowment for the churches he founded in such number and splendour in Rome. Thus the land where the she-devil of Latium reigned so long, became the patrimony of the Church of Christ.

In the records of the gifts of Constantine we find the following donation to the church of St. Sylvester. « *Fundum Caesareanum situm Via Prenestina distans ab urbe millia XXX.* » and « *Fundum thermulas in territorio Praenestino praestantem solid. XXXV.* ». This *fundum Caesareanum* upon the Prenestine way, and distant 30 miles from Rome, can be no other than the site of the present Genazzano, which is exactly that distance from the Eternal City. It is at least equally likely that the warm baths mentioned, were those where the Floral games took place; and where nymphs and satyrs revelled, for at least a thousand years.

14. It was, however, not St. Sylvester, but his immediate successor St. Mark, who purged the locality of its pagan abominations, and established instead the worship of the true and living God. He drew off the waters from the lake. He cut down the groves. He planted upon the soil a Christian population, and, in his time, there was built near the ruins of the

temples and statues of Venus, the first church which we know to have been dedicated to the Virgin Mother of God, under the title of the Madonna of Good Counsel.

Furthermore, with that profound wisdom which the apostles of Christianity have always displayed in the conversion of heathen nations, he took care not to destroy, but to Christianize whatever might be found innocent in popular celebrations. It was necessary that the corn should be preserved from rust, and that the people should have supernatural help for this and for all their temporal necessities. And so, they were taught, when the season came round, to have recourse not to senseless carved stones, or to demons who could only deceive them, but to the intercession of God's Virgin Mother, Who could both hear and help them. Therefore, instead of the *ludi ginici*, the 25<sup>th</sup> of April saw, as every year brought it round, the crowds of Latium gather to worship the Virgin Mother of God. So the day remained, as it always was, the principal festival celebrated in Genazzano. But it was a Christian festival, where Mary, through Her influence with God, Her Son, continued for ages to show Her wisdom, Her power, and Her goodness to all who came to demand Good Counsel and seasonable help at Her feet.

St. Mark passed to his reward, and, in love for his beneficence to Genazzano, the holy Evangelist his patron saint remains to this day one of the favourite heavenly protectors of the locality; and a name, like that of local Apostles elsewhere, commonly given in every numerous family to one of its male members.

PRIVATE USE ONLY

15. In no better words can the change wrought at this time in Genazzano be expressed, than in those of the pious and learned Father Buonanno of the Oratory « The ways of the Lord » he writes « are mysteries of profound wisdom and goodness. Foolish is he who attributes to chance whatever he sees happen in the long chain of events which occur in this world. God alone can be and is the regulator of these things, and directs all with admirable strength and sweetness to his greater extrinsic glory, not less than to the immortal and only good of man. Genazzano, in idolatrous times, by the frequent and varied pagan feasts which took place where it stands, was a theatre of scandals and crimes. Now, what prevents us to believe that the first little church erected by its people after their conversion, was dedicated to Our Lady of Good Counsel, precisely to give us to understand that this their action was a wise counsel of Providence, inspired to purify that hill from Gentile abominations and to preserve that people in the service of the true God ? But even, should this thought or rather probable supposition be not admitted, facts prove clearly that the most wise Deity willed to create Genazzano the centre of tender and special devotion to Her, Who alone among the children of men is the type of immaculate virginal purity. For in as much as, in that place arose or rather was cradled that affectionate devotion, thus God disposing, which was destined not to confine itself within the narrow limits of a small territory, but to extend and to propagate itself from one hemisphere of the earth to the other, the inhabitants of Genazzano were not the

only people who should kneel before the Mother of God and invoke Her under the name of Mary of Good Counsel, but the whole of Christendom was destined to magnify the glory of the Virgin, under this most sweet title. In fine, God willed that in that town should appear the first spark, which afterwards should rapidly inflame the whole Catholic world with tenderness and love for the Mother of Good Counsel. And if that people were the first worshippers and admirers at the same time, of the celestial grandeur of this most wonderful title of Mary, a day was to come when uniting themselves with sincerity of heart with all the peoples of the earth, they should form one people, as the great family of Jesus Christ are one, in exalting and praising the Blessed amongst Women, under the most sublime and sweet name of Mother of Good Counsel. »

16. We can add nothing to this admirable reflection of Father Buonanno, further than to say, that the whole history of that devotion to the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel, which sprang up upon the ruins of vice and crime in Genazzano, is an illustration of the triumph of Christianity over cruelty, lust and pride, through the powerful influence of the example and intercession of the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God. With greater force the same adverse agencies war against the soul, at the present moment, all the world over. They are more astutely led by the increased cunning of the infernal serpent, who brings the experience of all past ages to assist his perverted intelligence. He appears everywhere, and everywhere has assistance from the votaries of the lust of the

PRIVATE USE ONLY

flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. He must be, therefore, met everywhere by the supernal wisdom of « THE WOMAN » destined everywhere too, to crush his head, as She did so efficaciously in Genazzano by the spirit of purity and of Good Counsel <sup>1</sup>.

---

<sup>1</sup> There are evidences of Christians having been in Latium in Imperial Pagan times. Many of them, no doubt, were captives reduced to slavery; but others were of the noblest families. In the reign of Aurelian, St Agapitus, a youth of fifteen, suffered a cruel death for his faith, during the festivities which Palestrina then celebrated, in honor of the Emperor's victories. The Christians who were then, as true Christians must be always, loyal subjects of the cruelest rulers, entered cordially into the general joy. But, of course, they could not take part in the idolatrous portion of the proceedings. Agapitus, detected in the offence of not sacrificing to the gods, was brought before Aurelian, who ordered him to be flogged, and then handed over to the cruel ingenuity of one Antiochus. This latter kept the poor youth without food for four days, and then caused boiling water to be poured over his naked and empty stomach. He was then suspended, head downwards, over red hot coals, that so, his burning hair and flesh might atone for the incense he refused to offer. His jaws were smashed, and his teeth dropped with his blood to the ground. Antiochus, here, fell dead; but Aurelian ordered the dying boy to be cast to wild beasts. These refused to touch him. He was finally, decapitated before the temple of Fortune. A soldier, seeing his constancy, cried out, that the God of Agapitus was the only true God, and, together with the tutor of the martyr, was put to death by order of the Emperor. St Eustachius a noble Roman of the court, was, while hunting at Mentrella, a mountain near Genazzano, converted, on seeing a Crucifix between the horns of a stag he was pursuing. He afterwards with his family died for the faith. On the spot of his conversion is an ancient church and monastery erected by Constantine and consecrated by St Sylvester. It is now in possession of a Polish Missionary Congregation, who are engaged in restoring the church.

---

## Chapter IV.

### GENAZZANO CHRISTIAN

1. Situation. — 2. Climate and soil. — 3. Growth — Churches — Convents. — 4. Santa Maria del Buon Consiglio. — 5. The Colonnas. — 6. Their rise — in Genazzo — Their religions and party leanings — their attitude to the Popes, their sovereigns. — 7. Odo Colonna, Pope Martin V., Fabrizio and Victoria his daughter. — 8. Possessions and dignities of the house. — 9. Present position. — 10. Their connection with the sacred Image. — 11. Gift of the ancient church of Santa Maria del Buón Consiglio, by Giordan Colonna to the Augustinians in 1356 — document of transfer. — 12. Good produced. — 13. Dilapidated condition of the structure — difficulty of repairing it. — 14. John di Nocera and his wife Petruccia.

1. That little village which sprang up around the church erected in honor of Our Lady of Good Counsel in Genazzano, stood upon the site of a famous rose garden formed to supply flowers for the festivities of Venus. It overlooked the baths wherein the worst orgies in honour of that goddess took place.

No better or more beautiful site for a city could be selected even in Latium. It consisted of a jutting tongue of land which arose in the midst of a long valley, between the lofty heights which extended to Palestrina on the one hand, and an agreeably depressed elongation of the mountain spur of San Vito,

PRIVATE USE ONLY

on the other. A steep narrow glen was thus formed upon either side, so as to render its drainage perfect; while the elevations further off protected it from the wintry winds of the Apennines clustering close around.

These form at its rear a barrier of bold mountain scenery most picturesque in Winter, when the crests of the loftier ridges covered with snow, roll off to an interminable distance like a veritable polar region.

2. Nestling thus and thus protected, Genazzano looks out upon the rich and variegated valley of the Sacco, which, after sweeping on for several miles, has its course bounded by the Volscian heights on the one side, and by the Alban Hills just perceptible on the other. A passage between both opening in the far distance, fronts the little town towards the sea, causing the fresh breezes of the Mediterranean to reach it, and tempering agreeably both the heat of Summer and the cold mountain air of Winter. The soil on the hill-sides and the plain adjacent is rich, and so diversified that, with the climate of Latium to help, and abundance of water from hill-streams and wells at hand, the skill of the gardiner could with ease make it such a place as even Roman Emperors might love to dwell in; and where pagan priests could have all the groves and baths and gardens their hearts desired.

It was therefore, perhaps, that the Villa of the Antonines crowned the best portion of the elevation, and that the games of Palestrina and its Floral and Robigal celebrations, were ordered to be held in the locality.

3. When such a soil in such a position was opened to cultivation, it was no wonder that a village grew apace. In time its population needed several churches; and so, when it became of sufficient importance to be fortified, four parishes were formed instead of one, each with its temple and all of which still subsist.

After many centuries the religious orders came. Outside the walls, at one end, the Conventual Franciscans established themselves exactly upon the ruins of the Imperial Villa; and, at the other end, the Augustinians erected a modest convent and a little chapel in the locality called the Pescara overlooking the lake where stand to this day the ruins of the baths.

4. The secular clergy held the churches within the walls. But, unfortunately, in the course of centuries, that of Our Lady of Good Counsel, though the oldest and the one for which the whole of Latium had most devotion, became for some reason very much neglected by its guardians. Perhaps its primitive architecture, constructed as it had been so early and so rudely, and its original diminutive size, caused it not to be so much appreciated by the inhabitants, when the newer and more splendidly decorated edifices dedicated to St. John, St. Paul, and St. Nicholas came to be erected. While these latter, through the care of Pope Martin the Fifth and others of his house, advanced in grandeur, nothing of its original pre-eminence remained to the church of St. Mary but its name, and a most beautifully carved bass-relief in marble of the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel, to

PRIVATE USE ONLY

which crowds came from far and near, and came not, we are assured, in vain for graces and favours.

5. Meanwhile, the celebrated Colonnas had by marriage become the feudal lords of Genazzano. It was, in all probability, their first, and it remained for many ages their principal stronghold. They fortified it on every side, embellished it, and crowned it with a castle which remains to this day; and which, though abandoned by its ancient masters, still tells of its former power and greatness. The Colonnas held the *jus patronatus* of Santa Maria *del Buon Consiglio*; and as they are intimately connected with the history of the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel, it will not be amiss for the reader to know what manner of men they were.

6. They were then, in truth, a wonderful old house. Springing in all probability from an ancient Roman family, who dwelt near the column of Trajan or some other ancient Roman column from which they took their name; they made their way through the turbulent times succeeding the desolation of the Western Empire, until by the end of the middle ages, they became the most considerable family in the Pontifical States, and amongst the very first in Italy. Without being sovereign princes, they exercised, nevertheless, an immense influence in all the affairs of the Italian Peninsula. With great shrewdness, they nearly always managed to keep one foot planted in the kingdom of Naples, while the other rested in Latium. What they lost, therefore, in one state, for a season, they were sure to regain in time, through being strong in the other.

7. They were, on the whole, a religious family, carefully providing for the spiritual as well as the temporal wants of their liegemen. Yet sometimes, they could make up their minds, even when Cardinals were of their blood, to fight,— and fight with terrible desperation,— against the Church. Though the subjects of the Pope, they were more often against him than for him in the stormy and long continued conflicts of the Guelphs and the Ghibellines.

The Colonnas may indeed be regarded as the leaders of the Ghibelline or Imperial faction, in the same way as the Orsinis may be looked upon as the leaders of the Guelphs. The Holy See was invariably with the latter or national party; and being so, preserved the independence of Italy—a service for which the present self-called patriots of the country show scant gratitude. But for all their short comings, the Colonnas, on the whole, cannot be regarded as perpetual enemies of the Popes, their Suzerains. Somehow it always happened that if one Pope was against them, his successor was sure to be for them. If one Colonna attacked the Eternal City, or made off with its treasures, his son as a rule proved to be a benefactor to religion and a loyal child of the Holy See. In one reign, we see the chiefs of the Colonnas to the number of twelve, as « sons of iniquity » driven from every foot of land they held in Latium. And then, in a decade, we again see the whole family, « sons of iniquity » as they were, called back, and the Chief so far restored to favour as to get in marriage the niece of the Pope.

In the Pontificate of Clement VII., the Colonnas

PRIVATE USE ONLY

were certainly responsible for calling in the Imperialists, who, under Bourbon, the renegade Constable of France, dealt the worst blow ever inflicted on Rome, even by Gaul or Vandal; and who forced the Pope himself, in peril of his life, to take refuge in the castle of Sant Angelo. Not very long after, however, in the pontificate of St. Pius V., we see the Chief of the family, Mark Antony Colonna, leading the Papal forces at sea, and giving the death blow to the Turk on the waters of Lepanto.

8. Genazzano, as their first fortress, has a grand place in the history of the Colonnas. There, the greatest Pope of the family, - for they count four of their blood and had certainly more than one, - Martin V. was born. He extinguished the Schism of the West, and by other deeds proved himself one of the worthiest of the Successors of St. Peter. All his life he dearly loved his native township, and did much to improve and embellish it. In Genazzano, lived the mightiest princes of the house, amongst whom may be mentioned Fabrizio Colonna, whom Machiavelli calls the greatest Captain of his age. For a long time also, his remarkable daughter Victoria Colonna, the first poetess of Italy and indeed of Europe, lived there. She was, besides being a genius of the first order, the model of wives and of widows ; and , it may be said, one of the purest and noblest female characters uncanonized, that any country ever produced.

9. The castellated feudal towns of the family were thirty six in number. The head of its oldest branch was, for some centuries, hereditary Grand Constable, that is, Field Marshal, of the armies of

Naples. Another member was Prince of Palestrina. Though this principality was sold in a season of necessity, nevertheless, a descendant of the vendor, Prince Colonna Barberini, now holds it. The dignities possessed by other members of the family, were innumerable. Quite a crowd of Cardinals were Colonnas. And it may be said, that for nearly a thousand years, no remarkable event has happened in Italy, in which a Colonna, in some manner or another, was not mixed up.

10. At present, the Chief of the house enjoys, with the Chief of the Orsini's, the premier post among the Roman nobility. During the existing revolutionary persecution of the Pontiff, both the one and the other have shown themselves inflexibly devoted to the Holy Father. We hope their heirs will have courage to imitate them. The wealth of the family, once so great, is not, at present, on a level with that of houses of more recent formation. But it is ample. Further on, it will be seen, that a Chief of the Colonnas, as late as 1630, was able to honour the visit of the Pope by meeting him with a well equipped army of eight thousand men, infantry, cavalry, and artillery. It may further be added, that the Colonnas were the first feudal family of the States of the Church who, at the request of Pius VII, relinquished, for the good of the state, their feudal rights, and passed into the condition of simple honorary princes, in no better political position than the nobles of more modern creation.

11. Such is the history of this strange, but withal, most princely family. It attained to many

PRIVATE USE ONLY

honours, but the chief and the most enduring will be its connection with the church of Santa Maria *del Buon Consiglio* in Genazzano, and its never failing devotion to the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel — a devotion which saved it, we believe, from a hundred threatened destructions in its long and eventful career.

12. That connection commenced in this way. As early as 1356, Pier Giordan Colonna, a wise and pious prince, unconsciously but providentially prepared the way for the coming, a century later, of the most wonderful event in the history of his house. In that year, by the exercise of his *jus patronatus*, he called in the Augustinian Fathers, settled, as we have seen, in a small convent outside the walls, to take charge of the church and parish of the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel, then sadly neglected. In the legal instrument conferring this benefice, the church is distinctly called, according to immemorial usage, by its title of « Holy Mary of Good Counsel. » The following is a translation of the document.

« To the honour and reverence of the Omnipotent God, and of His most glorious Virgin Mother Mary. The magnificent man, Peter Giordan Colonna, Lord of Genazzano, considering the faith and devotion which he and his predecessors have had and have for the brethren and Order of the Hermits of Saint Augustine, and which the friars themselves have for the house of Colonna . . . . As the church of Holy Mary of Good Counsel in the town of Genazzano is at present vacant and, on account of the inattention of the secular clergy, fallen away in

spirituals and temporals, so as to be in a manner destitute, he, so far as it appertains to him and to his successors, hands over to Brother Dominic, Prior of the church of St. Francis in Genazzano, acting for and in the name of the said brethren and of his Order, devoutly praying the Lord Cardinal Bishop of Palestrina, and the Most Revd. Father Br. Daniel, Bishop of Tivoli, Vice-Gerent of the said Lord Cardinal, that it may please them to hand over to the said Br. Dominic, acting in the stead and name of the above mentioned Order, the aforesaid church with all its jurisdictions and appurtenances, together with its perpetual care and general administration in spirituals and temporals, as was the custom with the secular clergy to govern. » etc.

« Done in the said church of St. Mary etc. I the Notary Deputy being present. »

« D. JAMES OF GENAZZANO, PRIEST.  
of the Church of Mary » etc.

This instrument of concession was drawn up and attested by the Notary, Peter James Jacobilli, on the 27<sup>th</sup> of December 1356. In accordance with its terms, the Augustinians took possession of the church and parochial dwelling in the year of the concession. Their old convent and its garden remained long in their possession, until at last both were confiscated with the rest of the goods of the community by revolutionary rapacity.

13. Their transfer to Santa Maria, was, however, productive, at the time, of the greatest possible good, not only to the people immediately confided to the

PRIVATE USE ONLY

care of the Fathers, but to the whole of Genazzano and to its princes. The fame of St. Augustine is well known to the Italians, and consequently, numbers of citizens of both sexes and of every rank became Augustinian tertiaries.

14. With all this, the good religious found themselves, nevertheless, unable to do much for the material well-being of the ancient and crumbling edifice given them. Their revenues were very circumscribed. Their parishioners were few and poor. The rest of the people of Genazzano, rejoicing in abundant and splendid church accommodation, were little zealous to concern themselves in the great expense of erecting as it required to be erected, anew, the holy and traditional but withal to them unnecessary church of Santa Maria.

15. No doubt, there were many faithful hearts who felt this keenly, many who prayed fervently that some means might be found to place the building in a proper position; and amongst the latter were the caretaker or proctor of the Augustinians, John di Nocera, and his wife, a holy woman called Petruccia.

This good proctor died about the year 1436, leaving his little all to his widow then aged some 50 years; and she, thus freed from human cares, made it her delight to spend her days in the church of the Madonna of Good Counsel, praying, and labouring for the needs of its vestments and its other wants.

16. If it was a sorrow for others to see the beloved temple threatening daily to become a ruin, unable from its size to accommodate the crowds that flocked to the feet of the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel for

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

graces, and to the good fathers for spiritual ministrations, to her it was a positive torment. Her most earnest supplications went, therefore, unceasingly to Heaven, but apparently in vain, for help. At last, not finding any hand stretched forth to assist, she generously determined to give her all — all that her husband had left her — to the work of enlargement and restoration. She communicated this intention to the fathers who approved of it, and no doubt obtained from the ecclesiastical authorities, the necessary permission to commence the enterprise. Thus began the attempt at restoration.

The church of Santa Maria, it may be here noted, as built originally, did not lie as it does now. Its main entrance looked down upon the locality of the baths, and its Western side partly faced the piazza of Santa Maria. Near it, where at present the principal street of the town runs, Petruccia had her dwelling. This she abandoned for the enlargement of the new edifice. All else she had she willingly expended upon the building of its walls. She was at this time decrepit, being at least eighty years of age; and naturally, she must have thought that others would at least assist in that, to which she gave in such a season her all.

17. But for a wise purpose that Providence had in view, no one volunteered to help her. She had consequently to abandon the undertaking for the simple want of means. But such souls as Petruccia do not work for God without supernal light, especially when their works are, as in this instance, extraordinary, considering the means and strength of the undertaker.

PRIVATE USE ONLY

Petruccia had an internal assurance by revelation or otherwise, that the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel and St. Augustine, would do that for her beloved temple which she herself should be unable to do. Her design too was well conceived. It was to commence to repair at first the chapel of St. Biagio which threatened to fall; then, after enlarging it by adding the site of her house, to advance step by step with the rest of the church, until finally the whole of her purpose should be effected. But at the moment when her means failed, even the walls of the chapel of St. Biagio were both rough and unfinished. They were in fact little better than six feet above ground, and there was no prospect, humanly speaking, of completing them.

18. The good tertiary had now to bear the brunt of the world's mockery and abuse. Her friends who thought she had consumed the means to which they had a right after her death, were violent. Those who wished to give nothing towards her undertaking and who felt a secret reproach at her generosity, were jubilant. That « Didn't I tell you so, » the invariable accompaniment of uncharitable stricture, no doubt, she had often to hear. Some said she was vain, some, that she was ambitious, some, that she was crazy, and others finally carried their want of kindness so far as publicly to jeer at her. She however bore all with patience, and in reply to jest and abuse only answered « Don't, my children, take such notice of this apparent misfortune, for I assure you that before I die, the Most Blessed Virgin and the Holy Father St. Augustine will complete the church commenced by me ». This did not stay them. The mockery

continued all the more. Petruccia was helpless from age, and the disappointment and ridicule ought in the natural order of things to have killed her. But her prophecy nevertheless came true; and that too in a most wonderful manner, for the benefit of the Church, and Genazzano, and the world<sup>1</sup>. We shall see how this occurred in the next chapter.

---

<sup>1</sup> Father Buonanno has many pages of his excellent « *Memorie storiche* » devoted to a critical inquiry into all the circumstances here related regarding Petruccia. From the will of her husband John de Nocera, dated the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November 1426 and executed by the Notary of Genazzano, Vincent di Nicola Landolfo, and in which is a legacy of 60 florins for a bell, it appears that his wife was constituted absolute heiress of all his real and personal estate. Petruccia must have been then forty years of age, and consequently was eighty at the time she commenced the church. Several documents exist which show that both John de Nocera, and after his death, Petruccia, had charge of the most valuable property of the convent of Santa Maria. Her husband died in 1436. In 1451, Petruccia, by an instrument executed by the Notary, Giovanni di Giovanni Vincenzo of Paliano, gave her house in the Piazza to the Augustinian Fathers per l'esaltazione e rialzamento della chiesa di Santa Maria del Buon Consiglio, reserving to herself only a life use of it. In 1461, another document executed by the Notary De Veronibus, shows that she left all her goods for the same purpose with the same reservation only. She appears to have been at this time involved in a lawsuit with another Petruccia, the widow of one Jenco, and committed the defence of her cause to the Prior of Santa Maria at the period, Father Nicholas Caruti. Finally in 1466, she resolved to see what a heroic effort could do. Without any further reservation she sacrificed her all to restore the falling church of Our Lady of Good Counsel. She was a native of Genazzano but her husband, as his name implies, came from Nocera.

---

PRIVATE USE ONLY

## Chapter V.

### THE WONDERFUL APPARITION

1. The 25<sup>th</sup> of April, the feast of Genazzano. — 2. Its celebration in 1467 — Condition of the Church of Santa Maria, that day. — 3. Petruccia. — 4. Her triumph complete. — 5. The people hear music in the air. — The white cloud appears. — Rests on the unfinished walls. — 6. An Image is disclosed to all. — The words. — The excitement. — The miracles. — 7. The bells rung by supernatural agency. — 8. The coming of « all Italy » to the Sanctuary. — Completion of the church and convent. — 9. Death of Petruccia. — Her burial. — Monument. — 10. Proofs placed after narration.

1. As we have already seen, the 25<sup>th</sup> of April continued in Christian times to be the principal feast-day of Genazzano, a day upon which it was visited by people from all the cities of Latium. The Pagans had two distinct celebrations, the one following the other immediately. The Christians had a twofold object in their worship. In common with the whole Church they commemorated St. Mark. And then their first church and parish having been dedicated to Our Lady of Good Counsel, it was natural that on the same day — the day of the worst excesses in the past, — they should manifest more than ordinary devotion at Her Shrine.

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

Indeed, as Senni, Buonanno, and Vannutelli tell us, such was the case. Moreover from time immemorial the civil and ecclesiastical authorities combined to make the festival an imposing one. Accordingly, when the morning devotions in the Church of the Madonna of Good Counsel were over, a fair was held and such amusements as could take place innocently were permitted. In this way, the season at one time so demoralizing was converted into an occasion of practising true piety, while not excluding harmless recreation and while giving distant neighbours the opportunity of meeting each other and of doing something for their temporal affairs.

2. During the festival the piazza of Santa Maria adjoining the church was always the most frequented. Some attended its stalls and booths and others its amusements, while all were at the same time within easy reach of the temple and its ministers. Somehow, as an ancient tradition has it, it happened that the crowd was very dense which waited for the vesper service on the afternoon of April 25<sup>th</sup> 1467, falling that year upon a Saturday. One reason may be that from the piazza they had a full view, and no doubt they did view with various feelings, the sad spectacle presented by the abandoned attempt of Petruccia to enlarge the ancient and crumbling edifice so dear to them all. Her house had stood at the corner of the street and of the piazza and blocked the view of the chapel of St. Biagio. Now it was pulled down and its site and that of the chapel itself were enclosed with a wall not six feet over ground. The ambitious proportions of the projected

PRIVATE USE ONLY

edifice, only served to make the prospect of its being finished, all the more ridiculous. The old Church, patched up to serve, as best it could, while the improvements were being made, stood by as if in despair.

3. Petruccia, according to her wont, was present at all the services; and more than at any time before, had to hear and to bear the mockery and railery of the many assembled. Still all could see that, nevertheless, the great-hearted woman, looked brighter and more confident than ever. She had no encouragement from any one amongst the multitude, not even from the pilgrims to Mary's Shrine. She had attempted, so thought even the most charitable, far too much; and now, no one cared to be involved in the consequences of her folly.

4. About two o'clock on this day, then, we may imagine her, tottering over the stones within the walls she had erected; and while all eyes followed her, and some voices continued their uncomplimentary language to her, we may further imagine her, kneeling meekly on the site of the altar of the chapel of Saint Biagio, within view of every one. She had suffered much; but she, and perhaps she alone, knew, that her troubles were soon to be over; and that a triumph singular for her, even in the singular annals of the faith in Italy, was near at hand. That which justifies us in imagining this, is a historical truth capable of standing every test of criticism. It was as follows.

5. About the 21<sup>st</sup> hour of the Italian day, or, about 4. o'clock in the afternoon, according to our computation, the dense multitude assembled in the

piazza of Santa Maria, were astonished to hear, high in the clear atmosphere of their country, strains of celestial harmony. Never had they heard such sounds before. It seemed as if the portals of paradise were flung open; and that the choirs of angels were permitted to give to mortals some knowledge of the joys of the blessed. With eyes upturned, in breathless attention, and ravished by such exquisite melody, they anxiously sought to find out whence the sounds came. Soon, far above the highest houses, above the church spires and the lofty castle turrets, they beheld a beautiful white cloud darting forth vivid rays of light in every direction, amidst the music of heaven and a splendour that obscured the sun. It gradually descended, and to their amazement, finally rested upon the farthest portion of the unfinished wall of the chapel of Saint Biagio.

6. Suddenly, the bells of the high campanile, which stood before their eyes, began to peal, though they could see and knew that no human hand touched them. And then, in unison, every church bell in the town began to answer in peals as festive. The crowd were spell-bound, ravished, and yet full of holy feeling. With eager haste, they filled the enclosure. They pressed around the spot where the cloud remained. Gradually, the rays of light ceased to dart, the cloud began to clear gently away; and then, to their astonishment, there remained disclosed a most beautiful object. It was an Image of Our Lady, holding the divine Child Jesus in Her arms, and She seemed to smile upon them and to say, « Fear not

PRIVATE USE ONLY

I am your mother, and you are and shall be my beloved children. »

It is much more easy to imagine than to describe the commotion that ensued amongst such a people, so situated, and at such a time. The business of the fair was abandoned. The amusements were no longer thought of. With one voice they cried out, as their descendants on the recurrence of the anniversary of the apparition may be heard to cry out to-day; *Evviva Maria!, Evviva Maria!, Evviva la Madre nostra del Buon Consiglio!* Others exclaimed, a miracle!, a miracle! While, with an instinct of perfect confidence arising out of the wonderful occurrence, the sick, the blind, the lame, and the afflicted of every condition, flocked from all parts of the town and from places far beyond its borders, to obtain healing graces from Our Lady: graces, which, as we shall see, were granted in an abundance, « with a measure pressed down, and shaken together, and flowing over, » which has not ceased from that day to this.

7. Senni tells us that the unusual chiming of the church bells was heard by numbers who, having satisfied their devotion and disposed of their temporal affairs, were on their way home; and that fearing dangers too common from marauding enemies in those days of disturbance, they returned to Genazzano. All these to their astonishment saw the beautiful Image of Our Lady still suspended in the air without any visible support whatever; and heard from those present of the miraculous circumstances that accompanied its coming. The princes of the house of Colonna, the captains of their forces, the

magnates of the town, the Augustinian Fathers, and the secular clergy, all flocked to admire the wonder. And throughout that night on bended knees an immense multitude remained in presence of their blessed treasure, filled with most intense feelings of love and gratitude to God's Virgin Mother of Good Counsel Who thus had honoured their land.

8. The news spread soon far and wide in Latium, and beyond Latium to Rome and throughout Italy; and then beyond Italy to the whole extent of the Church of God on earth. The crowds became all the greater, when the multitude of the miracles performed in the presence of the sacred Image became known. So great indeed was the fervour which this new, unexpected, and singular manifestation of Our Lady's love created, that whole towns were emptied of their inhabitants, who came in solemn procession with hymns and prayer to honour Her in Her new Sanctuary. They came not empty handed. Generosity is an unfailing characteristic of Catholic devotion. It is the expression and no small part of the proof of love and gratitude. Never, never, is it wanting, where God's Virgin Mother is concerned. She had selected the decaying temple where first She had been honoured on earth as the Giver of Good Counsel, as the abiding place of that Image which of all that have been ever painted, is likely the most perfect resemblance of Herself. No doubt Her reason for this was to show men, then commencing so much to need, and since everywhere so needing the virtue of Good Counsel, that if they desire to have it, they must come to Her, Who, by Her example and intercession,

PRIVATE USE ONLY

overcame upon that spot the demon of lust, debauchery and pride, - the evils, the real folly which everywhere, seduce mortals from the possession of an eternity of happiness, in these latter days. But while this wider view, destined in time, and to the end of time, to be carried out for the benefit of the world, was in no sense lost sight of, the internal assurance which Mary had given to Petruccia, was realized. In this too, there was a meaning. While the world was forgetful of the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel, the temple of God became a ruin. As soon as Our Lady had taught the world, to look to Her, and receive from Her, Good Counsel, that temple put on a new and majestic glory. In Genazzano, then, fervour became so enlivened before the beautiful picture of Mary, that instantly, « alms unspeakable », flowed in upon Petruccia. As soon as loving hands, and hearts, and heads could accomplish it, a noble marble tribune, which remains to this day, arose over the sacred Image. The rough, unfinished wall, near which it took its miraculous position, was soon removed from sight, by an altar and covering of precious stone. Pillars of Nero Antico sustained the canopy. Twenty solid, silver lamps burned night and day, and night and day they burn still, before it. The crumbling ruin about, soon disappeared, and the church projected by Petruccia, was erected in all the magnificence which her heart desired, in its place. An extensive convent took the place of the old parochial dwelling. Ample subsistence was provided for a numerous community of the Hermits of St. Augustine, destined to serve the Sanctuary, and minister

to the spiritual wants of the innumerable streams of pilgrims, who then came in thousands, and have not ceased now, for over four hundred years, to come.

9. Petruccia, then, happily saw the completion of the work she undertook. The whole of Genazzano saw that her prophecy was more than fulfilled. In the fulness of days she sank to rest, honoured by all. The Augustinian Fathers, who owed their good tertiary so much, laid her body at the feet of her beloved Madonna; and in the church, near the gospel side of the high altar, they placed an inscription recording her good deeds, which will be given further on, amongst other memorials of this holy and remarkable woman.

10. In order not to break the thread of our narrative, we have not stayed in this chapter, to examine the proofs for the facts stated. These proofs, together with those relative to the remaining portion of the history of the sacred Image, which will be found in the three following chapters, we shall consider critically, and at full length, immediately after.

---

PRIVATE USE ONLY

## Chapter VI.

### THE SACRED IMAGE

1. Did it come from Paradise — Its beauty. — 2. Notice of it by the Church.— 3. Its nature, size, colours, and art value.— 4. Position of the figures — The Mother — The Child. — 5. Expression melancholy—Reason. — 6. Picture agrees with traditional account of Mary's appearance and likeness to Jesus. — 7. Notice of miraculous changes in colour — Experience of the writer — 8. Testimony of Vasquez, Bacci, Rodota. — 9. Formal statement of Luigi Tosi and others.

1. We cannot be surprised that the good people of Genazzano, who saw the sacred Image descend so visibly from on high , and amidst circumstances so extraordinary, should have thought that it came to them direct from heaven. A tradition which they knew, had it, that the Madonna now venerated at Santa Maria in Portico at Rome, was sent by God's Holy Mother from Paradise , under circumstances exactly similar. Therefore , in the fulness of their joy , the first appellation they gave the wonderful Image was that of Our Lady of Paradise. It retained this title for many years. And though the truth became known after a few days , and was believed

by Petruccia, and by the intelligent portion of the community, the generation that saw the Apparition, and many a generation after, in Genazzano, would have no other name for their beloved Image, but « The Madonna of Paradise. »

We shall presently see, that, though not coming directly from heaven, its appearance upon the unfinished walls of the church of Santa Maria, was as miraculous as if it did. But meanwhile, it may not be out of place, with those multitudes that then, and for so many centuries since, have been ravished by its more than mortal loveliness, and have been consoled at its feet, to contemplate what manner of gift it was, that thus came from Mary to her children.

2. In the first place we may state, that according to the testimony of the Church, it stands unique, and in a manner supreme, amidst all the existing images of Our Lady, while it has been honoured by Herself, with a miraculous care not inferior to that, with which She guards Her holy House of Nazareth. In the Proper Office of its feast, – that of Our Lady of Good Counsel, – the following notice both of the Image and of its wonderful apparition is read; « And that nothing, that was not sublime, » it says « should be connected with the Most Holy Virgin, Whom the Angel saluted as full of grace, it has not happened without divine counsel that even Her images should be held in the highest honour, and should be made resplendent by prodigies and miracles. Amongst which, that which three centuries ago, in the pontificate of Paul II., miraculously appeared upon the wall of the Church of the Fathers of the Order of the

PRIVATE USE ONLY

Hermits of Saint Augustine, in the town of Genazzano, in the diocese of Palestrina, is worshipped with principal honour, as appears from pontifical diplomas and coeval monuments. Moved by which things, Pope Pius the Sixth, conceded to the cenobites of the said town, a proper office, to be recited on the seventh of the kalends of May, that is to say, upon the day itself of the Apparition; and then, having assigned the day immediately following for its recital ever after, he extended it, under the rite of a double major, to the whole of the aforesaid Order ».

3. Let us then contemplate this wonderful Image. As it appears in the Shrine, it is not more than eighteen inches square. Furthermore, those who approach near may see, that it is a fresco, painted – if ever human hands did paint it – long ages ago, when, and in what country, the best judges cannot tell.

The sole support of such a treasure, is a thin crust of common plaster, not much thicker than strong paper. Yet, it has remained in the spot where it may be viewed to day, for four hundred and sixteen years; and how many centuries it existed before, none can tell. Its colours and its delineations are as fresh as ever. While it remains there, so fragile, yet so secure, the great walls of the church about it, have had to be renewed three times over. The colours laid on canvass by great masters have dimmed, though preserved jealously in protected places, or painted on walls strong as art could make them. The very existence of this fragile Image seems a miracle. The preservation of its colours appears to be another. But there is a third, greatest of all. It remains, as it was

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

when it first came, not against, nor in any way fastened to, but distant from the wall, without having behind it, any material support whatever.

As a work, according to the rules of high art, the writer cannot judge it. But this is certain, that no human hand has yet been able to copy it. Beautiful pictures distantly like it, have been produced by the artists of twelve generations. Some of these copies have proved themselves miraculous, as we shall see further on. But, not one has been a perfect reproduction. All the works of the great masters, have been copied in a manner able to defy the eye of the ordinary purchaser, but the Madonna of Genazzano cannot be copied in such a manner, as that the merest child may not know, how far it is from the original. This will be seen to be the judgment of Signor Luigi Tosi, a painter of great eminence, whose testimony on this point we shall presently give.

4. The fresco consists of a representation of the young Virgin Mother, holding in Her arms the Infant Jesus, Who embraces Her, with a kind of anxious fondness. One little arm is wound round Her neck; and the infantile fingers appear upon the further side, after encircling it. The other small hand is placed upon the embroidered hem of Her modest dress, of traditional green colour. The Child is dressed in red, and a mantle of blue covers both.

The Divine Infant looks exactly what one would imagine Him to have been; and, as the writer of this has noticed, such as one would imagine, from the likeness of Our Lord in the church of St Sylvester in Rome, what He was when a little child. In

PRIVATE USE ONLY

gentle, fond, human sweetness, He appears in every line the Son of Mary, having but one human parent. In a dignity of thought inexpressible, He appears what we should expect the Son of God to be in human nature. Nowhere else, not even in the Eternal City, the metropolis of art, is the Adorable Infant so powerfully, and apparently so perfectly portrayed, so as to appear not only willing but anxious to relieve the sorrow which His Mother endured for His sake, by granting every prayer She may offer. Elsewhere, Mary is shown in a hundred beautiful ways pleading for us with Jesus. Here Jesus is shown as if seeking some occasion to grant mercy to the poor children of Eve, for whom He knows that His Mother is everlastingly solicitous, that so He will have suffered for none in vain.

And then, who can describe the Immaculate Virgin Mother as here revealed. The features are all that we should suppose Mary to have; and strange to say, as near as possible to what She is represented to have, by the very best authorities that have written upon Her appearance. The hair and its colour, the highly arched eyebrows, the lofty forehead, full of thought, the colour and size of the eyes, the cheeks, the Grecian, elongated, rather than Jewish nose, the exquisitely cut, vermillion lips, the dress and contour, all are the same. Then as to the expression, none can describe it; for, reader, that expression changes, and these changes which many see, and all writers upon the Shrine note, are continual miracles connected with this most miraculous of images.

5. Yet, there is a general expression which never passes away, which ravishes the beholder, and holds him for hours contemplating the Image. This is so ineffably sweet, so sad, so mild, so full of celestial beauty, so powerful to draw all hearts by its unutterable blending of all that can be conceived perfect in young, virginal, most purely innocent, and yet maternal loveliness, with all that may be imagined highest and noblest in spiritual perfection — a perfection excelled by nothing created short of the Humanity of Her Son — that it is in truth the very ideal of what the Christian would suppose Mary to have been, say, at that sadly interesting time, when, upon having presented Her Child in the Temple, She heard the awful words of Simeon; and coming down from the Temple to her habitation alone and silent, She « kept them, » « pondering upon them » sorrowfully, yet, as became the most perfect of creatures, resignedly, « in Her heart. » Long years after, She revealed to St. Gertrude, that at these moments as She held Her innocent Infant to Her sinless bosom, She looked out into the terrible future and saw the end, — the Scourge, the Thorns, the Cross, the Death, — a flood of tears would rush out and fall in showers upon the divine face of Jesus, while He, knowing the sad cause of it all, would essay to console Her. This appears to be the very moment seized upon by the artist, natural or supernatural, who painted the fresco of the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel, to represent Her with Her Child.

And who can conceive a moment more propitious for causing Jesus to grant Her all whatsoever She

PRIVATE USE ONLY

may demand, or a moment more tenderly appealing to the heart of the worshipper. In the painting, the head of the Virgin Mother leans lovingly, but sadly, towards the face of Her Infant Child; and the eyes, the nearer of which to Jesus is strained towards Him, are full with the wellings of the fountains of Her heart involuntarily opened in Her grief. This is surely a moment when neither the sinner nor the sinner's God, can resist the sweet influence of Mary. It may, too, be some reason for the picture's wondrous power.

6. Then again, there is in the figures the very likeness we should expect between the Mother and the Son Who would have none but that Mother to give Him His human nature. « Jesus Christ, » writes one of His Saints, and a great and learned one, St. Thomas of Villanova, « Jesus Christ most perfectly resembled His Mother. Those who saw them both in life assure us, that never had a son so great a resemblance to a mother, in aspect, in manner, and in conversation. In brief, the Mother and the Son had each one every feature of the other, in a manner most extraordinarily faithful. » Nicephorus, an author of the 8<sup>th</sup> century, gives us the same information from the tradition most trusted in the East, together with a delineation of the features of Mary. He also states that Jesus was perfectly like His Mother. Of Mary's appearance he says: « She was most modest, and full of dignity. She spoke little, and only when necessary. She listened willingly. She was most affable to all, and for all demonstrated respect and esteem. Her person was of moderate size, although some affirm that she was

of more than moderate size. The hue dominating in Her countenance, approached the colour of wheat. She had auburn hair with brightly shining eyes, the pupils of which were light in colour, something like that of oil. The eyebrows were arched and grandly formed. The nose somewhat long. The lips, from which issued words full of grace, were vermillion. The countenance was not round, not long, but oval; the hands and the fingers long. She had nothing whatever of rudeness, but She was sweet and simple, and Her aspect was candid without a shadow of dissimulation. In Her manners there was nothing of softness, but She was remarkable solely for singular modesty and self-possession. She was content to wear a dress of natural colour, as is yet seen in the veil which covered Her head. And to speak briefly, in Her whole being there was heavenly beauty. »

St. Antoninus, Archbishop of Florence, writes: « There is in all created beings a virtue which produces like from like, in such a manner that if nature is not impeded, the son will be like the father and the mother; but if a son should be born of a mother without a father, by divine power only, such a son ought necessarily be like his mother. Now Jesus, according to the words of Holy Scripture, is the most beautiful among the sons of men; « Thou art fair in beauty above the sons of men, grace is diffused upon thy lips. » (Ps. 44-2). Therefore, also, the Virgin Mother is the most beautiful amongst all women. She has reached a grade of beauty so sublime, that in the entire order of nature, no creature can be imagined more beautiful than She is. »

PRIVATE USE ONLY

Denis the Carthusian writes in the same strain. « As Christ was beautiful above all the sons of men, so the Virgin was the most beautiful amongst all the daughters of men, and had all that which could be found most sublime and most perfect in a human creature, and by the work of nature. Wherefore, God, the magnificent Creator of all things, hath embellished Mary internally, with the abundance of all graces, and of all endowments the most wonderful; He Himself having coöperated in a supernatural manner in Her formation in Her mother's womb, in order to prepare for His Son, a worthy habitation. Thus also, Her exterior aspect was admirably resplendent with such a fulness of divine grace. » And further, this pious author exclaims: « What ought we think of an appearance, I would say, almost divine!, to which there is nothing in the world, we may compare? Of that brow, in comparison to which, the serenity of the most beautiful day, is but a cloud? What shall we say of that soul, which, after the soul of Christ, expresses most faithfully the image of God. »

The Church, in using so many of the most beautiful metaphors of Holy Writ to describe Mary, warrants all that the above sacred writers tell us of Her heavenly appearance. Thus, She is « fair as the moon, beautiful as the sun, formidable as an army set in battle array. » Descending to particulars, of Her the words of Solomon are used « As bands of scarlet are thy lips, and thy cheeks as the skin of the pomegranate. Thy neck is as the tower of David. A thousand shields hang from it, all as the armour of the

strong ». And finally « Thou art all fair O my beloved! and there is not a spot in Thee ». (Cant. IV. 3. 7.).

What we have quoted is but a small portion indeed, of all that the Church and the servants of God have manifested to us of the heavenly appearance of the Virgin Mother. Neither the pen of the writer, nor the pencil of the painter, however, can ever properly portray it. Since Her Assumption into heaven, it has been given to some of Her chosen servants to see Her, probably, as She appeared on earth. But save in these instances, when She Herself was really seen, nothing, we believe, can give Her devout clients such an intimate knowledge of what She really was and is, as the Image She Herself caused to be brought so miraculously to Genazzano. In it, She seems not only to reproduce Herself in appearance, but, as it were, to live and move, and to respond with a heavenly intelligence to every prayer and desire of those, who come in love and faith to honour Her, and to seek Counsel and other favours at Her feet.

This is saying a great deal, but not too much. All those who now, for four hundred years, have devoutly visited the Sanctuary where the miraculous Image reposes, bear witness to the fact. It is one of the reasons why it is called the Madonna of Paradise. The pilgrims to the Shrine are so impressed by it, that numbers of them speak out to Mary as if they saw Her personally. And after a while, all without exception, who come to implore with earnestness, any favour, find themselves as if they were in the visible presence of the Queen of Angels;

PRIVATE USE ONLY

and so, while their fervour increases they are ravished by the indescribable celestial beauty of the Image, which seems in every feature to respond to the prayer and affectionate outpourings of the suppliant.

7. But the most wonderful manifestation of this power, is the positive, and consequently, miraculous changes in colour and appearance, which the features of the figure of Our Lady seem to undergo. Yet there is perhaps nothing connected with this most miraculous of all the Images of Our Lady, so constantly experienced. All who have obtained singular supernatural help speak of it. It is a strange fact, but, as we shall see, thoroughly well established.

The writer of this work would be loath to speak of his own experience, had not so many devout clients of the Sanctuary, living and dead, spoken of theirs. Like all else who come to the feet of Our Lady of Good Counsel, he had favours to ask for others and for himself. He had many times seen the sacred Image, and had learned to love it for the consolation it imparts to all. On one occasion, however, while offering up the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for some in suffering in whom he took much interest, and for other reasons, he was astonished to find that the sweetly pale features of the figure of Our Lady became joyous, illuminated, and suffused all over, with a deep crimson, or rather, vermillion hue. The eyes became more open and brilliant; and this continued during the remainder of the Holy Sacrifice. He felt a great consolation, but, not having heard at the time, of the well known changes in the aspect of the countenance of the figure of Our Lady, he believed what he noticed to be the

effect of his own imagination, or of some light thrown upon the Image in some unknown way. He therefore kept the matter to himself. However, in reading over, for the purposes of this book, the old, and modern Italian histories of the Sanctuary, he was struck with the unanimity with which they all testified to these changes, and with which they all agreed, that such as he had noticed were a sure presage of petitions being granted. Some months after, brought news from Australia, that certain favours asked for friends, had been in a most extraordinary manner received; and that too, within a few days after the change had been perceived in the miraculous Image at Genazzano. When the writer, afterwards, witnessed the miraculous cure of blindness and epilepsy combined, in the case of Lydia Vernini of Zagarolo, - described in the chapter treating of the miracles performed at the Shrine, - he had no further hesitation in believing, that his own unworthy petitions for extraordinary favours had not only been heard, but had been shown to have been heard, by the sweet clemency of the all powerful Virgin Mother of Good Counsel.

Then, at other times, the sacred figure of Our Lady, seems to speak to the heart of the suppliant; and then, his soul receives a strong, irresistible impression or inspiration to act in a manner that never had been thought of before. He rises from his prayer strengthened and illuminated; and generally finds, afterwards, that the course of action, holy and wise, which he felt impelled to adopt at the feet of the sacred Image, was the best possible that he could

PRIVATE USE ONLY

adopt, and blessed alike with temporal and spiritual success.

Nearly all who visit the Shrine of the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel, experience the one assistance, or the other, and often both. That Sanctuary is a hallowed land of miracles, wrought by the power of Mary with Her Son in favour of those sincerely devoted to Him and to Her. No one, of course, is bound to believe this. But the faithful who try the efficacy of a devout pilgrimage to Genazzano, in their spiritual and temporal necessities, invariably tell of wonders worked in their own cases.

8. Regarding the singular changes in the features of the Image of Our Lady, the famous General of the Augustinian Order, Francis Xavier Vasquez, who lived and wrote under the learned Pontiff Benedict XIV, thus expresses himself, in a Latin letter addressed to the Fathers of his order, upon the occasion of having received the Papal approbation for the Pious Union. « We have there beheld, » he says of Genazzano, « the most comely Image carried thither by angelic hands from Albanian regions, in 1467, the beauty of which delights the hearts of all beholders, the aspect of which is now joyful, now sad, now suffused with roseate hues, according to the disposition of the visitor who approaches it, and the ravishing appearance of which is worthy to be compared with Paradise, for which reason it was anciently called Holy Mary of Paradise ».

It will be seen further on, that Canon Bacci noticed the same changes to his great consolation and advantage. When he knelt for the first time, in much

agony of mind, before the sacred Image, he states, that it assumed this joyous aspect about the middle of the Litany, which was being recited according to the invariable custom, whenever it is uncovered for any purpose. The Augustinian Fathers present noticed it too ; and one of them , without knowing the reason of his coming, was therefore able to tell him, that whatever he had come to demand of Our Lady of Good Counsel, had been granted. That very day, on his return to Rome, he found that, what humanly speaking, was impossible, had been effected. He was freed from his agony of mind. From that moment forward, the grateful Canon became the Apostle of the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel in Rome, and one of the most devoted clients of Her Sanctuary at Genazzano. Father Rodota whose zeal for the sacred Image we shall speak of also, in a special chapter, noticed the same happy changes in its expression, when demanding favours he afterwards obtained. So did hundreds, and indeed, thousands, of the devout petitioners, who came to the Sanctuary. And then, if imagination should be thought to have influenced the pious, and those not skilled in pictures, it cannot be said to be able to deceive the eye of an able and practised painter of high standing in his profession.

9. In 1747. Luigi Tosi, one of the principal painters then residing in Rome, and a disciple of the illustrious Solimene, while employed in taking the, afterwards, celebrated copy of the sacred Image, for his native city of Genoa, left on record a statement of his experience and opinion of the original,

PRIVATE USE ONLY

which corroborates fully all hitherto said regarding its wonderful change in aspect, and its marvellous power. His declaration, duly executed and witnessed as will be seen, was made in Italian. The following is a literal translation of the document.

*« Ad majorem Dei gloriam.*

« This day, being the eleventh of June 1747, a day consecrated to the Apostle Barnabas, the miraculous and ever prodigious Image of Most Holy Mary of Good Counsel being uncovered with the usual veneration, homage, and devotion, in this our Augustinian Church, to Signor Luigi Tosi, a most virtuous Genoese Painter residing in Rome, in order that he, by his virtue and skill, should take a copy on canvass of the said holy Image, as like to the original as possible; and for this purpose, the great glass, sustained and ornamented with fastenings of the finest silver, being taken away, so that, in such manner, the before named Signor Luigi, might better be able to see, consider, and contemplate it; on such occasion, in the presence of all of us, the undersigned, the following most attentive ocular observations were made.

« In the first place, Signor Luigi, the painter referred to, prostrate before the holy Image aforesaid, after having well contemplated, regarded, and many times most attentively considered it, has, clearly seen, and publicly asserted, that of all the copies, which either on copper, or in pictures, have been at different times, and with repeated observation made, of a holy Image so prodigious, not one, properly and truly resembles it: and that it would be most difficult to

find a painter, how excellent soever, to whom could be given the glory and the advantage of executing a painting or copy of it, with full and perfect resemblance to the original; because the features and the delineations, as well of the holy Image of Mary, as also of the holy Child, Whom She holds close to Her breast and to Her face, in an attitude graceful and loving, are so fine, delicate, gentle, amiable and singular, that the whole picture seems properly rather an angelic, than a human work.

« Secondly, the same Signor Luigi, with that skill which he has, as the disciple of the celebrated Solimene, in both ancient and modern images of Most Holy Mary, observed, asserted and concluded, that the holy and miraculous Image spoken of, is neither of the Greek style, nor of the Gothic style, nor of the style of our past ages, nor of modern style; and that in all its parts there is such a fineness and exquisiteness of taste, that it is necessary to observe carefully the least things in it, and the most minute delineations, in order to succeed in executing a copy as like to it, as the art and the skill of the painter can attain to. Whence he has publicly concluded with firmness, that some artist very much better than man, or, at least, some holy man, painted and delineated it. And this is so much more the case, that it cannot be known or discerned, whether it is truly a picture or rather an image miraculously, and with celestial colours impressed, and, as if inviscerated, in a simple crust of wall-plaster, which is the whole support of so great a treasure.

« Thirdly, he has himself ingenuously confessed,

PRIVATE USE ONLY

that scarcely had he placed himself, about the nineteenth hour, in a sitting posture upon the altar, in order to be able better to take the aforesaid desired copy, when suddenly, the forms (of the Virgin and Child) became so confused to him, that, without being able to form any idea or image of the original, he did not know where to turn, nor what to resolve upon, nor how to commence. But inspired afterwards, internally to prostrate himself, scarcely had he bent his knees humbly and devoutly before the holy Image, with the greatest reverence and devotion, when presently his mind became clear, the idea of the original became well impressed upon his imagination; and thus he was happily enabled to commence to copy it, prosecuting afterwards for two days, almost continuously on his knees, the desired and most happy work.

« Fourthly, the same Signor Luigi, the Painter has observed and considered, and in the presence of us all, asserted, that this holy and miraculous Image changes itself very frequently, both in countenance and colour. In fact, about the 19<sup>th</sup> hour, the holy Image being uncovered, and we all, the undersigned being present, have seen it with a visage joyful, sweet, and amiable, but of a pale colour as is usual. Then at the 20<sup>th</sup> hour, all of a sudden, it changed countenance and colour, appearing to the eyes of all the witnesses present, with a new air of majesty, and with a face so lit up, rosy, and brilliant, that Her cheeks seemed like two roses fresh and vermillion coloured. And this unlooked-for, most visible, and most powerful change, caused in the minds of us all present, so unusual a stupor and tenderness,

that one amongst us broke into such a tender and copious flood of tears, that on account of his vehement commotion, he had to depart weeping, from the holy Chapel and the holy Altar. And the above mentioned virtuous Signor Luigi, almost wandering, knew not where to lay hand upon colour or brush, to continue the commenced work. But he was animated afterwards, by an internal spirit and courage upon hearing from the fathers, that when the holy Image appeared ruddy, brilliant, and joyful, it was then an excellent sign, according to the many observations made in past times. Encouraged then, in this wise, and animated suddenly by that amiable countenance, he copied such fine delineations and exquisite delicacies of the sacred Image, that his copy can be said to be more like than others, to the holy original.

« Fifthly, he himself has also observed, and frequently, and most exactly observed, that as the holy Image changes its aspect, so also does it change the look and the light of its eyes. If it appears pleasant and serene, the eyes become majestic and joyful; if its colour is pallid and meagre, so also appear the virginal pupils of the eyes. If with a visage inflamed, brilliant, and rose like, then the eyes appear more joyful, pleasant, lucid, and more open. And of this prodigious mutation, we the undersigned, beyond that which is here described, have seen yet more, with stupefaction and great tenderness. Whence it is to be concluded, that the sacred Image is a work rather divine, than human.

« Sixthly, the same Signor Luigi has also observed, considered, and believed, that those stripes

PRIVATE USE ONLY

of different colours, which are represented above the diadems upon the head of the Virgin and of the holy Child, are not ornaments of a canopy or awning, as some have believed in past times, but rather a portion of an iris or rainbow, as we call it. And the existence of three different colours proves this, as also the ancient custom, in days gone by, to paint many holy images of Mary surrounded by a celestial rainbow. Of which things, the before named Signor Luigi protests to have made a special study.

« Seventhly ; finally, it was on this occasion with greater convenience, and with new, ocular, and most exact consideration and inspection observed and concluded, that it is a continual and most patent miracle how this holy Image, two palms high, and a palm and a half broad, impressed upon a simple thin crust of wall-plaster, has been preserved for three centuries or thereabouts, from 1467 up to now, and is still preserved intact, uninjured and perfect, without the countenance of the Mother or of the Son having suffered any damage whatever; all the more that the thin crust of wall-plaster upon which it is seen so well impressed and coloured, has not behind it any support, or any thing whatever on which it could rest, or by which it could be sustained. Whence we all, in full, ample faith of all that which up to this has been said, and faithfully registered, with our own hands subscribe ourselves.

« I, Father Master, Brother Pancotti, affirm as above with my own hand.

« I, Luigi Tosi, affirm as above etc.

« I, Andrew Bacci, Canon of St. Mark's affirm. etc.

« I, Brother Bartholomew Daglio, Augustinian Provincial of Lombardy, affirm etc.

« I, Br. John Baptist Mary Fossati, Sacristan, affirm etc.

« I, Father Anthony Mary Madureyra, affirm etc.

« I, Lawrence Jacopini, Treasurer of His Excellency, the Lord Constable Colonna, affirm etc. »

This testimony of Luigi Tosi and of the witnesses who with him examined the miraculous Image in 1747, described it, as it had been for nearly three hundred years in Genazzano, and as it remains there to this day. Its whole history was then thoroughly known. But the thousands who witnessed its miraculous coming on the memorable Saturday of April the 25<sup>th</sup> 1467, could not be in the same state of certainty, as to where it came from. They were animated with the same sentiments of love and tenderness, which all who contemplate the beautiful features of the Virgin Mother and Her Child, feel to this hour. They at once called the sacred Image, the Madonna of Paradise, for they could not imagine that it came to them otherwise, than from heaven direct. In the next chapter, we shall see how soon they were undeceived upon this point. The Image came indeed as they saw it, from on high, but through the air only. It came not the less, miraculously, in signs and wonders. It came not only to build the church of Petruccia, and to work innumerable miracles, but to spread throughout all the earth, in God's good time, the gift of Good Counsel, through devotion to the Virgin Mother of Jesus.

---

PRIVATE USE ONLY

## Chapter VII.

### THE MIRACULOUS TRANSLATION

1. The people of Genazzano undeceived. — 2. The Pilgrims from Albania. — 3. Their names. — 4. Their story. — 5. True history of the Translation — Its coming to Scutari. — 6. Decay of devotion to it in Albania — Scanderbeg. — 7. Prayer of the pilgrims. — 8. Orders of Mary.—9.The Image in air, followed by pilgrims, leaves Scutari.—10. Miraculous passage of the Adriatic. — 11. Image disappears at Rome — Pilgrims' grief. — 12. News reaches Rome of the wonderful apparition — They find the Image. — 13. They live and die, and leave their families in Genazzano.

1. We have seen that the inhabitants of Genazzano believed, and had some reason to believe, that the Image of Our Lady came to them from Paradise. Not one of those amongst the crowds, who came during the first few days, and saw and contemplated that beautiful object, as it stood near the unfinished wall of the chapel of St. Biagio, doubted that it did. In a little time, however, a circumstance occurred, which, while manifesting wonderfully, the miraculous Providence watching over the precious treasure, made it clear that it did not, at least this time, come direct from heaven. Yet it was, in every sense,

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

a heavenly gift, sent by God's Virgin Mother, amidst circumstances as extraordinary, as had accompanied the coming of Her holy House of Nazareth, to Dalmatia, and to Italy.

2. This was made known, by the appearance of two strangers, not of the Italian race, amidst the multitudes coming in increasing numbers to witness the prodigy, and to ask favours at the feet of Mary. When these two first saw the Image, they were filled with an ecstasy of indescribable delight, and could scarcely be brought to absent themselves from its holy presence. They declared that they would never leave it; that they would labour and live and die in its sight. And faithfully, as we shall see, they kept their promise.

3. They were both from the city of Scutari in Albania, at the other side of the Adriatic Sea, opposite the Italian coast, and in a latitude about the same as that of Rome. The one, a true Albanian, was a young man named Georgio, and the other, a man more advanced in years, was, though born it would appear in Scutari, of the Sclavonic race, and was called De Sclavis. They gave the history of the wonderful coming of the sacred Image in a manner very different from that supposed, and which the people of Genazzano desired so much to believe. But every circumstance that occurred after, tended all the more to confirm their story, which was as follows.

4. Some three months previous, in the January of the year 1467, they said, the last great monarch of Albania died; and the Turks, whom his valour had kept back for more than twenty years, were

PRIVATE USE ONLY

advancing in irresistible might, upon their unfortunate country. The enemy had already occupied nearly all its fortresses; and Scutari, the city of the strangers, was only preserved by a Venetian garrison, invited there by Scanderbeg, from sharing the fate of the other cities of the country. There was no knowing the moment however, when it too would fall, as in fact it did fall shortly after, into the hands of the Turks. At this juncture, those who wished to preserve their faith and their freedom, endeavoured to emigrate to neighbouring Christian lands; and amongst the many who deliberated upon making such an attempt, were Georgio and De Sclavis.

5. It would appear moreover, that they had the care, or at least were much devoted, to a beautiful little church situated at the foot of the mountain upon which stood the fortress of Scutari, and near the junction of the two rivers, the Bojana and the Drina, upon which the city is built. This little church was dedicated to the Mother of God, under the title of Her Annunciation. It was the chief sanctuary of Mary in the dominions of their ancient monarchs, and to it, not only the people of Scutari, but those from Croja, the capital, from Epirus, and from all Albania and Sclavonia repaired to satisfy their devotion, and to obtain graces and favours. The reason of this great devotion, they said was, that about two centuries before, and exactly at the time when all Dalmatia and Italy were full of the wonderful translation of the holy House of Nazareth to Loreto, an Image of Our Lady was miraculously conveyed to the little church of the Annunciation, as it was sup-

posed, from the far East. It filled all Albania with devotion to God's Mother; and in truth was no other, than that which now stood before the gaze of the people of Genazzano.

6. The little church of the suburbs of Scutari, was therefore, dear to all the land, and to all the populations of the Christian provinces, lying between the waters of the Adriatic and the Black Sea. But alas!, it had to be admitted, that devotion to it had grown cold. Schism worked its blighting way in Albania. The morals of the people decayed with the purity of their religion. Devotion to Our Lady languished even in Scutari itself. The Turkish invasion, a clear punishment sent from heaven, could not call the mass of the population to repentance. As a writer on the subject feelingly complains, « the young men and maidens no longer delighted to place flowers on the altar of Mary of Scutari; and therefore, their punishment could not be far distant. » Nevertheless, many remained faithful; and amongst them, the hero, whom the Albanians still love to call, the « lightning Lion of War, » the great King, George Castriota or Scanderbeg. He loved the sanctuary of Mary with a devoted, enthusiastic love; and Mary in return, not only made him a model of Christian perfection, but also gave him an invincible power, which preserved not only Albania but also Christendom during his reign. When he died, She appeared to have nothing else left to love in that land, and so, though She came to it in benediction, She determined to leave it in anger to its fate; and She did so under the following circumstances.

PRIVATE USE ONLY

7. While the two, Georgio and De Sclavis, weighed down with the misfortunes of their country, were contemplating to leave it for ever, they first had recourse for light and direction to their beloved sanctuary of Mary. There, prostrate before Her sacred Image, they asked Her assistance. They felt deeply at having to leave friends and father-land, and they knew not the land they were going to. But more than all, they felt an unspeakable grief in leaving for ever their beloved Madonna, the beautiful Image they had worshipped so tenderly from their childhood. This principally, made them doubt whether they should go or stay. With copious tears they therefore, besought Our Lady's help: and it came in a manner most unexpected indeed, but nevertheless, most grateful. They were to go, but yet, so as not to lose their most valued treasure.

8. Those, as we have observed in the last chapter, who visit the Madonna of Genazzano, in affliction and doubt, and who in their distress do what those good clients of Mary did at the feet of Her sacred Image in Scutari, state that they feel, by some wonderful supernatural inspiration, what it is that they have to do. The direction is often as distinct as language could make it. It must have been some such inspiration as this, which reached Georgio and De Sclavis. Both felt as if Mary had spoken to them. Besides this, they had a dream of like import. Mary told them to prepare all things necessary for their journey, and to fly for ever from that unhappy land; and further said, that She Herself would, in that very Image they so loved, depart from Scutari, and from

the profanation of the Turks, soon destined to be its captors, and travel to another land, to diffuse there those graces and benedictions of which Albania had proved itself unworthy. And finally, She ordered that they should follow Her in Her Image wherever it might go.

Those who are led by the hand of the Mother of God, are neither in doubt nor in trouble of spirit at Her guidance. They believe, and indeed they know, the power of Mary with Her Son. They know Her tenderness, Her charity, Her care of Her own; and they are not surprised at any manifestation of Her miraculous mercy.

9. The fortunate emigrants, then, repaired on the following morning to the church, fully prepared to quit Albania. They entered the little sanctuary, and behold!, while kneeling for the last time in Scutari before the beloved Image, suddenly, it commenced to detach itself from the wall. In the same manner that it came two centuries before, it left the niche it so long occupied. It stood in mid-air. A white cloud at once enveloped it. Through that cloud, however, it was visible to their eyes. It moved towards the door of the church, departed, and then, lightly ascending, gently travelled at a pace not greater than their own towards the sea, a distance of about twenty four miles from Scutari.

10. Here the white cloud did not stay in its course through the air, but passed over the waters. The two pilgrims, led by the spirit of God, knew that the divine assistance would not forsake them; and more confident than the Israelites of old, they, trusting in

PRIVATE USE ONLY

Mary's protection, walked not indeed between the waters but over them. They found the waves to be as hard soil beneath their feet, and they followed the Image until it reached the opposite shores of Italy. The waters were the same to them as adamant. When night came on, the white cloud which shaded them from the mid-day sun, grew illuminated, and became to them as the pillar of fire to the Hebrews in the desert. Thus, over mountain, and river, and sea, and valley, they passed, until at length, the wide plain of the Campagna of Latium, opened out before them, and they saw in the distance, the towers and the domes of Rome.

11. Thither the cloud moved, until it reached the gates of the city, when, to their inexpressible grief, just as the star of Bethlehem in the case of the Magi, it all of a sudden, disappeared from their sight. They were inconsolable. They searched all the churches in Rome, with the hope of finding it resting in some one of them. They went through every street of the great city. At the time, numbers of their countrymen were to be found everywhere in Italy, forced for a reason like their own to leave the home of their forefathers. But none could give them the least tidings. Perhaps none could understand, or, if they did, could believe their strange story. Thus afflicted, as Mary was once Herself at losing Her Child and Her God in Jerusalem, they continued seeking, as men disconsolate, or, perhaps, as people who heard their story thought, as men deranged, for that white cloud and beautiful Image they had lost.

12. But soon the news reached Rome itself, of the

wonderful apparition of an Image of Mary, just such as they described, upon the unfinished walls of a church commenced, but abandoned in Genazzano. Report spoke too, of a white cloud giving forth rays of light which accompanied its coming, amidst strains of angelic music; of the Image remaining suspended in the air; of innumerable miraculous cures being wrought at its feet; and of multitudes flocking from all quarters to its Sanctuary. The people of Rome began to follow the example of those of the lesser towns, and go on pilgrimage to Genazzano. Those who thought the two Albanians deranged, now began to regard them as true servants of Mary, and to believe that the lost Image was the one followed, as they stated, over land and sea. The news at least no sooner reached the pilgrims, than, with all haste, they set out for Genazzano. There, to their inexpressible delight, they saw above the heads of kneeling thousands, amidst lights and flowers innumerable, while workmen were busy constructing a magnificent marble canopy over it, the beloved Image which they had, but only for a season, lost. Those from Rome who saw their distress at losing it, could now understand their delight.

13. The pilgrims determined never more to leave the sight of their beloved Image. They both settled in Genazzano, where they married and left families behind them. The family of De Sclavis became extinct in its direct line, only during the last century. That of Georgio exists to this day, and is one of the most numerous and respectable in Genazzano. The Mayor and Notary of the town is a direct de-

PRIVATE USE ONLY

scendant of this latter, and has furnished the writer, from the Archives of the municipality with a family tree, which the reader will find amongst the other proofs of the miraculous translation in the chapter (X.), where such proofs are given and critically examined.

The people of Genazzano received the narrative of the pilgrims coldly enough. They did not wish to have the flattering illusion, that their Madonna came from Paradise, broken. They did not desire to entertain the idea of the possibility of the sacred Image departing from themselves, as it had done from Scutari, and as tradition said, it had departed from the East. Yet, as we shall see, nothing whatever occurred to cast the shadow of a doubt upon the statement of the Albanians. That country at the time, occupied the attention of Italy and of Europe generally, more than any other country in the world. Christendom was full of the fame of Scanderbeg, and just at the moment mourning his death. The Turks were at fierce war there with the Christians. Albanian refugees were crowding in upon Latium, Venetia, and Calabria. From the opposite coasts of the Adriatic, the whole exposed line of the Italian peninsula was threatened. We cannot then, in justice to our history, pass over a country so wound up with the sacred Image; and so before we proceed further, we shall devote a chapter to Albania and its last great Christian Chief, King George Castriota, the favourite client and child of our Lady of Good Counsel. We shall also see that the coming of the sacred Image to Italy, was the commencement of the complete ruin of the Turks.

---

## Chapter VIII.

### SCANDERBEG AND ALBANIA

1. Reason for this chapter — Description of Albania — Physical features — Fortresses. — 2. It is Christianized — Leans to schism — Is punished with the Greeks. — 3. The condition of the East — Its destruction by Mahomedanism. — 4. Conduct of the West — The Turks — Their early Caliphs — Conquest of the European East. — 5. Rise of Scanderbeg — His captivity under Amurath II. — The Janizaries — Education of Scanderbeg — His military genius and position with the Sultan — Abandons the Turks — Frees Albania. — 6. Efforts of Amurath's generals and armies against him, fruitless. — 7. Amurath with 200,000 men defeated at Croja, dies of a broken heart in consequence. — 8. Evident protection of Mary — fall of Constantinople. — 9. Efforts of Mahomet's generals against Scanderbeg, defeated always — Truce. — 10. Scanderbeg in Italy. — 11. Truce broken — Scanderbeg defeats the whole force of Mahomet in person. — 12. Gives Scutari to the Venetians. — 13. Scanderbeg's dying hours at Lissa — Miraculous recovery and defeat of the last effort of the Turks — His death — Tradition regarding the sacred Image in Albania.

1. In a history, where so much is spoken of the regions, from whence the miraculous Image of Our Lady of Good Counsel came, it will be of great use to take a brief glance at the once entirely Catholic nation in which it so long remained, and at the great client of its Sanctuary in Scutari, King George Castriota, or, as he is better known by his Turkish appellation, Scanderbeg, (from the words *Iskander* and *beg* or *bey*, which mean Alexander, the prince) the hero of Christendom.

PRIVATE USE ONLY

Before this country fell finally under the Crescent, it was called Albania, a name by which it is yet known amongst Christian nations. Its present inhabitants call themselves « Skypetars. » Its Northern portion formed the Illyria of the Roman Empire; and its Southern division was identical with the Epirus of the Greeks. On the West, it was watered by the Adriatic and the Ionian seas. On the South, it touched Greece. On the East, it was bounded by Thessaly and Macedonia; while on the North, it had Montenegro, Servia, and Bosnia, with their population of Sclavonians, as neighbours. To this day, the Albanians preserve their ancient Illyrian character, though intermixed, no doubt, in the progress of centuries, with the adjoining races of Sclavs and Greeks. They are a most warlike race. Since their subjugation by the overwhelming forces of the Turks, those amongst them who became deprived of their faith, proved the most fierce and terrible Mussulman warriors. The men of the district of the Suli, who dwell upon the steep glen-sides and valleys of the Acheron, in the South, resisted all the forces of Ali Pasha, for a lengthened period in this century. They till their fields, it is said, sword in hand, and hide their harvests from Turkish rapacity in the earth. Of them, Lord Byron writes.

Oh! who is more brave than a dark Suliote,  
In his snowy camese and his shaggy capote?  
To the wolf and the vulture he leaves his wild flock,  
And descends to the plain like the stream from the rock.

Towards the Northern boundary, in that tract  
of country which lies between the Black Drin and

the sea, are the Mirdites, or, in their language, « the brave. » These are and always have been, since the days of their last great captain, Castriota, fervent Catholics. They, like the Sulioites, cultivate their farms, girded for battle, and are at any moment prepared to fight for their freedom and for their faith. They have consequently preserved intact both the one and the other.

From the above description, the reader will easily understand that we are treating of mountaineers. And so the inhabitants of Albania may in general be called. The country, as its name, derived from Alb or Alp signifies, is altogether a mountainous region. Its promontories jut out into the waters of the Adriatic, at a height sometimes reaching 5000 feet; and within are found a series of more or less lofty ranges, which run off to the sea from the Bora-dagh and the time honoured Pindus. Like the Highlands of Scotland and like Switzerland, Albania abounds in steep glens and natural fastnesses. It is, therefore, a country difficult to conquer and difficult to hold. But unlike Switzerland and Scotland, it is rich in all that should make a population contented and secure. Its soil is naturally fertile, and there is in it every variety of climate. But the wretched misgovernment of the Turks has worked upon it the same desolation, that has fallen upon every province, which unfortunately, has had to submit to their sway.

In the times of its independence, Albania had many cities, all fortresses. Of these, the capital was Croja; and the chief stronghold after that was Scutari, securely built on a steep height near the lake of the same

PRIVATE USE ONLY

name, upon the point where the river Bojana issuing from it, is joined by the Drina. The Turks, upon obtaining the government of the country, utterly destroyed Croja; but they retained Scutari, which forms the principal place of defence in the provinces of Scutari and Janina.

2. Albania was early Christianized. In the division of the Roman Empire after the death of Constantine, it followed the fortunes of the East. In religion, its rite was the Greek; and through various fortunes, it oscillated, like most of the Eastern provinces, between orthodoxy and schism. It would appear however, that finally, it yielded, at least in great part, to the influence of the Court of Constantinople; and, as a consequence, it became involved in the misfortunes, which Providence permitted to fall upon all the provinces, of the once vast and mighty empire of the Greeks.

3. At this distance of time even, it is hard to contemplate such a terrible catastrophe, as the destruction of that empire by the bitterest foes of Christ. And yet, it is impossible not to see in such a visitation, the just judgment of God. The millions who owned allegiance to the emperor of Constantinople, were the most civilized and polished the world ever saw. They were more so, than the Romans of the West at any time. They knew every art that could embellish life. Every material want was satisfied. They had commerce, agriculture, and imperial and municipal legislation, carried to a perfection, which, if it did not reach that of the moderns in some respects, in others, it far surpassed them. The government,

if despotic, was enlightened. The law was that of the Justinian Code, *ratio ipsa scripta*, and thoroughly respected. To all that Grecian language, literature, philosophy, and art, could give to life, its people added the priceless blessings of Christianity, moulding, protecting, and elevating all their social institutions. Their lands teemed with plenty. The position and extent of their dominions, enabled commerce to waft the superabundance of one locality, to supply the wants of another. Egypt, the granary of the world, was theirs; and theirs were the mines of Ophir, the cedars of Lebanon, the blades of Damascus, the trade of Alexandria, Smyrna, and the Hellespont, the spices and silks of the Indies, the schools of Greece. But their civilization proved, after a time, to be, in practice, but the civilization of every mighty empire that existed previously, and which God had to shatter for its sins. The East rotted in its wealth, « in the fulness of bread »; and to such an extent, that even the faithful few who prayed and fasted in its monasteries and deserts, could not save it. It sinned as did Babylon; and, it is to be feared, even as did « the cities of the plain ». The pride, and delirium of pleasures turned its reason. It persecuted the saints. It corrupted the truth; and after many rebellions, it fell finally from the unity of the faith. It recovered, reeled, fell, and fell again; until at last, God weary of its prevarication, let loose upon it the most terrible scourge the world has yet seen.

In the seventh century, a fanatic who had formed a religion based upon lust and spoils, in the deep wilds of despised Arabia, saw in a dream the Crosses

PRIVATE USE ONLY

oscillate and fall from the towers and processional staves of the great and distant Constantinople, while the empire of that proud city was promised to him and to his. This was the beginning of its ruin. From that hour there was no escape. Through the course of eight centuries, the realization of this vision became the darling project of all the successors of Mahomet, from Abu-Beker to him who finally took the great capital of the Christian East, from the last of the Caesars.

Yet, how well soever deserved, it is impossible to see destruction fall upon so much Christian magnificence without emotion. The storm, which ceased not, until it had swept every vestige of Christian civilization from the East, commenced its terrific course when the empire seemed to have reached the very zenith of its splendour. Heraclius after crushing its worst and most dreaded foe, Chosroes, the Monarch of Persia, won back the treasure of the True Cross; and had but just borne the sacred burden upon his imperial shoulders to the church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, when that cloud, « no bigger than a man's hand, » arose in the deserts of the South; and a vast crowd of half-naked savages, wrested from him, almost at a blow, the first cities and provinces of Asia Minor. Antioch, Damascus, Smyrna, even Jerusalem itself, and all the Holy Land, passed into the power of the Paynim. Omar, the third in succession from Mahomet, erected his mosque upon the site of the temple of Solomon; while Amru and his companions severed Egypt for ever from the Greeks. The valour of Kaled, in a few brief campaigns, gave

the children of « the Prophet » a domain, as wide as that of Antiochus, in Syria. And in a generation, Christian Asia, and the best part of Christian Africa, instead of being a support to the Roman East, were converted into a formidable, compact and fanatical power, which constantly menaced its existance, and the very existance of Christendom itself, with utter ruin.

4. The chivalry of the West, it is true, for a season, kept back the progress of this formidable foe. The Crusaders and the military orders of the Catholic Church, even if finally obliged to abandon their few conquests, at least kept Europe from desolation. But alas! when the noble zeal of Saint Louis passed, and German emperors thought more of persecuting the common Father of the Faitful, in their attempts upon Italy, than about the defence of Christendom; when the cupidity and laxity of morals, which made such a « Reformation » as that of Luther possible, began to appear; when all hope of a sincere unity in faith, and a thorough reformation in conduct, seemed as delusive in the European portion of the Byzantine empire, as it had been in the Asiatic or African; the sword of destruction was at last unsheathed upon it; and the Bosphorus was crossed by the fiercest hordes of the fanatical adherents of the Koran, ever let loose upon a Christian land, before. These were the Turks under Orkhan, the younger son and successor of Othman, or Osman, the founder of their dynasty in Asia. The prosperity of the latter was amazing. Orthogrul, his father, was the chief of a mere fragment of a nomad tribe of Oguz-

PRIVATE USE ONLY

ians from the Turkestan steppes, East of the Caspian sea, whom the tide of Mongul conquest had scattered. Taking service under the Sultan of Iconium, he and his people were rewarded with a grant of land in Phrygia. He ruled his tribe for at least fifty years, and on his death, Othoman or Othman - *young bustard* - though his youngest son, succeeded.

Upon the destruction of the Seljuk Sultinate in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, Othman soon made himself master of nearly all the former empire of Iconium. To this territory he speedily added all that remained to the Greeks of Asia; and thus left Orkhan, his son and successor, in a position to carry the terrible Crescent across the Hellespont. Orkhan reigned from 1326, to 1359. His first stroke at Europe was to lay seige to Gallipoli, to Koiridicastron, and other strongholds of the Byzantines. He took them, and before his death, he swept over the Balkan peninsula, and set his foot so firmly on Western soil, that his son and successor, Amurath I. was able to establish his capital at Adrianople. Amurath proved as active and as formidable as his father. In his reign the empire of the East was reduced to Greece, Thrace, and a few districts of Bulgaria, close to the capital. Constantinople was still, no doubt, formidable as the first fortress in the world; and great hope was entertained that it would last, until a reaction against the Turks set in. The Christians of the rest of Europe, so long indifferent to the progress of the Moslems, did not confide, however, in its impregnability. They united their forces, and sent what they considered an overwhelming army against the foe. But that

army, amounting to half a million of men, Hungarians Wallachians, Germans, and Italians, was utterly routed and broken at Kossova in 1390. Amurath was killed, but this did not save Europe. Bajazet I., his son and successor, swept in a continued victorious career over Servia and Wallachia; and was prevented from advancing further upon Europe, only by a providential interference. This was the descent of Tamerlain upon Asiatic Turkey. It gave breathing time to the unfortunate populations of the Balkan peninsula, and of Constantinople, to repair their disasters; and, if wise, to drive the Turks from Europe. But they did not use it; nor does the history of the Church tell, that their condition either religiously or morally bettered. The Eastern Church returned neither to unity nor to sanctity. Even Bajazet, when about to meet the most formidable army of Christians ever sent against him, judged from the low ebb of their moral and religious condition, that their conduct would surely bring upon them the anger of their God. And he was right. Over one hundred thousand Christians, the flower of the chivalry of Germany and France, were utterly destroyed at Nicopolis in Bulgaria, in 1396. Their wealth fell a prey to the conqueror. The Emperor Sigismund had to fly for his life. Nothing at the moment, but the providential calling away we have mentioned, of the proud Sultan to his own terrible doom at the hands of Tamerlain in Asia, saved central Europe from instant ruin, and the rest of the Continent from serious danger. Fifty years of rest now passed, without much amendment in the European East. Little or nothing was repaired; and

PRIVATE USE ONLY

again the war cloud gathered with more terrible effect than ever. Amurath II. ascended the throne of his grandfather Bajazet in 1422. He speedily spread his power over the remnant of territory left to Constantinople. He added Greece, and finally Albania, to his dominions; and gave a death blow to all opposition to his power, by a victory over the Christian crusade, which the zeal of the Pope had gathered to resist him, at Varna, in 1444.

5. The reign of this Mussulman conqueror brings us to the mighty chief, whom Mary, Mother of Good Counsel, had raised up to save Albania and Europe from him, and from the still more terrible power of his son and successor Mahomet II., the captor of Constantinople. This was George, the youngest of four sons of King John Castriota, whom hard fortune compelled his father to hand over as a hostage to Amurath in 1423. At that time, though young in years, the latter was, nevertheless, so well grounded in the love and the knowledge of the Catholic religion, as never to depart from it. He carried with him to his long exile, the love of the sweet Madonna of Scutari, the beloved Patroness of his father-land; and She saved him from the worst effects of his new master's blandishments, which were all used to destroy his faith.

It may be well to remark here, that one of the diabolical schemes of Orkhan, in order to raise a body-guard for the protection of the person of himself and of his successors, was to take young Christians captive, and, circumcising them, to rear them under the care of fanatical mollahs, in the deepest hatred of their

Christian parents, and of their Christian faith. These, being afterwards well trained to arms, were called Janizaries, and proved the fiercest enemies of Christianity. They formed a kind of pretorian guard for the Sultan; and having no relations amongst the great families of the Turks, the dynasty as such, was sure of their allegiance. It is no part of our purpose, to enter into the danger they proved to their masters, and which led to their suppression in blood, as late as 1826. In the days of Amurath II. they were in full favour. The « Commander of the faithful » made it his study to increase and perfect them. The younger Castriota, therefore, attracted the immediate attention of the sultan. The youth was, it is said, most beautiful to look upon; and rarely gifted with every quality of mind and body. Amurath counted upon making one of his tender years, in time, a strong support of his throne. He therefore, knowing the royal descent of the captive, had him educated as if he were his own son. He gave him masters in the Arabic, Turkish, Sclav, and Italian languages. Young Castriota became proficient in them all. He was trained in every branch of military knowledge known at the time. He obtained, when he reached manhood, a command in Asia. He moreover greatly distinguished himself against the Mahomedan enemies of the Turks. But Amurath miscalculated, when he placed the young commander at the head of a force to fight against the Christians. And bitterly he had to repent of his error. Castriota found in this force three hundred Albanians, as firm in their faith, and as devoted to their beloved Madonna of Scutari, as

PRIVATE USE ONLY

he was himself. And so, confiding in Her intercession, when the first confusion of the first engagement between the forces of Hunniady and Amurath arose, he gave the signal, and without striking a blow against his fellow Christians, he and his changed sides, and were soon freemen upon the mountains of Albania. There he floated the flag of his father-land and of his faith, and was soon joined by the fighting men, Suliote, and Mirdite, and Sclav, and Greek, who remained true to the traditions of their country and their God.

6. It was however, a terrible risk, to rise against the mighty conqueror, who, after Varna, was, it may be said, omnipotent in all that land now known, or which was lately known, as European Turkey. Amurath was enraged at being baffled by one whom he had so splendidly educated for quite another purpose, than to be his enemy. The first news he heard of the desertion of Castriota, was followed by the still worse intelligence, that the fugitive had taken every Turkish garrison but one in Albania, and that every Turk in the country was put to the sword<sup>1</sup>. At once

---

<sup>1</sup> In many of the notices of Scanderbeg found in English literature, the prevailing Protestant spirit prompts the writers to do but scant justice to the Catholic hero. This is observable, in the article upon him, even in such a professedly impartial work as Chambers's Encyclopaedia. The writer, evidently, had all his sympathy for Amurath, and Mahomet, and the Turks generally, while the merit of the exploits of both Hunniady and Scanderbeg, who saved not only Catholicity, but even Protestant Christianity, and European civilization from ruin, is both grudgingly and ungraciously admitted. One would imagine that a Turk had written this article, if it were not known, that the Turks themselves take a far more generous view of these Christian heroes, than

the Sultan dispatched forty thousand of his bravest veterans, fresh from the victory of Varna, against the offender. These, Castriota met with 15000 mountain-

---

the writer employed by presumably Christian publishers. In this article, Scanderbeg is plainly charged with apostasy, perfidy, and unjustifiable cruelty in his treatment of the Turks, and of their sultan «who had so splendidly educated him.» It is further stated that the reason of his leaving them, was that Amurath had confiscated the estates of the Castriotas in Albania. This is a most unjust way of putting the state of the case. It was not surely the fault of George Castriota, that Amurath took him as a hostage by force from his father. The writer does not mention the fact that his three elder brothers were murdered by order of their captor, by means of slow poison — a fact stated by Barletto, Du Poncet, Feller, and every trustworthy historian of the period. The fact that all three died soon in captivity is admitted by everyone. Under such circumstances, the subjecting of a mere lad to the rite of circumcision could not be considered to have made him so far a Moslem as to have ruined his Christian faith. To save his life, and to qualify himself to be able one day, to avenge his murdered brothers, his father, his country, and his real faith, made him dissemble. Young as he was, he should have preferred death with his brothers rather than do this. Such would be his duty as a Catholic. But then on the other hand, the Turks could not complain that one so treated as he was by them, in his kindred, and in his country should not keep an allegiance to them who had acted so treacherously in the case of his brothers. Neither honour nor conscience could compel either himself or his fellow Christians to stay with the perfidious enemies of their faith, their freedom, and their father-land, one moment longer than they could help.

It is quite true that when Scanderbeg went over to the side of the Christians, he made use of the knowledge he had acquired of Turkish customs, to crush the Turks in Albania. Having made the secretary of the sultan a prisoner in the first engagement, he compelled that functionary to write out a firman, in the name of Amurath, directed to the Turkish governor of Albania ordering him to deliver up his command to whomsoever should present the document. The Secretary did so, and

PRIVATE USE ONLY

eers, raw, undisciplined, but devoted to their leader, and perfectly pliable in his hands. The battle was one of the bloodiest on record. The Christians fought for freedom and for life; for faith, for father-land, for all that was dear, against a foe that had bound them in a hateful slavery. The Turks, enraged at the desertion of the favourite of their sultan, and full of hatred for the Christians, fought for revenge. But after a terrible conflict, the genius of Scanderbeg prevailed, and the remnant of the Turkish veterans, reduced to a handful, had to fly from Albania. Not to give Castriota time

---

Scanderbeg then immediately put him and all his Turkish suite to death, so that no one of them might be able to carry the news of the occurrence to the sultan. The firman subsequently enabled him to gain possession of the throne of his father. This was a stratagem which one of the age, the antecedents, and strong sense of injury under which Scanderbeg laboured, thought fair, when used against the unjust aggressors of his country, who never scrupled to use any perfidy in their dealings with Christians. They murdered his brothers, despoiled his family, butchered his fellow countrymen, led his countrywomen into a horrible slavery worse than death, and ravaged and destroyed his father-land. Whatever offence then, was in the using of such a stratagem, there was certainly much to palliate it. But such is the effect of anti-Catholic feeling, that writers like him of Chambers's Encyclopaedia appear to have neither reason, sympathy, nor justice, when treating of those who serve God's Church. Judith took the life of Holofernes by stratagem. The Turks, who certainly acted no better than that enemy of God's people, to the Christians, had, of course, to be prepared for the consequences. It must be borne in mind however, that from the moment this first stratagem had its effect, until the last moment of his life, the innumerable conflicts in which Scanderbeg was engaged, showed him to be a warrior of the purest type, equal in every respect to the Cid, to Bayard, or to Godfrey de Buillon; and superior far to every non-Catholic hero of whom we have any knowledge.

to profit by his victory, two other armies of Turks almost immediately appeared, composed of the picked men, and the most fanatical in all the hosts of Amurath. They were, in comparison to the forces of Castriota, as numerous or more numerous, than the first. Their determination was to crush him, and be done with him. But they followed the same fate as their predecessors. They fought however, with such desperation, that only seventy two men were left to surrender. At length the sultan himself, the victor in so many contests, determined to take the command. He assembled all the forces of his empire, capable of taking the field. He marched at their head with a fixed resolution to annihilate Albania, and wreck his vengeance on Scanderbeg. Fortress after fortress of the devoted country fell before the skilled and enthusiastic onset of his troops. His cavalry covered the land like dense clouds. There seemed no hope at all for Albania, when his multitudes of trained warriors at last encircled Croja, its capital, the last fortress left to Scanderbeg and his handful of mountaineers.

7. Croja would certainly have offered as little resistance as its sister cities, but the Christian hero was there, strong in his confidence in Mary the powerful Protectress, Who never once in all his life forsook him. With matchless strategy he contrived to keep the myriads of his opponents from the walls. With energy almost superhuman, he swept unexpectedly, now here and now there, by night and by day, into the midst of the foe; every swordsman of his band hewed down scores, and his own blade flashed as the lightning and caused Moslem heads to fall

PRIVATE USE ONLY

like snow flakes where he passed. Thousands of the bravest warriors of Amurath were thus swept away continuously. His hosts were diminishing to the point of danger to his very person. And so, the fierce conqueror of so many nations, had to withdraw the remnant of his armies, in sorrow and in shame from the walls of Croja, pursued with terrific slaughter by the Christians. His proud spirit was crushed at this terrible reverse. He had barely time to reach his capital, Adrianople, when he sank under the misfortune. His heart broke, and he died in consequence, unquestionably, of his disaster in Albania.

Jubilation for this miraculous victory filled all Christendom. The Sanctuary of Our Lady in Scutari was crowded; but none there prayed with more humility and thankfulness, than King George himself, who attributed all his victories to Mary. She made him as gentle in peace, as he was terrible in war. Naturally violent, he so restrained his temper, that in his efforts to repress anger, it is said, his lips would split and bleed. But yet, through Mary he had as much power over his own passions, as over his enemies in the field. He was pure in morals, honourable in conduct, and most devoted to the unity of the Faith, a unity which he furthered with all his power amongst his people. After his splendid successes, he received the blessings, as he had the prayers, and all the temporal assistance that could be given him by the saintly Pontiff Nicholas V. All the princes of Europe sent him their congratulations. But instead of being exalted at this, he used the little peace, his victories secured to Albania, to prepare for new wars.

8. And these soon came in more frequency and force than ever. To Amurath succeeded Mahomet II., the sworn, the fiercest, and most unrelenting enemy of the Christian name, Mahomedanism ever produced. Rearred, it may be said, with Scanderbeg, he knew the Christian leader well. Stung to the quick, at his father's disgrace, he determined to crush Albania, but took care not to venture himself into its mountains. And then, if he could not fully succeed, policy required that he should occupy Castriota, so as to prevent him from thwarting the vast designs he planned against Christendom at large, and against the unfortunate city of Constantinople in particular.

At this period, it is a melancholy sight to behold that city standing in solitary independence, almost like a spectre amidst the ruins of the immense empire, that once belonged to it. Yet such was the condition to which Amurath had reduced it. Its failings had been great, and they continued even to the last. Yet all Christendom felt keenly, that it should fall into the hands of its inveterate and unrelenting foe. And then its last emperor, Constantine Paleologus, might be said to be one of the best that ever occupied its throne. He felt the approach of the storm, and bravely prepared to meet it. To defend a wall twelve miles in circumference, and to meet an army at least three hundred thousand strong, continually reinforced and assisted, moreover, by several hundred vessels at sea, he had but nine thousand men. Yet, aided by the brave Justiniani of Genoa, Paleologus withstood the whole force of Mahomet, his cannon, his towers, and his fleet, for eight weeks. In such a dire

PRIVATE USE ONLY

extremity, it is sad to think that Europe was inactive in sending assistance. The unfortunate Emperor had to struggle alone. He fell, but his bravery immortalized the last day of Christian Constantinople, and made it the most glorious of its history.

On the morning of that day, Constantine Paleologus and his court received the Holy Communion in the glorious fane of St. Sophia, which then for the last time, witnessed a Christian rite. He placed his house in order for his death. He asked forgiveness for his faults from all, and with his handful of soldiers prepared to die, where he could no longer live. On that morning, two hundred and sixty thousand Turks advanced to the onset. They were met with an energy superhuman. The famous Greek fire, the millstones of the city, boiling oil, and molten lead, destroyed the foe in thousands. But alas, the force of numbers prevailed, and over the dead body of the Emperor, the Turks, with a yell of fury, entered for the first time, the proud capital promised to Mahomet in his dream. For three days, the victors, by order of the sultan, plundered and slaughtered as they pleased. Forty thousand fell by the edge of the sword, and sixty thousand of the most cultured people in the universe, passed into positive slavery. The Crosses fell in truth from the church towers. The morning of the 30<sup>th</sup> of May 1453, saw the Crescent floating over Constantinople. The caliph entered it as conqueror. Before his death if he did not quite succeed in subjecting the world, he could boast that he subdued Constantinople and Trebisond, overcame, at least a dozen kingdoms, and took innumerable

9

fortresses. Why he did not succeed to the full extent of his desire was, that God had raised up against him Hunniady, who overcame him at Belgrade in 1456, and Scanderbeg, who occupied him from that until 1467.

9. From the death of Amurath in 1450, to 1461, Mahomet sent several armies under his ablest commanders against Albania. His policy, moreover, of bribery, after the fall of Constantinople, caused the faithless chiefs of Epirus to desert their national standard, and even to join the Turks against their king. But the moment these apostates left the Christian cause, the spirit that made them formidable, departed, and when they appeared amidst the thousands of Mahomet, they were mowed down by the faithful Mirdites of Castriota, like grass before the scythe. On one of these occasions, over thirty thousand Turks and apostates fell before the little band of Scanderbeg. At length Mahomet gave up the task of subduing the great leader, in despair; and agreed to a kind of armed truce in 1461.

10. We find Scanderbeg now, in Italy. His fast friend Pius II., (*Aeneas Sylvius*), filled the Pontifical Throne. He, like his predecessor, had supplied the Albanian Chief with the sinews of war in abundance. So did the King of Aragon, who then ruled Naples. Scanderbeg came principally to assist the latter. He showed that his sword was as potent against the chivalry of France, as against the hosts of the Osmanlies. He restored in a short period, the Southern kingdom to his benefactor. After satisfying his devotion at the tombs of the Apostles, he left Rome, where a street is still called after him; and passed fortified

PRIVATE USE ONLY

with the blessings, the advices, and the increased aid of the Pontiff, to still greater triumphs in Albania.

In 1464, we find him in a position to disturb the armed repose of Mahomet. The latter sent his best generals as usual, but as usual, only to hear of their defeat, with incalculable slaughter. At last, the haughty conqueror determined to go himself, at the head of the most numerous and best equipped army his dominions could furnish, against Scanderbeg.

This vast host was divided into two divisions. One, two hundred thousand strong, advanced upon Croja. Another still more formidable commanded by the sultan in person, followed. Slowly, but in steady conquest, this immense array spread over the land, subduing, as in the time of Amurath, fortress after fortress; and at last, leaving not a particle of ground for Scanderbeg to stand on, but his capital. The first army was met by a handful of hardy Catholic mountaineers, who never deserted their leader; and again, to the wonder of the world, was utterly routed with terrific slaughter. Even as Amurath, so the proud and mighty Mahomet, had in humiliation and shame, to withdraw the remnant of his shattered forces from Albania. This was in 1464. Scanderbeg, worn out with twenty four years incessant fighting, was drawing to the close of his career. He felt that the shadow of death was upon him, and he made the last arrangements for his country with care, as became a faithful Christian.

Knowing that when he should be gone, his beloved sanctuary of Our Lady in Scutari, could not resist the Turks, he handed it over for safe keeping to the Catholic Republic of Venice. He went and prayed there

for the last time, and then, though exhausted, he took again to the mountains for the defence of his people.

13. In January 1467, we find him in the city of Lissa spent and dying, but dying the death of the just. He that never feared death in the field, knew well how to meet it upon his couch of infirmity. He was recollected and calm. All his thoughts were directed to eternity. His last confession was made. For the last time he received the holy Viaticum. The holy Unction had been applied to all the senses of his body. The last blessing of the Church, which from its Supreme Head to its lowest member, loved him tenderly, was pronounced upon him. The brave men who followed him to victory so often, wept like little children, as they encircled his bed. There was sorrow deep in Lissa; wailing over all the valleys, and hills of Albania. The shadow of death seemed to be upon the land. Castriota, though away from his beloved Madonna, had doubtless Her holy Image near him. God's Virgin Mother, never absent from his thoughts in life, in his last extreme hour was not wanting to him. His great heart beat with the hope, soon to see revealed in the light of heaven, that benign countenance which he gazed upon with such rapture in the sanctuary of Scutari, and which cheered and consoled him so often on earth. Mary, Who never permitted him to fall into the hands of the enemy, or to be even once vanquished or wounded, was now determined to keep the powers of darkness from troubling his last moments. Sweetly, the mighty warrior was sinking like the calm setting sun of some glorious day, when it pleased Her, Who in

PRIVATE USE ONLY

him, Her client, had ever proved Herself « formidable as an army set in battle array, » to glorify once again even in death, him whom She had so wonderfully glorified in life. As his eyes, therefore, were closing gently and peacefully upon the world, a shriek came from the streets of Lissa, and even the strong limbs of the warriors around the bed of their dying Monarch trembled. It was a too well known cry: the Turks! the Turks are upon us! And truly it was so. The hordes of Mahomet were at the city gates. They had heard, that the terror of their accursed creed was dying, and hoped, in his helplessness, even at his death, to have one victory over him. But Mary, as if to show the supernatural power with which She blessed him, was again at the hero's side, and showed Her love to the last. Those dying eyes of his once more opened. Those ashy cheeks flushed. The drooping head was elevated. The sweat of death was wiped from the pallid brow. Scanderbeg, himself once more, looked for the sword, that did such execution upon the enemies of his country. It was given him, and the genius that never failed, flashed forth as vigorously as it did in his manhood's prime. He ordered his veterans with his own matchless skill to prepare for the conflict. It was as ever, bloody, but decisive. The Turks routed with the usual slaughter, fled, alas for the last time from Albania. The cries of victory, which gave glory to God, and to Our Lady of Scutari, resounded once more through the streets of Lissa. The Christian hero smiled, for these sounds were ever the gladdest of his life. And then, as if he knew that all was over, he smiled again, and looking

up as if he saw the Virgin Mother open her loving arms to receive him, he sank back upon his couch, and gave forth his noble soul to God and to Mary.

Albania at that hour, indeed, was desolate. All Christendom mourned. The very horse of the hero refused its food in grief, and died. Agony worse than death, may be said to be the condition of his faithful followers left behind. The people, like sheep without a shepherd, awaited but for the moment, when the wolves, no longer to be hindered, should devour them. Worse than all, the Madonna of Albania, Our Lady of Scutari, would stay no longer in the land. The events of the miraculous translation we have narrated, took place when Her beloved son and client, had been but three months dead. Then in swift but steady conquest the hosts of Mahomet passed over the land, and the horror of death fell upon its Christian inhabitants. Many, unfortunately, apostatized. Those who remained faithful, passed into a kind of bondage, since almost unbroken. Their condition has been greatly ameliorated of late years, and in religion they are now, it may said, free. The recollections, however, of their glorious Christian past, are never absent from their minds. They delight to speak of the exploits of their ancestors. The memory of their last great heroic king is as fresh, as it was the day he died at Lissa. We shall see how intense their grief is at the loss of the sacred Image, when we come to treat of the tradition regarding it, still vigorous in all Albania.

---

PRIVATE USE ONLY

## Chapter VIII. (continued)

### OVERTHROW OF ISLAM

1. State of Europe.— 2. Heresy of Luther. — Siege of Rhodes by Soliman. — Of Vienna. — Conduct of Charles V. — 3. Sack of Rome. — Divisions of Christendom. — 4. Effect of the Miraculous Translation on the Church. — 5. On the Saracens. — Victories of the Christians. — 6. Mark Antony Colonna. — St. Pius V. — 7. Destruction of the Turkish fleet at Lepanto. — 8. Triumph to Colonna. — 9. Turks on land. — They invade Austria. — Take Candia. — Are favoured by the divisions of the Christian princes. — 10. Innocent XI. — His unavailing efforts to unite them. — 11. Orders the sacred Image to be crowned. — 12. Effects. — Powers unite. — Sobieski and Charles of Lorrain join. — Turks utterly defeated at Mohats. — 13. The Virgin Mother of Good Counsel victorious over Islam.

1. The coming of the miraculous Image to Italy, may be said to mark the period when the contest between Christianity and Islam was at its height. There certainly never was [a time when the Crescent menaced the very existence of the Cross to a more alarming extent. Though all Europe was then Catholic, its princes and peoples were sadly divided.

The social state of many parts of the German Empire, of England, of Scotland, and of Eastern France, was such as to make the terrible heresy of Luther a success some fifty years later. The arms of the princes who sided with that heresiarch in Germany, were turned against their Catholic fellow countrymen with as much bitterness and effect as were those of the Moslems.

2. Contemporaneously with Luther, and, strange to say, at the very time when he went about openly preaching his errors, Rhodes was being besieged by Soliman (1522), and after a most heroic defence taken from the brave Knights Hospitallers. Not a

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

hand was lifted by a European monarch to assist the defenders of Christendom. A few years later, Soliman conquered Hungary and twice threatened Vienna. Charles V. indeed, moved against the Sultan on the last of these occasions, but seemed far more bent upon the humiliation of his rival, Francis I. of France, than upon the preservation of Europe generally from the preponderating power of the Turk. To such an extent was this insane feeling of the Christians carried, that even when the Church was threatened on one side by Protestantism and on the other by Islam, mercenaries under Bourbon took and ravaged Rome with a cruelty and destructiveness worse than Gaul or Goth or Vandal had ever exercised towards it in the past.

3. It is a sad and a sickening spectacle to see the common Father of the Faithful, the Vicar of Christ, obliged to take refuge in the Castle of Saint Angelo during the horrors of this devastation, and there to remain for days in momentary expectation of his death at the hands of soldiers combating for his Catholic and Apostolic Majesty, the Ruler of the German Empire, and of the Catholic peoples of Spain, Austria, the Netherlands, and the Indies. The Church, in truth, was sick at heart. Its princes were distracted by jealousies. Worldliness had invaded the sanctuary. Heretics were busy tearing asunder her fairest provinces. Islam, after having eaten up Asia and Africa, threatened with more formidable force than ever before to spread its power over Europe.

4. Christ however is never unmindful of the Bark of Peter no matter how deep soever He may seem to slumber. He uses many ways to save it, and amongst

PRIVATE USE ONLY

these ways, used at the time of peril we speak of, was certainly the increased devotion awakened amongst all classes to the Virgin Mother of God, by the miraculous translation of Her sacred Image from Scutari to Genazzano. Millions visited the Sanctuary not only from Italy but from all parts of Europe. These brought back with them to their homes the love and fervour awakened in them at the Shrine. Copies of the miraculous Image spread devotion to Our Lady throughout Europe. It fixed the attention of the masses on the countries which had already fallen under the Mussulman yoke. It caused them to pity the condition of the Christians in Albania and elsewhere, who had lost liberty, property, and all that men hold dear. It made them tremble for their own fate, and prepare to make efforts to curb the power of the foe. Then, when Protestantism appeared with its attack on God's Virgin Mother and His saints, the beautiful appealing features of the Madonna and Child as revealed in the Holy Image of Genazzano, awakened feelings of love and devotion to Mary, that caused them to reject with horror a religion which excluded Her worship from its system of belief and practice. The devotion to Our Lady of Good Counsel at this early period, spread in a marked manner throughout Naples, Sicily, the States of the Church, Northern Italy, Bavaria, Austria, Spain, and Flanders. It is a singular fact that in these countries where it took the deepest root, the progress of the so-called Reformation of Luther was completely checked.

5. But the effect of the devotion upon the outer foe of Christendom is still more remarkable. Not

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

long after the coming of the sacred Image, the pre-eminence of the Saracens who had actually effected the conquest of some towns on the very coast of Italy, began to be shaken. The Catholics of those countries precisely where Mary of Good Counsel was most honoured, gradually but steadily took heart. Small reverses at first, and finally great and terrible disasters began to fall upon the infidels. In 1480, a handful of Knights Hospitallers who defended Rhodes, repulsed under their intrepid Grand Master, Peter D'Aubusson, the whole power of Mahomet II.; and when, as we have stated, it fell under Soliman II., in 1522, the lesson given to the captors, was of such a nature as to convince them, that a new and unlooked for enthusiasm filled the Christians. Though the Turks obtained a victory over Hungary in 1526, they were utterly routed at Vienna four years later; and six years later still, upon Soliman himself appearing with the (for the times) enormous armament of half a million of men, he had to withdraw upon the appearance of Charles V. Just as the first centenary of the coming of the sacred Image to Genazzano approached, Europe was amazed at the wonderful constancy, with which a few knights of St. John under their Grand Master, John Parisot de la Valette, defended Malta against all the forces and fleets of Soliman, flushed by the great naval victory he had just obtained over the ships of Philip II. of Spain. This latter was, however, the last triumph of the Turk over the Christian upon the sea.

6. At this moment, the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Good Counsel began to show its direct instrumen-

PRIVATE USE ONLY

tality in crushing the power of the Infidel, in a manner clearer than ever before. It was from it, that the leader came, who was destined to give the most deadly blow to the preëminence of the Crescent upon the water it had ever received. This was Mark Antony Colonna, Lord of Genazzano, and Chief Admiral of the fleets of St. Pius V.

It may be here again remarked, that one of the effects of the renewed devotion to Our Lady in Italy, consequent upon the coming of the miraculous Image, was a vast improvement in the morals and religious fervour of the masses. This ascended from the populace and made its beneficial effects be felt in time amongst every class, until at length, a saint of the truest type was elevated to the Chair of St. Peter. This was St. Pius V., who, as we shall see further on, was most devoted to the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel. It is incredible how much good this extraordinary Pontiff contrived to effect in the few years he reigned over the fold of Christ. He thought of everything. Her forgot nothing. He cared for no man's praise or censure. He looked to God alone. Mary gave him in a measure vouchsafed to few, that gift most needed for a ruler, — the gift of Good Counsel. He reformed the Church truly, and so effectively that no abuse escaped correction. While then the great Pontiff spread beautiful order in all the house of God within, he curbed at the same time, the progress of the poison of Luther, and then prepared with all his powers to face the formidable, and more than ever threatening audacity of the Crescent.

In this undertaking he looked, as he ever did in

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

all his actions, to the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel for Her powerful aid. He obtained it in wonderful measure. His policy was blessed. He united with his own, the strength of the armaments of Venice and of Spain. He sought for a leader for his forces, and found one beneath the very shadow of the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Good Counsel, in Mark Anthony Colonna, Lord of Genazzano. In the command of the allied fleet it is true, that the half - brother of the king of Spain, Don John of Austria held the first place; but Colonna as the Pope's commander held the second; and besides being destined to succeed in case the Spaniard fell, or became disabled, he shared with him the control of the whole expedition, and the command during the decisive conflict that ensued. His was admittedly the genius that planned and executed the attack.

7. The allied fleets met at Messina, and sailed from thence in quest of the Turkish navy. They found it, in the gulf of Lepanto, and came to battle on the 7<sup>th</sup> of October 1571. It proved the most bloody naval engagement on record. It took place exactly on the spot, where the fleets of Augustus and Mark Antony encountered each other, sixteen hundred years before. The Turkish fleet was far more numerous than that of the Christians. It was commanded by the ablest naval captains that Islam ever produced. Its men were flushed with the recent victory, which gave the Caliph possession of Cyprus. Many of the most distinguished men in the vast empire of Selim II. were present with the fleet, encouraging their troops.

The Christians on the other hand, through the

PRIVATE USE ONLY

piety and wisdom of the Pontiff, were prepared by the exertions of Fathers of the Capuchin and Jesuit orders, to conquer or to die. Every man in the fleet had confessed and received Holy Communion previous to joining in the combat. At the moment the first shot was fired, a general Jubilee was proclaimed from the Pope. The soldiers therefore of the Cross, had a far more definite hope of glory after a death in that conflict, than even the most obstinate believer in the paradise of houries, amongst their opponents. They fought therefore with terrible desperation. The sea was turned into blood. In a few hours the bodies of thirty five thousand Moslems, and of over seven thousand Christians were scattered upon the waters. The roll of constant artillery, the crash of sinking ships, the cries of the wounded and dying filled the air. At last, God came to the assistance of the Christians. A wind drove the smoke of the combat in the faces of the Moslems, and after that, there was no hope for them. A few vessels sought safety in flight, but all else that formed a few hours previously, one of the most formidable fleets the world ever saw, fell into the hands of the allies.

8. So came the first irretrievable disaster upon the Moslems. They never from that hour recovered their former position upon the sea. The Pope gave to Mark Antony Colonna, the high honour of a triumphal entry into Rome according to the ancient usage; and by that act showed, that the glory of the victory belonged, in the greatest measure, to the Lord of Genazzano. Banners taken from the Mussulmans, and even portions of their ships given by

Mark Antony, long graced the Sanctuary of the Madonna of Good Counsel. That the Holy Pontiff attributed the victory to the Virgin Mother, Who gave him both the counsel to plan, and the strength to effect his vast designs against Islam, is evidenced by the fact of his having enriched Her sanctuaries and of having instituted the special title of Our Lady, « the Help of Christians, » in thanksgiving to Her. In the old Castle of the Colonnas at Genazzano, is still a life size fresco of Don Mark Antonio, and his body lies at Paliano, about six miles distant.

9. But though crushed at sea, the Turkish sultan was still powerful as ever upon land. War against the Christians became a necessity, if for no other reason than to keep his Janizaries and his other uneasy military elements employed. In the century after Lepanto, the Turks meditated new invasions. In 1664, they invaded Austria, but were repulsed by Montecuculli at St. Gothard.

They however took Candia from the Venetians, five years after. This caused them to plan conquests in Europe on a more extended scale than ever. They had a splendid chance in the divisions, which, notwithstanding the glory of the age of Louis XIV., existed amongst the crowned heads of the continent.

10. It was fortunate, that at this supreme crisis, the Bark of Peter was directed by a Pontiff as firm, and as devoted as St. Pius V. This was Innocent XI. He saw with well grounded alarm the immense preparations of the Turks for another invasion of Austria. He had made many a weary and useless effort to cause Louis XIV. of France and Charles II. of Spain

PRIVATE USE ONLY

to cease their sanguinary and expensive wars, and unite for the good of Christendom. The differences between the princes most concerned in resisting the impending invasion, were still greater. The heroic Sobieski had many complaints against the German emperor. Nothing could be expected from the Protestant princes of Northern Europe. Almost as little would be given by France. Spain was cold. The Christian world in general, distracted.

11. Such was the position of affairs when Innocent bethought of having special and marked recourse to Our Lady of Good Counsel. Towards the end of 1682, he ordered the Chapter of St. Peter's in Rome, to crown with diadems of jewels and gold, the figure of the Virgin Mother and Her Divine Infant, in Genazzano. This was done amidst all the splendour, that could be employed by the power of the pious Pontiff, on the 17<sup>th</sup> of November in that year.

12. The effect of this action was immediately visible in the success of the Pope's negotiations with John Sobieski, and Charles of Lorrain, and the Catholic nations of Europe. He reconciled the two former, obtained valuable assistance from the latter, and by the time the immense armies of the Turks found themselves well intrenched about Vienna, the forces of Sobieski and Charles joined, and burst upon them from the hills surrounding the devoted city. The valour of the troops was undoubtedly great, and the skill of both generals admitted, but the Christians were certainly assisted by a power greater than any human force. A sudden panic seized upon the Turks. They fled precipitately, leaving behind them the rich-

est booty, that ever fell before in Europe to a victorious army. 5,000 barrels of gunpowder, 100,000 tents and 300 pieces of artillery, were found amongst the spoils. The Christian leaders followed up this wonderful advantage, and in four years the once dreaded power of the Turks, was as certainly crushed upon land, on the field of Mohats, as it had been on sea by the splendid victory of Lepanto.

13. From this it will be seen how great a share Mary, the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel, had in defending the Church from the most formidable of all external enemies. Her sacred Image retreating before the Saracen from the far East to Scutari, and from Scutari to Genazzano, is a sign that vice and want of faith will cause Mary, to pass from any people. The movement in Italy and other Catholic nations against Islam, so successful after the sacred Image came amongst them, is a sign that renewed fervour, faith, and devotion to Her, will bring from heaven every blessing upon the exertions of the children of God. As with the Christian commonwealth in general, so with particular communities and with individuals. They will get from Mary, in proportion to their efforts to deserve it, the gift of her seasonable help — Good Counsel and strength against all opposing forces of men or demons here, every spiritual or temporal blessing compatible with the security of their salvation in this world, and life eternal hereafter.

Having said so much upon the mere history of the sacred Image, we shall now proceed to consider the proofs upon which the facts we have stated rest.

---

PRIVATE USE ONLY

## Chapter IX.

### PROOFS OF THE APPARITION

1. Unanimity of historians regarding facts given. — 2. Proofs examined by Vatican Archivists. — 3. Loss of early documents. — 4. Investigation ordered by Paul II. — 5. Vatican Codex. — 6. Testimony of Coriolanus. — 7. Registry of miracles — Prayer of the copyist. — 8. Documents relative to Petruccia. — 9. Ancient inscriptions on the church and holy Chapel. — 10. Proofs of the manner of the coming of the sacred Image. — 11. Ancient works on the subject. — 12. The donations of Sixtus IV. and Cardinal D' Estouteville.

1. We have in the preceeding chapters endeavcured to give the reader some idea of the country, which the sacred Image left, and of the ancient classic land to which it came. We have shown that which we consider to be a reason for the change. It now remains to examine critically, the proofs upon which an occurrence, in every sense so extraordinary, rests.

We may mention then, at first, that all the circumstances we have narrated are given by every historian of the Shrine. Some of the works written upon it, such as those of De Orgio, Senni, Buonanno, and Belgrano, are large and learned treatises, composed by men of the highest character and of great culture. The smaller volume of Luigi Vannutelli is not less valuable, because of the literary repute and local knowl-

edge of the author. Nearly all who have written, have been led to write, through a motive of gratitude to the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel, for some signal favour received at Her Sanctuary. The same may said with regard to the authors of those minor tracts, now so common in French, German, and Italian. The same main facts are narrated, in a manner more or less diffuse, by all.

It is true that we have no formal histories, such as the above mentioned, which date farther back than the 17<sup>th</sup> century. But the want of such, in no way effects the mass of proof, traditional and historical, which exists, both for the wonderful apparition of the sacred Image in Genazzano, and of its miraculous translation from Scutari in Albania.

With these two facts we have chiefly to concern ourselves. In this chapter then, we shall deal with the proofs of the miraculous appearance, and in the next with those of the translation.

2. We may here state, that in all matters connected with these proofs, we are now greatly assisted by the labours of two learned and expert archaeologists, deputed in the last century by the Sacred Congregation of Rites, to examine into, and report upon all matters connected with the appearance and translation of the sacred Image. These were the brothers, Calistus and Cajetan Marini, custodians, at the time, of the Vatican Archives. The reason of their being thus deputed was, to ascertain whether the facts connected with the Image were, or were not of such a nature as might warrant the Church in granting a proper Mass and Office in honour of the Virgin Mother of

PRIVATE USE ONLY

Good Counsel. After a long and elaborate examination, the report made by them was so favourable — indeed with the materials at their disposal it could not be otherwise — that the desired favour was granted. They not only interrogated upon oath, the oldest and most trustworthy inhabitants of Genazzano, but also examined such existing historical and monumental records, as had survived the vicissitudes, which had befallen the archives of the Sanctuary, and those of the borough of Genazzano, in the stormy days that immediately succeeded the coming of the miraculous Image.

3. We now know, that the archives of the convent of Santa Maria were more than once removed. In the reign of Alexander VI., some twenty five years after the translation, Caesar Borgia, the Duke of Valentinois, drove out the Colonnas, and held the town and castle of Genazzano for several years. The Colonnas had scarcely settled themselves again after this storm, when, under Clement VII., fire and sword ravaged all their strongholds. In 1540, Ascanius Colonna went into open rebellion against Paul III., and paid the penalty of his treason, by losing Genazzano. In these trials, following each other in such quick succession, many precious documents were either lost or destroyed. Some, of the greatest value, were sent to places considered at the time, to be of greater safety than the fiefs of the Colonnas. Tivoli, a Papal residence, was the nearest locality of the kind, and thither, certainly, a number of records of value were sent, as appears from an autograph letter of the Prior General of the Augustinians, written as

early as 1587. This was Father, afterwards Cardinal, Gregory Elparense, called Petrocchini. He says, « We have heard and know for certain, that there are in Tivoli, very many writings and instruments concerning our convent of Santa Maria of Paradise, in Genazzano, and that these are detained by certain men in Tivoli, to the greatest detriment of our aforesaid convent ». Father Egidius of Viterbo, another General of the Augustinians, and also subsequently, a Cardinal, states, that before the time of Clement VII., by order of the celebrated Father Mariano, his master, many writings were sent away from the archives of Santa Maria, in the care of Father Felix da Prato, and were lost together with all the goods of the same Father Mariano, on board a ship which foundered near Pozzuoli. <sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Father Mariano of Genazzano was one of the remarkable men of the age in which he lived. He was born in Genazzano in the year 1450. In 1467, the very year of the miraculous Apparition, he was received into the Order of the Hermits of St. Augustine, and subsequently attained to its highest dignities. He was for many years stationed in Florence, where he stood deservedly high in the estimation of the celebrated Lorenzo de' Medici. When Savonarola commenced his attempts at the reformation of the Church and State, Mariano opposed him. Both these preachers had immense power over their hearers. The political partisans of Savonarola accuse Mariano of being too tender and pathetic, and of having tears at will. But they admit that he preached « gloriosamente » and attracted immense audiences. Savonarola however prevailed for a time. Lorenzo de' Medici died, his son Pietro had to fly.

Father Mariano departed with his patron. He then obtained high favour with Alexander VI., who used him on several diplomatic missions connected with his family and the state. On one of these missions, he was attacked by robbers and owed

PRIVATE USE ONLY

Another circumstance, unfortunate for the existence of many other valuable documents, is that a conflagration broke out in the last century, in the archives of the borough itself. At present, one can find amongst such writings, as have escaped this catastrophe, several interesting records of the old churches of the town, from the year 1356, to the present. There is however, nearly a total loss of records from 1460, to 1474. Buonanno states, that from the communal registers, there is precisely wanting the one for the year 1467. This may have occurred from the very fact of over care on the part of those devoted to guardianship of the Sanctuary in the

---

his life to the intercession of Our Lady of Good Counsel, Whom he invoked in his distress. A picture of this incident, long graced the stairway of the old convent of Genazzano. On his return, the Pope permitted him to retire to his native city, then in the zenith of its fame, in consequence of the miraculous translation of the sacred Image from Scutari. It is certain, that Father Mariano employed himself during his stay at the convent, in looking after the interests of the Sanctuary. He obtained from Alexander VI., the rare privilege which the altar of the holy Chapel has since enjoyed. On his being subsequently sent by the Pontiff on a mission to the king of Naples, he incurred the displeasure of the former. He had every reason at the time to fear for the most valuable records of the Sanctuary. War was general, everywhere in the Pontifical States, and Genazzano was in the very centre of the disturbed districts. He therefore ordered Father Felix da Prato, to bring a large quantity of writings and valuable effects to Naples. Amongst these, most probably, were the important documents relating to the coming of the Madonna, which are now not to be found. They would naturally form the first object of his solicitude. As it was, the ship containing them, foundered at Pozzuoli, just at the entrance of the bay of Naples. All were lost. Father Mariano died at the latter city shortly after, at the early age of 48.

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

troublesome times we have referred to. The most important documents were those most likely to have perished in the foundering of the vessel at Pozzuoli; or to have been lost amidst the voluminous records of the places of safety, like Tivoli, to which they were sent.

However, though much that we may desire to have, has certainly perished, still there remains ample historical, documental, and monumental proofs, in the mass of evidences still existing, and examined by Cajetan and Callistus Marini.

. . 4. The first of these proofs, in our estimation, and one worthy of every attention, lies in the investigation ordered by the reigning Pontiff Paul II., shortly after the news of the miraculous coming of the sacred Image had reached Rome.

This Pontiff, named Peter Barbo before his elevation, was nephew to Eugene IV., and a Venetian. He had held high employment in the Court of Rome, for over thirty years previously. He was consequently both as a Churchman and as a Venetian, deeply interested and thoroughly acquainted with the remarkable events, which were then taking place at the other side of the Adriatic. He had seen the fall of Constantinople. He had shared in all the solicitude of his predecessors, for the defence of Albania. He knew Scanderbeg intimately; and probably, caused the last efforts of that hero against the might of Mahomet II. to be made. He could not have been ignorant of the existence of the famous Sanctuary of Our Lady at Scutari. The eyes of Europe were at the moment fixed upon that city, then garrisoned

PRIVATE USE ONLY

by the Venetians, his countrymen, and in daily peril of falling into the hands of the victorious Turks. We can not well imagine a juncture more critical, nor any combination of circumstances more calculated to fix the attention of the Pontiff on an event so unusual, as an alleged miraculous translation of the principal religious treasure of the Albanian people, from their last free city, to an obscure town in his own dominions, held by the chiefs of the Ghibelline faction. Moreover, at such a time and in such an age, no circumstance could well occur more disastrous for the cause of Catholicity and of Venice. It was calculated to dispirit the defenders of Scutari, and to excite the hopes of their enemies. In fact, during the whole of their conquests in Illyria and Epirus, the Turks continually boasted that the dominion of the country was given them by God, because of the sins and unworthiness of the Christians. And on the other hand, we have it on record, that the Venetian commander laboured strenuously to do away with some dispiriting ideas on the part of his men, who must have supposed, that heaven had deserted them. This, Senni, who quotes from the Albanian Priest and historian of the siege of Scutari, Marino Barletto, says, was occasioned by the known loss of the miraculous Image of Our Lady of Good Office, the name by which the sacred Image was known in Albania. The Turks, on their part, in order to dispirit the Christians still more, directed all their efforts against the church of St. Nicholas of Bari. It is said, that through the intercession of the saint, the balls which were fired at the sacred edifice, rebounded and

killed several of the assailants. This fact was instantly taken advantage of by the commandant James Moneta, who thus addressed his soldiers.

« But in the first place we shall have with us the Most Blessed Virgin and St. Nicholas, whose temple behold O Soldiers! behold how those most fierce traitors, those corruptors of divine worship, have violated and disturbed the building. Remember, O Citizens, that divine and not-to-be-concealed miracle, which this saint wrought against the barbarians during the first siege. For the first cannon ball which these very barbarians threw at that temple and that sanctuary, the Blessed Nicholas cast back upon themselves, so that many of them were killed. Wherefore O fellow soldiers! invoke him for he is venerated also by me. Confide in him ».

These words, however pious, show that Moneta was working against some diffidence felt by his men in the assistance of heaven, and which might be easily accounted for, on the supposition of the sacred Image being no longer found in its sanctuary.

Now Paul II., must have been well aware of all the circumstances in which Scutari was placed, when Rome received the intelligence of the appearance of the sacred Image, and of the story of the pilgrims which came soon after. He heard the report of the miraculous cures. He knew that whole towns in his dominions, were being emptied of their inhabitants, going processionally to visit the new Shrine of Mary. No one would have been better pleased, to be able to find any fraud in the alleged facts than he would have been, if fraud indeed, could be proved. The

PRIVATE USE ONLY

Christians of Scutari and of all Albania would have been reinvigorated. The sacred Image, if taken by human hands, could be restored. The Pontiff then, did exactly what we might expect one in his position to do. He at once instituted an investigation, and for the purpose of making it, he deputed two of the ablest prelates then in Rome. One of these was Gaucerio de Folcarquer, Bishop of Gap in Dauphinè, and the other, Nicolo a Crucibus, Bishop of Fara, now called Lesina, one of the principal islands of the Adriatic, not far from the coast of Albania.

The former prelate was one of those, who assisted at the Council of Avignon. He was consecrated as early as 1442, and died in 1480. He was frequently before intrusted by the Pope, with missions of great importance. The latter prelate, was also high in favour with the Pontiff, for his learning and prudence. He knew the language, history, and customs of the Albanians perfectly; and, most probably also, often visited the shrine of Our Lady at Scutari, not far from his Cathedral city. The investigation which these distinguished delegates were ordered to make, took place within two months after the apparition. The result, which according to Senni was given, *viva voce*, to the Pontiff, must have been favourable; for not only was the devotion of the people not disturbed, but after their report, it received the greatest possible encouragement from the ecclesiastical authorities. The church of Petruccia was erected. A magnificent marble canopy was placed over the Shrine, and the Roman court showed almost immediately, as we

shall presently see, a great esteem for the new Sanctuary of Mary, the Mother of Good Counsel.

It is certain, that amongst the missing records of the convent, or of the borough, there may have existed some written report of this mission. But however that may be, the Sanctuary is made independent of any such document, by other historical testimonies of a most conclusive kind.

5. The first of these is from a Vatican Codex, giving in detail the expenditure of the Curia in the reign of Paul II. In page 231 of this document we find that Lorenzo Zane, Archbishop of Spalatro, and Apostolic Treasurer, paid on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of July 1467, to the Bishop of Fara, (receiving for himself and the Bishop of Gap) the sum of twenty two golden florins and 60 bononenos, for their expenses in going to the town of Genazzano, « for a certain commission given them by our Most Holy Father the Pope, as appears from a mandate given them on the above date. » <sup>1</sup>

Explaining and confirming the facts stated in this codex of expenditure, we have the still stronger testimony of the exact and learned Canesius, the writer of the life of Paul the 2<sup>nd</sup>, who, speaking of the year 1467, says. « At that time, in the town of Genazzano, situated in the diocese of Palestrina, God worked innumerable and wonderful miracles by

<sup>1</sup> The following is the exact text of this entry « die 24 Iulii (1467) solvit R. P. D. N. Episcopo Faren. recipienti pro se et Episcopo Vapicens, florenos auri de Camera XXII. bononenos 60, pro eorum expensis in eundo ad Terram Genazzani pro certa commissione eis facta per S. D. N. PP., ut appareat per mandatum factum dicta die. » See *Esame Critico*, p. 9-10.

means of an Image of the Blessed Virgin. For the examination of which matter, he (Paul II.) destined Gaucerio, Bishop of the church of Gap, and Nicholas of the Church of Fara ». <sup>1</sup> We may mention that the works of Canesius were published by the Eminent Cardinal Angelo M. Quirino, who testifies that the life of Paul II. was written so accurately by the historian, that he affirmed nothing, but that of which he had a personal knowledge. That the apparition was regarded as singularly extraordinary Canesius further proves, by mentioning the finding of another miraculous Image of Our Lady near Viterbo, at the same time, which the Pontiff took no trouble to investigate. His anxiety about the sacred Image of Genazzano proves not only the extraordinary public veneration for it, but also the influence, which considerations connected with Albania had over his mind.

6. The next historical proof we have of the wonderful apparition is equally clear and valuable. It comes from a General of the Augustinians, and was written some fourteen years after the occurrence. It is all the more valuable because it is appealed to, as a public undeniable fact, in proof for another purpose. This General was the celebrated Father

---

<sup>1</sup> « Sub id tempus apud oppidum Jenazani Praenestina Dioecesi situm, ex Imagine Beatae Mariae Virginis complurima et admiranda miracula Deus effecit, ad cuius quidem rei examinationem Gaucerium Vapicensis Ecclesiae praesulem et Nicolaum Farensis Ecclesiae Antistitem (Pontifex) destinavit. » Canesius was first, Canon of San Lorenzo in Damaso, and afterwards, Bishop of Castro.

Ambrose of Cori, or Coriolanus, as he is called from the city of his birth. He was twice Provincial of the Roman Augustinian province in which the convent of Santa Maria in Genazzano is situated, and actually held that office the very year of the miraculous apparition. He was consequently thoroughly acquainted with a circumstance so remarkable, and with which he must have had so much to do. Some years after, he became General of his order, and stood very high in the confidence of Sixtus IV. While in this position, he became involved in a controversy with the writers, Corradi, and Domenico di Treveris, Canons Regular of St. Augustine, who denied that the Hermits sprang at all from their Patriarch. In his reply, dedicated to his Patron, the Pope, he gave intense pain to his adversaries, who never ceased to persecute him, until, in the reign of the next Pope, they managed to get him imprisoned. Father De Orgio speaks feelingly of this treatment of the General, and adduces it as a proof that what the latter wrote of the coming of the Madonna to Genazzano, would not pass without contradiction from enemies so bitter, if contradicted it could be. Coriolanus then, in this defence, found it necessary to bring forward several indisputable instances of sanctity, in his own slandered institute of the sons of St. Augustine. Amongst others, he adduced that of the « Blessed » Petruccia as one whose great holiness deserved the favour of a supernatural foreknowledge of the coming of the sacred Image to Genazzano; and he further instances the miracles, and the immense crowds which came to visit its Shrine from all parts of Italy. He refers to

PRIVATE USE ONLY

the fact that many towns were thus emptied of their inhabitants; and, finally states, that from the multitude of the offerings made, the Church and Convent of the Augustinians were completed. These were all facts easy of contradiction, if they were not in every particular correct. The whole of Rome and of Italy were interested in his book, and could pronounce as well as he himself could, upon the truth or falsehood of his allegations. He appeals to well known, contemporaneous and public facts, which were not, because they could not, be denied.

As it was, neither Corradi or Domenico de Treveris challenged a single statement of his, relative to the miraculous apparition of the Image, or any fact connected with it. His words are. « The eighth was the blessed Petruccia of Genazzano, who having sold all she had, built where her house stood, the church of our convent, following the counsel of Christ, « if you wish to be perfect, go and sell all you have, and give to the poor and follow me »; and when all her efforts did not suffice to complete the church, she became the derision of all the people. But she said, « do not be led astray my children, because before I die, (she was then decrepit) the Blessed Virgin and St. Augustine will complete this church ». But the fulfilment of the prophecy was admirable. For scarcely a year passed after saying her words, when an Image of the Blessed Virgin miraculously appeared on a wall of the said Church, to gaze upon which all Italy was so moved, that both towns and cities went there processionally, amidst signs and prodigies and alms unspeakable; so that, she being still living, not

only the church, but a most beautiful convent also was built; and she dying was interred in the chapel of the aforesaid Image, in the time of our provincialate. »<sup>1</sup>

7. The third proof we have of the wonderful apparition, is also most valuable. It comes to us in this way. As soon as the first surprise was over, the Augustinian Fathers, who became necessarily, and by common consent, the guardians of the Sanctuary, bethought themselves of making a record of the miracles, which were worked daily at the feet of the holy Image. They therefore employed, as speedily as possible, the public notary of Genazzano to examine all witnesses and facts regarding these miracles, so that the Holy Father, who doubtless would order an inquiry, might have facts proved, to examine. The notary commenced his labours two days after the wonderful apparition, and continued them until the

---

<sup>1</sup> « Octava (Mulier insignis) fuit Beata Petruccia de Jenazzano, quae vendidit omnibus in domo sua Ecclesiam nostri Conventus fabricavit adimplens consilium Christi: *Si vis perfectus esse, vade et vende omnia, quae habes, et da pauperibus et sequere me.* Et cum eius facultates ad Ecclesiam complendam non sufficerent, venit in derisum toti populo. Ipsa autem dicebat: Nolite errare filii mei, quia antequam moriar (cum tunc decrepita esset) Beata Virgo et S. Augustinus complebunt Ecclesiam istam. Sed mirabilis fuit prophetiae adimpletio, quum a prolatis verbis vix transivit annus, quaedam Imago Beatae Virginis in pariete dictae Ecclesiae miraculose apparuit; ad quam visendam tota Italia sic commota est, ut processionaliter illuc oppida et civitates confluenter cum signis miraculis et elemosynis inexplicabilibus, et ita adhuc ea vivente non solum Ecclesia, sed pulcherrimus Conventus factus fuit, et moriens in Cappella dictae Imaginis tempore nostri Provincialatus sepelitur. » (Defens. P. II, c. 3).

following August, when probably, as sufficient proof existed to satisfy the delegates of Paul II., he ceased. From causes already indicated, his registries disappeared with the other records of Genazzano for the year 1467. But fortunately, the devotion of a scribe who came on pilgrimage to the Shrine, preserved a copy of them. This latter copied the whole of the depositions, word for word, upon sheets of beautiful paper or bombacine, and in clear ornamental characters. The whole was then bound into one volume, which remained in the possession of the religious of Santa Maria, until the spoliation of their convent by the French, in the beginning of the present century.

This valuable Codex was epitomized by De Orgio in 1747. It was critically examined, by the experts already referred to, in 1774, and pronounced to belong, in point of age, to at least the end of the fifteenth century. Calistus Marini is of opinion that it was written the very year of the apparition. It was always well known to the devout visitors of the Sanctuary. It narrates the particulars of no less than one hundred and sixty one miracles, performed through the sacred Image from the 2<sup>nd</sup> day after its appearance, April 27<sup>th</sup> 1467, to the 14<sup>th</sup> day of August in the same year. It gives the names of the witnesses and all other circumstances which were necessary for the notary to transmit. Then as to its internal evidence, it mentions Paul II. as being the reigning Pontiff, and Cardinal Arbitratensis as then living. It mentions another very notable occurrence, namely, that the people of Segni came in the June of the year 1467, in procession, to ask of the Madonna that

the plague which desolated their city might cease. We know that in the Summer months of that year, several towns of Italy were laid waste by pestilence. There is therefore great probability that such a pilgrimage was made. Then it narrates other facts bearing upon contemporary events. A soldier suffering from a wound of seven years standing, received in the Marches, is said to have been cured; and history informs us that in 1660, Sigismund Malatesta of Rimini went to war in that locality, to favour the designs of Charles of Anjou upon Naples. Indeed the language, the style, and all the circumstances of the composition, demonstrate the truth and genuineness of this valuable record. The preface of the author, which like the rest of the work, is written in the quaint old Italian of the period, when the language yet held much more of the orthography and the style of the Latin, than it does at present, will give an idea of its tenor, and show the deep, loving piety of the author. The following is a translation of it.

« Hail Queen of Heaven. Behold here is the copy, and the copy from it, of the miracles performed by Thy prayers for the devout of Thy most sacred Image, which appeared in the church of St. Mary of Genazzano, the oratory and place of the Friar Hermits of St. Augustine, in the year of Our Lord 1467, on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of April, performed and written down, I say, by hand and testimony, in three months and seventeen days of the above mentioned year; that is from the twenty seventh day of April to the thirteenth day of August. These being scattered in many parts, I have reduced them into one, copying

PRIVATE USE ONLY

them word for word, not as I ought to have done, but as best I could. I confess to Thee and demand of Thee pardon for the negligence I have been guilty of, in this, that I should be much more brief in copying than I have been. But however, as these are so badly written, be pleased to accept them, together with myself dedicated to Thee, and with heart desiring with Thy aid, to see once more before my death, Thy miraculous and most sacred Image with corporal eyes, as I now contemplate it with mental eyes. Finally kneeling before it I beseech Thee earnestly to pray for me, now chiefly and at the hour of my death ».<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Callistus Marini in his critical examination, describes this codex as « a little book written by pen in bombacine paper elegantly bound in gilded Cordova, composed of three quaderns only, or of 32 sheets, not numbered, and written in characters well executed and elegant. The order of the writing commences from the second sheet and continues to the thirtieth. In the first page is written the prayer of the writer ». This prayer is as follows in the original.

« Salve Regina de'Cieli. Eccote la copia et il copiato dell'i miraculi oprati per le tue preci nelli Devoti della tua Sacra-tissima Imagine aparsa nella Chiesa de Sancta Maria de Genzano Oratoria, et luogo de'Frati Eremitani de Sancto Augustino nell'anno del Signore 1467, a dì 25 de aprile operati e scripti dico per mano et testimonij in tre mesi, et 17 dì del soprascripto anno, cioè dal dì XXVII. de Aprile fino al dì XIII. de Agosto. Essendo quelli in più pezzi sparti li ho riducti in uno, copiandoli de parola in parola non come era mio debito, ma come ho possuto: Me te confesso, et ne domando venia della negligentia quale ho usata che molto più breve saria potuto essere in cupiarli, che io non sono stato; pure come sono essi così mal rescripti piacciati acceptarli insieme co' il mio ad te drizzato,

8. As to the existence and condition of Petruccia, the archives of Genazzano preserve some most interesting records. We have in them the original will of her husband leaving her sole heiress. We have her own will leaving her house to the convent of Santa Maria, in order to carry out the darling idea of her life. And we have moreover, records, that her husband, John of Nocera, held the position of proctor for the church of Santa Maria del Buon Consiglio; and that probably, his wife continued to care for its needs after his death. These however, are not necessary to be adduced in face of the testimony of Coriolanus, and of the inscription placed over the remains of the good tertiary, after she had completed the building of the church and convent, and had passed to her Patroness in heaven. She was buried in the chapel of her beloved Madonna, and the Fathers of the Augustinian order, caused the following lines to be inscribed to her memory in the church when renewed by Father Felix of Cave.<sup>1</sup>

---

et devoto cuore desideroso co' il tuo adjutorio avanti la mia morte revedere un'altra volta la tua miraculosa et sacratissima Imagine colli occhij corporali come adesso lo contempro con li occhij mentali: Intanto genuflexo avanti ad quella grido ad alta voce, ora pro me maxime nunc et in hora mortis.»

<sup>1</sup> It is very probable that this inscription repeated the words of another, which must have been placed immediately over her remains, or in some portion of the church adjoining the sanctuary. The second restoration – a very complete one – warranted the introduction of the reference to Father Felix Leoncelli of Cave and Philip Colonna, through whom it was effected.

PETRUCCIA DE GENAZZANO  
MULIER SANCTISSIMA  
MONASTERIUM HOC SANCTAE MARIAE BONI CONSILII  
VETUSTATE COLLAPSUM  
ADMIRANDUM IN MODUM RESTITUIT  
NAM CUM IN PARIETE ECCLESIAE  
DEIPARAE VIRGINIS IMAGO  
DIVINITUS APPARUISSET  
TANTUM PECUNIAE EX FREQUENTIA CHRISTIANORUM  
AD IMAGINEM  
VISENDAM CONFLUENTIUM COLLEGIT  
UT OPUS CONSUMMARE POTUERIT  
QUOD MONASTERIUM UNA CUM ECCLESIA FUIT POSTEA  
PER FRATREM FELICEM LEONCELLUM CAVENSEM  
OPE TAMEN ET AUXILIO PHILIPPI COLUMNA  
A FUNDAMENTIS IN PULCHRIOREM FORMAM REDACTUM

It will be interesting to know that in the year 1734 when Cardinal Albano undertook the renovation of the Sanctuary of the Madonna, the bones of Petruccia were found. They were then interred in the outer portion of the church and rediscovered in 1882 on the occasion of laying down the present marble pavement. Before being reinterred, the Prior of Santa Maria and his community thought it best to call in the services of the Notary Public, a Government Officer, so that for future historical purposes, an authentication might be found as well in the records of the municipality, as in the archives of the convent. The following is a translation of the legal instrument or verbal process, executed on that occasion.

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

## VERBAL PROCESS

At the instance of the Revd. Custodians of the Sanctuary of Mary Most Holy of Good Counsel of Genazzano, to attest and preserve the memory of the finding and of the new deposition of the bones of the Blessed Petruccia.

The year 1882, the 9<sup>th</sup> day of March, in the church of Saint Mary of Good Counsel, Humbert I. reigning.

In the year 1734, the ancient altar of the chapel of the Madonna of Good Counsel being about to be displaced, in order to construct another of marble given by the Most Eminent Cardinal Albani, three sepulchres were found under it in the shape of caskets, and in each one of them was found a head and other human bones. As tradition, supported by the testimony of the Augustinian Father, Ambrose of Cori, called Coriolanus, who in the chronicles of his order published in 1481, related that the Blessed Petruccia, an Augustinian tertiary and great benefactress of the church and convent of the Augustinians in Genazzano, who died in that commune in the fame of sanctity, about the year 1471, had been buried in the above mentioned chapel, so that it was held for certain that the bones found in the centre sepulchre, which by physical professors were found to be remains of the skeleton of a woman, were precisely those of Blessed Petruccia, and therefore were placed in another casket of wood, which was deposited under the pavement of the same church near the balustrade of the baptistry, and of the wall of the facade opposite the chapel of St. Monica, as the whole appears from an instrument of the notary Francis Antony Paoletti, of the date of the 28<sup>th</sup> of June 1734, the original of which is preserved in the notary archives of the commune.

Now the whole of the pavement of the church being renewed in marble by the care of the custodians of the Sanctuary, while destroying the old pavement of brick, the casket deposited on the 18<sup>th</sup> of June 1734, was found precisely in the spot indicated, containing the above mentioned remains of human bones, piously believed to be those of the Blessed Petruccia, and extracted from that place in the presence of me, the notary, and of the witnesses who here with me are undersigned, enclosed in another casket of zinc, which then being well closed with a soldering of lead, were newly replaced under the pavement of the said church at a little distance from the place where

PRIVATE USE ONLY

the said bones were found, close to the wall of the near facade close to the great door of the church, on the right as the church is entered.

In the casket together with the remainder of the bones there was also deposited a glass bottle well corked and sealed, in which was enclosed a sheet containing the memorandum of the rediscovery, and of the new location of the said bones.

Of all this, at the instance of the Rev. Father Aurelio Martinelli, son of Cosmo of Lucca deceased, and Stephen Berio, son of Michael of Oneglia deceased, and Fulgentius, son of Joseph of Montecossaro deceased, all of the above, guardians of the Sanctuary residing in this commune, and in the presence of Masters Philip Anelli son of Franciscus, and of Alexander Lanzi, son of Fabricius deceased, a proprietor, who were with me at the act of excavation, and who with me have drawn up the present process verbal, which I have caused to be written by a person confided in by me, and after having read it in the presence of all who were assembled, all of whom have affirmed and subscribed as at present. This act consists of a folio in 4 pages. Signed, Prior, Aurelio Martinelli. P. Stephen Berio Aug. P. Fulgenzio Fulgenzi, Aug. Philip Anelli and Alexander Lanzi, Witnesses. Vincent Mary Giorgi, Notary.

The present copy is conformable to the original.<sup>1</sup>

VINCENT MA. GIORGI.

Genazzano 30 March 1882.

---

<sup>1</sup> The care, which the guardians of the Sanctuary have manifested in getting this formal legal authentication effected by the public notary of the government of the day, appears to have characterized the Augustinians in charge of the sacred Image from the very commencement. The first registry of miracles is a case in point. Yet this registry would have surely perished, but for the providential copying of it which the zeal of a devout client effected. The French occupation caused many valuable documents to have gone astray. The coming of the Piedmontese has done the same, at the present moment. How much easier it must have been in the wars and commotions of the turbulent times of the Colonnas and their feudal adversaries.

In the improvements just being effected, a new monument has been placed over these remains, with the following inscription

D. O. M.  
 BEATA PETRVCIA MULIER IENAZZANENSIS  
 INTER DOMESTICAS ORDINIS S. AVGVSTINI MONIALES  
 SANCTITATE CELEBRIS  
 TEMPLVM HOC VETVSTATE COLLAPSVM  
 IN AVGVSTAM MAIESTATEM RESTITVIT AERE PROPRIO  
 ELEEMOSYNIS ET MVNIFICENTIA POPVLORVM  
 AD SANCTAE IMMAGINIS APPARITIONEM  
 VISENDAM  
 MORTEM LAETA OBIIT MCCCLXX  
 RELIQVIAE VERO EIVS EFFOSSAE RECOGNITAE  
 NOVAQVE ARCA INCLVSAE HIC SVB PAVIMENTO  
 EODEM LOCO REPOSITAE SVNT DIE IX MARTII  
 • MDCCCLXXXII<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Senni says regarding Petruccia. « While therefore, as we have said, Genazzano became embellished with beautiful fabrics and new churches, the ancient temple and altar of Most Holy Mary of Good Counsel, where first in Genazzano, a place at one time so abominable, the name of God commenced to be invoked, was allowed to remain humble and neglected. To revive therefore the faith of the people, an Augustinian tertiary advanced in age, named Petruccia of Jenco, of a family belonging to Genazzano, was inspired to undertake not only the reconstruction but also the enlargement of that church. She, though of little fortune, sold all she had and gave a commencement to the pious work. (Coriolano. defens. part. II.) And for this being reproved by her own and by others, who entertained an affection for her, as having deprived herself of her all in the extreme needs of her decrepit state, and alienated the love of her relatives, to undertake an impossibility; she replied that the work was not hers but of heaven, and that she expected the completion of it

PRIVATE USE ONLY

9. The church built by Petruccia, though a wonder for its time, had to be improved in many ways, and enlarged in the course of four centuries. The chapel

---

from Mary. This her candour, instead of bringing peace to her, rather increased her affliction. There were then some examples of churches built by means of revelations: but the abuse of these examples caused the princes of the Church to be more cautious, and to make a law not to pay any attention to the revelations of any person whomsoever in similar circumstances. *Nam quae per somnia, et inanes revelationes quorumlibet hominum ubicumque constituuntur Altaria omnino reproben-tur (De Censur. Dist. I, 26. C. Placuit).* Not only therefore by human considerations, but even by Canon law, the undertaking of Petruocia was deprived of every subsidy and assistance. »

It must be remembered that Senni wrote in 1838. Since then many documents of value have been found, which must have escaped the notice of that author. Writing regarding them, Buonanno says. « For certain, these new documents prove to us the existence of a Petruccia still living in the year 1461, the epoch to which they reach. And these represent her as first, wife, and then widow of John Antony di Polani, born at Nocera and domiciled in Genazzano. They represent her to us as a woman very good and pious, a fact which is manifested above all by the goodness of her husband to her. And in fact the latter, having taken up his residence in Genazzano was married while yet young to the said Petruccia, whose family we are ignorant of. Being without children both were more free to give themselves to a life of piety. As the procurator for a long time of the church and of the convent, he studied always to promote their interests by every possible means, to provide sacred vestments and furniture, and finally to care in his residence the more precious objects. Nor was this enough. Amongst the many legacies in favour of the church and of the confraternities of Genazzano, in his will, dated 2<sup>nd</sup> of Novr. 1426, he left sixty florins for a bell for the church of St. Mary of Good Counsel. By this will he constituted his wife Petruccia universal heiress of all his goods, movable and immovable, present and future. It seems that he passed to a better life in 1436. »

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

however, of marble erected over the sacred Image, and the main entrance of the temple itself, remain as she left them to this day, Senni shows that these

---

In support of this statement as to the position of John of Nocera, he writes in a note page 64. « In due Membrane antiche segnate A. I. e A. 9. contenenti gl' Inventari delle cose del Convento e della Chiesa scritti in diversi tempi e da diverse mani, si legge qualche volta questa o altra somigliante postilla: *Et omnia ista (paramenta) posita sunt in manibus Johannis de Nocera procuratoris saecularis Conventus et Ecclesiae.* Nella Membrana A. 9. poi trovasi scritto da quarta mano: *Item unum palium de diversis coloribus, factum de seta cum rosis et figuris in campo rublo et azurino, quod donavit Johannes de Nocera procurator Ecclesiae pro sua Cappella Sancti Blasii MCCCCXXXIII die XXI mensis novembri in manibus provincialis Fratris Martini de Roma.* *Item praedictus Joannes de Nocera dedit pro praedicta Cappella cum dicto palio unam Thobaleam cum listis de serico etc.* Nella Membrana A. I. fol. 2. pag. 1. leggasi: *Item una Vinea quam donavit Joannes de Nocera pro dote suae Cappellae Sancti Blasii, in contrata barano juxta rem Cole arrigi etc. etc.* »

Of the legacy, he says in another note. « Questo legato fu certamente eseguito; e con molta probabilità questa antica campana è quella, che ancora esiste nel Campanile della Chiesa. In essa si legge con lettere del tempo non molto guaste: *Ave Maria Gra Plea Dus Tecm Benedicta Tu in Mulieribus — Benedict Fructus Ventris Tui — Sca Maria Ora Po Nobis.*

As to the prohibition of Canon law, which Senni states to have been a reason why the church was not completed by the people when Petruccia failed, Buonanno says.

« It is not to be supposed that the Ecclesiastical authority ever intervened, as some have been of opinion, to cause the works commenced by Petruccia to be suspended; because it is to be believed, that the religious would not permit her to put a hand to the building, without first informing that authority. For the rest, Coriolanus, a coeval historian, assigns as the sole reason the want of means. Nor is it outside the purpose to suppose that the religious as well as Petruccia had from the

PRIVATE USE ONLY

must have been constructed by the architect of the Colonna family. They are both exquisitely designed and well executed. They give every evidence of the renaissance of art, which set in so vigorously in the reign of Pius II. (*Æneas Sylvius*), and continued as vigorous in that of his immediate successor, in whose pontificate both works were completed. The Column which forms so conspicuous a feature in the arms of the Colonnas, is carved in many places upon them; and this shows that they were executed, mainly at least, at the expense of the Princes of Genazzano. Both the portal and the marble chapel bear inscriptions, which are of great value, as proofs of the miraculous apparition of the sacred Image. On the latter is carved in a style peculiar to the last half of fifteenth century, the following words.

DIVINITUS . APPARUIT  
HÆC . IMAGO . A. D. M.  
M . CCCCLXVII . XXV . APRILIS

(« This Image divinely appeared on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April, 1467. »)

---

beginning hoped in the assistance of the people, in as much as the church was truly one of common interest. But God permitted that no one should make an effort to aid them, precisely because he wished to employ extraordinary means in this, His work.

Senni's opinion springs probably from his desire to find some excuse for the extraordinary want of zeal and generosity, on the part of his fellow townspeople and their wealthy princes. But whatever may be his motive, his ideas have been largely disseminated. Both reason and as well as valuable documentary evidence, however, are on the side of the statements of Buonanno.

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

And on the former.

M . CCCC . LXVII . SUB . ANIS . IDIV . FESTO  
 MARCI . HORA . VESPERI . DEI . GENITRICIS  
 MARIAE . QUAM . IN . HUJUS . PHANI  
 SACELLO . MARMOREO . VENERAMINI  
 EX . ALTO . FIGURA . PROSPEXIT

(« At the hour of Vespers, on the feast of St Mark, in the year of the Incarnate Word 1467, the picture of Mary the Mother of God, which you venerate in the marble chapel of this temple looked down from on high »).

The chief of the house of Colonna, living at this epoch, was the famous Antonio, created Prefect of Rome by Pius II. He died in 1472. An old list of subscriptions entitled « *retractum pecuniarum recipiendarum Capellae B. Mariae* » pronounced by the experts already mentioned, to belong to the period of the translation, has the name of this prince as one of the contributors. He is known to have also erected a chapel in the Church of San Pio, in commemoration of the visit of his patron Pius II., to the convent then in construction for the Conventual Franciscans, on the site of the ancient Antonine Villa.

These inscriptions are most valuable not only for their antiquity, but also because they clearly prove the tradition to be correct, which details the manner in which the sacred Image miraculously appeared. The words, « *divinitus apparuit* » attests the miracle of its coming. It was not brought, but it appeared itself to the people. The words, « *ex alto prospexit* »,

PRIVATE USE ONLY

clearly suggested by the psalm which says, « *Deus ex coelo prospexit* », proves that it came not from heaven but from on high, — through the air without human interference. Any such inscriptions carved on a church porch, and over a sacred altar, must have had, of course, the sanction of the highest Church authority. One existed already, not improbably, when the delegates of the Pope arrived. If placed in position immediately after, the proof is all the stronger. And it is surely impossible to conceive, that the house of Colonna, the Cardinal Bishop of Palestrina, the officials of the diocese, the whole Augustinian order, the entire people of Genazzano, and those thousands who gave their alms for the building of the church and convent, could be deceived or could desire to deceive posterity, about a fact so very plain.

10. The spontaneous ringing of the church bells and the celestial music, which tradition, resting on the testimony of the crowds who heard both, affirms, accompanied the arrival of the sacred Image, are not mentioned in these inscriptions. The same care which provided that the notary public of the borough, should record the miracles worked at the Shrine, no doubt, also took care that, in the same legal manner, every circumstance of the coming should be recorded. Unfortunately, as has been already stated, all those records have perished, or have been lost. But as independent testimony like that of Coriolanus and the copyist of the registers, like that of the delegation of Paul II., and these ancient inscriptions, prove beyond question the main facts of the wonderful apparition, so also the minor circumstances may have writ-

ten historical proof. The documents regarding them, lost, as we have indicated, may yet be found. As it is, they rest upon an unbroken tradition, which has many important arguments in its support, while not a single circumstance has been brought forward opposed to it.

For instance, though no documentary evidence exists with regard to the miraculous ringing of bells, which tradition states accompanied the coming of the sacred Image, we have the fact that from time immemorial, the church bells of all the town are rung for an hour, for eight days previous to the 25<sup>th</sup> of April, to perpetuate the memory of the spontaneous ringing during the hour, (from three to four in the afternoon,) in which it first appeared.

Then with regard to the white cloud and the celestial music, there are very many circumstances which confirm the tradition. For instance, an ancient offering in silver, presented to the Sanctuary by Philip Colonna, Duke of Paliano, in thanksgiving for the cure of his wife, Lucrezia Tomacelli, represents the sacred Image of the Blessed Virgin surrounded by the cloud, and coming exactly as the tradition states, to Genazzano. Underneath, was engraved the following inscription. *Divinitus apparuit in terra Genazzani A. D. MCCCLXVII. Dic XXV. Aprilis.* This must have been engraved in the century after the apparition, or very early in the following one. It was executed by order of the donor, a prince of the house of Colonna, and one who could have known persons who were intimate with those who witnessed the coming of the sacred Image. The slab of silver was very large, and re-

PRIVATE USE ONLY

mained in the Sanctuary until all the precious offerings found there, were confiscated during the occupation of the country by the French Republic and by Napoleon. We find from the records of his family that this Philip, Duke of Paliano died in 1639, aged sixty one years.

11. Moreover, as occurs in the case of all other facts of a similar kind, the devout had narrations written by those who had visited the Shrine, and had examined its history, in all parts of Europe. As early as 1569, Jerome Roman, in his «Chronicles», published that year in Salamanca, gives the history of the coming of the Madonna to Genazzano in Italy, just as we have narrated it. In 1581, the Bishop, Joseph Pamfilo, in his Chronicles of the Order of St. Augustine, published in Rome, gives the same, (page 88). We have a number of wills going back to the same period, where money was left to the Sanctuary, and in all these, the evidences of the same invariable tradition is found. For instance, in the will of a certain Bartholomew Biscia, means are left to keep a lamp of silver, burning night and day for ever, «before the altar of the Most Glorious Madonna, which » the testator says «appeared divinely, in the place of the Fathers of the Augustinian order ». This will is dated 1596, when Biscia was very old. One or both his parents may have been amongst the numbers, who witnessed the coming of the Madonna. At all events, the circumstances connected with the wonderful apparition he refers to, were as fresh in the minds of people in his day, as the circumstances connected with the apparition of Our Lady at Lourdes are at this moment.

But to return to written narratives. There are many worthy of every reliance which give, if not direct documentary proof of all the circumstances narrated, at least the strongest possible indirect arguments. Many accounts come from historians of the Augustinian Order, whose scope was merely to write the simple annals of each year. Amongst these Nicholas Crusenio in his *Monast. Augustin.* p. 3, cap. 29, pag. 176, printed in 1623, gives a full account of the miraculous apparition of the Image, which he calls most beautiful and made by no human hand. He tells us moreover that the immediate successor of Paul II., Sixtus IV., and his intimate friend Cardinal D'Estouteville, through their devotion to Our Lady of Good Counsel, built or rather enlarged and restored, the one, the church of St. Augustine in Rome, and the other that of Santa Maria del Popolo. This is an overwhelming proof that the inquiry ordered by the predecessor of Sixtus was in every sense, satisfactory; and that all the circumstances connected with the sacred Image were believed in by the Pontiff and the French Cardinal William de Estouteville, his friend<sup>1</sup>. The occurrence referred to by Crusenio

---

<sup>1</sup> The Church of St. Augustine in its beautiful simple facade, still contains the evidences of the gift of Cardinal D'Estouteville, the then ambassador of France to the Holy See, and the fast friend of the reigning Pontiff, Sixtus IV. An inscription runs along its entire front recording the fact. The stone for its formation was taken from the Colosseum, and its architect was the celebrated Florentine, Baccio Pinatelli. An old church dedicated to St. Triphon M. whose festival is still kept in the new edifice, existed previously on the site, but so complete was the alteration made by the Cardinal, that he may in truth be looked upon as

PRIVATE USE ONLY

took place eight years after the miraculous coming of the Image to Genazzano. The Turks had, at the time, seized upon all Albania, and there was no further use of a policy of reticence regarding the departure of the sacred Image from Scutari. We

---

its founder. The church of Santa Maria del Popolo was built also at a very early date, on the spot where the ashes of Nero were supposed to have been discovered and scattered to the winds. An inscription still to be found on the floor of the choir, states that the reason of the first church being there built was, to protect the people from ghosts which haunted the spot. It was rebuilt by the people of Rome in 1227, and therefore called St. Mary of the People. Sixtus the IV. employed the same architect as did Cardinal D'Estouteville to do the same for this ancient and celebrated church as his friend did for that of St. Augustine. Both churches were placed under the care of the Fathers of the Augustinian order. The reason why these churches were selected for the generous care of the donors, in preference to so many other and much more remarkable Roman churches then needing attention was, as Crusenio states, their desire to serve an order whom the Mother of God so visibly honoured at that precise time by sending to its care Her sacred Image, in so miraculous a manner from Scutari. The church of St. Augustine was completed in 1783, and must, of course, have been some time previously in process of erection. Therefore, both the Pope and the Cardinal must have been thoroughly convinced of the truth of all that was stated regarding both the miraculous apparition, and the not less miraculous translation.

The words of Nicholas Crusenius in his *Monastico Agostiniano*. Monachii 1623, p. III, c. 29. are « *Hoc miraculo commoti Sixtus IV et Cardinalis Guilelmus d'Estouteville Gallus, certatim Ordini Eremitarum Sancti Augustini addicti, duas in Urbe Roma Ecclesias eidem Ordini erigendas deliberant, eisque liberalem manum apponunt: unam gloriosae Virginis Mariae de Populo, quam suis expensis Sixtus Pontifex, et alteram Divo Augustino, quam Cardinalis affabre longe maioribus sumptibus creavit, ad invidiam et aemulationem sanctam.* »

shall treat of this important argument at length in the next chapter, where the proofs of the miraculous translation will be examined.

Works still more voluminous than that of Crusenio appeared in Madrid in 1644<sup>1</sup>, in Brussels in 1654<sup>2</sup>, and in Bologna in 1681<sup>3</sup>. One of those writers, and one of great weight, Luigi Torelli, in his *Secoli Agostiniani* for the year 1470, narrates the death of Petruccia in that year, and her sepulture in the chapel of the Madonna, says of the sacred Image and its Sanctuary, « which she herself had by her prayers caused to appear miraculously, and by a stupendous prodigy, to rest upon that new wall, where it is yet preserved and venerated . . . . and although the church has been once more renovated, by the great labour and industry of Father Felix Leoncelli of Cavi, nevertheless the ancient chapel is preserved intact, just as it was at first with the sacred Image ». We may mention that Torelli was an ocular witness, having as he tells us been in Genazzano in 1630. From that year to the year 1784, the following inscription existed in the chancel of the temple, close to the high altar at the Gospel side.

<sup>1</sup> *Alfabeto Agostiniano*, Madrid 1644. p. 2, p. 447.

<sup>2</sup> *Encomiastico Agostiniano*, Bruxelles 1654. p. 658-559.

<sup>3</sup> *Scuola del Cristiano*, Bologna 1681. c. 47. n. 56.

PRIVATE USE ONLY

## D. O. M.

PERANGUSTUM . OLIM . ET . QUAM . RUDITER . ERECTUM  
TEMPLUM . HOC . VETUSTATE . CORROSUM  
B. PETRUCCIA . MULIER . JENAZZANENSIS  
INTER . DOMESTICAS . ORDINIS . S. AUGUSTINI . MONIALES  
SANCTITATE . CELEBRIS  
IN . HONOREM . DEIPARÆ  
QUAM . IN . DIES . ADVENTURAM . PRÆSAGIEBAT  
NOVIS . INCCEPTIS . AERE . PROPRIO . PARIETIBUS  
COLLECTISQUE . IN . SUPPLEMENTUM . ELEEMOSYNIS  
ET . MUNIFICENTIA . CIVIUM . AC . POPULORUM  
UNDIQUE . RELIGIONIS . CAUSA . CONFLUENTIUM  
AD . VIRGINIS . HUJUS  
SANCTÆ . IMAGINIS . APPARITIONEM  
HORA . VESPERI . XXV . APRILIS . MCDLXVII  
IN . AUGUSTAM . QUA . REFULSIT . ID . TEMPORIS  
MAJESTATEM . RESTITUIT

It would be easy, if it were necessary, to prolong this mass of evidence by further documents. We may however conclude by stating, that all we shall have to say in the rest of this book, will be more or less confirmatory of that which is here proved. We would remit the reader specially, to the chapter which treats of the Proper Mass and Office, to show that the Church herself has believed in the Miraculous Apparition, and has taken the most effective means to warrant us in holding that belief. The indulgences with which she has enriched the devotion, and the favours which she grants to spread it, especially by means of the Pious Union, are ad-

ditional reasons to show us her gratitude to Mary, the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel, for coming in so marked a manner to the relief of her children at a season, when Good Counsel and help is so needed by the world.

---

<sup>1</sup> Although the principal depositories of records both in Genazzano and in Palestrina have been destroyed by fire or otherwise, yet there remains some grounds for hope, that many documents bearing upon the miraculous apparition of the sacred Image will yet be brought to light. The archives of the Colonna family, which have been removed from the castle of Genazzano only since they ceased to inhabit that building, are at present in Rome. The Fathers of the convent of Santa Maria have made repeated application for permission to examine these archives, but though the permission has not been refused, it has not yet been granted. It is of course easy to understand the reluctance of a family with such a chequered history, to grant permission to overlook documents which bear upon property, and very possibly upon repute. But if this difficulty could be met, there can be no doubt, but that many things of interest connected with the Sanctuary would come to light. For instance, it is known that the Colonnas took the deepest concern in the controversy which sprang up between two rival confraternities, and which, as we shall see in the next chapter, had the closest connection with the narrative of the pilgrims, Georgio and De Sclavis. Immediate descendants of the latter were employed in offices of trust by the princes of Genazzano. The family tried to re-assert its *Juspatronatus* over the church of Santa Maria which Giordan Colonna had conferred for ever on the Augustinians. This claim, which the Pope disallowed eight years after the coming of the sacred Image, implied nearly every fact asserted concerning both the wonderful apparition and the miraculous translation. Patient research may also bring yet to light those documents, which are said to have been sent to Tivoli and other places of safety, in the same way as the documents quoted by Buonanno were found in Genazzano.

---

PRIVATE USE ONLY

## Chapter X.

### PROOFS OF THE TRANSLATION

1. Quality of the testimony of the pilgrims. — 2. Silence of written, coeval documents — Examination — Papal delegation. — 3. Agreement between the pilgrims' narrative and that of other Albanians.— 4. The two parties in Genazzano — Quotation from Senni in reference to them. — 5. Regarding the action of Sixtus IV. — 6. Deductions from the action of the Pope. — 7. Value of the different titles of the Madonna as evidence. — 8. The tradition in Genazzano — Devotion of the Albanians in Italy — Early writers. — 9. Pilgrimage of Urban VIII. — Testimony of Colonna, Duke of Paliano and his secretary. — 10. Testimony on oath, of the oldest inhabitants of Genazzano in 1779. — 11. Family tree of the descendants of the pilgrim, Georgio.

1. We have seen in the last chapter, that notwithstanding the vicissitudes to which the Sanctuary of Our Lady in Genazzano was exposed, nevertheless, an overwhelming mass of documentary and monumental proof existed for the wonderful apparition of the sacred Image. We have now to examine the proofs of its no less wonderful translation from Scutari in Albania to Genazzano. Our knowledge of the fact of this supernatural occurrence rests entirely upon the testimony of the two pilgrims, who, as we have seen in chap. VII., arrived some days after the miraculous coming, and stated how and from whence the Image came.

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

Their story was certainly, a most extraordinary one, but at the same time, nothing more extraordinary than that which all the people knew to be connected with the coming of the sacred Image. In part, it rested entirely upon the credibility of the pilgrims themselves. In part, it could be examined and proved to be either true or false. There were no other witnesses but themselves of the miraculous leaving and journey of the sacred Image; but it could be found out, whether any such Image did exist in Scutari; and, if so, whether it still continued there or not. The Venetians were, at the time, in possession of both the city and sanctuary from which it was said to have departed. They continued in possession for a sufficient time to allow every inquiry to be made, before they surrendered to the Turks.

2. We have here, however, an initial difficulty to dispose of. It is, that in such coeval documents as do exist, and which we have already quoted in proof of the miraculous apparition, nothing is said of the translation. But it must be remembered, that not one of these documents treated of the coming of the sacred Image, expressly. Coriolanus spoke only of the connection of Petruccia with the occurrence, in proof of her sanctity as a member of his order. Canesius had for object, only to tell of a mission sent by Paul II. The register of miracles had its own definite scope; and so of the rest. If the tradition be true at all, that the pilgrims really existed, they must have been examined by the delegates of the Pope, who came expressly to investigate every circumstance connected with the wonderful apparition. We have seen that

PRIVATE USE ONLY

the result of the inquiry must have been either given *viva voce* to His Holiness, or if any records were left behind in Genazzano, these must have perished, or have been lost together with the other records of the Sanctuary, in the manner explained in the last chapter.

There is however, much force in the fact that one of the papal delegates was a bishop belonging, it may be said, to Albania, — the Bishop of Fara, off the coast of Dalmatia. The selection of this prelate indicates very clearly, that concurrent with the report of the coming of the sacred Image there was another, that it come from Albania. The Bishop of Fara then, could, better than any Italian or French inquisitor, examine a case in which Albania was so much concerned. We have also seen that the Pontiff both as a Churchman and as a Venetian, was much interested that, then at least, silence should be observed with regard to an occurrence which would produce such a disastrous effect upon the defence of Scutari.

In any case, though the facts of the miraculous translation come down to us by tradition, it is a tradition well authenticated, and supported in many particulars by facts which cannot be gainsaid.

3. In the first place, the story of the two Albanians, clear and simple, and told in the same manner without a particle of variation, could not be reasonably doubted by the people of Genazzano, who witnessed themselves the wonderful apparition of the sacred Image, an event, in every sense, as strange; or by the multitudes who beheld the wonders worked every

day, and who, as tradition tells us, saw the continual miracle of the visibly unsupported Image they came to venerate. And then, neither Georgio nor De Sclavis could have any possible motive for deceiving the people of Genazzano. Both were at least able to make their own living, and, in all probability, brought means with them from their own country. This is evident from the fact, that when settled in the town, they intermarried with respectable families of the locality, determined never to move far away from the Image they so much loved. Again, though many of the people of Genazzano disliked their story, and would have gladly contradicted it if they could, it never was contradicted upon any point whatever. Georgio and De Sclavis remained all their lives in Genazzano and left families after them. Nothing could be easier than to find a flaw in some portion of a narration so extraordinary, if a flaw could be found. The Albanians who came to Latium in great numbers after Scutari had fallen finally into the hands of the Turks, some three years after, would have been able to give a different version, if that of Georgio and De Sclavis were false.

4. And then, it may be well to bear in mind, that two distinct parties arose in Genazzano. One of these desired to get the management of the revenues of the Sanctuary, immense at the time, because of the offerings of the pilgrims, on the plea that Our Lady came from Scutari to be protected by the military force of Italy; and the other denied their right to interfere, insisting that Our Lady came because of the want of attention to religion in

PRIVATE USE ONLY

Albania. The first party wished to have the management of the church of Santa Maria and of the Shrine for the seculars. Amongst them were the princes of the house of Colonna, who, it would appear, desired to resume the *Juspatronatus*, which, as we have seen, the prince, Pier Giordano conferred perpetually upon the Augustinians. The second, the party of prayer, as they called themselves, resented this. Pope Sixtus the Fourth had to interfere, and by a bull yet extant, confirmed the donation of Pier Giordano, at least so far, that the religious should not be disturbed in the possession of the church, Sanctuary, convent, or of the benefice of the hospital of the Holy Cross, without the express consent of the Holy See.

All that we have advanced, is well described by Senni, in his *Memorie di Genazzano*. Giving the history of his native city, under the reigns of Paul II. and Sixtus IV., he thus writes.

« The Turks did not delay in laying siege to the fortress, as indeed everyone foresaw, and already the Venetians had well garrisoned Scutari, and continued to increase its strength. The citizens, upon seeing that the sacred Image of Most Holy Mary was wanting, had serious thoughts, and still more serious doubts of our people. But whether they believed that the Image was taken by human or celestial means, the wise who were not wanting there, could easily persuade all, that however the case stood, they ought take it as a warning from heaven to do penance and amend their ways; and that if they should repent and amend, they could hope in the

divine goodness better than before. We shall see that they did not hope in vain. The Turks really believed that God favoured the Christians. This confidence displeased them greatly, because it rendered their adversaries more courageous and daring, as they not seldom experienced with fatal effect. They therefore, in order to take away from the people of Scutari every hope of assistance from heaven, endeavoured above all things to batter down their temples. The temple of St. Nicholas of Bari being either the most exposed to their fire, or the most venerated, was the first assaulted, but the first cannon ball which touched its sacred walls, was cast back by the Saint against the sacrilegious invaders . . .

. . . « While such a war was being waged round the city, out of which the sacred Image had departed, the infernal enemy excited another contest in a certain sense still worse, in the place where it had arrived. This I ought not disguise, because a history is bound to tell that which is evil, as well as that which is good; and because this contest affords much light to enable us to judge concerning the narrative of the pilgrims. In sight of the miracles wrought by the Most Holy Virgin, the zeal to rebuild Her church was universal, and presently (in Genazzano) a confraternity of collectors was instituted, which I find mentioned in a will of the very same year of the Apparition, with these words. *Item reliquit Societati Beatae Mariae nova inventa.* The title of the company newly founded. These brethren, in good accord with the Augustinian religious, completed the building not only of the temple, but assisted also in the

PRIVATE USE ONLY

construction of a new and beautiful convent. Both were terminated in the space of three years and a few months, and while Petruccia was still living. (*Coriolan. Defens.* p. 2). But after the completion of the church and the convent, and after the servant of God had passed to eternal life, either because their aid seemed useless to the religious, who therefore treated them coldly, or that they were too forward and arrogated a joint dominion over the temple, the harmony was destroyed. There arose over the oblations of the faithful, a reciprocal want of confidence, and the animosity proceeded so far, that the religious and the members of the confraternity, could hardly suffer each other to remain in the church together. The arrogance of the confraternity men did not want support. The princes of the house of Colonna, had, or at least pretended to have, the *Juspatronatus* over the church of the religious as well as over the other churches, though we have seen how in the past century, Giordan Colonna exercised that right by placing there the Hermits of St. Augustine, and assigning another church to the priests. Antonio Colonna engraved his double coat of arms in the tribune of the holy Chapel, where the sacred work was commenced, and the same double *stemma* where the work was finished. Meanwhile the church given to the religious was the old one, and not the new. It was pleasing then to our princes, that their subjects and dependents should have some charge, nor could the same be displeasing to the bishops or to the rest of the clergy. But that which enkindled the controversy most, was the doubt of the Albanians

whether the sacred Image when it first appeared in Scutari, came from heaven or from far distant countries. Those who believed it come from far distant countries, considered from its various passages, that the Lord wished it to be venerated in a place, both distant, and secure from the fear of the Turks; and hence that the custody of so sacred a deposit should be given to those having charge of the public security, that is to the military citizens. The others however, who believed the sacred Image to have descended from heaven, abhorred such thoughts as sacrilegious, which would presume to help Omnipotence. They said that the celestial appearance of the holy Image reminded us of our duties, one of which was to venerate it, without giving ourselves further trouble. Of these latter, there was formed another society called the Confraternity of Prayer, named many times by our notaries in the following century. The place is known, destined now for other uses, where they used to assembled in order to go together to the holy Chapel. There remains still the marble architrave with the inscription *In te Domine speravi . . .* All these great events happened before and after the examination ordered by Paul II., and renders his pontificate, which ended in the year 1471, memorable in Genazzano. »

5. Under the heading of Sixtus IV., Senni proceeds.

« The same year when Sixtus IV. ascended the pontifical throne, the city of Scutari was in great trouble and danger, in consequence of the siege and assaults of the Turks. The Pontiff gave all the succour in his power to the city. Whilst there were

PRIVATE USE ONLY

fears of its fall, the military party in Genazzano continued to talk, while the others attended in silence to prayer and hope. In the year 1474, however, while Loredano valorously defended the fortress, it pleased God to cause Peter Mocenigo, the Venetian admiral to come to his aid. The Turks being assailed by his forces on two opposite points were, after an immense loss of men, forced to fly from Scutari and to abandon the fortress of Croja and almost all Albania. Mocenigo, by means of this victory, obtained the same year the vacant post of Doge. Barletti in describing these victories, states that they were proceeded by prayer and by celestial portents. When the news arrived in Genazzano, everyone understood the triumph which the Brethren of Prayer would have from the victory. But it was found that their adversaries equally triumphed at it, because the victories came certainly, by the will of God, through the means of the combatants. From both sides came insulting expressions; and those of the military party were accompanied with threats, not always vain. Amidst this excess of fanaticism, the Augustinian religious thought well to have recourse to Pope Sixtus IV. They obtained from him a bull dated 16<sup>th</sup> July, 1475, by which he confirmed for the benefit of the Augustinians of Genazzano, the donation before named of Giordan Colonna, of the church of St. Mary of Good Counsel, and another of the Holy Cross and of the hospital, and of the goods annexed, which bull, Father Feroci and Father De Orgio speak of in their histories of the Sanctuary. The religious gained nothing by this bull beyond the rights which they possessed al-

ready. It was simply provided that they could not be deprived of these without the consent of the Holy See. There afterwards followed other changes in matters, which rendered prudence necessary on the one part and on the other.

« Selim II., (Mahomet II.) in no way cast down by the discomfiture he received in Albania, ordered that every time he left his palace, he should be reminded that Scutari was not yet taken, and a good stipend was given to the person charged with this duty. A new army was collected and sent against that fortress which was besieged once more. The Venetians involved in other wars more dangerous, made peace with the Turks, and in the year 1477, they surrendered it on good conditions, amongst which was the power to go to the city and sell and take away the price of whatever property they held there. The Turks used great promises and caresses to the citizens, on account of which they were more reluctant to depart. But Florio Genomina the better to understand the bad faith and the treachery of the Turks, had invited his fellow citizens to pass to the neighbouring dominions of the republic of Venice, promising in its name, a warm welcome and assistance. They all changed, therefore, their determination; and while some accepted the invitation, others came to our Latium as Barletto relates, *Tunc Scodrenes omnes . . . in Latium tetenderunt et in sinum florentissimi Veneti Senatus confugerunt.* Now all hitherto narrated shows us, that not only were the two pilgrims of Scutari the only ones to tell us that our holy Image was that of their country,

PRIVATE USE ONLY

but there was besides, a great number of Albanians who had worshipped it there, to say the same; and these inflamed the people of Genazzano and its neighbourhood in the contest already related, and the same was confirmed by all the citizens of Scutari, who emmigrated to Venice as well as to Latium. There was in these times an opinion or general impression, that the provinces of the East and Constantinople itself, which had fallen into the hands of the Turks, were abandoned by God in punishment of their sins and obstinate schism. And when it happened that so sacred an Image had abandoned Scutari, it could and it ought to be concluded that that fortress also, and all Albania had been abandoned by God. And very unwillingly those of that country ought suffer this evil opinion of them, and very unwillingly should they confess the wonderful passage of their sacred Image. The history of the siege of Scutari by Bartotto is altogether directed to show that his country and his fellow citizens, in all these ten years of war, were always protected by heaven. He could not be ignorant of the report spread about in Latium by his fellow citizens and fellow countrymen. If it was a falsehood he had the genius and the power to deny it. And instead of that, he closes the history of his abandoned country, confessing that all his fellow citizens inclined to go to Latium, *in Latium teterunt*, where they found the double object of their devotion, the Blessed Virgin and St. Nicholas of Bari.»

6. From this it appears, that Scutari remained in the hands of the Venetians from the death of Scanderbeg to the year 1477, - a period of ten years.

Sixtus IV. ascended the pontifical throne in 1471. The first siege of Scutari ended in a complete victory for the Venetians in 1474. The city, and indeed the whole of Albania, remained unmolested by the Turks for three years. Now it was precisely in the first of these three years, in 1475, that the Pope was called upon to decide between the litigants in Genazzano. The confraternities in common with all Italy knew well, of course, the nature of the victory obtained by the Christians. The Pontiff sent large aid to the defenders<sup>1</sup>. It is therefore absolutely impossible that he could have been ignorant of the story of the translation any more than of the story of the wonderful apparition, when called upon to decide a controversy intimately bound up with both the one and the other. He was himself a Franciscan, and had been even General of his order. He was one of the first theologians and scholars of the age in which he lived. He was very intimate with the General of the Augustinians, Coriolanus, who wrote the account of Petruccia given in the last chapter. It was this Pontiff then, who with the fullest possible knowledge of Scutari, and of all the alleged circumstances connected with the miraculous Image of Genazzano as made known by pub-

---

<sup>1</sup> Panvinio in his lives of the popes, writes of Sixtus IV. under the marginal note *Scutari combattuta dai Turchi* « Mentre che passano queste cose in Italia, era Scutari terra de' Venetiani combattuta da' Turchi, e Sisto, perchè non venisse quella fortissima rocca in potere de' Barbari, e ne havessero con questo mezzo potuto poi occupar l'Albania e la Schiavonia, di vettovaglie e di denari la soccorse. » P. 458. Ed. Ven.

lic report, by the investigation ordered a few years previously by his predecessor, and made by prelates then living, by the influx of the unfortunate citizens of Scutari, who flocked to his dominions after the last siege, that not only gave his decision in favour of the Augustinians, but did much more. He rebuilt the church of Our Lady del Popolo and built next to it a magnificent convent, and he gave all over to the Augustinians. Why? The principal historian of that order and their own archives tell us, simply because of his devotion to the wonderful Image which the Mother of God had transferred so miraculously from that city of Scutari, in which he took such interest, and for the defense of which he spent so much treasure, to the little town of Genazzano.

It cannot of course be expected, that historians of Scutari would themselves publish their own shame. It is sufficient that they admitted the fact. That they did not deny it, that not only in Italy but still more in their unfortunate country they preserved the memory of it, will form the subject of the next chapter.

7. It is very true that for many an age, the people of Genazzano persisted in calling their sacred Image « Our Lady of Paradise, » without however denying the narrative of the Pilgrims. So long indeed, as the ancient bass-relief already referred to, remained in the church, there was some reason to have distinct titles for each representation of Our Lady. But when the old one was removed on the occasion of the reconstruction of the church of Petruccia, the will of Our Lady in selecting the church under this peculiar title of Virgin Mother

of Good Counsel, above all the other churches dedicated to Her in Italy, as the place where the most wonderful of all Her Images should be worshipped, was respected by all. The reason was seen why She loved more than other places, the locality of Her triumph over the foulest rites of Paganism; and why by ways so wonderful, She desired to commence to spread throughout the world, devotion to Herself, under that most expressive title of the Giver of Good Counsel.

8. Then, from the second day after the wonderful apparition of the sacred Image to the present hour, there comes an unbroken tradition in Genazzano, as distinctly giving the narration of the pilgrims as it does the facts of the wonderful apparition. Old pictures, votive offerings, the intense devotion of all the Albanians settled in Calabria, Venetia, and elsewhere to the Sanctuary, the circumstantial narrative of the earliest historians who have written any professed history of the sacred Image, all contribute to confirm the tradition.

9. In 1630, a very remarkable and most public proof of this tradition was given, during the famous pilgrimage of Urban the VIII. to the miraculous Image of the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel, in Genazzano. The good pontiff desired to obtain from Our Lady, Her protection for Rome against the pestilence which then was devastating Italy. If ever a Pope was more averse than another, to reports of miracles not well founded in truth, it was Urban VIII. He had issued the strictest regulations to curb misguided and fanciful zeal. Yet he made this special pilgrim-

PRIVATE USE ONLY

age with all the devotion and publicity in his power. At the period John, Duke of Paliano, the son of Duke Philip, who had offered the silver slab to the Sanctuary for the miraculous cure of his wife, was chief of the Colonnas. He received his sovereign with all possible pomp. He assembled his armed retainers to the number of eight thousand, infantry, artillery and cavalry, and met the papal cortege at Cave, some three miles from the Sanctuary. At the entrance of Genazzano, he presented his liege lord with the keys of the town, and made to him the following address which had of course, special reference to the Shrine, Urban came to venerate. He said

« The Queen of heavenly and human beings and the Mother of God, has been pleased to desire to be worshipped in this locality. Her Image which is here, was not brought hither by the hands of mortals, nor painted here by human art, but was seen suddenly in the temple, and, as it is believed, was fabricated by a celestial artist, that so Latium may not seem to be deprived of its Loreto<sup>1</sup>.

Francesco Cirocchio, the secretary of the Duke, who likely also, composed the Latin oration made to the Pontiff, is yet more clear in his printed account of this celebrated visit. He says. « His Holiness desired to expose himself to this journey . . . urged on by his devotion and by his desire to visit in person the

---

<sup>1</sup> « Coelitum hominumque Regina ac Dei Mater coli heic se voluit, non mortalium manibus huc advecta, non hominum pennicillo picta; sed repente in Templo conspecta, ac coelesti, ut creditur, artificio fabrefacta, ne scilicet videretur suum Latium deesse Lauretum. » *Nuovo Sommario*, p. 28, n. 6.

so much celebrated picture of the Most Holy Virgin... which transferred itself by a clear miracle from remote countries to Genazzano, seeming in this to have renewed the example ever-to-be-admired, of the transmigration, which by angelic ministry the holy House since called of Loreto, made from Sclavonia to Piceno, on the 10<sup>th</sup> of Dec. 1294<sup>1</sup>.

It would be utterly impossible to have made these statements — one in the hearing, and the other with the knowledge of such a Pontiff as Urban VIII., without their being a real and well grounded foundation for them. We shall see further on, what great devotion and entire belief he manifested in the whole tradition. And indeed, a still greater enemy of anything like exaggeration in the narration of supernatural occurrences, Benedict XIV., plainly indicated his belief in the wonderful narrative of the pilgrims, by referring to it in no obscure terms in the bull which he issued for the establishment of the Pious Union. He says. « In the church named under the invocation of Holy Mary of Good Counsel, in the town of Genazzano and diocese of Palestrina, there is found a chapel where is venerated an effigy or image of the same Immaculate Mary of Good Counsel, formerly

<sup>1</sup> « Volle sua beatitudine esporsi a questo viaggio . . . spinto dalla divozione e dal desiderio di visitare di presenza la tanto celebrata Immagine della SS. Vergine, che . . . si trasferì con miracolo elucente da Paesi remoti in Genazzano; parendo in ciò rinnovellato l'esempio sempre ammirando della trasmigrazione, che per ministero Angelico da Schiavonia al Piceno alli 10 di dicembre 1294 fece la Santissima Casa, che poi denominossi Loretana. »

translated, as pious tradition teaches, from the city of Scutari by the ministry of Angels<sup>1</sup>.

10. Finally, in the year 1779, a commission of the Sacred Congregation of Rites empowered by the Holy See to inquire into all the circumstances connected with the coming of the sacred Image, interrogated on oath the principal inhabitants of the town. These affirmed as the constant tradition of their ancestors, not only the principal facts already proved of the appearance of the Image, but further deposed to the tradition relative to the account given by the two Albanians. The following is a translation of the attestation given on that occasion.

« We, the undersigned and cross-signed of advanced age, under and above eighty years, citizens of Genazzano in the diocese of Palestrina, for the pure and sincere truth, and not for any other motive or respect whatever, attest how, by a continual tradition, as it is also continued to the present, we have heard from our old ancestors, and these from their own old ancestors, that this most holy Madonna of Good Counsel, which is worshipped, always miraculous, and venerated, as well by immemorial tradition, as by our own happy experience, came into this our country from Albania, and precisely from the city of Scutari, brought by Angel hands, as its pictures and images printed or painted since that time, according to the form and design of that visible picture of it, painted upon the tribune of its church in the beginning of the present century, and which appeared on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April, the festival day of St. Mark the Evangelist, in the year 1467, at the 21<sup>st</sup> hour, with sudden and

---

<sup>1</sup> « In Ecclesia sub invocatione sanctae Mariae de Bono Consilio nuncupata Monasterii eiusdem Ordinis S. Augustini in Oppido Genazzano dicto Dioecesis Praenestinae reperitur Capella, in qua colitur Effigies, sive Imago eiusdem Immaculatae Virginis Mariae de Bono Consilio, sicut *Pia fert traditio* per angelorum ministerium ex Scodra Civitate illuc olim translata.»

miraculous ringing of all the bells of the town, in memory of which, there is a constant tradition, with the continual custom and practice to ring loudly, and with jubilee all the bells of the town eight days before its festival on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April, even until the present day; with the sole difference that for a few years at this time, not only the bells of the church of Santa Maria, but those of all the other churches of the town, collegiate and parochial, are rung both in sign of joy and in memory of its coming the 21<sup>st</sup> hour, and that amidst a general concourse of the people, the *Te Deum* is intoned in the church.

« There is also another tradition of the same nature as that above, to the effect that such apparition was predicted by our fellow townswoman, the servant of God, Petruccia, who merited, as is also preserved, the title of « Blessed », and that in the following of the said miraculous Image, came two pilgrims wonderfully advised and guided, one being of the house of Georgio yet existing, and the other of de Sclavis extinct, but the last members of whose family were known to be persons of great probity and respectability.

« We furthermore depose, that it is not only a tradition as above, but also a practice never interrupted, that in memory of such wonderful apparition during the three days preceding the feast, in all the town there were made, and are made, fires with wood and other festive fires, together with torches and lights in the windows, accompanied by firing off guns and pistols, but that there has never happened the slightest accident, notwithstanding the crowds of people who enjoyed themselves, and that the children went about at this time tripping with joy and singing the following refrain.

« The Madonna of Good Counsel has left Albania, to come to our land — Long live, Long live the Madonna of Good Counsel!

« Of the continual numerous concourse of the devout, and of the most stupendous continual prodigies, beyond the traditions of our ancient ancestors authenticated by so many votive offerings hung upon the walls of the holy Chapel and the church, we testify to have been, and to be ourselves, either the daily ocular spectators or assured hearers by infallible relation. That therefore to prove this, the incontestable truth, we have made and do make this present attestation for conscience sake, corroborated with our oaths in the cause of knowledge, as our own act, by the tradition left to us, and by the continuance and prac-

PRIVATE USE ONLY

tice of as much as we have expressed. In faith of which we have signed etc. this 21<sup>st</sup> day of July 1778. »

I, the Priest, Charles Senni de Leoni, canon and parishioner of the collegiate and parochial church of St. Nicholas, aged 76, with my oath affirm, as above with my own hand.

I, the Priest, James Buccabella, chaplain of the parochial church of St. John, but parishioner of the church of St. Paul aged 70 years and over, attest with my oath, as above by my own hand.

I, the Priest, Sante Ascenzi, aged 66 years, beneficed clergyman and parishioner of the parochial church of St. John, attest as above by means of my oath, with my own hand.

I, John Baptist Moraschi, of the parish of St. John, attest as above with my own hand.

Cro†ss of Signor Julian Conti aged 80 years, who could not write because of a tremor in the hand.

I, Francis Ferro of the parish of Santa Maria, aged 81 years attest as above with my own hand.

I, Signor Augustine Spina, of the parish of St. Mary, aged 85.

I, Signor Joseph Bosca, of the parish of St. Nicholas, aged 77 years attest etc. etc.

11. With regard to the younger pilgrim Georgio, his family, a very numerous one, still remains in Genazzano and in Latium. They keep amongst them the tradition of their descent with considerable pride. One of his direct descendants holds the office of Syndic or Mayor of the town at the present moment, and is also Archivist and Notary Public of the district. From him the following family tree has been obtained. It is a valuable proof of the existence of the younger pilgrim, and also of the credibility of his story, which is preserved with family pride by all his descendants. It is as follows.

---

GENEALOGY OF THE FAMILY, GEORGI, OF GENAZZANO, WHICH TOOK ITS ORIGIN FROM THE ALBANIAN PILGRIM OF THE NAME OF GEORGIO, WHO FOLLOWED THE IMAGE OF MOST HOLY MARY OF GOOD COUNSEL IN ITS WONDERFUL TRANSLATION FROM SCUTARI IN ALBANIA TO GENAZZANO.

## GEORGIO

In the protocols of the Notary Siciliani which are preserved in the Archivio Notarile of Genazzano, he is called **Georgenus Albanensis habitator Genazzani**. He came to Genazzano in the April of 1467. He there married a widow called Contadina, by whom he had four children, namely, Mark, Fabrizio, Niccholas and Francesca. The whole four are named in his will, executed by act of Siciliani on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of February 1512.

### Marco

Nominated by his father executor of his last will. He was minister to Cardinal Ascanio Colonna. It is not known whether he married, or had descendants.

### Nicholas

In 1612 he had not yet arrived, at the age of twenty years. This is known from the will of Georgio. His wife was a certain Polonia. He was a canonario, and general farmer of the land of Genazzano.

### Fabrizio

On the 19th of December 1612, while his father was yet living, he gave the nuptial ring with his father's consent to Benedetta Petrucci, a Spannish widow of Genazzano. (Notary Siciliani).

### Hector

Died without issue.

### Ottavio

Was a farmer in the land of Genazzano together with Nicholas his uncle. This appears from an act of the Notary Camillo Sotolin on the 23rd of November 1560, in which, as in other acts he is said to be *cob-senf*. It seems that he was domiciled elsewhere, and perhaps has given origin to another family.

### Muzio

It is without doubt that he was the son of Nicholas, since in an instrument of the Notary Stephen de Lutis of Cave on the 18th of March 1586, he was called Muzius. Son of Nicholas, son of Georgio of Genazzano. His wife was Polena Rosei, by whom he had five male children namely.

### Constantine

Was Archpriest of the Church of St. John in Genazzano, where he erected the chapel of St. Paul. He married Angela Sollettini.

### Thomas

Was a benedictine clergyman of the Church of St. Paul in Genazzano, where he erected the chapel of St. Joseph.

### John

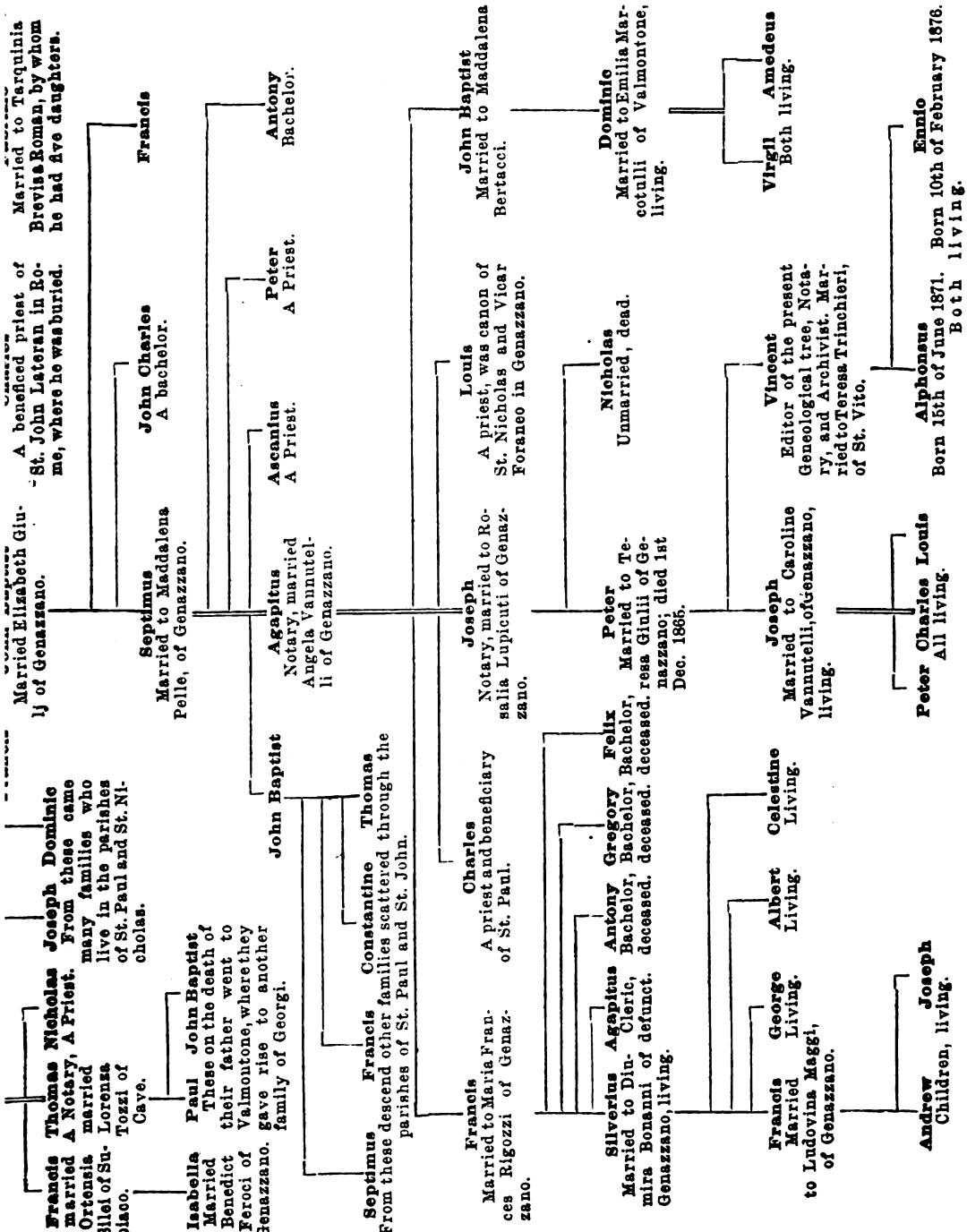
Nicholas A Conventual religious, and a great preacher.

Alexander  
It is not known if he had descendants.

Constantine  
Was Archpriest of the Church of St. John in Genazzano, where he erected the chapel of St. Charles.

Septimus  
Born on the 29th of Nov. 1576, as affirmed from the parochial books of the chapel of St. Paul. He married Angela Fiaschetti.

PRIVATE USE ONLY



## Chapter XI.

### THE ALBANIAN TRADITION

1. Reasons why no evidence of the miraculous translation was obtained after the fall of Scutari. — 2. Nature of Turkish conquests — Condition of the vanquished. — 3. Surveillance over Scutari. — 4. Its relaxation — Immediate information regarding the sacred Image. — 5. Letter of Count Stephen Medin regarding the translation. — 6. Inquiries made this century. — 7. Letter of Father Mariano of Palmanova. — 8. Letter from Monsgr. Radoja, V. G. of Scutari. — 9. More recent and hitherto inedited documents. — 10. Conclusion.

1. In this chapter we shall conclude the proofs of the miraculous translation by an examination of the tradition, which must have subsisted amongst the Catholics of Albania after that country had fallen under the dominion of the Turks. It is but just to say, that if there was a reason why Scutari should be silent during the progress of its sieges, this reason would not hold good after the Christian cause had become hopelessly lost. On the contrary, such an ominous occurrence as the departure of the sacred Image must have deeply sunk into the minds of the unfortunate Albanians who could not emigrate. Those who refused to be perverted must, in their humiliation, have acknowledged the just judgment of God upon their

PRIVATE USE ONLY

country and have clung faster than ever to their religion. They could not be ignorant of what was said all over Italy and throughout Europe regarding the appearance in Genazzano of the Image, once theirs. Taking all these circumstances into consideration, it may at first sight seem strange, that no proofs were obtained after the surrender of Scutari, by the zealous guardians of the Sanctuary of Genazzano, or by the many other devoted clients of Our Lady of Good Counsel. But then we must take other things also into account. Those who remained were not the most literate of their nation. The whole of the country was in a state of confusion. And finally, the kind of masters they had to deal with were disposed in a manner not favourable to such investigations, as would throw light upon the subject. The Turks might like to prove that the sacred Image had departed. But they feared Christians from without, and they had other objects in view also.

2. If we consider the reasons of their unceasing activity at this period, we shall find that a motive more powerful than any that could be supplied by religious fanaticism, urged on their hosts to fall upon Christian lands. They were a fast multiplying people; and because of the practice of polygamy, the destruction of the male population by war, did not produce amongst them the paralyzing effects, which the same destruction would, in a military point of view, produce in any Christian country. In fact, war became a necessary outlet for surplus increase, amongst a people, who did not care to turn land or commerce to account, and

amongst whom women were reckoned as goods and chattels. War meant for them, that which emigration means for the British Islands. Those who left, relieved those who remained. They carried with them high hopes not only of serving their spiritual concerns, by a work esteemed to be in the highest sense agreeable to Allah and the Prophet, but of benefiting their earthly condition by coming into possession of rich domains and cities.

The conditions imposed by Mahomet upon the vanquished were conversion, tribute, or extermination. Conversion secured the goods and civil rights of apostates. Consequently, the rank and file of the invaders generally preferred, that the conquered should hold fast to their religion. That course secured the largest amount of spoils to the victors. Christians worsted in war, and unable to fight further, had therefore, either to expatriate themselves, or to descend into a condition not far removed from slavery. As a rule, those who could do so, fled as soon as it became certain that resistance was useless; and so, it often happened that the Turks on becoming masters of a city found it deserted by its Christian inhabitants. Sometimes, policy caused Christian traders and artificers to be kept, but generally, jealousy led to their exclusion altogether, more especially, when their presence might prove dangerous.

3. This was to a great extent, and for a long time, the case with Scutari, one of the strongest fortresses in Albania. Every stranger was regarded with suspicion. Inquiries about religious matters always met with instant repression. Therefore, after the

PRIVATE USE ONLY

Turkish occupation of the city, it was clearly impossible for the Fathers of Genazzano, to learn anything regarding the condition of the little church out of which the miraculous Image had departed.

4. About the middle of the last century, however, this surveillance, though still strict, relaxed somewhat, and enabled the agent of the Catholic missions of Albania in Rome, to give most interesting information regarding the Madonna of Genazzano.

From this source it was gathered, that not only had the people of Albania known of the existence of the sacred Image, but that they had never lost their devotion to it. They all knew that it had departed from its original temple. Many had heard of its having gone of its own accord to a town in Italy. The remembrance of their last great king, and of his deep devotion to it, still subsisted. Even the very walls of the sanctuary in which it once stood, were deemed sacred, and whenever the Turks permitted, were most piously visited in pilgrimage by the surrounding country people. Furthermore it appeared, that no power of the Turks was able to convert its temple into a mosque - a fate which befell all the other Catholic churches of Scutari, - because of supernatural prevention. Neither could they, though they often tried, convert its materials to profane uses. Lastly, it was believed, that many miracles and supernatural occurrences took place in its ruins. The first account furnished comes from the Albanian nobleman, Count and Captain Stephen Medin, and was written as early as 1745, to Signor, Count John Baptist Medin.

5. This document published by De Orgio, throws considerable light upon the fact, that the Image so long venerated in Genazzano is no other than that which Georgio and De Sclavis represented it to be; the one venerated by Scanderbeg and all Albania.

The following is a literal translation of it from the Italian as given by De Orgio, preserving the titles, adjectives, and quaintness of phraseology common to formal documents in the last century.

« Copy of a letter written by the Signor Count and Captain Stephen Medin on the 25<sup>th</sup> of July 1745, to Signor John Baptist Medin.

« With regard to the charge which your Illustrious Worship gives me, to examine whether there yet exists in Scutari any church dedicated to the Most Holy Madonna, and whether there may be in it any niche or other position where it could be known that there was at any time an Image of the Madonna. From what I could learn from the oldest inhabitants of the country, persons worthy of all faith, they say, that there is in the suburbs of that city a church almost in ruins, which is called the Most Holy Annunciation; and where continuous and frequent miracles do not cease to take place, amongst which the most considerable are the following. How often soever the Turks wished to reduce that church to the condition of a mosque, they never could succeed because it always happened that what they built up by day, fell of itself by night. As many times as the *Hosa* or priest of the Turks has attempted to get upon the walls, to cry out in their manner as he would to call the people to the temple according to custom, a certain wind came like lightning, and the *Hosa* or priest was blown by it into the river Bojana and submerged there. A few years ago the *Musti* or their chief priest came to the said church and desecrating a sacred Image painted upon the wall by scraping out the eyes and by giving it certain gashes through contempt, found when he returned to his home that seven of his family were dead, and he himself became insane. Such past and still continued miracles, have caused that, though the doors of the said church

PRIVATE USE ONLY

remain open day and night, no Turk has since attempted any further irreverence to the said temple, which stands nearly ruined: nevertheless two beams, suspended almost in the air, sustain a certain portion of the roof: in this also we see an evident miracle. Moreover, on the night of the Most Holy Annunciation, a lamp is seen burning in front of that deserted Altar. The place in which was the Image of the Blessed Virgin, not now to be found, is certainly seen there; and (as we know from tradition) some say, that this holy Image was taken away, and others firmly assert, that it went away of itself. If by chance these accounts be not sufficient, command me and I will make further inquiries etc. »

Copy of the attestation of Signor Nicholas di Antonio Cambsi, Noble of Scutari.

« In the name of God. Amen. In order the more to promulgate the glories of the miraculous Image of the Most Holy Virgin called of Good Counsel, venerated by an innumerable concourse of people in the celebrated district of Genazzano etc. When, in the year past, the octave of the Canonization of San Pietro Regalato was celebrated, there happened to be present *Signor Nicola di Antonio Cambsi*, a noble of the city of Scutari, and procurator of the nine churches which are found in the neighbourhood of the aforesaid city for the Missionaries Apostolic and Bishops sent by the Propaganda. He Having been seen by the most Illustrious *Signor, Antonio Giulii Mondi*, a citizen of Genazzano and a Roman, the latter was moved by curiosity, on seeing the aforesaid *Signor Nicola di Antonio* dressed as an Albanian, to ask whence he came. But as the same did not then know how to speak Italian, a clergyman who accompanied him and served as interpreter, answered that he came from the city of Scutari, and the said clergyman was named *Signor Don Gaspare Azuri*: and he said that the above-mentioned *Signor Nicholas* related the underwritten notices, as at present he the same *Signor Nicholas* upon his oath deposes, before the undersigned witnesses.

He deposes therefore, that the church, where anciently was venerated the above-said holy Image, before the city pointed out, fell into the hands of the Turks, was and is still situated

\*

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

outside the city, almost half an Italian mile. This church is held in great veneration by the Catholics, because of the tradition that in the wall opposite the door of entrance, stood the holy Image, and all the more this tradition is confirmed by the fact, that the empty space where it stood is plainly seen with the pictures of certain saints at each side. And the same Signor Nicholas, having seen a copy of the Blessed Virgin of the same size as that of Genazzano, has asserted, that it corresponds exactly with the spot left bare in the wall, although that is partly injured by the infidelity of the Turks. The said church, he asserts, is in the power of the Turks, who will not permit the Catholics to enter.

He further deposes, that the Catholics in the same city have it as true tradition, that a Turk in high position amongst those infidels, with the title in their language of *Effendia*, wishing to convert that church into a mosque because of its proximity to his residence, ascended by means of a ladder upon it, to call the Turks to perform their functions there according to their sect. In which act, his head was twisted round, and he commenced to bleat like a goat, and so descended from his position and desisted from his attempt.

He likewise asserts, that not many years ago, another principal Turk called *Vegliada Zerde*, in order to make a bridge across the river Bojana near the church, having dared to take stones from the wall of the same, to load several mules with them, and transport them to the river, the mules were hardly unloaded when they fell dead. Notwithstanding this, he persisted in his attempt. He caused the bridge to be built; but when it was finished, it fell into a complete ruin. After which he took care to return the stones to the church, where, near the walls, the deponent saw them about three years since, at the time of his departure from Scutari. So great is the fear struck into the Turks by such events, that they will not even touch some trees near another church not far distant from the said one.

The same Signor deponent asserts moreover, that he has heard many times from Catholic inhabitants who dwell close by the church, that at certain times, with their eyes, they have seen at night, a light descend upon it and there burn miraculously.

He further deposes, that the aforesaid church having remained without a roof upon its walls, the concave portion of the

PRIVATE USE ONLY

vault remains in the air, covering that part of the wall where are found the pictures of the saints and the bare space between them, whence the holy Image detached itself. And he asserts, that for all the above reasons and occurrences, the subjects of the most Serene Republic of Venice and other merchants, come to venerate these walls, where once stood an Image so holy; and thus with open mouth proclaim these citizens fortunate, who have it near them.

He Signor Nicholas affirms, that when he was asked from whence he came, he neither knew nor understood Italian, but that at present having learned it sufficiently, he has in that Italian idiom deposited as above, and has given to me the undersigned permission to publish the whole present attestation, by him equally subscribed with his own hand, in the presence of the undersigned witnesses, this ninth day of February and above named year 1748.

I, Paschal *Regoli*, Roman Priest and Rector Jubilated of *San Pantaleo a Monti*.

I, Nicholas *di Antonio Cambsi* of Scutari in Albania.

I, Nicholas Mary *Conto Piccini*, was present.

I, John Angel *Pasquasmi*, was present.

Here follows the instrument of recognition of the Notary Capitoline.

6. The inquiries of last century were followed up with greater ease and effect by the Very Reverend Father Belgrano, at present Chaplain to Her Imperial Majesty, the Dowager Empress of Austria, and, for many years, Prior of the Convent of Genazzano. Through the aid of the Fathers, Minor Observantine Franciscans, who have charge of many missions in Albania, and through the aid of Monsignor Radoja the Vicar General of Scutari, and of a Parish Priest of the same city, both natives of Albania, he has in the following letters, which are translated in extenso, completely established the fact of the tradition in in Albania being identical with the statements of the pilgrims Georgio and de Sclavis in Genazzano.

## Nº. 1.

7. Letter of Father *Mariano of Palmanova* (Minor Oss.) regarding the tradition yet existing in Scutari of the translation of the Image of Most Holy Mary of Good Counsel, directed to Father Peter Belgrano, Prior of Santa Maria, Genazzano.

« Praised be the Lord and Mary Most Holy! that at last I am able to transmit to you the result of the investigations made, regarding what you wrote to me about in your esteemed letter of the 29<sup>th</sup> of May. My office as Superior of the Missions of Epirus, not permitting me to make a delay in the city of Scutari long enough to attain the scope in view, I thought it best to have recourse to, and on many occasions to make application to, the Most Reverend Father Giampiero da Bergamo, Prefect Apostolic of the Missions of Castrati, and Superior of the Hospice of the Franciscans of that city, to whom I intrusted the memoranda and the inquiries of your Very Reverend Paternity, begging him to consult the traditions and the historic facts relative to the church of the Madonna of Scutari, and to those inquiries proposed by you in your memoranda; and to induce the Most Rev. Monsignor D. Angelo Radoja, Vicar General of the Archdiocese, and other competent persons to make accurate researches for that object; and also to visit on purpose the locality where tradition and historical memoirs indicate the said church to have been. Here then, very Rev. Father is the letter of the above mentioned Father Giampietro, relative to the duty committed to him. »

« My dear Father Mariano,

« I have the pleasure and the honour to communicate to you, that the Most Revd. Monsignor D. Angelo Radoja and the Revd. Father Paschal Junchi have taken up with great interest the labour of making researches regarding the facts connected with the church, which once possessed the venerated and lovable Image of the Madonna now honoured in Genazzano; and with real pleasure they also condescended to accept the invitation of going

PRIVATE USE ONLY

UR LADY NEA  
IS TO ITS N

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

**PRIVATE USE ONLY**

upon the spot where the time-honoured church is believed to stand, and to make the most minute and accurate examination. Therefore, on the 8<sup>th</sup> of the present month, together with the above named Monsignor and the Rev. Father Paschal, I went behind the fortress, at the extremities of which are the ruins that the faithful venerate by pilgrimages and vows as relics of the church of their Madonna. I brought with me our own Fra Anselmo da Gorle, because as a skilled architect he would be of use in the difficult examination of these ruins; and the aforesaid Monsignor Radoja and Don Paschal also brought with them a native of Scutari, well instructed in the traditions and history of his country.

The result of our researches, and of the skilled inquiry made in the locality, and especially regarding the ruins which exist at the extremity of the wall upon which rises the fortress of Scutari, has been in accordance with our most sanguine expectations.

It was agreed upon by the judgment of all and with the most perfect accord.

1. That the place where the ruins stand is really the place, and the only place, where tradition and the historical memoirs of Father Angelo Mary De Orgio, both say, that the fortunate church of the Madonna of Scutari existed: and 2. That those ruins existing there at present, and which every day receive marks of the devotion of the faithful, are precisely the remains of the cherished little church.

The following observations of the locality and of the ruins themselves, compared with the written account of the above named historian, conducted us to this happy and consoling result.

And firstly, it is observable, that the site taken to be examined, namely that in which are found the ruined walls of an edifice, at the distance of about half an Italian mile from the ancient city of Scutari, stands quite close to the river Bojana, where a bridge is seen overturned and ruined, (likely that which the rich Mussulman tried to erect with the stones from the church of the Madonna). On the opposite side and not far distant, stands a small mosque, once a church dedicated to St. Lawrence, and before which are two large and majestic trees, looked upon as sacred, by the Mussulmans themselves. These are evidently to be considered as the ones which the above

named writer asserts to have been situated before « a church not far distant from that of the Madonna, respected by the Turks themselves. » Secondly then, the ruins which arise in that place, and which in their actual external appearance have the aspect of a secular house, considered attentively in their internal disposition, and in the marks of antiquity and of scope, demonstrate themselves to be really and undoubtedly the remains of that little church, which the narrators of Scutari referred to in the history of De Orgio, visited 130 years ago, and declared to be the ruins where once stood the blessed Image of Genazzano. In fact after a minute and skilful examination we noted.

1º. That in the middle compartment, (the edifice is composed of three compartments) there is some difference from the two lateral ones, both in the size and style of the doors, and of the two windows opened in the two walls of the side; and that upon the principal wall of the same there are three square niches, of which the smallest is in the middle, and corresponds precisely with the entrance door, still observable to have been in the wall opposite, which in part already exists.

2º. That over the niche in the middle, the wall yet preserves the signs of a vault or of an arch as an ornament of the same niche.

3º. That the windows opened in the middle of the compartment, in the same manner as the two doors close to the wall where the entrance door stood, and by which people passed to the two side compartments, have for architraves an acute arch of the gothic style.

4º. That the walls of the said compartment have, here and there, still the signs of a plastering bright and red in colour.

5º. That the two side compartments are each perfectly alike, both in size and in the form of the part surmounted by regular arches worked in the wall. All this persuaded us, that the central compartment was used as a church; and that the two side ones, served as tribunes, where the devout could be gathered together on days of concourse or on feast days. We noticed besides, that in relation to the testimony given by Signor Nicholas di Antonio Cambosi of Scutari, the little niche made in the primary wall of the compartment, stands precisely opposite the principal entrance door; that above it, at a proportionate

PRIVATE USE ONLY

distance, there was an arch in the form of a vault: and that the size of the niche corresponds with that of the venerated Image of Genazzano. We noted finally, that before the three above mentioned compartments ran an atrium as long as the edifice, by which the church was entered from two opposite sides by two doors, large and spacious. From these evident indications and marks, which to a hair correspond with the notices referred to by us, and from authentic historical accounts we agreed to pronounce, that these ruins are the remains of the church which at one time possessed the blessed Image of Genazzano.

Then with regard to the age of the said ruins, and as to whether they go back to a period anterior to the occupation of the Turks. Beyond the form of the edifice, the like of which is not to be found in any locality of Albania, and the ferruginous and the bronze colour of the stones with which it was constructed; this fact proves it sufficiently, that from the time when the persons of Scutari made the above-referred-to relation to our day, the Turks never built in that place either houses or mosques, but preferred to leave the locality in perfect abandonment. Another fact further proves their antiquity. The Turks would not certainly have permitted foreigners to build houses for their use according to the European style, and if any such had the idea of building a dwelling house, they forced them to erect it in the barbarous style in which they built invariably their own dens. Moreover, in the 130 years which passed from the time that those authoritative and indigenous persons declared the ruins of the church of the Madonna to have existed there, and since the Turks from fear of misfortune, desisted from the thought of reducing that ruin into a mosque, and from putting forth a hand to damage the same, there was not any one, either Christian or Mussulman, who could recollect the construction in that spot of houses or other edifices for secular or religious purposes. Tradition instead, informs us, that the faithful Catholics of Scutari, and of all the surrounding country, far and near, have always and constantly manifested by pilgrimages their devotion to these ruins; and to such an extent that the Mussulmans have attempted from time to time to prevent those religious demonstrations. The belief referred to, that these ruins have been once the fortunate church, is now strong not only amongst the Christians, but even amongst the Mus-

sulmans themselves; and both the one and the other frequently go there for their spiritual and temporal needs, with penitential pilgrimages, and with a devotion intense and ardent beyond belief. Women of all conditions and of every age, even those of a high and elevated class, go there with bare feet, and prostrate themselves before the spot where yet exists the little niche above noticed, and there remain whole hours in prayer, after having several times made the circuit of the whole building. Nor do many go away without having poured out fervent prayers in tears. And then, frequently, the fact occurs that many draw from these pilgrimages not only spiritual and temporal advantage, but return home moreover consoled. Signor M. your Paternity knows well to have a son of ten years affected with the rickets in such a manner that he could not walk. Having found every remedy useless he yielded to the advice of his pious consort and made a vow to the Madonna of Scutari to complete a pilgrimage to the above named place, bringing with them their sick son. The devout parents did in fact bring with them the child in their arms, and having completed their promised devotions, they saw to their surprise and unexpected consolation that the boy stood upon his feet, and was in a condition to follow them to their distant house in the city.

A poor Turk was for several years blind of both his eyes, and not having being able to obtain any relief from medical skill, he resolved to go within the ruins of the church of the Madonna, where he prayed in his own fashion. Three days after this visit, he was able to see without any difficulty whatever, and boasted to have had that grace from the Madonna of the Christians.

Beyond these special signs by which the Lord rewards the faith of those who are devout and suppliant to His Holy Mother, and approves of their pious confidence in Her intercession, it is worthy of mention that he punishes with manifest chastisements those, who through contempt or even inadvertency attempt to profane by secular and indecent uses, these holy precincts. It often happened that some Turkish shepherds decided to put within these walls their flocks to pass the night, although dissuaded from doing so by the neighbouring people. But the Lord permitted, that the following morning, the shepherds could not compel their beasts to go from the enclosure, being taken with a mysterious malady which prevented them from

PRIVATE USE ONLY

standing. And then only, when sorrowful for their fault, they were forced to declare that place holy, by lighting wax candles at their expense, and by beseeching with fervent prayers its supreme Protector, could they find their beasts whole and sound.

Mehemet Cialacud, a celebrated Turk of this city, in building his house gave directions to transport the stones taken from the walls of the church; but scarcely had the carts which carried them arrived at his dwelling, when suddenly all the oxen fell dead. A Christian yet living tells, that when Hams Agà built his hotel (Han) he himself by order of that powerful Turk, carried several stones from the aforesaid church, but on the following day they were all found in the place from whence they were taken.

Such, most dear Father, is what I have been able to gather and convey to you both with regard to the minute and conscientious researches upon the traditional and historic fact of the locality, in which the little church of the Blessed Image of Scutari, now venerated in Genazzano, existed; and with regard also to the results of the visit made by me, by the Most Rev. Monsignor D. Angelo Radoja, Vicar General of the Archidiocese, and Parish Priest of Scutari, and by Don Paschal Junchi, Curate, upon the locality itself of the venerated ruins.

In fine, I give you in the last place, a few details regarding the worship with which that blessed Image is at present honoured in Scutari.

1. Every third Monday of October in the city of Scutari is solemnized with extraordinary pomp, and amidst a very great concourse of people from all the neighbouring towns, and from many at a great distance, the feast of the above-mentioned Madonna of Scutari. The holy Image of Good Counsel, which is an authentic copy of that venerated in Genazzano, which the chief gentlemen of Scutari had painted, I do not know at what time, is exposed upon the high altar. The sermon on that day, turns upon the sorrowful fact of the departure of the holy Image from that city, and upon the necessity of praying the Most Blessed Madonna, that She would reconsole this land with Her protection. During the sacred function the people defile in numerous and devout processions. Then follow the many confraternities with their standards, all representing on one side the Madonna of Scutari. Amongst these Confraternities is pre-eminent that of the Madonna of Good Counsel, Whose magnificent

standard represents the blessed and venerated Image of Genazzano, transported by Angels, and beneath the Image, the historical fact of the flight of the Madonna from Scutari. An immense crowd of young boys and young girls sing in their own Albanese tongue a sacred canticle, in which, at every verse, they repeat with moving words the desire that the Blessed Virgin should return again to these places; and they pray the holy Image not to protract the abandonment of Her penitent children.

This feast, solemnized with such effective and public pomp, goes back to an ancient date, and even to a period when it was not permitted to the oppressed Catholics of Scutari by Mussulman fanaticism, to manifest externally their religious sentiments, and to attest their devotion. It is stated that even then, from time immemorial, in their chapels, oratories, and even in their houses, there existed and were venerated Images of the Blessed Virgin of Good Counsel, under the common title of Our Madonna of Scutari; and that in the place where the faithful assembled for Holy Communion and the sacred services of the Church, they always exposed the holy Image, etc. etc.

From the heart embracing you, I am etc.

B. GIAMPIERO DA BERGAMO.  
Pro Prefect Apostolic

Copy conformable to the original

I, B. Giampiero da Bergamo, attest the truth of the above written copy.

I, Don Paschal, confirm the above

I, Don Angelo Radoja, V. G. of the Archidiocese confirm the above.

Seen for the purpose of legalizing the foregoing signatures

CHARLES, Archbishop of Antivari and Scutari.

Before publishing the present relation, I also visited those favoured ruins, and I was able to prostrate myself before that niche where formerly remained the blessed Image of Most Holy Mary, now worshipped in Genazzano; and I have been able to make myself assured of many things which tradition keeps always alive amongst these people regarding the truth of the occurrence. Having examined at length the relation by myself,

PRIVATE USE ONLY

I caused it to be subscribed by those composing the commission, and to be legalized by the signature of Monsignor the Archbishop, who with pleasure interested himself in the matter, and we all congratulated ourselves on the happy result obtained for the greater glory of God and of His Divine Mother.

I hope, sincerely, that this answer to the inquiries made by your Paternity, will be in accordance with your desires, and I hope that you will extend to me your forgiveness for having been obliged to leave you up to this, in such long and painful expectation.

Receive, Very Revd. Father, the expression of my profound esteem, whilst I, with great pleasure, have the honour to subscribe myself

Your Most Revd. Paternity's

humble, devoted, and most obliged servant,

B. MARIANO DA PALMANOVA

Minor Observant

and Prefect Apostolic of the Missions of Epirus.

## Nº. 2.

Letter of the Vicar General of Scutari, the Most Revd. Monsignor Angelo Radoja with regard to the value of the tradition in Scutari, of the holy Image, directed to Father Mariano Pizzocchini Da Palmanova, Minor Observant, Prefect Apostolic of Epirus.

« Very Revd. Father,

« Your Very Revd. Paternity in permitting me to read the esteemed letter of the Illustrious Fr. Peter Belgrano, O. S. A. has desired so far to honour me with your confidence, and I am grateful to you for it, but I wish to tell you frankly, that I have experienced in my heart great pleasure in reading in the same, that the aforesaid Father has been satisfied with the relation sent to him of the ancient church of the Madonna of Scutari. But as the zealous religious desires to have from us, who find ourselves upon the spot, some fuller information, I willingly, to please your Reverence, am ready to grant it to him.

The same Father Belgrano wishes to know, whether the little church is found within the precincts of the ancient city of Scutari. Certainly, this little church was then, as it is now,

situated in one of the suburbs called, from the first years of the terrible Turkish invasion, Ali-Begh-Mahalasi. This suburb, sixty years ago, was full of houses and inhabitants, all Mussulmans.

The ancient city of Scutari was much smaller and embraced the castle and the fortress, and once was crowded with houses, inhabited in great part by gentlemen and nobles, and also included the actual market, called by us the piazza, and the street called Ciafa, places situated partly towards the North and partly towards the East, while Ali-Begh-Mahalasi on the opposite side, looked towards the South and the East. It is clear then, that the places above named are distant about a mile from Ali-Begh-Mahalasi. The point most difficult to be cleared up seems to be this: whether it is true, that the tradition in Scutari regarding the miraculous Image of which we speak, is vague; for if so, the tradition would be of little value. We, most dear Father, who are the children of the ancient Albanians, at one time the glorious defenders of the Catholic Religion both against the Schismatics and against the Turks, are able to say with all frankness, (a quality characteristic of this nation), that we have heard not only from priests, but much more from our ancestors who certainly had not the least necessity to deceive posterity: that in the little church at the foot of the fortress of Scutari, between the two rivers Drino and Bojana, there existed the Image of Our Lady of Good Counsel - *Fuguria e Eois Skodres* - and that some years before the Turks took possession of Scutari, it departed from that little church and was transported miraculously to a foreign city, that of Genazzano. These precise words are preserved by the Scutarians, and in general by all the Albanese, as a precious memorial transmitted to us from our ancestors, who in their turn heard it from those who were old in their days, and thus again those latter from others, until it lost itself in long passed generations. Your Paternity, who has remained twenty years in Albania knows well the character of the Albanians. Are these not most tenacious in preserving religiously, the important notices handed down from their own ancestors, and disinclined to admit, at the same time, things novel in contradiction to their traditional ideas? How then could a man of sense go contrary, in any manner to a sentiment constantly preserved from generation to generation even to the present. This sentiment is so profound-

PRIVATE USE ONLY

ly impressed and rooted in all classes, that he who would dare to sustain the contrary or would wish to place it in doubt, if one born in the country, would expose himself infallibly to public indignation and execration, and also would run the risk of receiving some evil treatment; if he were a foreigner, he would be regarded with an eye of commiseration, whose company all would fly, in order not to hear from him such a scandalous novelty. We are deprived, it is true, of inscriptions and of histories written by Albanese, allusive to this tradition. But, in truth, who amongst us is ignorant of the long and disastrous siege, which our glorious ancestors have sustained against the immense army of barbarians, and who after such a profusion of blood had at last to surrender this famous city. The Turks, then, exasperated for the loss of innumerable soldiers, were scarcely masters of Scutari, when, worse than Vandals, they destroyed all inscriptions and marks of the Christian Religion, and burned books and other scientific and religious objects.

But what of this? It is an incontestable fact, that they themselves in their fury left intact to the Christians the two churches, namely, the little church dedicated to Our Lady of Scutari, and the other to Saint Mary Magdalen of Tebuena, four minutes walk from the market, which yet subsists in our power. They turned into mosques the other churches; but nevertheless, they could not succeed in obliterating from the memory of the Christians, that in the little church at the foot of the fortress, in the suburb of the Turks, called Ali-Begh-Mahalasi there did exist the miraculous Image of which we speak. It is not true then to assert that the Christians, after the invasion of the Turks, either apostatized, or that those who wished to persevere in their religion repaired to the mountains or fled into Italy. This is true of some, but not of all. To many it was permitted to dwell in Susa, Tebuena, Berdizza, Cucci, and at Remagni, places very near the city. The Christians of these places in such proximity, (to the church) even from the first years of the memorable invasion, have had continual relations and business with the Turks, who where not then so numerous. They therefore, as to-day, frequented the dear little church, although then furtively for fear of the Turks, to the eyes of whom they were indeed but too exposed. But why did these poor Christians go into that sacred place? Perhaps the priests excited them to go there! The few priests in those dark times could not speak openly

for fear of exposing themselves to greater dangers. By all means the Christians went there, because they knew with certainty, that there the venerable Image had made a long stay, whose loss their descendants now deplore; and they offer up, many times, most fervent prayers to Our Lady, that She would be pleased to console them by causing to return to its ancient home, their deeply desired Image. Can it be possible, my dearest Father, that an entire people, commencing from the highest, to the lowest labourer, also an entire nation, retaining with such tenacity from age to age such a belief, could be led into error? And can such a tradition be called by any person in his senses *very vague!* If this, our tradition, can be qualified as *vague*, tell me what other in the world can be admitted as true?

Scutari December 17<sup>th</sup> 1878.

Receive the assurance of my profound respect.

Your Very Revd. Paternity's

Most devoted servant

ANGELO RADOJA P. P. Vic. Gen.

9. To these documents, which have been printed in the histories of De Orgio, Buonanno, Belgrano and others, we are able to add the following which have not as yet been published even in Italian. We therefore give the original and the translation; and with them close the very abundant proofs of the tradition in Scutari regarding the existence, and the translation, of the miraculous Image of our Lady of Good Counsel to Genazzano.

### First Document

Nota dei documenti che esistono, per l'esistenza in Scutari della Chiesuola ove stava la B. Immagine del Buon Consiglio di Genazzano, prima della prodigiosa sua traslazione.

PRIVATE USE ONLY

Ai già descritti in altra occasione si aggiungono i seguenti.

1. Una pia e divota donna Scutarina, di distinta condizione, avendo udito nel luglio del 1878 che si facevano ricerche per provare che, quelle mura tuttora esistenti dietro la fortezza di Scutari, e venerate dal popolo come sacre, sono i preziosi avanzi della Chiesuola ove dimorò la B. Immagine del Buon Consiglio, narrò: come che essa nei frequenti suoi pellegrinaggi a quelle venerate mura, fosse solita di girare più volte attorno a quelle, e di baciare ad ogni giro una Immaginetta della Madonna scolpita in una pietra, che era incastrata nella parte esterna del muro ove è praticata la nicchia, che sosteneva un dì la Beata Immagine di Genazzano: e che la figura della piccola Immagine scolpita, era consimile a quella che si venera nella Chiesa Cattedrale di Scutari. Disse poi, che con suo sommo rincrescimento, circa due anni prima del sopradetto tempo, non trovò più quella Immaginetta, e pensò, che qualche divoto della Madonna avesse levata dal muro, e portata via quella pietra sopra la quale era scolpita l'Immagine. Questo fatto sarebbe indizio non dubbio, che quelle mura sieno gli avanzi della Chiesetta ove era l'Immagine della Madonna così detta di Scutari.

2. Il M. R. D. Pasquale Funchi parroco coadiutore della Chiesa di Scutari, asserisce di aver veduto, pochi anni addietro una pietra lavorata a scalpello, e di forma oblunga e quadrilatera, sulla quale era scolpita la iscrizione dedicatoria in caratteri maiuscoli *D. O. M. et Beatae Virgini*. Quella pietra stava, da tempo immemorabile, rovesciata a terra,

e non molto distante dalle rovine sopra descritte: e disgraziatamente fu tolta poco tempo fa dai Mussulmani, e adoperata nei restauri del vicino ponte sul Drino. Giova osservare, che in quei dintorni non esistono altre chiese, nè che vi sieno state in tempi più o meno remoti col titolo della B. Vergine; e la tradizione solamente asserisce ciò a riguardo di quella di cui rimangono le mura venerate. Si deve dunque argomentare: che quella pietra apparteneva di fatto all'edificio di cui rimangono gli avanzi.

3. Dalla storia, e dalla tradizione si rileva: che sul pendio della collina sulla quale sta la fortezza di Scutari, e in vicinanza eziandio delle rovine sopra descritte, esisterono molte case di private e distinte famiglie turche. Il governo sul principio di questo secolo, per viste politiche e militari ordinò alle sudette famiglie di stabilirsi altrove, e che le case fossero atterrate. Il nonagenario e tuttora vivente M. R. D. Giacomo Vassia attesta di avere nella sua giovinezza veduto molte di quelle case ancora abitate; e che circa all'età sua di quarant'anni, fu testimonio dell'assoluto abbandono delle medesime. Presentemente quegli edificii sono interamente distrutti, e di quasi tutti non ne rimangono neppure le fondamenta. La ragione di ciò si è, che sì il Governo, come le famiglie proprietarie stabilitesi altrove andarono a gara per sfruttare il materiale di quegli edificii in opere di privato e pubblico vantaggio. Ora viene spontanea la domanda: come è, che quelle mura venerate dai Cristiani quali avanzi sacri, sussistano intatte sino alla rilevante altezza di un piano, e non incorsero la sorte delle altre case, che pure stavano

PRIVATE USE ONLY

a loro sì vicine? Perchè il governo non le comprese nell'Ordine dato per utile, e sicurezza pubblica? E per quale ragione poi i Mussulmani non si approfittarono del materiale di quelle mura, che pure in confronto di quello delle case distrutte sarebbe tornato assai più vantaggioso per la costruzione delle nuove e non lontane loro abitazioni? Da gran tempo addietro tanto il governo quanto le private famiglie Turche componenti il sobborgo di Bacialek non cessarono di fare opere di costruzione. Nel giro di trent'anni si costruirono moltissime case, si fecero muri di cinta, ripari alle fortezze ed al ponte sul Drino, sepolcri e simili cose. Presentemente pure si fanno a quando a quando fabbriche nuove in luoghi assai vicini a quelle sopradette mura, ed il materiale per quell'opere si compra a caro prezzo, e si trasporta a schiena di cavallo da luoghi considerevolmente lontani. Ma nè prima nè ora è venuto mai il pensiero ad alcuno di atterrare quell'avanzo di edificio per servirsi del molto materiale, che darebbe in sassi non solamente, ma in pietre ancora lavorate a squadro. Eppure si sa, che i Turchi sono soliti di approfittarsi di ogni cosa, che sia tenuta in abbandono: e quando poi possono soltanto sospettare che quelle appartennero a cristiani antichi, si fanno un merito di appropriarsene. Ora come si spiega questo fatto evidentemente in opposizione all'indole avara dei Mussulmani, ed alle loro stesse aspirazioni religiose fanatiche? Bisogna confessare adunque, o che i Turchi non s'accorsero del vantaggio che potevano trarre dal materiale di quelle mura, e lo lasciarono per il tratto di più di 50 anni (il che sarebbe da

attribuirsi ad un miracolo) o che essi rispettarono quelle mura, e non attentarono di toccarle per tema di non essere severamente castigati, come furono castigati i loro padri, quando osarono profanarle. Si noti che la tradizione che quel luogo non si può profanare senza provarne castighi, sussiste ancora viva e potente al dì d'oggi tra la popolazione Mussulmana di Scutari.

Genazzano 26 Febbrajo 1879.

FR. GIAMPIERO DA BERGAMO.  
FERRARI Prefetto Apostolico.

**Translation**

To what has been already described, the following are to be added.

1. A pious and devout lady of Scutari of distinguished position, having heard in the July of 1878 that inquiries were being made to prove that the walls now existing behind the fortress of Scutari, and venerated by the people as sacred, are the precise remains of the little church in which remained the Image of Good Counsel, narrates how that she, in her frequent pilgrimages to these venerated ruins, was accustomed to make the circuit many times about them, and to kiss each time a small Image of the Madonna sculptured on a stone which was inserted in the external part of the wall, wherein was worked the niche which sustained at one time the blessed Image of Genazzano; and that the figure of the little sculptured Image was similar to that which is venerated in the Cathedral church of Scutari. She said then, that to her very great regret, about two years before the above named time, that the little Image was not to be found; and she thought that some client of the Madonna had taken out of the wall and carried away that stone upon which the Image was sculptured.

This fact, an indication not to be doubted that these walls are the remains of the little church where was once the Image, so called of Scutari.

PRIVATE USE ONLY

2. The Very Rev. Don Paschal Iunchi, Assistant Parish Priest of the church of Scutari, asserts that he had seen a few years back, a stone worked with the chisel and of a form oblong or square, upon which was sculptured a dedicatory inscription in capital letters: *D. O. M. et Beatae Virginis*. This stone lay, from time immemorial, upon the ground, and not far distant from the ruins above described: and unfortunately it was taken away by the Mussulmans and used in the restoration of the neighbouring bridge upon the Drino. It will be of use to observe, that in the neighbourhood no other churches exist, nor were there any, in times more or less remote, dedicated with the title of the Blessed Virgin, and that tradition only ascribes it to that of which the venerated walls remain. We may well reason then, that this stone belonged in fact to the edifice of which the ruins remain.

3. From history and tradition it is clear, that upon the incline of the hill upon which stands the fortress of Scutari, and in the vicinity of the ruins above described, there existed many houses of private and distinguished Turkish families. The Government in the beginning of this century for political and military reasons ordered the above families to remove elsewhere, and the houses to be thrown down. The nonagenarian, Don James Vassia, yet living, witnesses to have seen, in his youth, many of these houses yet inhabited and that about his fortieth year, he was witness of the absolute abandonment of the same. At the present moment these edifices are destroyed and of almost all, there does not remain even the foundations. The reason of this is, that both the Government and the proprietors who went to establish themselves elsewhere, emulated each other in using up the materials for works of public and private advantage. Now comes spontaneously the demand: How is it that those walls, venerated by the Christians as sacred ruins, subsist intact even to a considerable height, and did not meet the fate of the other houses so near to them? Why did not the government comprise them in the order given for public utility and security? Why did not the Mussulmans, then make use of the material of these walls, which, certainly, comparing it with that of the houses destroyed, would have been much better for constructing their new and not distant habitations. For a long time past, both the Government as well as the private Turkish families, composing the suburb of Bacialik, have not ceased to

carry on works of construction. In the course of thirty years they have built an immense number of houses; they have made encircling walls of defence for the fortress, and sepulchres and other like constructions. At present also, they erect, from time to time, new buildings in places very near to the aforesaid walls, and the material for these works is purchased at a high price and is transported on the backs of horses from places considerably distant. But neither before nor now has the thought occurred to anyone, to throw down the remains of the edifice in order to avail himself of the material which it would yield in stones squared, and fitted for building. Moreover it is well known that the Turks are accustomed to turn to account every thing left in abandonment: and especially when they can even suspect that these appertained to ancient Christians, they consider it meritorious to appropriate them.

Now, how is this fact, evidently in opposition to the avaricious disposition of the Mussulmans, and to their very religious and fanatical aspirations, to be explained? It is then necessary to affirm, either that the Turks did not understand the advantage which they would derive from the material of these walls, and overlooked it for the space of more than fifty years, (which should be attributed to a miracle) or that they respected these walls and did not attempt to touch them for fear of being severely punished, as their fathers were punished, when they dared to profane them. Let it be noted, that the tradition that the place cannot be profaned without provoking castigation, still subsists alive and powerful amongst the Mussulman population of Scutari.

Genazzano 26 February 1879

B. GIAMPIERO DA BERGAMO Minor Observant.  
FERRARI Prefect Apostolic.

### Second Document

J. M. J.

### DICHIARAZIONE

Noi qui infrascritti cattolici di Scutari, espresamente chiamati nella Residenza parrocchiale dal R<sup>mo</sup> Monsignor Vicario D. Angelo Radoja dichia-

PRIVATE USE ONLY

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

OF T



PRIVATE USE ONLY

riamo a chi spetta, o desidera interessarsene, ed attestiamo con tutta scienza e coscienza, qualmente nel muro esterno di faccia alla fortezza della chiesuola detta *ab immemorabili della Signora di Scutari* (Madonna del Buon Consiglio) coi nostri occhi abbiamo veduto, ammirato, e per divozione baciato più volte una pietra della grandezza d'un palmo, nel mezzo della quale si scorgeva intagliata, sebbene alquanto rosa dal tempo, l'Immagine della Beatissima Vergine Maria col suo Divin Figliuolo Gesù al seno. Di ciò siamo tanto certi che, se ne abbisognasse, siamo pronti a confermarlo con solenne giuramento.

Dichiariamo inoltre, che l'Immagine, di cui parliamo, era della grandezza d'una grossa Medaglia, e che la pietra da noi veduta e baciata non esiste più da un anno e mezzo in quella chiesuola, tolta via o per malizia, o per indiscreta divozione, e da chi, sino al giorno d'oggi, niuno ha saputo indicarcelo; però i divoti ne deplorano la perdita.

In fede ecc.

Scutari d'Albania. 16 Ottobre, 1879.

Io, Giorgio di Michele Bertosa, testimonio.

Io, Marco di Giok Bliniseti, testimonio.

Cro†ce di Antonia, moglie di Lazzaro Palok Vana  
M<sup>a</sup>. testimonio.

Cro†ce di Agata moglie di Giovanni Marco Sciani  
M<sup>a</sup>. testimonio.

Io qui sottoscritto dichiaro, che i presenti testimoni sono cattolici di questa Città, degni di ogni fede, e che essi apposero le firme di proprio pugno, e che le donne, chiamate espressamente, si segnarono

colla croce alla mia presenza. Dichiaro inoltre, che qui sono molte altre persone, che unanimemente testimoniano la stessa cosa. In fede ecc.

Scutari 11 Ottobre 1879.

ANGELO RADOJA, Vicario Generale.

Per la legalizzazione della premessa firma di Monsignor Radoja, Vicario Generale.

Scutari 11 Ottobre 1879.

CARLO, Arcivescovo di Scutari.

**Translation.**

J. M. J.

**DECLARATION.**

We, the undersigned Catholics of Scutari, expressly called into the parochial residence of Monsignor Don Angelo Radoja, V.G. declare to all whom it may concern, or who may desire to interest themselves, that we testify with all knowledge and conscience, that in the external wall, facing the fortress, of the little church called from time immemorial of *Our Lady of Scutari*, (Madonna of Good Counsel) with our eyes we have seen, venerated, and kissed many times, a stone about the size of a palm, in the middle of which was to be seen carved, although somewhat worn by time, an Image of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary with Her Divine Son Jesus at Her breast. Of this we are so certain, that if it should be needed, we are ready to confirm the same with our solemn oaths.

We further declare, that the Image of which we speak, was of the size of a large medal, and that the stone seen by us and kissed, has not existed for a year and a half in that church, being taken away either by malice or by indiscreet devotion,

**PRIVATE USE ONLY**

and that from that day to this, we have not been able to point it out, though the devout deplore its loss.

Scutari in Albania, 6<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1879.

I, George, son of Michael Beltoja, Witness.

I, Mark, son of Giök Blinischtì, Witness.

I, Antonia, wife of Lazzarus Palok Vassa.

I, Agatha, wife of John Mark Sciani.

I, the undersigned declare that the foregoing witnesses are Catholics of this city, worthy of all faith etc, etc.

Scutari in Albania, 11 Oct. 1879.

ANGELO RADOJA P. P. V. G.

Seen for legalization etc.

Scutari in Albania, 11 Oct. 1879.

✠ CHARLES, Archbishop of Scutari.

The feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel is still celebrated in Scutari, as the principal feast of Albania. In a private letter, Father Junchi, who joined with Monsgr. Radoja in the examination of the ruins of the ancient church of the Annunciation where the sacred Image remained so long, has written an account to the Very Revd. Father Martinelli of the celebration of this feast in 1879, from which, with the Prior's permission, we give the following extract.

M. R. Padre . . . .

Ieri abbiamo fatta la festa solenne di Scutari, cioè la festa della nostra Madonna Ssma. Vi fu la sera avanti Vespero non mai fatto: così pure l'illuminazione intorno alla chiesa, e l'altare maggiore adornato con duecento e cinquanta candele; intervenne

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

popolo numerosissimo. Alla processione vi fu conten-  
tezza stragrande, essendo che presero parte diecisei  
Confraternite coi rispettivi standardi e croci, Clero  
secolare, e regolare in numero di quaranta, Semi-  
naristi, e la scolaresca della Città. Avanti la Sacra  
Immagine suonava la banda nazionale, pezzi di autori  
classici erano scelti per questa funzione. Nel grande  
concorso di gente, non mancarono Turchi, e Greci.  
La giornata era brilliantissima, per cui Scutari era  
in gioia. Preghi caro Padre la Ssña Vergine onde  
ci voglia benedire . . . .

Di V. P. M. R.

Scutari li 21 Ottobre 1879.

Umo Devmo Servo  
D. PASQUALE JONCHI Vice-Parroco.

**Translation.**

Very Revd. Father . . . .

Yesterday the solemn feast of Scutari, that is the feast of your Most Holy Madonna took place. Vespers were sung on the previous evening. There were illuminations about the church, and the high altar was adorned with two hundred and fifty wax candles. An immense number of persons were present. At the procession there was an extraordinary attendance, seventeen confraternities with their respective standards and Crosses having taken part in it. The clergy secular and regular numbered forty. The seminarians and all the schools of the city also marched. Before the sacred Image (of Our Lady of Good Counsel copied from that in Genazzano) the national band played. Pieces from classic authors were selected for this function. Amidst the great concourse of people, there were not wanting

**PRIVATE USE ONLY**

Turks and Greeks. The day was a most brilliant one, for which reason Scutari was full of joy. Pray dear Father to the Holy Virgin that She may bless Yours etc.

Scutari, 21<sup>st</sup> Oct. 1879.

D. PASQUALE JUNCHI V. P.

We here close the mass of documentary and other proofs which so clearly manifest the tradition of Albania relative to the existence and the translation of the sacred Image of Our Lady of Good Counsel, now, for so many centuries, venerated in Genazzano. If the knowledge of the loss is so general in that country at this moment, and the grief for the departed treasure so great, we can well imagine what must have been the state of the feeling of its people when the Image first left them. Necessarily, it was considered, not only by the Albanians themselves but by all their contemporaries also, not only as a misfortune but as a disgrace. It was a fact which no one of common charity would care to note, to glory in, or to write about, at a time when the Christians in Scutari were sustaining such a sanguinary and unequal struggle against the Turks. Least of all could we expect that such writers as did write about the coming of the Madonna, would mention a fact, which would tell with such cruel severity upon the tenderest feelings and the dearest interests of their unfortunate fellow Catholics. The charity which always characterizes the public acts of the Supreme Pastors of God's fold would, while bowing silently to the will of God in the face of evidence, such as that disclosed by the coming of the miraculous Image beneath the shadow of their own Chair, certainly

not permit any act of man to use the fact to the detriment of the afflicted. This alone accounts sufficiently for the silence of contemporary writers. But we find, as soon as the susceptibilities of the Albanians in exile could be no longer wounded, through the soothing influence of time, that all the circumstances stand forth in their full truth. Meanwhile comes the fact, that the first migration of the people of Scutari after the surrender of their town to the Turks, was to Latium. The Papal States had other and much nearer lands for them to find shelter in. They preferred to cross the Apennines, to brave the bad air of the Campagna, to pass by the Eternal City itself, for Latium. Why? Senni and every historian of the occurrence tell us, because there they found their beloved Madonna. To Genazzano their people come to-day as well as then when the chance presents itself. Their descendants in far distant Calabria still turn with fond looks to that Sanctuary, regarded by them as the dearest spot on this earth. This we shall see in the chapter which treats of Rodota. And at home, amidst the songs of their father-land, the most moving and the most melancholy are those which they address to Mary to come back once again to Her ancient dwelling place in Scutari.

The following verses, taken from one of the poems of the country, will manifest how vivid amongst them is the remembrance of the sacred Image, and how earnest is their desire for Mary to return. The author was a native Albanian priest of the Franciscan Order, named Leonard Martin Da Greci. The whole poem appeared in a very beautiful Italian form in the *Mis-*

PRIVATE USE ONLY

*sioni Cattoliche* of Milan, in May 1878. It would be very difficult indeed to give a translation that could in any sense do justice to the original, which as a poem is a masterpiece. Speaking of Albania, he says

Ch' ella si abbevera d'amaro duolo,  
E ancor, nel vortice de' crudi affanni,  
Non v'ha chi rendale pace e consuolo...

Tu pure, o Vergine, l'abbandonasti  
E al cielo italico a vol migrasti;  
Fu questo il cumulo del suo periglio,  
O santa Vergine del Buon Consiglio:  
Allor d'un lugubre vel si copria,  
Rimasta orbata di te, o Maria!

Deh! parla a Dio di tante pene  
Che ognor la opprimono; e voglia alfine  
Pietoso infrangerne l'aspre catene  
Onde l'avvinsero l'orde ferine.

Se i figli errarono, ben caro il fio  
Pagaro in piangere pel suol natio;  
Al suolo armigero de' miei maggiori  
Oh fa che arridano giorni migliori;  
Fa tu risorgere la patria mia!  
Ave, Maria! Ave, Maria!

È tale il grido, Vergine bella,  
Che misto ai cantici del suo paese.  
Su i vanni ai zefiri di stella in stella  
T'innalza supplice ogni Albanese.

Ve' come Scutari, da te negletta,  
Ancor ti venera, ancor ti aspetta...  
Garzoni e vergini, madri dolenti  
Come richiamanti con caldi accenti:  
Torna, ripetono, ritorna, o pia,  
Unica speme de l'Albania! <sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> This is an allusion to a pathetic Albanese ballad frequently sung in Scutari, and the burden of which is an appeal to Our Lady to come back in Her holy Image from Genazzano to Her old sanctuary.

Or vieni adunque, non più tardare;  
 La cara Immagine tra noi ritorni;  
 E là sui ruderî del prisco altare  
 — Sacra memoria de' lieti giorni —  
 Uno più splendido t' innalzeremo;  
 Più fidi e docili a te verremo:  
 E sveli ai posteri quel nuovo ostello  
 Del Ver gli oracoli, del Buon, del Bello;  
 Sia fonte altissimo d' ogni armonia:  
 Ave, Maria! Ave, Maria!

Vieni!... e de' prodi l' antica sede  
 Ravviva al fascino de' tuoi portenti;  
 In dolce viacolo d' Amor, di Fede,  
 Rannoda gli animi di queste genti.  
 Cessino i vindici atti inumani,  
 Cessino i luridi canti profani...  
 Le valli, i fioriti campi, i burroni  
 Soltanto echeggino di pie canzoni;  
 Dal Drino ad Okrida con melodia  
 Solo ricantisi l'Ave Maria!

Divina Musa, tu al cor m' inspira  
 E fa che innumeri ciechi fratelli,  
 Riscossi al sonito della mia lira,  
 Di Cristo al labaro non sian rubelli:  
 Fa che rigettino l' orbo Corano  
 E al Sol ritornino del Vaticano;  
 Lume benefico del Redentore  
 Che irradia i popoli nel fosco orrore,  
 Che addita agli uomini la retta via.  
 Ave, Maria! Ave, Maria!

Having so far considered the history and the proofs of both the Wonderful Apparition and the Miraculous Translation of the sacred Image of Our Lady of Good Counsel, we shall now pass on to see what She has done for Her clients in Her new Sanctuary and in the world at large.

---

PRIVATE USE ONLY

## Chapter XII.

### MIRACLES AT THE SHRINE

1. More wonderful than in Scutari.— 2. Grace - producing power.— 3. Temporal benefits.— 4. Objections against Shrines met.— 5. The first 161 miracles and others registered.— 6. Impossibility of registering all.— 7. A miraculous cure witnessed by the writer at the Shrine in 1882.— 8. Difficulties of finding proofs - obviated.— 9. Documents attesting sickness and cure of Lydia Vernini.— 10. Another miracle.— 11. Proved by time.— 12. Other miracles.— 13. Incredulous punished.— 14. The arrow of the Hungarian.— 15. Preservation of the Colonnas.— 16. Resurrection of the dead.— 17. Release of a criminal condemned to decapitation in Sienna.— 18. Liberation from devils — Records of unregistered miracles.— 19. Miraculous liberation of Cardinal Acton.— 20. Remarkable preservation of Genazzano from cholera and plague.— 21. A pilgrimage saves Capranica from cholera.— 22. Genazzano freed from many public calamities.

1. What we have hitherto written regarding the Translation and the Apparition of the Image of Our Lady of Good Counsel, forms a series of miracles. Its position as it stands, detached from the wall,<sup>1</sup> the

---

<sup>1</sup> Although the Office of the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel states distinctly that the sacred Image appeared on the wall of the church of the Augustinians — *mirabiliter apparuisset in pariete*, yet a constant tradition mentioned by many writers exists, to the effect that it stood at first near, and in

preservation for over four hundred years, of the thin and brittle sheet of plaster upon which it is painted, the surprising freshness of its colours, and its

---

no manner touching the wall. There is nothing contradictory in these statements; for it could well have occurred that the holy Image did not rest at once upon the wall, though it afterwards may have touched it above or below. The archivists Cajetan and Calistus Marini already mentioned, who took such pains to examine every circumstance connected with the Translation and the Apparition, have not noticed the matter, nor has it been alluded to by the advocate, who placed the arguments in favour of the one and the other before the Sacred Congregation of Rites, in 1780. It is, however, perfectly certain; 1<sup>o</sup>, that the Image has never been removed from the position it so miraculously selected; and 2<sup>o</sup>, that many who have had to examine it, through the course of ages, have stated that they believed it to rest isolated without any support whatever.

Buonanno, after recounting many of the wonders connected with the sacred Image, says (chap. I, page 43) « and all these marvels are summed up in fine, in the continued wonder that the Image is found to-day in the same place and in the same manner in which it was left by the cloud on the day of its Apparition in the presence of an entire people, who there for the first time had the good fortune to see it. It took up its position not very far above the ground, at about a finger's distance from the new and rough wall of the chapel of St. Biagio, and there remained suspended without any support whatever. »

Upon this, he has the following note.

« That the holy Image is now found in that same position in which it first appeared, is a historically proved fact, as will be seen, and one of such evidence that it falls under the notice of whosoever visits the Sanctuary. For every one must see clearly that the Image is not found in the centre of the wall, which looks towards the small nave of the church; and therefore, the chapel constructed afterwards, could not be formed in a symmetrical and regular manner. Although then, at present, it is not visible to all, nor is it easy to be able to see that the Image does not rest upon the wall, because of the ornaments which cover it around in a most beautiful manner, nevertheless

PRIVATE USE ONLY

wonderful changes of aspect, may also be said to be miraculous. But there is far more than this to be told of the wonders worked by the Mighty Hand of

---

this is to-day an undeniable fact. First, because a constant tradition affirms it. Secondly, because we ourselves have been assured by persons worthy of all confidence, who being obliged upon the occasion of the centenary of 1867, to clean the Image, that they perceived that it yielded under the slightest pressure of their hands, as a thing isolated and detached from the wall. And this fact is further affirmed by seven most reliable witnesses, in a deposition dated June 11<sup>th</sup> 1747, printed and published. Finally, we find a splendid attestation of it, in the following letter hitherto unpublished, from Father Fulgentius Ricitelli, Prior of the Convent of Genazzano, and written to the Most Revd. Father Dominic Ricitelli General of the Order, to give an account of the solemn iucoronation of the holy Image. (Extract from the 4<sup>th</sup> register of the Archives of the whole order page 48.).

Most Revd. Father.

The Chapter of St. Peter's has sent a Canon with two crowns of gold, one for the Most Holy Madonna, and the other for the Child. Tuesday the 17<sup>th</sup> inst, with the assistance of Signor, the most Excellent Constable, (many other Canons having come along with him) and the whole people, the said Canon, having removed the glass ornamented all round with silver, which covers the Image, he took off the crowns which the aforesaid Images held, at the same time manifesting no ordinary astonishment, because he saw that the Images were simply formed on a thin plaster, which only at the extremity above the head, touched the wall. The remainder stood without support, a sign of which was that when the aforesaid Canon touched it on the face and on all the rest, the plaster bent and yielded as if it were a piece of cloth without support of any kind. This fact caused in him, and in all the by-standers no ordinary wonder, considering that naturally the plaster alone without support could not maintain itself; whence they firmly concluded that it was miraculously sustained. In order to place the above mentioned crowns of gold, it was necessary to use strings, and to attach these to nails which

God, in favour of those whose love and confidence in His Mother have been excited and strengthened by Her beautiful Image in Genazzano. All the mercies which

---

were placed in the wall above the Image, it not being possible to fasten them to the picture itself, that being simply a thin crust of plaster without any support whatever. I am

The most humble and devoted servant  
Of your most Revd. Paternity

B. FULGENZO RICITELLI Agno.

Genazzano, 22 Nov. 1682.

So far Bnonanno. But it must be remarked, that the premises from which he draws what seems to him a necessary conclusion, will, on examination, scarcely warrant that conclusion. Luigi Tosi and these who deposed with him do not say that the picture is completely isolated. They state, that behind it, — *al dietro* — it has no support whatever. Like the preservation of the colours it seemed to them, as indeed it does to every one else, a miracle how such a fragile substance could stay upright so long, without crumbling to atoms. They say this and no more. Again, a thin crust of plaster resting on its edge would yield almost as freely on being dusted or touched, while resting on the wall underneath, as if it were isolated and in mid-air. It is certain, it would be also equally difficult to fix crowns of gold upon it. That it touches the wall somewhere, appears to be most conformable to the language of the Church — *in pariete* —. This does not exclude the fact, that, at first, the picture, for a time more or less indefinite, stood in air. It then probably touched the verge of the wall, where it remained in an upright posture, while the incomplete structure was carried on at a distance behind it. The present writer who obtained the very rare privilege of examining it, found, that though he could not see any support whatever from the wall at the back, the fresco seemed to him to touch either a projection of the wall or the cornice in front, at its lower extremity. It is easy to conceive that at other times — at seasons of great necessity or devotion, for instance — the Image may have been entirely

PRIVATE USE ONLY

the traditions of Albania tell us were poured forth upon that land, while the precious treasure remained the object of the devotion of its people, were shown to a far greater extent in the new and fairer land Our Lady had chosen for its Sanctuary.

Nor were these mercies to be confined to the Shrine only, or to one country or to one race. They were destined to pass amidst signs and wonders to all nations and throughout all time.

2. And first we may remark, that the Image of Our Lady is in itself a miracle, producing grace in every soul coming in love to its Shrine. Being the reflex of Herself — the best, certainly, the world has ever seen — it is necessarily calculated to draw all hearts to its most beautiful Original, and therefore to God, to peace, and to heaven. All who have experienced the mercy of the Virgin Mother in this Sanctuary, tell of a joy and a consolation, of a wisdom and of a strength obtained, which are beyond the power of language to describe, and only the soul can fathom. It gives a calm and perfect rest to the weary, like « the shadow of the great rock, » and the spring and the date tree, to the sinking traveller in the desert. To the persecuted, it is as the walls and the towers of David, against the face of the enemy.

At its feet, the pain of the spirit, the most terrible that can afflict man, is infallibly relieved. The troubled, find repose; those in anguish, balm; the

---

elevated in the air. This would be in no sense more remarkable than the wonderful changes in colour, of which there can be now, no doubt whatever; and certainly not more wonderful than its passage through the air from Scutari to Genazzano.

afflicted, consolation. A calm and holy peace is infused into the soul, which seems a foretaste of that rest which the blessed enjoy in paradise.

This peace must come to the sinner through Mary, or not come at all. It would be impossible to tell how many have received it at Her Sanctuary in Genazzano. There, a mission continually progresses, where the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel Herself is the only preacher; but a preacher so powerful that miracles of conversion are continuously worked by the secret, ineffable words, which She speaks to the soul from Her sacred Image. Under Her influence, the pent up secrets of an overburdened breast are poured forth with a strange ease in the tribunal of penance, even by those who desecrated that healing sacrament for years through the terrible influence of the dumb devil. Inveterately bad habits, are corrected. Difficulties, thought for years to be insurmountable, disappear. The power to make restitution, to forgive deep injuries, to repair scandal, to effect reconciliation, is obtained. And finally, the sinner, besides reconciliation with God, receives that living, loving and ceaselessly increasing devotion to Mary, which is a mark and a sure one of predestination.

3. Then, as in matters great, so in matters smaller all are sure to experience in this holy Sanctuary of Mary, that true compassion, that quick and tender feeling of a Mother, so kind, so thoughtful, so interested in the smallest want, that She is ready, always ready, to alleviate the slightest pain, by employing in and out of season, all Her power with God. As ready now as at the wedding of Cana to say to Jesus, « they

PRIVATE USE ONLY

have no wine, » and always as certain to obtain now as then, whatever She may demand. So it has happened, that amidst the multitudes who flocked to the little chapel of St. Biagio from the beginning, there were many who asked visible miracles; and living, visible miracles accordingly were granted in an abundance unsurpassed in the annals of miraculous shrines, since or before.

4. Before proceeding, however, to speak of these, it may be as well to anticipate an objection which we hear sometimes urged, even by persons who call themselves Catholics, against such wonderful favours as those which we are now about to relate as having been obtained through Our Lady of Good Counsel in the Sanctuary of Genazzano.

Could not Our Lady grant these favours as well elsewhere? Where then, is the use in going to a particular locality for them? Is not God and His Most Holy Mother, everywhere? Cannot people pray as well to Her in their parish church, or in a church of Hers in their native town, or at the altar dedicated to Her in their dwellings? Why can it be of use to go to a distant, out of the way place, in order to get miraculous favours, etc. etc.?

No doubt, Our Lady can, and does hear Her suppliants everywhere; and, no doubt, also, Her suppliants can have recourse to Her when they please. But it is always the case, that such suppliants are the foremost to honour all that belongs to Her, — Her churches, Her altars, every place or thing that was sanctified by Her presence, Her shrines. They never are found amongst the number of minimizing Cath-

olics who find pleasure, interest, or advantage in reducing within the limits of their own narrow views, or within the limits of the narrow views of others in or out of the Church, the magnificent, heartfelt and true devotion, which the Spouse of Christ not only allows, but even encourages in her children to Immaculate Mary. They are not, in one word, ashamed of the Mother of Jesus Christ, even in the sanctuaries where She accepts the homage of God's faithful people. They can find no blame for rosaries, scapulars, images, medals, altars, shrines, pilgrimages, wayside oratories, or any other means which the faithful everywhere practise, and which the Church of Christ, « the Pillar and ground of truth » not only permits, but even defends and encourages in honour of Mary. There is something grand in the plenitude of their faith and love for God's Virgin Mother. And in proportion as their devotion is grand and Catholic, in the same proportion is that miserable truckling to the enemies of Christ, wretched and detestable. It is a truckling to the spirit of heresy; a truckling which would reduce the fulness of Catholic devotion to Mary within limits that are not Catholic in practice, and that cannot be proved to be Catholic in theory.

True, it is well that we should endeavour to attract Protestants inclined to renounce their errors. But it is necessary too, that we should state as fully as possible the Catholic truth - so as to leave no misconception in their minds as to the nature of our worship of Mary, - to tell them we are as far from making Her a God, as She Herself is far from per-

PRIVATE USE ONLY

mitting such an infamy; that there is no expression meant by Mary's most fervent, loving child, that has not this meaning; that, for instance, if we call Her « our life our sweetness and our hope, » we do so because of Her relations with Her Son; that if we call Her, potent, it is because of the practical power of Her influence with Him, in obtaining our requests.

But when we explain all this, there is no reason to conceal our heart-felt and external worship, or to cover by excuses, much less to blush for, the devotion of Catholics to Her, in all the forms they adopt. The kind of reasoning then, which goes against, and not for, the exhibition of the devotion of others to Mary is not Catholic, for it has blame for that which the Church praises. It may be true, that some one could just as well pray and be devoted to the Mother of God in his chamber, as he could at any of Our Lady's shrines. But the expression of that sentiment, as an argument against Her shrines, is a censure in a very plain manner upon them, and is tantamount to saying that the Church has done a useless thing, and it insinuates that the Church has done a worse than useless thing, in blessing them. It is an expression never used by the saints or perfect servants of God. It comes from that kind of Rationalism, which carried to its logical extent, strikes at the root of all religion, and of all the dealings which it has pleased the Deity to establish between Himself and man. In reasoning, it differs nothing from that of the Infidel who tells you, as a means of doing away with churches and public worship, that he can worship his

Creator in the fields and by the sea-shore, as well, if not better, than in any church. The Infidel who uses this argument knows well enough, that the man who adopts his principles will soon end by worshipping his Creator nowhere. And the Catholic who tells you as a reason for his disinclination to visit holy shrines of Our Lady, on the plea that he can worship Our Lady as well in his bedroom or in his home, is precisely the Catholic, who in time will not worship Our Lady at all. His argument is the argument of indifference, not of generous love. Mary Magdalen – in the opinion of Judas, be it understood – would have done better to have sold the precious ointment which she poured on the feet of Our Lord, and to have given the proceeds to the poor. But if Mary Magdalen had not the love of Jesus in her heart, the poor would be as far as ever from getting the price of the ointment. The love of Jesus in the heart will always, as it did in her case, who afterwards gave her life to the poor, produce something for them; the absence of it will get them nothing whatever. It is the very same argument used the other day, by a member of the secret societies against the collections in Ireland for the imprisoned Successor of St Peter. « It would be better to give the money to the poor in Donegal ». That is a lie. If the hearts of those whom religion causes to be generous to the Pope, were closed by the want of religion – which would be implied by a want of consideration for the Vicar of Christ – the poor of Donegal would be as far from getting relief as they are from getting it from the irreligious anywhere. Those who have to

PRIVATE USE ONLY

give to the Vicar of Christ, have also wherewith to give to the poor, for they have charity, without which the poor are far from being considered. It is so with worship of Our Lady. Those Catholics who frequent Her shrines, who use the means of devotion, scapulars, beads, images, in their houses, who join in novenas, processions and other practices blessed by the Church, are those who pray most to Her also in their chambers, and in the secret of their souls. Those who reason against the pious practices of others, on the plea of doing as well if not better elsewhere, are not a little in the way Judas went, and not unfrequently finish with him. Love, like that of Magdalen is always manifested in active generosity. It is love in deed and in truth, and the love that obtains the reward here and the eternal reward hereafter.

5. With this digression, which an incident in the sad fate of one who ought indeed to have known better than reason against devotion to the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Counsel, led to, while the writer happened to be engaged upon this chapter, we shall now see that those who have come in faith and love to the feet of the Virgin Mother in Genazzano, have been abundantly rewarded. The first record to which we have already referred, and a synopsis of which we shall presently give, registered no less than one hundred and sixty one miracles in the space of three months. This ceased, probably when the necessary proofs were obtained for the delegates sent by Pope Paul II, and also in consequence of the multitudes which the good fathers of the convent had to attend to spiritually. Another register was opened at the sugges-

tion of Canon Bacci, during the last century. It continued for four years, that is from 1744 to 1748. In that space, a large volume was filled with proofs of miraculous cures. Between these distant periods, records were kept of some miracles, which either the condition of life of the recipients, or some other notable circumstance, warranted. But except in the multitude of votive offerings, so numerous that they had, from time to time, to be used for the benefit of the Sanctuary or destroyed, no formal register appears. Miracles and signal favours, however, incidently recorded, are numberless. For instance the miraculous cure of a young Roman lady, which caused Canon Bacci to visit the Sanctuary, and led him to be the Apostle of Our Lady of Good Counsel he afterwards became, etc. etc.

6. The want of the continuance of these records is much to be regretted; but there was really no help for it. The fathers on the days of the greatest concourse of people, are, together with all the clergy they can secure from the surrounding country, engaged from early morning to the hour of night, in the work of the confessional. As will be seen in the chapter which treats of pilgrimages, it would be physically impossible for them to take note of what occurs amidst the throngs which continue to come from all parts of Italy to visit the Shrine on these occasions. Crowds succeed each other from the moment the church opens until it closes. Cries of thanksgiving for graces received, mingle all day long with cries of supplication. A crutch left behind, a heart in silver sent by some wealthy recipient of a favour,

PRIVATE USE ONLY

honoraria for masses in thanksgiving, are in general the only means the guardians of the Sanctuary have of knowing anything of these miracles. Even then, the full particulars of each case are not given.

7. A wonderful cure - two miracles indeed of a very high order - witnessed by the writer and by many others on the eighth of last September, will illustrate what is here stated. As it afterwards happened that these miracles were proved by documentary evidence, he wishes to give all the details of the occurrence - to him wonderful indeed, although by thousands of others present, regarded as a mere matter of course.

In the chapter which treats of the great public pilgrimages to the Shrine, it will be seen that the numbers flocking from every quarter on the feast of the Nativity of Our Lady are very remarkable. The little town of Genazzano presents a very lively appearance. The coming of innumerable bands of Pilgrims chanting their hymns, and with their Image of Mary of Good Counsel borne in front, is to the stranger unaccustomed to such sights, exceedingly interesting. On the eve of the festival, and, indeed, some days before, the church is crowded with these fervent bands, all intent upon the object of their devout journey invariably undertaken to get some favour from Our Lady for themselves or others, or to thank Her for some graces already received. These pilgrimages appear to increase annually. That of the past September (1882) was unusually large. The writer with other visitors from afar who happened to be then in Genazzano, made many visits to the Sanctuary. On the morning of the 8<sup>th</sup>, the feast itself, he noticed

on coming to the church, that the excitement and devout exclamations of one little body of pilgrims became unusually demonstrative. He thought that some one amongst them had fainted, or had been suddenly taken ill. And yet this could not be, for the cries were cries of joy, *Evviva Maria! Evviva Maria, la madre nostra del Buon Consiglio!* repeated again and again. At last after a lengthened stay before the sacred chapel, this band had to make way for others, and its members retired in the usual manner, backwards, as if from the presence of royalty, from before the sacred Image. When they passed the principal entrance of the church, something of the reason of the excitement could be known. In their midst was a young woman, apparently about nineteen or twenty years of age. Her face was bathed in tears, and upon emerging from the sacred edifice, she gazed with an indescribable look of mingled bewilderment, joy, and devotion, upon the multitude that filled the piazza and thronged upon the large stone stairs leading to the platform before the great door. She gazed at the houses of the square, upon the fountain, upon the lofty façade of Santa Maria, at the bright sun in the clear morning sky. With delighted amazement, she then lifted her hands, as if involuntary, to heaven and sobbed outright, while her companions, all in tears, cried aloud, their « *Evvivas* » and « *gratias* » to their beloved Madonna of Good Counsel, Who had shown another favour to Her people. The crowd outside, accustomed for years to see and hear of miracles at the Shrine, took up the cry, though probably none of them knew the precise nature of the new wonder.

PRIVATE USE ONLY

It was enough for them to understand that there was fresh reason for thanks; and therefore, the desire always in their hearts, readily rose to their lips, that Mary may live and reign long, over, and for the benefit of the people of Her Son. Such is the meaning of their « *Evviva Maria!* ».

As soon as the party cleared the thickest of the crowd, the writer had an opportunity of learning the cause of the young woman's excitement, and of her tears of joy. It was this. She had completely, and as the best medical testimony declared, irreparably lost the sight of the left eye, through an acute and most painful neuralgic affection. Her agonies, which were excruciating, brought on the terrible disease of epilepsy. After being treated by the municipal physician of her native city for a considerable time without effect, she consulted three of the best oculists and physicians in Rome. The latter, however, could do nothing for her, and only showed more clearly to her widowed mother how improbable was a cure. Gradually she grew worse and the fits of the falling sickness became violent, painful, and long continued. She was utterly useless. Her sufferings had increased to such an extent that death would have been a relief to her and to her family. There was continual danger that in the madness and pain of her convulsions she would cast herself from the window of her dwelling, and be crushed to death on the pavement beneath. The Parish Priest in expectation of the worst had done all he could, and was, together with the Doctor, in daily attendance upon her. There seemed no hope on earth for her, when

she took the happy thought of going to the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel for relief, during the approaching feast of Our Lady's Nativity. Notwithstanding the well grounded fears, which her friends entertained of the danger and inconvenience likely to arise from her usual fits on the journey, she became fixed in her resolution to make the pilgrimage, and that too on foot, to Genazzano. Her mother consented. It was well she did. Mercy from Mary came at once. To the surprise of all, the fits of epilepsy never once molested her upon the road, nor during the following day. Of course, no one could determine in such a short time whether this was a cure or only a cessation. Her pains ceased too, although her sight remained as defective as before. She was however, able to perform all the penitential works imposed upon themselves by the most fervent pilgrims. She advanced upon her knees from the great entrance of the church to the rails of the Sanctuary, and licked the marble pavement the whole way. Then, after she had been to confession and communion, and just as she knelt in earnest supplication before the altar of Our Lady, she felt as if a soft hand gently passed itself before her eyes, and instantly she obtained her lost sight, The first object she could see distinctly was the beautiful, miraculous Image of the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel, smiling most lovingly and benignantly upon her, and surrounded with innumerable silver lamps and lights. Hence the excitement, the tears, and cries of joy; and surely under the circumstances there was reason.

8. More, at the moment, could not be ascertained.

PRIVATE USE ONLY

The party pushed its way through dense throngs of pilgrims in the street and was soon lost among the assembled thousands. But the writer was anxious to know something more of the nature of the cure. If it was permanent? - If it was real? - If the whole story could be corroborated? Only time could tell whether the epilepsy and the blindness had passed away. The Parish Priest and the Doctor mentioned, could, of course, tell everything. The writer, unfortunately, knew neither. Nor did he think of asking from whence the party of pilgrims came. He applied to the Prior of the convent for information. But though only some hours had passed, the zealous Prior knew nothing whatever of the occurrence. He applied to Father Berio, Sub-prior, the oldest father in the convent, who for forty years had served the Sanctuary. The good father pleaded total ignorance and said: « We are not thirty confessors here in all, and already there are twelve thousand communions made. The Madonna works miracles all the day long, and works them always. How could we hear the confessions of so many and attend to all the details, the examination of witnesses, their quality and the other circumstances required by canon law. We are without men or means for the purpose. These good people receive graces well known to themselves and to their respective neighbourhoods, and therefore they come in such ceaseless crowds now, as they have come for the last four centuries. All we can do on these occasions, - and it is more than we can do, - is to attend to their spiritual concerns.» With no better result several other fathers of the community were applied to.

None of them knew anything of the matter. However, fortunately, some time after the feast, a communication was received from Zagarolo, a town about 14 miles from Genazzano, which led to further inquiries. The zealous Archpriest of that city had thought it proper to inform the Prior of Santa Maria, that a young woman of his flock, named Lydia Vernini, had been, to the inexpressible joy of the whole community, miraculously cured of blindness and epilepsy at the Sanctuary of Genazzano. This was ample corroboration of the writer's report. The Prior wrote back at once for a more formal and explicit statement in detail, both from the Archpriest as the chief ecclesiastical authority, and from the physician in attendance, who also happened to be the medical officer of the municipality. The letters he received in reply will speak for themselves. We give them in the original Italian and in English. They bear out, as the reader will observe, in every particular, the information received upon the day the miracles were performed. They are as follows

N.<sup>o</sup> 1.

9. Letter from the Archpriest of Zagarolo to Very Revd. M.A. Martinelli, Prior of Santa Maria Genazzano.

ARCIPRETURA  
di  
S. PIETRO APOSTOLO  
ZAGAROLO

Rev<sup>mo</sup> Padre

Non ho risposto prima alla sua preghiera per il certificato del medico, che mi venne ieri consegnato.

PRIVATE USE ONLY

Debbo ad esso aggiungere; che visto la madre essere di nulla giovamento la cura apprestata dai nostri Professori alla di lei figlia, volle verso la fine del passato luglio provare portarla in Roma, ed ivi consultati i Professori Mazzoni, Siring, e Feti, da tutti e tre udirono sconsolanti risultati. Uno le disse, che si poteva tentare una cura, lunga però e dispendiosa: gli altri due, che la vista dell' occhio era del tutto perduta.

Ciò premesso, la povera giovane, ritornata fuori, di giorno in giorno sempre più le si accrescevano i dolori nell' occhio. A tutto questo nel mese di agosto le si aggiunsero a tormentarla le convulsioni epilettiche, da tenerla per la maggior parte del giorno in uno stato veramente d'agonia. Ma negli intervalli di tregua, mi dice, che si rivolgeva tratto tratto alla madre di ogni grazia, Maria SS<sup>ma</sup>, onde volesse liberarla da sì atroci malori. Accostandosi poi la festa della Natività risolvette, ancorchè tanto malata, di portarsi costà in Genazzano da questa miracolosissima Immagine. Di fatto il 7 di detto mese la mattina si alza con tutto coraggio e fiducia dal letto, disprezzando i nuovi assalti delle convulsioni, che secondo il solito degli altri giorni, dovevano ritornare dopo qualche ora. Con alcuni parenti e vicini, a piedi s'incammina per questa volta; giunge stanca sì, ma libera da ogni malore convulso, e tutta fervore più di una volta con la lingua al suolo passa questo Tempio. La mattina degli 8, libera ancora dalle convulsioni, a forza tra la stipata folla, riesce penetrare avanti il cancello della Cappella, domanda con gran voce ripetute volte la desiderata grazia a Maria.

Dopo qualche tempo, mi dice, di sentirsi come una mano passare avanti i suoi occhi, ed ad un tratto le cessa ogni dolore nell'occhio, prova a vedere; e distingue benissimo la bella immagine di Maria, lo ripete ai parenti, ai vicini, a tutti, e tutto il popolo ad una voce ringrazia la Madre di Dio di un tanto favore. Quanto è buona misericordiosa Maria, verso di chi l'invoca con fiducia!

Ora, come dal certificato del Medico, si trova in perfetta salute.

Tanto le dovea, e con tutto rispetto e stima ossequiandola mi dico

Zagarolo. 18 Ottobre, 1882.

Devño ed Umo Servitore  
VINCENZO MANNUCCI  
Arciprete Parroco

(Sigillo del Parroco)

**Translation.**

ARCHPRESBYTERY  
OF  
SAINT PETER THE APOSTLE

ZAGAROLO

Most Rev. Father.

I have not replied before to your favour for the certificate of the Doctor which I received yesterday.

I ought to add to it, that the mother, having seen that the care bestowed upon her daughter by the faculty here was of no avail whatever, brought her to Rome, towards the end of last July, to seek a remedy; and there consulted the professors Mazzoni, Siring. and Feti. From the whole three she had dis-

PRIVATE USE ONLY

couraging results. One of them stated that a cure might be attempted, but it would be both long and expensive. The other two affirmed, that the sight of the eye was irretrievably lost.

This much being premised, the poor young woman returned home. From day to day the pain in the eye increased continually. To all this, and to add to her torments, in the month of August epileptic fits came on, so as to keep her for the greater part of the day in a state of terrible agony. In the intervals of peace which she had, she expressed a desire from time to time to go to the Mother of all Grace, Most Holy Mary, and see if She would free her from such torments. The feast of the Nativity of Our Lady then drawing nigh, she resolved although so ill, to go to Genazzano, to the most miraculous Image. In fact, on the 7<sup>th</sup> of the month she got out of bed in the morning with courage and confidence, not caring for attacks of her convulsions, which, according to their usual course of other days, would attack her. After several hours, in company with some relatives and neighbours she arrived there wearied indeed, but free from every attack of epilepsy; and with all fervour, more than once with tongue to the pavement, she passed through the temple. On the morning of the 8<sup>th</sup>, still free from convulsions, she with great difficulty succeeded in forcing her way through the dense crowd and in reaching the rails of the Sanctuary. She demanded with a loud voice and repeatedly, the desired grace from Mary. After some time, she tells me, she felt as if a hand passed before her eyes, and she became able to see and could distinguish perfectly well the beautiful Image of Mary. She related the fact to her relatives and neighbours, and all the people with one voice, thanked the Mother of God for so great a favour. Oh how good and merciful is Mary towards those who invoke Her with confidence! Now, as the certificate of the Medical man will prove, she finds herself in perfect health.

Zagarolo 18<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1882.

With all respect and esteem  
I remain etc. etc.

VINCENZO MANNUCCI  
Archp. Pa.

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

Nº. 2.

**Statement of Medical Officer in attendance.**

Lidia Vernini di Zagarolo, di anni 18, di costituzione lodevole, fu assalita sugli ultimi del Giugno del corrente anno da fortissima neuralgia dell'occhio sinistro, che si andava progressivamente aumentando risentendone danno alla vista in guisa, che nel decorso di circa due settimane si era abolita del tutto come l'inferma accertava. L'occhio però niuna alterazione presentava apparentemente, come più volte ebbi a constatare; fu visitata anche da esperti oculisti di Roma, ma nulla rinvennero, per quanto sappia, che dasse ragione della mancanza della vista; epperò, io credo, che fosse attribuita ad una nevrasi, malattia sempre difficile a guarirsi. In seguito di tale spasmodia venne ancora assalita da convulsioni epilettiformi, che in principio la tormentavano una volta al giorno, e le medesime duravano da tre a quattro, ed anche più ore, con perdita totale dei sensi, agitazione delle membra, e quando cessavano, lasciavano l'inferma in uno stato di stupidità. Furono tentati svariati rimedi, tanto topici, non che generali, ma senza alcun favorevole risultato. Io l'andava a visitare continuamente, ma il giorno 7 Settembre non la rinnovai in casa, e dai vicini mi fu detto, che era partita per Genazzano onde visitare il Santuario della Madonna. Tornai a rivederla nel ritorno, e trovai che la vista era tornata allo stato normale, come mi assicurava l'inferma, la spasmodia era cessata del tutto, e con essa anche le convulsioni che la tormentavano.

PRIVATE USE ONLY

tavano senza far uso di altri rimedii. Tale stato perdura anche al presente.

Tanto posso accertare per la pura verità.

Zagarolo. 17 Ottobre, 1882.

**ERNESTO Dottore ORDESCHI**  
Medico Condotto

**Translation.**

Lydia Vernini of Zagarolo aged 18 years, of good constitution, was attacked at the end of June of the current year, by a very strong neuralgia in the left eye, which went on progressively increasing and causing damage to the sight in such a manner, that in the course of about two weeks it was lost altogether, as the infirm person stated. The eye however presented no alteration apparently, as on many occasions I had to ascertain. She was also visited by expert oculists in Rome. But none were found, as far as I know, who gave a reason for the want of sight; wherefore, I believe it is to be attributable to a nervous malady, always difficult to be cured. In consequence of spasm she became also attacked by epileptic convulsions, which in the beginning tormented her once a day. Then they became more frequent, assaulting her almost constantly twice every day. And the same fits caused for a period of from three to four hours, a total loss of sense, agitation of the members, and, when they became aggravated, they left the infirm girl in a state of stupidity. Various remedies were tried, tonic as well as general, without any favourable result. I went to visit her continuously, but on the 7<sup>th</sup> of September I did not find her at home, and was told by the neighbours that she had been taken to Genazzano to visit the Sanctuary of the Madonna. I went to visit her on her return and I found that the sight was restored to its normal condition. The spasms and convulsions had ceased entirely as the patient informed me, without making use of further remedies. This state continues to the present. So much I can attest as the pure truth.

Zagarolo, Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>.

**ERNEST, Doctor ORDESCHI**  
Medical Officer

10. The above testimony was ample in every respect, but the writer was further curious enough to know whether the cure continued, whether it was complete and permanent. He therefore in company with the venerable Father Berio of the convent of Santa Maria in Genazzano, went to Zagarolo in the January of the present year, and visited the good Archpriest of that city, who fully confirmed all he has here written. He also kindly sent for the mother of the cured girl, a widow with eight orphans, whose husband, a man of good family and means, died some five years ago. She gave an excellent account of her daughter Lydia, who being the oldest girl, had been, she said, of the greatest use in the management of her large family. The long sickness with which the child was visited was therefore no small trial to the poor mother. She was naturally full of gratitude to Our Lady of Good Counsel. She further stated that the cure of Lydia was the second miracle, for which she had to be grateful to the Madonna. The other, not less remarkable, occurred in the case of her second son. At the mention of the name of this boy, the poor woman cried bitterly, for he had just recently been taken forcibly by the Piedmontese government to be a soldier. She spoke of him with all a mother's pride and all a mother's love. He was the mainstay of her family, but the Piedmontese, she said, not content with reducing her to misery by a load of taxes, which left but a bare margin to keep life on the plainest food, took him too from her. The mention of the good times when the gentle rule of the Pope made the people of the States of the Church the happiest

PRIVATE USE ONLY

and the lightest-burdened people in Europe, affected her deeply. And surely, if the arms of the widow Vernini could effect it, Leo XIII. would rule Rome and the Patrimony of St. Peter to-morrow.

11. But to return to her son. In his youth he suffered to such an extent from a nervous disease that he could not stand upright.

The poor mother did all she could for him, but the skill of man was as powerless in his case, as afterwards in that of his sister. And so to her grief he pined away before her eyes until he was worn to a skeleton, and only waiting for death to relieve him. In her deep distress she bethought of Our Lady of Good Counsel, a copy of Whose beautiful Image so generally seen in all the towns of Latium, was affixed to the external wall of a house in the street. This Image she managed to get hold of, and with all the love and reverence of a devout client of Mary, she brought it to the bedside of her son. There she besought the Madonna with all the agony of a mother's heart to look upon her child. Scarcely was her prayer, she said, ended, when, on a sudden, the boy vomited a large quantity of very fetid matter, as if from something which had burst within. After this, he rapidly rallied and asked for food. In a few days he was out of bed in the enjoyment of a good appetite, and fast recovering his strength.

The poor mother sobbingly added, that he had been all her consolation and strength afterwards, and that she never had another day's trouble with him until the Piedmontese forced him off to the army. There, of course, her loving solicitude followed him. The

fare of an Italian soldier is as wretched, perhaps more so, than that of his class anywhere in the world. He is moreover exposed to the most demoralizing influences. The temporal wants of her son she tried to alleviate by her little remittances, and his spiritual dangers she endeavoured to ward off by a weekly letter reminding him of his duty to God and to religion, and then above all of devotion to the Madonna.

But the object of the visitors was to see Lydia Vernini, the subject of the wonderful cure wrought at Genazzano. She was found at some distance from the city, employed together with the other children of the family, according to the custom in Italy, in the work of the vineyard. She was in excellent health. Her sight in both eyes was as good as ever. She never experienced the slightest return of the terrible *mal-caduco* or falling sickness. She stated that before she left Zagarolo for Genazzano, she was perfectly confident that Our Lady would cure her. It was true that she licked the pavement, but this was entirely from her own devotion, and not advised by her confessor or any other ecclesiastic. She had vowed moreover, that whilever she was able, she would go on a yearly pilgrimage to Genazzano, in thanksgiving for her cure. She had a large bronze medal of Our Lady of Good Counsel on her breast. There was also a picture of the Madonna in every room of her house. By the way, the good Archpriest had the same in his residence. Already her brother and male relations had gone on foot and in procession to Genazzano singing the Litany of Our Lady in thanksgiving; and she herself being now strong, intended to

PRIVATE USE ONLY

go with her mother in a little time for the same purpose. In truth, the good fathers of Santa Maria saw both of them as late as January 14<sup>th</sup> 1883, making this act of thanksgiving, and then Lydia Vernini was in a state of perfect health.

The writer has deemed it of use to give all the particulars connected with this miracle, because it was one which he did not find in books or learn from witnesses however trustworthy; but one which came directly under his own observation, and was not only authenticated by those deserving of every confidence, but examined by himself in every material particular. Possibly, but for his desire to find out these particulars, the community in charge of the Sanctuary might be as ignorant of the existence of this miracle, as they are of thousands of other miracles worked by God's Virgin Mother at Her Shrine of Good Counsel; and only known to the happy recipients, and to Heaven. During the September devotions, he observed what he supposed to be another cure of severe epilepsy; and he has heard through the country of many miraculous favours received from Our Lady at the Shrine, which he is persuaded, if inquired into, would prove as capable of being substantiated, as that of Lydia Vernini of Zagarolo.

12. Such favours have never ceased from the moment of the Miraculous Apparition until this hour. Scarcely had the Image appeared upon the wall of the chapel of St. Biagio, when miraculous graces began to pour out in extraordinary measure on the people of God. From the first register taken we find, that ten persons suffering from malignant fevers, were

suddenly cured; six individuals paralyzed, were restored to the perfect use of their limbs; twenty blind persons received their sight; six women were cured of dangerous uterine diseases; two dumb received the use of speech; three the use of hearing; three were cured of dropsy; five of leprosy; four of fatal wounds; two of hemorrhage; two of epileptic fits; three insane and two possessed by the devil, were liberated from their terrible misfortune; two Infidels obtained the grace of faith; one unfortunate man was freed from capital punishment; four bitten by venomous animals were healed; eighteen in the agonies of death were raised up; and one absolutely dead, arose through the powerful intercession of the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel. In all, there were no less than one hundred and sixty one cures verified; and verified, it must be remembered, in the reign of Paul II. by the Notary Public of Genazzano, a few years only after Pius II. had established such admirable regulations for the States of the Church, that it would be utterly impossible to make false statements — if indeed any of those concerned with the Sanctuary could be supposed to be guilty, for no reason whatever, of such a crime — without being detected and severely punished. Furthermore, such an act could never occur at a period when all Italy, as we know from Coriolanus, were visiting the locality; and when the Episcopal Delegates of the Pontiff, were about to make their canonical investigation.

A few of these miracles are so specially interesting that we cannot pass them over. First comes

PRIVATE USE ONLY

the strange punishment of an incredulous witness, which happened as follows.

13. It must not, of course, be supposed that all received the news of the Apparition of the miraculous Image, even when Italy rang with the news of its appearance, with equal faith. Then as now, there were incredulous people, and people with little respect for anything supernatural. One of this class was a certain Antony, of Cirrone, a little town about eight miles distant from the Sanctuary. On the 5<sup>th</sup> of May 1467, business brought him amidst the crowds which then filled all the streets of Genazzano. He heard, of course, as all else did, the wonderful things the people had to say regarding it; but he chose to laugh at their story, and turn it into ridicule. He determined, nevertheless, to make his way inside the church and see what could be seen of what they had been talking. But his incredulity and mockery were speedily punished. Like St. Mary of Egypt, when trying to visit the church of Jerusalem, he was repelled by some invisible hand from entering. He was seized with a fit of trembling in all his members, and remained in that state until repenting, he turned to those whom he had scandalized by his language, and confessing his fault, obtained through God's Virgin Mother his pardon, and as a pledge of it, complete freedom from his sad state.

14. On the 6<sup>th</sup> of July, a no less remarkable circumstance occurred. One Mark di Stefano, a Hungarian, came on that day to visit Genazzano amongst the crowds of pilgrims then coming from the most distant parts. He was dressed after the picturesque

fashion of his countrymen, with a bow across his shoulders, and a quiver full of arrows by his side; and of course, he did not escape the jocose remarks of the idlers found in all great gatherings of people. Some of these latter, it is recorded, snatched off the hat of a poor man, and, suspending it upon a wall, provoked the Hungarian to fire at it. He did so in an angry mood, but to the horror of all, the arrow rebounded from the hat and struck the archer, wounding him severely. All hastened to find out the reason, and to their astonishment discovered that inside the hat the owner had placed an Image of Our Lady of Good Counsel. At a time of such miraculous cures as were then taking place at Genazzano, the wounded man would naturally apply at once to Mary for relief. He was accordingly brought to the feet of the Madonna, when having implored pardon for his anger and his involuntary injury to the very Image he came so far to venerate, he was instantly cured.

15. From the various records of the past, which as the ages rolled on were here and there preserved, we may also mention the following. In the annals of the house of Colonna it is related, that in 1685, the family of Prince Philip were all together in their castle overlooking the Sanctuary, when, suddenly, a tremendous flash of lightning fell in their midst, setting fire to the rich furniture of the room, and causing an arquebuse that happened to be loaded to explode. The clothing of the lady of the house was burnt, and a youth named John Baptist Pronde, was struck to the floor all but dead. A little oil taken from the Sanctuary lamp of Our Lady of Good

PRIVATE USE ONLY

Counsel instantly cured the latter, and the family, who might have been all destroyed attributed their safety to the devotion they always displayed for the Image and Sanctuary of Our Lady of Good Counsel.

No wonder they should do so. Some thirty years previous, the whole kindred of the Colonnas were preserved even more remarkably from the terrible contagion, which then, (in 1656 and 1657) desolated Italy and more especially Rome and Latium.

According to the Notary, Luke Giovanni, Cardinal Colonna, Constable Colonna, and the princes Lawrence and Philip Colonna, together with many Roman nobles sheltered themselves in Genazzano under the protection of Mary, when the contagion raged in Valmontone, Montefortino, Palestrina, Subiaco, and Seroni, places in the immediate vicinity of Genazzano, while the latter, of all the towns in Italy, alone escaped the plague.

16. Even the dead have been raised to life, through the intercession of Our Lady of Good Counsel. An instance of this is recorded in the first registry of miracles. De Orgio thus relates it. « Constantine de Carolis, of Castelfollie, the faithful servant of Signor Antonietto, of Castelnuovo, being taken with a great and most dangerous malady, at length went the way of all flesh. He was given over by the physicians. He received the last sacraments of the Church and expired in the presence of many who assisted his soul in its last passage. Afterwards when he was vested in his grave clothes, and laid out as the dead are, his afflicted master went to invite the clergy to celebrate for him the usual funeral obsequies. On returning

to his house the latter looked upon the corpse of his faithful servant who tenderly loved him and broke out into a downright flood of tears. He then threw himself upon the ground and, as was afterwards expressed in the public act by solemn oath, he exclaimed « O Most Holy Virgin of Genazzano I supplicate Thee, if it be for the better, that Thou wouldest pray to God for me, to give me back my servant, (*il mio garzone*) and I promise Thee to bring him to Genazzano before Thy Holy Image. » The Sovereign Empress of the Heavens, Mary, the Most Holy Mother of Good Counsel, Who was invoked with such living faith heard this fervent and sorrowful prayer. Hence, with universal and unusual wonder, the dead servant, in an instant lifted his head, opened his eyes, and overcome with unusual stupefaction commenced to get up. He saw his grieving Master, and unloosening his tongue he said « for charity sake give me a little nourishment » Afterwards he stood up and turning to those about, declared himself free from every inconvenience and pain. Then, having heard of the manner and the reason of his miraculous resurrection, he instantly with his master commenced his journey to Genazzano, where both presented themselves in the church and in the chapel of the holy Image, and there with joyful voices praised and thanked the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel. »

17. Another very touching miracle also related by De Orgio from the first attestations at the Shrine, was the liberation from a condemnation to death of a criminal sentenced to be executed at Sienna. The day was fixed for the last penalty of the law to be inflicted •

PRIVATE USE ONLY

in the case of two others, as well as in his own. On the eve of the fatal morning, his confessor, a Franciscan Father — who was tired of his entreaties to save him and who could not reconcile him to his justly deserved doom, — at last to get rid of his importunity, or from some internal inspiration said. « If the miraculous Madonna recently appeared in Genazzano will not liberate you from death, you most certainly will pass to eternity to-morrow. » The Father then in anger departed, but the moment he had gone, John cast himself with his face to the ground and commenced to weep bitterly and to exclaim « O Most Holy Virgin if You give me this grace I will presently come to your feet to thank You for so great a miracle. » This being said, he found on a sudden that the chains on his legs were broken. Full of wonder, he endeavoured to make his escape. He saw a window placed so high, that by no means could he reach it. He however made the attempt, and as if an invisible ladder was placed beneath his feet, he ascended to it. Here he was surprised to find a terrific precipice, which if he fell into, he would be dashed to pieces. His companions cried out « fool that you are, come down and prepare for death or otherwise you will go to ruin. » He, however, having taken courage and full of living faith at having seen his fetters broken miraculously, made the sign of the Cross and without further delay cast himself down, crying out repeatedly. « O Holy Mary of Genazzano help me » And Oh what a prodigy ! Something like a celestial cloud had brought him downwards. He found himself upon the earth unhurt and unbroken, just as

if he had not fallen. Whence in sight of this great miracle surrounded by so many others, even human justice relented and left him in liberty, since the mercy of God wished to leave him free for the greater glory of Mary and of Her most wonderful Image which came to Genazzano two months previously. Hence on the following morning, his two companions having been decapitated, he, full of joy set out for Genazzano and there arrived on the 11<sup>th</sup> of July 1467 to thank his heavenly Liberatrix, and to depose on oath upon the holy Gospels, in the presence of the Fathers, and of Benedict Marroco Altobello, of Genazzano, and of Melchior, of Rancilluni and others, to the great miracle which had taken place in his case.

18. The individual cures recorded meanwhile are very numerous. Amongst them, that of Andrew Scavola, of Milan, who came to the Sanctuary and was instantly cured on the 30<sup>th</sup> of April 1740, of an extraordinary disease which the physicians declared incurable; and that of the noble lady, Martha Poli, freed from a terrible malady surpassing human power, are very remarkable, as illustrating the power of Our Lady of Good Counsel over devils. Hundreds of such miracles as these were acknowledged in grateful recognition by the multitudes of votive offerings which crowded the church towards the close of the last century. Many of these were of precious metals, but many more, the gifts of God's poor, were of simple wax or wood. The crutches left by the lame and the bandages by the maimed were so numerous, and so filled the church, as to become a ver-

PRIVATE USE ONLY

itable nuisance; and were, with due permission, destroyed or converted into the uses of the Sanctuary, in the beginning of the last century. Towards the close of the same century and the beginning of the present, the gifts more precious so accumulated, that the French and the municipality of Infidels formed by them at Genazzano, secured an immense booty, even after the Fathers had given a large share of the silver and gold offerings of the Shrine to enable the Pontiff, Pius VI. to pay the terrible load of tribute imposed upon him by the greed of Napoleon.

19. The Revd. J. Spenser Northcoat, President of St. Mary's College, Oscott, in a very interesting notice which he has given of the sacred Image of Genazzano, in his « Celebrated Sanctuaries of the Madonna » gives the following account of the miraculous preservation of the late Cardinal Acton and some companions while on the way to the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Counsel in 1845. He says of Genazzano. « It has always been a favourite place of pilgrimage for our own ecclesiastical students in the English College at Rome, and Cardinal Acton had a special devotion towards it. On occasion of his visit to it in the autumn of 1845, he met with an accident which might well have proved fatal both to himself and his companions. He was travelling from Palestrina with his chaplain, and servants, and three students of the English College<sup>1</sup> (a party of eight in all), when the carriage was upset in a very dan-

---

<sup>1</sup> All still surviving, and priests in the dioceses of Liverpool and Salford.

gerous part of the road. Carriage, horses, and passengers were precipitated over a bank to the depth of twenty feet; 'yet,' as one of the party writes, 'not one of us had so much as a scratch, as far as I know; and I never heard mention of injury to any, except that the butler, who was more frightened than hurt, complained of being much shaken. Of course, he and the others outside were flung some way into the field; we who were inside fell on one another, the Cardinal being immediately below me. The carriage windows were thrown up by the fall, but were unbroken until men came and broke them to drag us out. The carriage was not much injured; some of the ironwork twisted, and the pole broken, which caused a deep flesh-wound in one of the horses. We walked on, saying the rosary, to the neighbouring town, where the Bishop received us, and sent us on to Genazzano. On our arrival there, the Rector and students and the religious community all joined us in the *Te Deum*, which was repeated on the following morning, for the miraculous deliverance which a good God had given us.' The Cardinal had a copy of the painting executed, which he always retained for his own private devotion, and which is now in the sacristy of the Church of Our Lady of Angels, Stoke-upon-Trent. Another copy, or rather a very beautiful painting (by Seitz), suggested by it, and retaining the same general idea and attitude of the Mother and Child, is in the chapel of the Convent of St. Catherine, at Clifton. »

20. To all the other miracles, must be added the remarkable preservation of the town of Genazzano

PRIVATE USE ONLY

from pestilence of every description, since the coming of the sacred Image within its walls. All attribute this wonderful immunity to the protection of Our Lady, and to the possession of Her miraculous Image. We have seen that in the seventeenth century, the house of Colonna with many others experienced the benefit of this immunity, during a plague which elsewhere, scarcely left the living the power of burying the dead. One reads to this day with horror, the account of this pestilence in the lives of St. Charles Borromeo and of other remarkable personages of the time. In the eighteenth century, so well known was the protection extended to Genazzano, that Pope Urban VIII. made his famous pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady there, principally in order to obtain from the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel, a cessation of the pestilence then threatening Rome. It has never in fact, been known, that one sick of plague or pestilence of any kind, died in Genazzano. And this is all the more remarkable, because many were brought there in a dying state from infected localities. In no instance has it been proved, that even one of these extreme cases succumbed to their malady in the town. But the most surprising exhibition of this miraculous exemption was witnessed in this nineteenth century, the era emphatically of infidelity and materialism, of atheism, and its brood of irreligious systems. With all the improvements science has effected in the arts subserving human comfort and convenience, men in this century have had to die just as in times more barbarous. Science has been unable to invent a remedy for a plague as bad as any, that in the ages of ill - under-

stood sanitary laws, desolated Europe. The terrible Asiatic cholera has swept again and again over all the nations of Europe and over all the islands of its seas. No land has escaped its ravages. It has levelled rulers and subjects with impartial severity. Italy was of all the countries it devastated, the most severly visited. In 1832, in 1857, in 1867, its population was more than decimated by the fearful scourge. Strange to say no city or town in all its extent, completely escaped its ravages but one, and that one was Genazzano. Stranger still, no part of Italy was more desolated than Latium. Its vicinity to the Campagna which indeed forms part of it; its vicinity to the Pontine Marshes, and the undrained condition of its ancient towns, made it an easy prey to the devouring epidemic. Genazzano nevertheless, escaped, though not nearly so well situated as Albano and other cities which suffered severely. In the latter town both the Cardinal Bishop and the Dowager Queen of Naples, fell victims; the former through zeal for his people. The streets were covered with corpses, which the living for fear of contagion were afraid to bury. The gallant Zuaves, at the call of their commander, performed for many corrupting bodies that last Christian office. So it was with Palestrina, but 7 miles distant from Genazzano. So it was with Olevano, Paliano, and San Vito, the latter but three miles away.

21. So it was with Capranica, a small town on the mountain at the foot of which Genazzano is built, and which in a direct line is not a mile away. There, several were dying each day. And this continued, until nearly the whole population came in solemn pil-

PRIVATE USE ONLY

grimage to the Shrine of the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel. They advanced on their knees from a considerable distance outside the town, and through the streets until they came into the presence of the miraculous Image. There, suppliantly they besought Our Lady to have compassion on their unfortunate and desolate township. They made, as people in their condition might be naturally supposed to make, many vows and prayers. Mary in Heaven heard them, and from that day the dreadful scourge completely ceased its ravages in Capranica.

22. At this and at other such times the houses in Genazzano were filled with persons suffering from the disease; or fearing to be afflicted with it, who had flocked there from near and distant cities. Not one of these suffered. As with cholera, so with every disease of a general epidemic nature. It has been further remarked by all the historians of the town and Sanctuary, and especially by Senni and Vannutelli, both natives of the place, that even the political visitations which have made such frightful ravages in other parts of Italy, have visited Genazzano with a singularly partial effect. Garibaldi obtained few or no recruits from it, and a band of his defeated followers passed through the town without offering molestation. There is no Masonic lodge or known Mason or Carbonaro in the town. Out of some four or five thousand souls, not more than seventeen are absent from the sacraments, at the times required by the Church. The case of a native of the town refusing the sacraments in his last moments is unknown. As the accomplished and erudite Vannutelli says. « It

stands in the history of human events, that this Queen of Heaven holds Genazzano exempt from all the ills of Italy, it having never, or but little, felt the overturning of states; inundations of foreign armies; rapine, the burning of cities, secret societies, cruel conspiracies, immoderate ambition, robbing avarice, the unbridled license of the population, earthquake, drought, penury, desolating malady, public horror, and death from sudden causes. »

The ecclesiastics and religious, have suffered in their goods, it is true, there as elsewhere; and the small offices going, are given, of course, to friends of the government. Beyond this, the little town carries on its old ways of devotion and faith as fervently as if Leo the XIII., instead of Humbert I., ruled in the Eternal City. The citizens are no doubt taxed heavily, and, like all the other towns of Latium and the pontifical states, they long for the return of the Papal Government. But while Providence imposes these crosses upon them, they remain as Our Lady said they should remain for ever. « Her specially beloved people. »

To conclude this chapter of miracles wrought before Our Lady's Shrine in Genazzano, a synopsis is here added of those recorded in the first register exactly as they were inserted in the document proved to be authentic by the learned critics of the Vatican, at the instance of the Sacred Congregation of Rites, and to which we have referred in the proofs for the Wonderful Apparition. It is translated from the Italian of De Orgio, and commences on the second day after the Apparition and is as follows.

PRIVATE USE ONLY

## APRIL 1467.

First day 27<sup>th</sup>. On this day, Domenica di Giuliani was freed from a violent and most painful disease of the womb.

Achilles, of Genazzano, from a long and obstinate sciatica, and John Cambellotti of Castel Zangati, of a most painful infirmity of very long duration, by which he lost the use of his voice and could no longer take nourishment.

April 28<sup>th</sup>. To-day, John Giordani of Genazzano, was brought to the holy Chapel. He suffered for three years from such weakness in all his limbs that he could no longer move. Appealing to Most Holy Mary of Good Counsel he became instantly sound, free, and vigorous so that not a trace of his long disease was left.

## MAY 1467.

2<sup>nd</sup> day. To-day, Most Holy Mary completely freed Antony de Benedictis of Castel Marsitelli, from the consequences of an apoplectic stroke, by which his whole right side was completely paralyzed.

May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Rita de Sanctis, daughter of John Peter, of Castello di Gerano, for a length of time obsessed by the devil, was liberated to-day in the Holy Chapel.

May 4<sup>th</sup>. To-day, Most Holy Mary of Paradise freed and cured Antony Cerroni, of Pisciano, who in penalty of his incredulity with regard to the coming of this holy Image, had become completely crippled and paralyzed. — Also John Francianera who for six years continuously, suffered from a most obstinate quartan fever.

Also Bernardino di Piombino, reduced to a dying and bloodless condition from the same disease. Also Giacomina de Benedictis of Olevano, who after bearing a son, remained for five months, night and day in the greatest agony. Also Bella di Giovan Nicola of San Vito, who from a disease of the internal organs suffered during eight years from continual hemorrhage, so that through weakness she could no longer stand upon her feet.

May 8<sup>th</sup>. To-day, was cured Francesca Ceccarelli, of Paliano, who in her childhood became blind, and besides, was much weakened throughout her whole body. Also Minna, daughter of

John Capozzo, of Cave, who for a length of time had become useless and almost mummified by dryness in all her members.

May 15<sup>th</sup>. To-day, Most Holy Mary restored the sight of Philip Bartolomei, of the province of Borgogna, who for three years had been totally blind. Domenica Tuzi, of Olevano was cured of most severe convulsive pains, which brought her to a dying condition. And Antonio Tomassi, of Sclavonia, who had become completely blind four years previously, having had suppliant recourse to the most holy Image, was instantly gladdened with the full enjoyment of his eyesight.

May 16<sup>th</sup>. To-day, Antony di Pietro, of Trano, who for 28 years continuously, suffered from epilepsy, was completely freed by Our Lady, at Her Shrine.

James Vestri, of Genazzano, was cured of a general debility and torpor of the whole body, which rendered him impotent and unable even to move. Mariano, son of John the Albanian, having become helpless, was cured. John, son of Angelo Antonio Buzi, of Cicigliano, who for six years had been stone blind, obtained the use of his sight.

Tizia, of Zagarolo, a poor old woman, coming on foot to visit the holy Image, fell in the neighbourhood of Palestrina into a deep intricate chasm, full of stumps and thorn-bushes. In her distress, she called upon Our Lady of Good Counsel, Whose Image she was on the way to visit, and declared that Most Holy Mary appeared to her visibly and liberated her, so that she was enabled to pursue her way in joy to Genazzano, and narrate her experience.

May 21<sup>st</sup>. To-day, Roscietto, of Genazzano, given over by the physicians and fortified with all the sacraments of the Church, lay dying in his last agony. His afflicted wife broken hearted at so great a loss, had recourse to Most Holy Mary, before the sacred Image, and with lively faith made a vow, to come upon her bare knees on the ground from her house to the holy Chapel. She instantly began with cheeks bathed in tears and with mournful suppliant voice to fulfil that vow. When behold, the dying husband at that moment sat up in his bed, and stimulated by a sudden fit of vomiting, threw from his stomach seven fetid worms; and after having been strengthend with a little nourishment, he rose up sound and cured from his bed as though he had never suffered the slightest ailment.

May 23<sup>rd</sup>. On this day, Anastasia Arcite, of Cerrara, who

PRIVATE USE ONLY

reduced to the point of death, lay in agony five days without taking any restorative whatever. On a vow being made in this extremity by her afflicted mother to conduct her to the feet of this holy Image, in case she should escape death, suddenly she gave signs of returning health; she wished to take nourishment and afterwards together with her mother went festive and joyful to thank her Holy Liberatrix.

Likewise on this day, Antonio Sollato, of Tivoli (about 18 miles from the Sanctuary by the shortest road through the Sabine mountains) who having become completely crippled, one side being paralyzed, having made a vow to come on foot and with a rope around his neck to the holy Image, was instantly cured; so that he was able presently to undertake the journey to Genazzano as he had promised, and according to his vow.

The holy Image also on this day freed a woman, named Bona di Simone, of Cicigliano, who for eight years continuously had been curved, (probably by spinal disease) so that with her face almost touching the ground she could scarcely walk a few steps with the aid of a stick.

Also were cured Maria Angela Fucine, of Cicigliano, who for six entire years had been blind, and Petruccia, daughter of Antonio Comparelli, of Tivoli, tormented excessively by uterine disease, and Catherine Coccetti, of Vicovaro, who was in like manner oppressed for eight and twenty years with the same disease, so that she could not find peace or repose either night or day. Merlino, also of Tivoli, blind for many months, was cured; and William de Orlandis, of the city of Terni (about a hundred miles from the Santuary) aged twenty five years, born blind had been scarcely introduced into the Holy Chapel when he suddenly opened two most limpid eyes this day. - Still on the same day, Aurelia Palicchi, of Nemi, paralyzed for many years, and Santa, of Trevi, obsessed for a length of time by malignant spirits were delivered.

Well does De Orgio call this a great day, happily and fortunately illustrated and signalized by Mary with ten miracles or graces, in a few hours.

May 24<sup>th</sup>. A certain Nicholas Grisanti, of Guadagnola, who returning from Genazzano to his home, and being asked whether he had seen any miracle performed by the holy Image, answered with contempt, « what miracles? what miracles? I have seen none. » The following night one of his little sons, named Martin,

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

suddenly oppressed with the most excruciating convulsive pains, was about to expire. The affrighted father feeling in his conscience, that this was in punishment for his sin of contempt, presently cast himself upon his face weeping and sobbing; and seeing that his tenderly beloved child commenced to get a little better, he took him at once in his arms and walked the whole way (about ten or twelve miles, over the steep mountain on which stands, at its loftiest point, the monastery of Menturella) to Genazzano, to deposit his precious burden at the feet of Our Lady of Good Counsel. There, the poor child was perfectly cured in an instant, and the incredulous father believed, having seen first the chastisement and then the miracle with his own eyes.

May 25<sup>th</sup>. On this day, the Sovereign Empress and Most Holy Mother of Good Counsel cured Joanna, daughter of John Nicholas Petrucci, of Pereto, in the diocese of Marsi, who had become paralyzed from head to foot; and Mary her sister, likewise paralyzed. Both sisters were brought to the holy Chapel to be liberated, as in fact they were. On this same day, was also cured Stephen Antonelli, of Trapani, afflicted for a length of time with excruciating torments through urinal disease.

May 29<sup>th</sup>. Peter Nicholas Bucciarelli, of Cerula, having come to Genazzano for his affairs and also to visit the Holy Image, was asked on his return to his home, whether he had seen any miracles, answered as did Nicholas Grisanti in a contemptuous fashion, that he had seen none, and did not believe in any. The following night the Queen of Heaven appeared (in a dream) to him, angry and full of indignation, and ordered him to return instantly to Genazzano and that he would see miracles enough to make him believe. The contemptuous and affrighted man woke up to find that his little son Antony, surprised by an unforeseen accident, was upon the point of death. Presently, with his dying child in his arms, he flew to Genazzano, and in the Holy Chapel with sobs and tears he confessed his guilt; and behold in that moment his little son became perfectly cured, festive and joyful; and Peter penitent was corrected, and at the sight of his son cured, thoroughly amended.

This day also, John, the son of John Panenche, of Cantalupo, a child of twelve years, having become weakened throughout his whole body, acquired perfectly the use of all his members.

Thus too Peter, son of Nicholas Simeone, of Cori, a child of eight years, unable to stand upon his feet, acquired this day

PRIVATE USE ONLY

in the same manner, the use of all his limbs. James Narni Piccinini, blind for four years, to-day, in the sacred Chapel reacquired his sight, to the universal delight of all those present.

May 30<sup>th</sup>. Perfetta, a devout lady of Cori, having known of the miracle that was wrought upon Peter her blind fellow-townsman, who returned from Genazzano to Cori with his sight perfectly restored, presently she too, full of living holy faith caused herself to be led there, and in fact she also obtained the same grace, after having been blind for six years.

Basilia, wife of Giorgio, of Guadagnola, who for three years had been paralyzed, was to-day also in the Holy Chapel made in one moment vigorous and sound, as if she had never suffered paralysis.

May 31<sup>st</sup>. To-day, Angela, daughter of master Nicholas, of Bassiano, who in consequence of a stroke of apoplexy, lost the use of her right arm completely, so that she could not even move it any more than if it were a senseless log of wood, hardly had she entered the sacred Chapel, when she became vigorous and sound, with the arm as movable as at first. This day also, Francesca Macellari, of Porcile, oppressed with uterine disease for fifteen years, on this same day became free and sound, at the steps of the altar Most Holy Mary of Good Counsel.

#### JUNE 1467.

June 3<sup>rd</sup>. The lady Antonia, of Castel Sanguigno, wife of the late Signor Antony, Count of Montefortino, who had received a severe apoplectic stroke, through which she had lost the use of the whole right side, was conducted with great difficulty to the holy Chapel. The moment she entered, she became at once perfectly cured, after having passed three years and seven months of her life, with that severe malady. Also Antonietta, daughter of Antonio Spine, likewise from Montefortino, who had been deaf for eighteen years in the right ear, on the same day and at the very same hour in which the above mentioned lady was cured, she also became freed from the inconvenience referred to. The moment she entered the Chapel she heard a sound in the deaf ear, and obtained her hearing completely.

6<sup>th</sup> June. This most happy day was illustrated by eight miracles or graces. Antonio Catallo, of Sermoneta, dumb without being able to understand anything except by some signs, acquired the power of speech perfectly.

Domenic di Tuziofante, of Olevano, bitten by a most venomous serpent, through which his flesh had become all swelled and blackened, having on this day made a vow to go on foot to Genazzano, to the feet of the Most Holy Mother of Good Counsel, became suddenly delivered from his malady without sign or impediment whatever.

Santuccia di Bartolomeo, of Subiaco, who from the bite of a mad dog, suffered the terrible and fatally incurable consequences, being full of unspeakable agony, and wrenched with convulsions through her whole body, during which she lost an eye completely and strained her limbs. The moment she entered the holy Chapel at the foot of the altar of the holy Image, she was completely cured, and rendered free from her terrible malady.

Felicia di Bartolomeo, of Subiaco, obtained on this day also, most clearly her sight which she had lost by painful spasms, endured for a long time in both eyes.

Catherine, daughter of John Coccii, of Civitella, given over by the doctors and reduced to agony, upon invoking Most Holy Mary, to Whom she had made a vow, presently obtained the use of her senses, and was instantly cured entirely.

Elizabeth, of Anticoli, dumb for seven years, to-day in the presence of the sacred Image, commenced to the universal astonishment of all, to speak.

To-day also, John di Pietro, of Menecone acquired in the holy Chapel, motion and life, which he had lost for many years, in half his body, which became from paralysis as so much senseless wood.

June 10<sup>th</sup>. Signor Francesco di Pietro, of Naples, who seven years previously had been wounded so grievously in the thigh by a lance in battle, that the master nerves were so punctured and lacerated, that he could neither bend the knee, nor move the wounded limb. Having heard in Rome of the great miracles worked by Our Lady of Good Counsel in Her Image at Genazzano, he instantly caused himself to be conducted thither and there in the holy Chapel, praying with a living faith to Most Holy Mary, he received in the most complete manner the grace he sought, remaining as sound and as free as if that thigh had never been wounded.

June 11<sup>th</sup>. On this day, a Hungarian Priest, named Don John Martini, having become blind of one eye for a year and some

PRIVATE USE ONLY

months, at the feet of Most Holy Mary, instantly obtained his sight perfectly. And on the very same day, Peter di Giovanni, of the district of Marano, having lost the use of his right arm, became completely cured in the holy Chapel.

Paul, son of John di Belvedere, having become so insane, that he wandered in the night through the country, raving and shouting; having confessed and repented of his sins in the holy Chapel, returned immediately to his proper senses, with a sound and most quiet mind.

To-day also, Antonuccia, daughter of Nicholas da Fumone, a young lady who having been so terrified and horror stricken at a horrible apparition which appeared to her in the house, that she trembled frequently night and day, and rejected every species of food given for her nourishment; conducted by one of her uncles to the holy Chapel, the moment she saw the holy Image, she became serene, easy and tranquil, and never suffered after from trembling or fear of any kind.

Bartholomew, the son of John, born blind, on this same day obtained in the Chapel, the sight of both eyes.

June 12<sup>th</sup>. Behold another day illustrated with six miracles. John di Pasquale, of the Country of Cella, who had been two entire years dropsical, having entered the Chapel, his disease entirely disappeared.

Johanna Petruccia, of Toffila, blind of an eye for the space of twenty four years, at the feet of our holy Image became quite cured.

Domenico di Antonio, of the land of Galera, perfectly blind in both eyes, suppliantly praying at Mary's feet, also obtained his sight.

Stephen, son of Juliano, of Morlupo, and Santa his sister, young children, having both fallen through a breach in the flooring of their dwelling into a deep pit of limestone, and having been discovered scarcely half alive, the affrighted father presently made a vow with his whole heart to this holy Image, and behold in that moment both stood upon their feet, and with a serene and joyful countenance ran to their father. He in ecstasy at so sudden a miracle, immediately conducted them to Genazzano to the feet of the Most Benign Mother.

Lawrence Cicculi, of Nepi, confined for four years to his bed in the greatest agony from pain in the leg bone, laid to-day at the feet of Mary, was liberated and made sound.

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

Silvester Pauletti, of Rocca, for three years confined to bed, tormented with a violent and most obstinate sciatica, to-day having come with a living faith to this holy Image, was at once freed, and came with all speed to Genazzano, to thank the most benign and most amiable Lady of Paradise.

June 13<sup>th</sup>. To-day, Bernardo, son of Master Dominic, of Roccantina in Sabina, clouded by a most dreadful horror and fright from having seen a diabolical phantom, already began to get insane. He tore his flesh with his teeth, he spoke immoral and blasphemous words, and the devil under the most horrible shape, endeavoured to take him off. Finally, the affrighted parents seeing the case desperate, conducted him by violence to Genazzano, and scarcely had they forced him into the holy Chapel, when behold, their son serenely opened his eyes flowing with tears. He turned then to the holy Image and at that precise moment all his fears and all the infestations of the devil ceased.

Likewise to-day, Vincenza, daughter of Dominic, of Castropignano, blind of one eye, received her sight.

John Nicolas Nardi, of Mont'Acuto, bitten by a most venomous serpent, without being able to apply any remedy, having turned himself to this holy Image (at whose feet he was afterwards seen with a wax candle and lighted torch) was completely cured by this sole celestial balm.

Antony, son of Tanto Paladini, of Sermoneta, suffering dreadful pains through disease of the urinary organs, was this day also cured in the holy Chapel.

And finally, Thomas Mattei, of the province of Umbria, struck with apoplexy, and on that account having lost the use of his whole right side, to-day conducted to the feet of most Holy Mary of Good Counsel, obtained the cure he so much desired, by an open miracle.

June 16<sup>th</sup>. Santa, daughter, of Dominic Rocce, of Collepiccolo, obsessed and tormented for six years continuously by diabolical spirits, to-day in the holy Chapel on seeing the holy Image, was liberated.

June 18<sup>th</sup>. Paul, son of John, of Colle, so grievously injured in the principal bone of the leg, that he became quite lame and scarcely could move himself, so great was the pain. He was with great difficulty conducted into the holy Chapel, but in the presence of Mary and of Her most blessed Image he became perfectly cured.

PRIVATE USE ONLY

June 20<sup>th</sup>. This also proved another joyfnl and propitious day, illustrated and countersigned by Mary with thirteen signal graces.

To-day, Antony Giannucci, of Mazzola, who for fifteen days and fifteen nights consecutively, had lost such a copious stream of blood from his nostrils, that he was thereby prostrated by continual swoons. He was at the point of death. Scarcely had he, with vivid faith had recourse to this Holy Image, but he presently became sound. Hence he came with all speed to the feet of Mary in Genazzano, to render Her fervent thanks.

Clement, the son of a certain David, a Hungarian, perfectly blind, to-day in the holy Chapel recovered his sight perfectly.

Dominic Niccola, son of Antonio of Riceto, bitten by black serpents, with which he found himself covered after having slept a night in a hay-store in the country, and therefore had all his flesh grown swollen and blue coloured, whence the physicians judged that, on that same day by sun-down, he should most certainly die. Having recourse however as best he could in such great emergency, to this holy and most prodigious Image he suddenly took heart, vivacity, and courage; and thence having come to its most holy feet, was perfectly cured.

James Giorgi, of Terra, oppressed with the falling sickness for seventeen years, was here, in the holy Chapel instantly liberated.

Mary, daughter of Stephen, of Colle, having lost the use of her body from the centre downwards, here acquired life and motion.

Margherita, daughter of John Tedesca, living in Rome, who for three years had lost the use of both legs and arms; having been conducted to the feet of this holy Image, she returned to Rome perfectly sound.

Nicholas, son of John Alici, a Roman, who had his stomach inflamed and hard as a stone, and his head trembling and turning, to-day in the holy Chapel was freed from every inconvenience. And thus also was freed here to-day, Antony Niccola, of Turano, who for three years suffered from dropsy in such manner, that even his very eyelids were swollen with the disease, so that he could not open his eyes. Domenico Castaro, dispaired of in Rome by the doctors, on account of an obstinate and copious bloody flux, having been brought to the feet of Mary, found there the source of balm and remedy for

all evils; as also experienced to-day Peter, son of John Mattei, who for an entire year passed blood.

And Felix Jerome de Laurentius, son of signor Paulo Romano, who not having taken milk for six days and nights continuously, gasped and expired. Hardly had his noble mother made a vow to this holy Image when at once he recommenced to breathe and to draw suck. Hence, sound and vigorous, the parents full of joy, conducted him here to Genazzano to the Sanctuary of Mary.

And thus another, Paul di Giacomo, also a Roman, was to-day cured of a malignant fever with punctures.

And finally to-day, Flora, daughter of Signor Magno Rellajo, of Padua, who had lost the use of his right side, so that becoming arid and incapable of doing anything, he dragged on a miserable existence. As soon however as he had recourse devoutly and suppliantly to this holy Image, the fame of whose miracles resounded throughout Italy, and resolutely caused himself to be carried to the holy Chapel in Genazzano, he found himself perfectly freed from his infirmity and sound in every respect; so that with great joy and much happiness and the pouring out of the tenderest tears, he again visited the holy Image.

Jule 25<sup>th</sup>. To-day, Francesca, daughter of John Tinelli, a child of one year and a half, being reduced to a dying state without being further able to take milk, upon being vowed by her mother to this holy Image, presently began to suck and recovered. Hence, sound and free from any disease, the good mother brought her to the holy Chapel.

June 26<sup>th</sup>. Francois, son of Paul Nardi, of Castelli di Acuminio, obsessed for two years on being conducted to-day to the holy Chapel, was instantly liberated from the diabolical spirit, which however afterwards appeared to him on the following night and gave him a terrible stroke on the face, saying « traitor I will blind you » but on the following morning, Francis, having confessed himself with bitter tears, obtained the grace of a complete cure.

To-day likewise Stefana, daughter, of Antony, of Tivoli, residing in Rome, who by accident was struck by a great stone on the foot which remained broken in three places; having recourse instantly full of tears and in grief to this holy Image, by a rare miracle, became cured and sound. Thence with all haste, running on foot, she came to Most Holy Mary. Thus

PRIVATE USE ONLY

also to-day, Ruggiero, of Taranto, was healed in an instant from the effects of a desperate stab, an account of which he was already given over by the physicians.

Peter Buonomo, of Faenza, obtained two signal graces on this day, in as much as being deaf, and broken in the intestines; here in the holy Chapel, he was cured of both and departed perfectly sound.

And finally to-day, Dominic Giuliani, a child of four years, in Rome, being crushed beyond the hope of remedy, was brought immediately by his parents to the holy Chapel; at the same time when the other infirm were healed, he also was rendered perfectly sound and completely cured.

June 27<sup>th</sup>. Elizabeth, daughter of John, a Fleming, having lost for three years, her whole right side, on this day, from Most Holy Mary had the grace she came to seek, and which she so much desired.

Here also to-day, Margherita, the daughter of Stephen da Bionza, miserably lame, was rendered straight. And Johanna Leoni, a Castilian, who for thirty nine years had lost the use of half her body, was to-day at once rendered sound and full of life.

Margaret, daughter of Mark, of the city of Ragusa in Sclevonia, having lost the use of her right arm for seven years, obtained its perfect cure.

And Mary, daughter of Dominic, in the country of Cane-morto, contracted in all her nerves, was perfectly loosened and freed.

Thus also Gabriel Niccola Mariano, a Roman child of four years, broken internally, upon being conducted to the holy Chapel by his parents, was suddenly restored and cured.

Likewise to-day, John, son of Arci, of Marino, was favoured with the sight of both eyes, who had come to the feet of Mary blind. And Lawrence son of Peter Paul, a Roman, to-day finally hung up in the holy Chapel the crutches which he used to carry to bring himself to the Chapel. *Bacula dimisit, et sanus et liber factus est.* It is thus expressed in the public act of the Notary.

June 28<sup>th</sup>, Martina Chiarelli, a Roman, for seven years tormented by obsession of the devil, to-day was fully liberated from the infernal spirits.

And here likewise Angeletta Nardi, a Roman, obtained the grace of being freed from paralysis, which she had suffered

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

for three years. Whence in the public record it is written: *ex quo intravit Sacram Capellam, illico sana et quieta extitit.*

June 30<sup>th</sup>. This proved another joyful and fortunate day, upon which God was pleased yet more to glorify the beautiful Image of his Holy Mother of Good Counsel. Antonella, daughter of Nicola Pipeo, of Vicovaro, who for five years continuously had been tormented in such a painful manner by uterine disease, that she was frequently on the point of death; on being conducted this day to the holy Chapel, was upon entering it so perfectly freed and healed that she recovered all her vigour and strength. Angelo, son of John del Poggio, lame of a foot, became perfectly straight.

Bona Narducci, of Alatri, who had lost the use of her limbs, was perfectly invigorated and restored.

John Francis, of Anticoli, a child; broken internally, conducted by Margherita Schiavi his mother, into the holy Chapel became so wonderfully cured, that not a sign of his ailment remained.

Santo, the son of Bartholemew Salini, of Morlupo, paralyzed for many years, having come to the feet of the holy Image was in a moment liberated and made vigorous.

Santa, daughter of Dominic, of Castelnuovo, being useless, having lost the use of her limbs for the space of two years, conducted here to-day, acquired motion, health, and strength.

Thus Mary, daughter of Bartholomew Stephen de Orlandis of Marano, obsessed by the devil for twenty two years, was liberated in the holy Chapel from all the bonds of hell. And a certain man of Frascati, called Guastacavalli who having awoke one night found his throat inflamed and with three pustules as large as walnuts in his mouth from whence issued black and putrid matter. He for three days suffered great agony, not finding any remedy whatever for his sudden and most dangerous malady. Scarcely had he made a vow to come to the feet of the most holy Image, than he became instantly cured, as if nothing whatever had happened to him.

And in fine, Gabriel, of Cremona, being one day gored by an enraged ox so frightfully, that a large vessel was filled with blood and he was about to expire. Presently with vivid confidence, having had suppliant recourse to most Holy Mary of Good Counsel, he was cured in an instant, and to-day came

PRIVATE USE ONLY

to Genazzano, festive and joyful to return thanks. *Ita se incolumem, sanum et liberum invenit, tamquam si nihil eidem accidisset.* Thus was it deposed upon oath in the register within the holy Chapel.

#### JULY 1467.

July 1<sup>st</sup>, Nicolo Ozzigi, a German, for many years unnerved and deprived of strength, through a most obstinate quartan fever, having come on this day to visit the holy Image, received from Our Lady instantly the graces and liberation he sought.

July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Margherita daughter of Giovanni, a German by nation, having lost the use of her left arm, came to-day to visit and to recommend herself to the holy Image. In the very moment while she was praying, she felt her arm free and sound.

July 4<sup>th</sup>. Marco, son of di Stefano, a Hungarian, was cured as before related.

July 5<sup>th</sup>. Mary, daughter of John Vecchi, of Palestrina, an infant of eleven months, born impeded in hands and feet and especially in the loins, without being able in any way to sustain herself on her feet, on being brought to-day by her mother to the holy Chapel and being devoted to Mary, was made sound, free and perfect, to the great joy of all the family. And thus also to-day, Catharine Alemanna, contracted in such a painful manner in all her members, especially in her hands, which for a long time were completely closed without being able to open them in any way, in the presence of this holy Image she opened them instantly; and instantly also, disappear'd her whole painful contraction.

July 7<sup>th</sup>. Dominic Saracini, of San Vito, an infant of ten months, who was upon the point of dying, not having taken milk for the space of six days and six nights, upon being devoted by his sorrowful mother to the holy Image, immediately became sound and hale; on which account they brought him to-day to the holy altar of Mary in Genazzano, in order to present to Her a little creature with tenderness which was indeed Her gift.

July 9<sup>th</sup>. Onorato Leechi, travelling with a scythe suspended from his neck, fell precipitately, and the scythe wounded him so seriously in the foot, that a bone protruded from the flesh. Oppressed by a mortal spasm he withdrew the point of the

scythe, but he remained weakened in the foot and lame with continual pain. Finally having come to-day, suppliantly to the feet of this holy Image, he received a favour so signal that the foot became wholly sound and healed, as if it had never received the least hurt.

July 11<sup>th</sup>. Seven beautiful and most signal favours illustrated and honoured this day.

Nicholas, son of John Muroli, of Anagni, reduced to extremity through a continuous and pertinacious fever, had scarcely made a vow to come barefoot to the feet of the holy Image, than he was cured.

Santo, son of Pietro, also of Anagni, reduced to a languishing and bloodless condition by a most obstinate fever, having come suppliantly to the holy Image, was perfectly cured.

Angelo Pasquale Torre, reduced to death's door, lay three nights agonizing. His relations made a vow to bring him to visit the holy Image, and upon this he commenced to grow better immediately; and to-day joyful and in haste to fulfil the vow made, they brought him to Genazzano.

Giuliano Migri, of Anagni, likewise languishing from an obstinate fever, scarcely had made a vow to visit the holy Chapel, when he found himself cured.

John Andrew Foreste, of Sarzano, who was liberated from death and from the prison of Sienna, came to-day to return thanks to Our Lady of Good Counsel.

Graziano, of Nepi, hurt and grievously injured internally, had scarcely arrived at the feet of the holy Image, but he was healed, *illoco viscera intus redacta sunt*, as is expressed in the public testament.

And finally on this day, Ambrose Gasparini, of Stigliano, who having fallen from the position of riches and opulence into extreme poverty, had become furiously insane; being brought with great difficulty to this holy Image to-day, became sensible, wise and perfectly liberated and resigned.

July 12<sup>th</sup>. Antonietta, daughter of Nicholas del Aquila, affected for three years continuously in such a manner, that raging and howling she seemed to possess a pack of infernal wolves in her bosom, to-day in the holy Chapel was rendered perfectly sane and free.

Nicholas Greco, who-deceived by a young girl named Ursuline who gave some infernal mixture to him in a drink-

PRIVATE USE ONLY

became obsessed and wandered night and day through the country, with a naked sword shouting and threatening; scarcely had he appeared at the feet of the holy Image, whither, with great difficulty he was forced to come, when he was immediately healed.

July 15<sup>th</sup>. Santo Master, of Nepi, having gone into the country at the harvest time, was on a sudden attacked by the pestilence which then raged in the city. Scarcely however did he make a vow to be brought to the feet of the holy Image than the pestilential malady ceased.

Peter Giorgio, a Slavonian, who had been abandoned by the physicians in a mortal illness, having heard on his sick bed from a companion who had returned from a visit to the holy Image « Peter why do you not make a vow to the miraculous Madonna of Genazzano? » At this the dying man turned suppliantly to Mary and made the vow; and as instantly arose from his bed perfectly restored, and speedily set out on his journey to fulfil his promise in Genazzano, where he made the usual declaration on oath, as to the reason of his coming. And John, son of Angelo of Paliano, rendered useless, nerveless and bloodless by a pertinacious quartan fever, to-day in the holy Chapel was fully cured. In this same most fortunate day, Froila, a beautiful young lady of twenty years, born however with two unequal limbs, one being shorter than the other, had from Our Lady the signal grace which she asked; and was relieved even from deformity.

July 18<sup>th</sup>. John, son of John di Monteforti, who having been present in Genaazano when the people of Segni came in suppliant procession to the feet of the sacred Image, to beg from the Empress of heaven immunity from the terrible scourge of the plague, was himself suddenly surprised with the pestilence, having a black swelling on his thigh. He immediately flew to the holy Chapel, and was at once freed from the imminent peril of death in which he stood.

July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Daniel, son of Antonio, of Nemi, was so terribly possessed, that he tore his own flesh with his teeth; to-day in the holy Chapel was liberated from the infernal slavery he endured.

Sabastiano and Lucia, children of Antonia Marzotta, of Genazzano, who were about to die and in fact expiring, as soon as their mother had vowed to present their statues in wax to

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

the holy Chapel, they rose up festive and joyful from their bed, and accompanied their faithful mother to render fervent thanks to Mary, at the Shrine of Her holy Image.

July 28<sup>th</sup>. John Godfrey, of Orleans, who dwelling in the city of Sutre, met with a dangerous accident, by which his intestines were broken, he was consequently taken with fainting fits and spasms in the stomach. The moment however, that he made a vow to go on foot to the holy Image, he became whole and sound.

July 31<sup>st</sup>. Angelo Mattopelle, of Serofano, lame in the left foot, having entered to-day in the Chapel, was cured.

Angelo Mione, of Montegiovito, being taken with a sudden illness, was dispaired of by the physicians. The moment he made a vow to go to the holy Image, he was freed from every danger.

James, son of Orazio, of Agricola, taken by a worm fever, was at extremities; his father made a vow to carry him to the foot of the holy Image, and he was at once relieved.

Thus also in fine, Francis, son of John, of the district of Serofano, contracted in the nerves and unable to move himself, having turned with vivid faith to this holy Image, found himself suddenly loosened, sound and perfectly freed; whence he soon came to the foot of most Holy Mary of Good Counsel to fulfil his vow.

#### AUGUST 1467.

Aug. 1<sup>st</sup>. Lucia Spalatri, of Subiaco, having her whole body swollen by dropsy, upon making a vow to send to the Shrine a wax figure of her own size, and to go there herself, was instantly cured.

James Veneziano, a physician of Castel Fajano, being grievously injured by a kick from a horse, as soon as he had with living faith appealed to Our Lady of Good Counsel, found himself cured completely by invisible means.

Gasper Ciotti, of Avignon, residing in the city of Nepi, infected with the pestilence and having its fatal sign, that is, a black swelling, though stunned by the unexpected calamity, as soon as he had recourse to this most holy Image, he found himself perfectly freed and sound. And Paul di Morlupo, an inhabitant of Castel Fajano, blind forty years in the right eye, to-day happily in the holy Chapel obtained its perfect use.

PRIVATE USE ONLY

Aug. 6<sup>th</sup>. Catharine Tome, of Nepi, who while the plague was in that city, found herself attacked by the usual black swelling and was already at the point of death. The moment she had recourse to Our Lady of Good Counsel, a metal Image of Whom was brought to her, she was immediately cured. The black tumour disappeared, she arose from her bed, and joyfully appeared here to-day in Genazzano, to return thanks at the feet of the holy Image.

Aug. 7<sup>th</sup>. This was in fine, another most joyful day, illustrated by eight miracles wrought by the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel.

Nicholas, son of John, of Manfredonia, oppressed for a long time with a most painful sciatica, which had rendered him lame and unable to move in one foot, after having been seven days praying in the holy Chapel without being heard, to-day, returning to Rome in the hope of finding at least some alleviation; Our Lady however appeared to him on the road, and he was graciously and instantly cured by Her.

James Petrini, of Caprarola, dispairing of cure for a putrid fistula between the thighs, for which without the slightest advantage he had received « many and infinite cures », from very many doctors, to-day, while praying in the holy Chapel, was completely cured.

Constantine da Carolis, of Castelfollie, already three hours dead, after being duly fortified by all the rites of the church and given over by the physicians, was through the intercession of the Most Holy Mother of Good Counsel invoked by his sorrowing master, restored to life.

Angelo Paolo, a Roman, reduced to extremities by a malignant punctured fever, having vowed to the holy Image, left his bed cured.

Antony, son of James, of Mataloni, who whilst bringing lime to Rome for the building of the church of St. Mark, had lost an eye, was to-day cured in the holy Chapel.

Likewise to-day, Mathew, son of Antony, of Nepi, who in consequence of a severe blow upon the eyes had become completely blind, was to-day restored to the use of his sight, in the holy Chapel.

Santo de Angelis, also of Nepi, who contracted the pestilence with four black swellings, was miraculously saved by the holy Image.

Finally, Peter Manelli, likewise of Nepi, exhausted by a long fever scarcely had entered the holy Chapel to-day, when he became perfectly relieved, sound and free.

Aug. 9<sup>th</sup>. Mathew di Camagnola, of Alatri, while standing in his house, found himself on a sudden covered with ruins from the fall of the same. All thought him dead, and laboured only to find his corpse, but having cried out at the first moment « Most Holy Madonna of Genazzano help me », he was saved and found to the astonishment of all, living, unhurt, and sound in every respect. And on this day also, Angelo di Amica, a Roman, coming with a living faith to this holy Image was freed from a putrid fever, through which he vomited large worms out of his mouth.

Aug. 14<sup>th</sup>. Antony Festa, of Campagnano, for a year and a half, suffered from a flux of blood, so pertinacious that as often as eight or ten times in the hour on some days, he lost large quantities, on account of which being completely exhausted, he momentarily expected death. Being exhorted to have recourse with a lively faith to this holy Image, vowing to present himself at its feet in Genazzano and having done so, he instantly found himself cured. In like manner also Nicholas, the son of John, of Civitaducale, a child of tender years having fallen from off the walls of the said city, was carried to his house half dead, the moment however that the parents besought with tears the help of Our Lady of Good Counsel, the child became sound, safe and lively; whence in gratitude they speedily set out with the little fellow for Genazzano, and there to-day in the holy Chapel they deposed upon oath the reason of their coming.

The above synopsis was formed by De Orgio from the formal statements found in the original codex. The miracles there recorded might be continued to this day. The same graces and the same scenes of thanksgiving are still witnessed by all dwelling near the Sanctuary. In the next chapter we shall see that equal mercies are extended to all who anywhere worship Our Lady under the endearing appellation, of Virgin Mother of Good Counsel.

---

PRIVATE USE ONLY

## Chapter XIII.

### MIRACULOUS COPIES

1. Early copies — Degrees of likeness to the original. — 2. Copy in Genoa — Its history — Its coming saves the city from ruin. — 3. Ancient copy at Modena. — 4. Copies in Calabria. — 5. At Monte Cassiano. — 6. At Frosinone. — 7. In Rome. — 8. Miraculous copy in the Campo Santo of the Vatican. — 9. In Naples — Buonanno — Fr. Modestino — Holy Cross of Lucca etc. — 10. Outside Italy — Copy at Madrid which spoke to St. Aloysius — Honoured by supreme Councils of Spain. — 11. Bavaria. — 12. Austria. — 13. Belgium. — 14. A city with a facsimile of the church and sacred Image and called Genazzano, in South America. — 15. Letter of Father Belgrano regarding the celebrated copy at Prague.

1. When we consider the wonderful devotion excited by the sacred Image of Our Lady at Genazzano, and the number of miraculous favours received at its Shrine, we cannot be surprised that many copies were taken of it, from the very commencement. A people so full of genius, and so art loving as the Italians, were sure to have it reproduced in the best manner possible. In the last chapter, we saw that, even during the first few weeks after the Apparition, a copy found in a poor man's hat was the occasion of more than one miracle. Copies of a very early date in bronze and marble, in medals, in cameos,

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

in bass-reliefs, in stone and metal, in wood and terra-cotta, are common in Rome, and indeed in all the surrounding country. As soon as the printing press came into existence, an immense number of engravings on paper and parchment were scattered everywhere. Thousands of oil paintings on canvass, executed in every degree of art excellence, and in almost every style known since the fifteenth century, are found in the churches of Italy. With the advancement of the mechanical arts of reproduction, copies of every description, photographs, oleographs, lithographs, etc. have increased to a very great extent. Although all these copies have more or less resemblance to the original, the fancy of the painter, it must be said, very often leads him to take strange, and often unpardonable liberties, with the features and surroundings of the figures. Some, however, are beautiful and fairly faithful; but, as we have before observed, in no instance, even where skill is greatest, and desire to succeed strongest, has any artist succeeded in perfectly reproducing the original, either in its beauty or in its power of devotional effect upon the beholder. Nevertheless it has pleased the Almighty to bless many such copies with the same miraculous power, as He has conferred upon the wonderful Image itself,

All such copies, more or less perfectly represent Mary in the attitude She so loves, and which we have before described. All are calculated to lift the hearts of Her devout clients to a fervour of devotion to Her, which no other painting how well executed soever produces. But it is at the same time worthy

PRIVATE USE ONLY

of notice, that as the original is more nearly approached, the devotional power of the copy is increased. Hence we find, that copies remarkable for being miraculous, are also remarkable for great fidelity to the original, and in general, have touched it. The latter qualification, however, though greatly prized, does not seem to be necessary in order that copies may possess miraculous power.

2. We may here mention, that some of these copies are held in a veneration only inferior to that shown to the sacred Image itself. Amongst them, the one painted by Luigi Tosi already referred to, holds a conspicuous place. It was executed for Genoa, his native city, under circumstances of a peculiarly interesting nature. In 1774 that city was surrounded by three powerful enemies and straitened upon every side. The previous year, its massive fortifications were stormed and taken by the Austrians, but, after a three month's occupation the heroism of the inhabitants drove out the invaders. But in 1774, enemies appeared once more in overwhelming numbers. They encompassed the walls and held the noble harbour. The strength of the city after the effort of the previous year, was spent. No Doria arose capable of coping with the terrible odds which now menaced the very existence of Genoa. Her supremacy on the sea had departed. Her commerce was crippled. Cannon thundered day and night against her ancient, but yet splendid battlements. Mortars and howitzers from points of vantage on sea and land, battered her towers. Diplomacy was as much against her fortunes as the power of her enemies, There was no friendly

hand stretched out to save her. Her independence, her existence as a free and independent state, was at stake. Yet fondly her children loved her. Within was weeping, and without, her scattered sons pleaded at every court in the Italian peninsula for the doomed city of Columbus, Genoa the superb. But in vain. Nearer and nearer to her walls drew the fatal cordon of the besieger's lines. Her fall was but a question of time. Europe looked on with indifference. All hope on earth had departed, when it occurred to one of her children, an Augustinian Friar then in Rome, to have recourse to the powerful mediation of the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel.

He communicated his desire to his fellow townsman, Luigi Tosi, then one of the principal painters in the Eternal City. He ordered a copy, the best the artist's power could produce, of the sacred Image of God's Mother in Genazzano; and he determined to try at all hazards, to get it conveyed to his beleaguered fellow countrymen. In the first, he succeeded as already described. The copy taken by the Genoese in his sorrow, was the nearest approach, then, ever seen to the original. Further it will be recollectcd, that Our Lady gave the surest sign of success. The roseate hue of the features of the Madonna while the copy was being executed, has never been known to be witnessed by a petitioner without his petition being afterwards granted. To save a city, an entire republic, in such extremity was much to ask, but not too much for the power of Mary. And Genoa in fact was saved.

PRIVATE USE ONLY

The copy when finished was introduced, despite the vigilance of the enemy, into the city. The Augustinian had not only contrived to elude the blockade, but he had also advised his fellow citizens of the nature of the favour he had procured for them. They received his gift with every demonstration of joy. They met the Image in solemn procession. They brought it by the battered walls, in sight of the hostile fleet, and beneath the falling towers and palaces of Genoa; and most solemnly, amidst hymns of praise and prayer, they placed it before the gaze of kneeling and supplicating thousands, in the church of the Augustinians. That very night, from causes then and since unexplained, the cannonading ceased; the hostile fleet spread sail and moved slowly from the harbour to the open sea; the invading host struck its tents; and before the morning's dawn, the standards of the armies of the enemies of Genoa, were seen passing over the hills that look down upon the city. In four and twenty hours, the last of the invading forces had departed; and the republic, completely liberated, was left in long peace by the power of the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel.

This miraculous deliverance, naturally caused the people of the all-but-lost state, to show great devotion to Our Lady of Genazzano. Her feasts are since celebrated in the city as at the Shrine, and all the country is filled with the fame of miracles wrought at this new sanctuary.

3. We may here remark that the copy in Genoa though singular in its history, and very beautiful, is, in comparison with others held in similar vener-

ation elsewhere, almost modern. The most ancient one, is probably that in the parish of St. Francis, in Modena. De Orgio states, that this copy must have been taken at the time of the Miraculous Apparition. At all events it is certain, that it has been honoured by the Modenese, from time immemorial. As in Genazzano, its shrine is visited by multitudes from afar on all the feasts of the Madonna; and novenas attended by crowded congregations, take place before the Nativity of Our Lady, and before the 25<sup>th</sup> of April, the anniversary of the Miraculous Apparition. Throughout the year, the devout people of Modena and its neighbourhood, are found in devout supplication before the chapel containing this copy. The graces and favours received there are proved by innumerable votive offerings, left by the fortunate clients of Mary, the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel.

4. Another copy has proved, not only that gifts and miracles flow upon those devout to Our Lady of Good Counsel, but has also demonstrated how deep and lasting is the love of the Albanians for the treasure lost by their ancestors, We shall see further on, how it happened that a descendant of an Albanian family adorned Her shrine with rare gifts, years after that family had become merged in the Italian people. Another Albanian proved, in Calabria, a true Apostle of devotion to the Patroness of the Land of Scanderbeg. This was a devout Priest, named Rodota, a man full of virtue and apostolic zeal. He brought a copy of the Image of Our Lady of Good Counsel from Genazzano to Calabria in 1713. This

PRIVATE USE ONLY

copy like that of Genoa fairly resembled the original. It was first placed in the church of San Benedetto Ullano, and so great was the number of prodigies which immediately took place through it, that its fame spread throughout all Southern Italy. By its means such a blessing descendend on the apostolic labours of Father Rodota, that, almost in a year, the whole of Calabria became converted and sanctified. Such tender devotion, such secret, ineffable comfort, such internal relief, such strength, such joy possessed the people at the contemplation of this representation of Mary, that all the land became disposed for goodness, and all increased in tenderest love for the Mother and for the Son. In consequence, temples were erected in honour of the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel everywhere; and to this day, Calabria may be called Her province.

5. In Monte Cassiano the devotion was so great for another copy, that from the continual miracles wrought at its shrine, Our Lady of Good Counsel was, on the 4<sup>th</sup> of August 1765, at the earnest prayer of the ecclesiastical and civil authorities, and in deference to the wish of the whole community, constituted by the Holy See, special Patroness of that locality. The devotion of the townspeople extended to all the neighbouring cities, and continues, amidst innumerable instances of miraculous graces, to augment in intensity and in extent to this day.

6. But perhaps the most remarkable of all the copies of Our Lady of Good Counsel, is that now venerated in the church of St. Benedict, at Frosinone. This town, distant by carriage way, some forty miles

from Genazzano, sends annually thousands of its inhabitants on pilgrimage to the Sanctuary, both for the feast of the Miraculous Apparition, and for that of the Nativity of Our Lady. The devotion of its people to Our Lady of Good Counsel, has been from the commencement very great. Scarcely a family is without a representation of the sacred Image. It is found in the houses of the poorest. In print or on canvass it is equally venerated; but in general those whose circumstances permit, are in possession of copies taken by skilled artists, regardless of expense. A very beautiful copy happened in this way, to be in the possession of the noble and wealthy family of Ciceroni, who obtained it from an Augustinian Father named Palladi. It remained, a precious treasure with this household, who preserved and honoured it with that care which all Italian families know how to bestow upon the picture, or the statue of the Madonna, venerated in their homes.

It happened that in 1760, the Ciceronis employed a pious, poor servant, named Mary Solonie Roma. It was a great consolation for this devout soul to spend her spare moments before the beautiful picture of Mary. She loved to stay as long as her avocations permitted before a Mother, Who knows so well how to pour the necessary balm of relief into the afflicted spirit, without spoiling the merit which sufferings bring to Her servants, and specially to Her servants amongst Her most faithful friends, the poor. Mary Solonie Roma was a valued domestic, and remained with the family long years, consoled by the Madonna of Good Counsel. It was her delight

PRIVATE USE ONLY

to cause others to receive at the feet of Mary, the comforts she experienced so often herself. And so it came to pass, that when she happened to bring her sister, a girl 15 years old, to pray before the sacred Image on the eve of the 10<sup>th</sup> of July 1796, to the astonishment of both, the picture of Our Lady most distinctly opened and moved its eyes. If these good souls thought themselves deceived, they were soon put at rest, for the miracle continued in the presence of the family; and afterwards of the whole city, for no less than six months. The excitement produced by an occurrence so extraordinary was very great. The crowds that flocked to witness it, became so vast, that it was found necessary to transfer the Image to the church, where it still remains, and where hundreds and thousands have venerated it. Prodigies of grace and mercy followed such a miraculous manifestation; and though the movement of the eyes ceased, the graces which fall upon all who devoutly visit the Image, do not cease. Conversions innumerable, the healing of the mind and heart as well as of the body, continue to be operated by the love and power of God's Mother, Whom it pleased to so singularly honour this copy.

7. Rome itself being so near Genazzano, and being amongst the first of the cities in Italy to hear of the Wonderful Apparition of the Image, and of the miracles which followed, contains, as we might expect, many copies of the Madonna of Good Counsel. Well executed ones in fresco and in oil may be met with in the streets, and in very many churches of the Eternal City. In shops and in private dwellings, the paintings

and prints of various sizes and still more varied pretensions to art excellence, are innumerable. These are always held in the greatest veneration. Hundreds of oil lamps, kept even by the poor, burn continually before them. Then there are special chapels in many churches, erected to Our Lady of Good Counsel. In that of St. Augustine; in the Pauline chapel of the Vatican; in the church of Santa Maria del Popolo; in San Lorenzo in Lucina, and very many others we find either special chapels or altars; and in all these, the records of wonders worked in favour of those devoted to the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel are well preserved. In the basilica of St. Mark, the authentic account of miracles is something extraordinary; so much so indeed, that from the continual favours obtained there through an ancient miraculous copy, a special feast is every year celebrated with all possible solemnity, on the second Sunday of July.

8. But not to waste time on a theme which would require volumes, we shall select one from amongst the many miracles recorded of copies of the Madonna of Genazzano in the city of the Popes, to prove how tender and universal the devotion is there, and how richly it is rewarded. This miracle took place on the 4<sup>th</sup> of September 1796. On that day it happened, that the Master of the bakery of Monte Compatri, belonging to the Prince Borghesi, had occasion to whitewash his premises. While preparing to do so, a picture of Our Lady of Good Counsel printed on common paper got accidentally detached from the wall, and, inadvertently of course, became mixed with

PRIVATE USE ONLY

firewood. With the same inadvertence, the paper was thrown with the wood into the oven. As usual the whole mass was ignited, and in a little while, when the wood was supposed to be sufficiently consumed for heating purposes, the baker looked within, and, to his astonishment, saw a piece of paper unburnt amidst the red hot embers. His first impulse was to mix it anew with the burning matter, and he actually did so. To his still greater astonishment, however, his efforts were useless. He therefore withdrew it from the oven, and found it to be the picture of the Madonna of Good Counsel inadvertently mixed with the firewood. His surprise and that of all who heared of the miracle may be more easily imagined than described. The picture was immediately placed in veneration, in the chapel of the burial ground of the Vatican, where it may still be seen. There is yet a slight sign of burning at the extreme edges, and a few sparks have apparently alighted upon the figures of Jesus and Mary. The devout Romans continue to visit this picture, now enshrined under a tabernacle, and to pray there for the dead. They call it « the Liberatrix of souls from the pains of Purgatory » in memory of the miracle. Much indeed, have the holy souls to thank Our Lady, Who in their favour caused this miracle to be performed. Every day since, it draws from Her innumerable clients, a valuable aid for them in their sufferings. In Rome also, near S. Peter's in Vinculis, is a street called *La Madonna del buon Consiglio*, from a much frequented Oratory there.

9. But even before Rome itself, in the intensity and

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

extent of its devotion to Our Lady of Good Counsel, comes Naples. In that great city, Father Buonanno of the Oratory, himself a Neapolitan, and for many years one of its resident clergy, observes that « there is not a chapel, not an oratory, not a Church which is without its copy of the Image of the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel », and he further adds « of which there is not something wonderful or miraculous recorded, » « As » he says « it is not possible to mention all, not even the principle of these copies, we shall glance at two which attract the greatest devotion of the Neapolitan people. The first of them, is found in the vast and ancient temple named *La Sanità*, served by the sons of St. Peter of Alcantara. It is impossible to describe the numbers of people of every condition of life, who come to the feet of this image to satisfy their affection, to confess their needs, and to beseech Our Lady for graces and assistance. Nor are they deceived, for the walls of the sacred chapel are seen entirely covered with the votive offerings they present in thanksgiving. A fact, which in truth inspires confidence, and lifts up the heart to the sweet hope, that the Holy Virgin never knows how to deny any favour to him, who with sincere humility demands it. How many infirm have been cured before this image, and are still cured! How many sinners reconciled to God! How many prodigies of every kind have been performed! So much good and so much glory is owing to that religious man, altogether of God, named Father Modestino, who died not long since a victim of evangelical charity, and in the odour of sanctity. Most devoted to Our Lady of

PRIVATE USE ONLY

Good Counsel he revived Her worship, nourished it with his apostolic fatigues, propagated it by his pious labours, and going with his Madonna from house to house, from the mansion of the noble to the hut of the pauper, whenever sickness or need called him; he inflamed all Naples with such intense devotion to the Virgin of Good Counsel, that it became beyond power of description, beneficent and miraculous, by the wonderful graces which She deigned to obtain for all by Her intercession!

« The other wonderful Image is venerated in the temple of the Carmelite religious, known as that of the Holy Cross of Lucca. It is a most ancient picture and always miraculous, and was brought there in 1807, by Sister Mary Camilla Caravita, to whom it had been given by her director, Father Joseph di Maio, a monk of the Order of St. Augustine. The good religious of this Convent have reason to know how rich in benefits and in signal prodigies, was this Image, especially in favour of one of their number not long dead, who from 1856 till then, was very frequently favoured with great graces. In that year the picture was transferred from the convent to one of the chapels of the church above mentioned, as it was judged that an object so singular and wonder-working should not remain as before, for the advantage of the religious only; but should be also exposed to the public veneration of the fervent and devout. These now come in great numbers to this church, especially on the day sacred to Our Lady of Good Counsel, to salute their Mother and to ask of Her, aid, counsel, grace and salvation ».

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

10. So far Father Buonanno. But it is not only in Naples or Italy, that we are to look for wonders worked by copies of the Image of Our Lady of Good Counsel. From the first coming of the miraculous Image to Genazzano, the Augustinians all over the world, appear to have taken up the devotion most warmly, and to have spread it in every sphere of their influence. So it extended through France, Germany, and Spain. In the latter country there existed a most beautiful copy in the church at Madrid, and this, amongst other wonders, was the one which spoke to the angelic youth St. Aloysius Gonzaga. The fact is well authenticated as may be seen from the history of the life of that marvel of youthful piety and wisdom. He had like all others his crosses, his troubles, and his temptations. In no other saint's life, save in that of St. Stanislaus of Kostka, do we find such entanglements prepared by prosperity and adversity alike, to seduce young virtue at an age of all ages the most dangerous for the sons of the rich and the powerful. In all these trials, Aloysius found his strength and comfort in prayer, long, ardent and heavenly, before this copy of the famous Madonna of Genazzano, Our Lady loved the beautiful soul of the innocent boy, and perfected him so wonderfully in a short period, that he soon possessed a seat high in heaven near Herself. From this picture then, She spoke to him not once, but many times; comforting him in his troubles, confirming him in his vocation, and giving him, it is said, a thousand expressions of her Maternal tenderness. No wonder he should become a saint and a great one. What

PRIVATE USE ONLY

he experienced is simply that which is experienced, though perhaps in a less miraculous way, by all who approach the wonderful original. Thousands tell how Mary there appears to speak to them, to unravel the secrets of their hearts, to show them the future, to guide them in their course through life, to defend them against every danger of soul and body; and, in a word, to repay their devotion and love a hundred, aye, and a hundred thousand fold. The life, the destiny, so to speak of each one, is peculiar. He must take it as God is pleased to provide it. Some have to guard against enemies, visible and invisible, dangers, trials, and troubles. To these Mary will prove a faithful Counsellor, a shield of invincible strength, provided they approach with filial love to Her miraculous Image. Nor is it necessary to go to Genazzano. St. Aloysius is a proof that Our Lady's favours are not confined to the pilgrims to the original, but are extended to all, who in any church like that of Madrid, in any oratory, or even in their own chambers, show devotion to Her in that representation, which places Her in so touching and singular a manner before mind and heart.

Spain was great at the time when the Supreme Councils of its empire, appeared with all the pomp of power before the very Image of Our Lady of Good Counsel before which St. Aloysius prayed, and there implored Her assistance, in the discharge of their onerous duties. Spain now, like other Catholic nations, has unfortunately found out, how, in obedience to « progress », to dispense with this and other holy observances, but not to Spain's glory or advantage.

The greatness of that Catholic nation departed with the intensity of its faith. A return to that which she once was, may yet, however, save her, and restore her former proud position amongst the nations.<sup>1</sup>

11. Bavaria has been, even beyond Spain, in devotion to the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel. The Fathers of the Augustinian Order introduced, at a very early date, many remarkable copies of the sacred original of Genazzano into the churches of their order in that Country. One of these, venerated in the capital, has been so famous for miracles, that the Bavarian Princess, Maria Antonia of Saxony, petitioned Clement XIII., to establish the Pious Union in all the

---

<sup>1</sup> In his history of wonderful copies, De Orgio says, « In the year 1735 Father Michael Mareschl, an Augustinian, and at the time, assistant to the General for Germany at St. Augustine's in Rome, obtained a copy. This had been brought with the greatest devotion for many years through the states of the Church, through the Abruzzi and through many cities and towns by Father Antonio Soccini, an Augustinian, who at that time dwelt in the convent of Sta. Maria in Genazzano, and who had a singular devotion for the holy original, joined with a deep faith. Therefore, in many places, there were worked by the means of this copy, wonderful graces and prodigies. The blind obtained their sight, the lame were cured, the possessed of the devil were liberated, of which wonders the public Archives of various towns contain the attestations in legal form. This copy, the good Augustinian afterwards brought to Prague, where was published in a pamphlet the wonders worked by its means.

Another copy venerated at Messina was so remarkable for prodigies, that a book was written upon them. In this book reference is made to the wonderful copy of the sacred Original in Madrid and to others in Catania and elsewhere in Sicily. Father De Orgio makes special mention of a copy, which he had himself sent to Palermo and which was received with immense fervour.

establishments of the Hermits of St. Augustine in her dominions; and further, to confer upon it the privileges granted to that of Genazzano, by Pope Benedict XIV.

This, the Pontiff granted by a document under his own hand; and in consequence, on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April 1761, the sodality was erected with all the solemnities of religious pomp, at which the court attended.

12. But in Austria, copies of Our Lady of Good Counsel, have had, if possible, a still greater veneration. And with good reason. In 1574, a beautiful one which had touched the original was exposed in the church of St. Roche and St. Sebastian; and such was the number of miraculous favours granted, that in the space of a year, votive offerings of pure silver, and thousands of less precious material were left as tokens of gratitude. These favours were not confined to the humbler classes. The Imperial Family came to experience the singular bounty of Our Lady of Good Counsel. The massive oil-lamp of precious metal, which burns night and day there, is an offering on the part of the Archduchess of Austria, for the cure of her first-born child. This miracle was so clear and so extraordinary, that it attracted not only all the imperial family, but citizens of the Empire from its furthermost limits, and from all ranks of life, to venerate an image from which such signal blessings flowed.

13. From Antwerp, in Belgium, as late as 1859, we have accounts of wonders wrought by a copy of the Virgin Mother venerated in that city in the church

of those faithful clients of Our Lady of Good Counsel, the Redemptorist Fathers. These fervent missionaries, after the example of their holy founder, have been most assiduous in forwarding the devotion. When the cholera raged in the Netherlands during the above mentioned year, not only the people of Antwerp, but those of Biring, Neil, and Ruppelmonde came in crowds to implore Mary's protection. Innumerable were the cases of complete preservation that followed, and the good Catholics of these countries still bear in memory, that cures were not only effected for those who went to venerate the Image in the church, but multitudes who honoured it in copies in their homes were either miraculously preserved untouched, or recovered when attacked, as miraculously.

14. We shall conclude our observations upon copies of the beautiful original, by a brief glance at a most extraordinary one, venerated under very peculiar circumstances in South America.

The history of this new wonder, may well cause our English speaking readers to bethink themselves of following the example it gives. It speaks of a new Genazzano, with its church and Madonna, formed exactly upon the model of that in Latium. As early as 1836, a Spanish Augustinian, one of those men who had seen the venerable copy which spoke to St. Aloysius, felt inspired to transmit a devotion so valuable to the countries of South America in which his missionary lot happened at that time to be cast. The good Father, seeing new towns springing up about him with no higher aims than wordly ones,

PRIVATE USE ONLY

considered what a blessing to his countrymen it would be, if he, by means of a town to be called after Genazzano and containing a sanctuary and Image of the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel fashioned in every respect after the original one, could establish the devotion that existed near the Eternal City with such fruit for so many centuries. He struggled hard to attain his object, and at length completely succeeded. So it happens that, at this moment, there is, at an easy distance from Boyaca in the Archdiocese of Santa Fè di Bogata, a « Genazzano of Good Counsel, » with some ten thousand inhabitants, called into existence by the unique and extraordinary zeal of the good Father. This new township is larger than Bathurst or Maitland in New South Wales, and contains more Catholics than any Episcopal city, other than Sydney or Melbourne, in Australia. Over the high altar of its principal parish church, the beautiful copy of the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel is now enthroned. It is visited by multitudes from the capital and the surrounding country. Already the favours received at its feet, rival those of the European sanctuaries; and South America bids fair to be one of the foremost of continents in this most beautiful devotion.

Our limits will not permit us to go further into the history of all that has been done for the good of souls, by the copies of the sacred Image of Our Lady in Genazzano. All that the historians of the Sanctuary have written about them, and all that tradition tells of them, would fill volumes. The chapter which treats of the apostles of Our Lady

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

of Good Counsel, will give further particulars of their power, and prove how wise are those who study to propagate by pictures, medals, and every means a true, and in our days, a needed devotion to the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel.

15. The celebrated copy of Prague; referred to in a note of this chapter, and of which De Orgio wrote as early as 1747, has had since then, a very eventful and singular history. In 1787, upon the suppression of the church of St. Catherine, in which it had been so long venerated, by the strange administration of the Emperor Joseph II., it was religiously cared for by a devout Father of the Augustinian order. He, when dying, left it as a sacred trust to his relatives. But in the course of years all trace of it disappeared. It happened, very fortunately for its recovery, that the late Prior of Genazzano was selected to go to Prague, in the capacity of confessor to the Ex-Emperor of Austria and his pious consort. The good Father, while in his new home, had his attention directed powerfully to the missing Image, which had been so well known in Italy, and so well recollect ed in Genazzano, as a most miraculous copy of the sacred Original. After long and unavailing search, he succeeded in finding it in a manner so remarkable, that it cannot be said to be removed far from the miraculous. Zealous beyond measure for the glory of the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel, Whose devotion he has done wonders to spread in Bohemia as well as in Italy, he kindly forwarded to the writer, whom he knew to be occupied with the present history, a letter detailing all the circumstances. This will,

PRIVATE USE ONLY

no doubt, be read with interest. The following is a translation of it from the Italian in which it was written.

« Prague 15<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1883.

Dear Revd. Father

« Amongst the many copies of the wonderful Image of Most Holy Mary of Good Counsel of Genazzano, worthy to be recorded in the history of that Sanctuary, is certainly that which at the present moment is venerated in the church of the Sisters of Charity of St. Charles Borromeo in this city of Prague. And as you request of me a particular account of it, to insert in your history of the holy Image, I very willingly comply, by telling you briefly all that I myself have come to know about it.

There lived in the beginning of the past century, a very pious and zealous religious, the Reverend Father B. Antonio Socini, priest of my own Order of the Hermits of St: Augustine, who having devoted himself to the apostolate of the Divine Word, travelled through various provinces of Italy, particularly Latium, Sabina, and the Abruzzi; where he preached chiefly the eternal truths after the manner of a missionary. He had the consolation of seeing the labours of his ministry blessed by God with copious fruits of salvation for souls, and with special graces and benefits even of a corporal nature for many amongst his hearers.

The good Father Socini attributed the happy effects of his ministry, after God, to the Patronage of Most Holy Mary Mother of Good Counsel, Whose vener-

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

ated Image, he was accustomed to carry about with him upon all his missions; and to expose publicly in the church during the whole time each mission lasted, as the Patroness of the same, and as a means of exciting the people to have recourse to Her with devotion and confidence. He himself obtained this great and full confidence in the Mother of Good Conn-sel, where he dwelt, at the very feet of the mirac-ulous Image of Genazzano and where he dedicated himself to the ministry of preaching.

This Image then, we know he caused to be painted in Rome, by a pious young woman named Teresa Simonetti, who painted it upon white silk, in the year 1722.

From this same year, until about 1730, there passed a period of wonderful miracles and prodigies, which the Divine Mother of Good Counsel worked by means of the above mentioned Image, during the missions of the zealous religious, Father Socini, in favour of devout Christians.

Father Socini had the foresight to cause a formal act to be drawn up by the competent authority of every place where extraordinary facts took place in the course of his sacred missions; and these original acts were deposited in 1735 in the Augustinian Convent of Monte San Savino in the diocese of Arezzo. I have here with me, an authentic copy of the same, which served Father Mareschl for the purpose of compiling a pamphlet, which was printed in Rome in 1735.

Not being able here, to refer to all the miraculous wonders worked by the holy Image, I will mention only a few principal facts.

PRIVATE USE ONLY

In the month of December 1725, the Revd. Father Socini was giving a mission in the town of San Sebastian, in the Diocese of Marsi; and amongst the graces which the people there acknowledged to have received from the Mother of Good Counsel, was one by which a young girl of nine years of age, who was dumb from her birth, received the use of her speech. In the April of 1726, the zealous Father gave a mission in the town of Fonticoli, and during it, two young girls, sisters, named Mary Domenica aged 15 years, and Grace, aged 13, both dumb from their birth, received the use of speech while praying before the Image of Mary of Good Counsel, brought there by the pious missionary religious.

In the month of May of the same year 1726, Father Socini exercised his sacred ministry in the city of Pescina. Mary's venerable Image was exposed in the Cathedral church, and the graces which the people received from Her were innumerable. Amongst others, a most signal one was received by a young man, dumb from his birth, and crippled to such an extent that he had to crawl on the ground. No sooner had he been anointed by Father Socini, with the oil that burned before the sacred Image of Mary, than he received the complete cure of both his infirmities. Through this and other miracles worked by means of the Image brought by the zealous missioner, it became famous in all that part of Italy; so that other images like it, had to be procured, and everywhere placed in that locality for the veneration of the faithful. But the original copy, after Father Socini ceased to preach and died, was

deposited by order of his superiors in the convent of Genazzano, where it remained for some years venerated privately by the religious.

In the year 1733, the Very Revd. Father Michael Mareschl, a pious and learned religious of this Augustinian province of Bohemia, was elected Assistant General of the Order for Germany. And for this reason being transferred to Rome, he came from thence to Genazzano to venerate the miraculous Image of Mary. Having heard, while there, of the wonderful things narrated of the Image of Father Socini preserved in that convent, he wished to have it for the church of his convent of St. Catherine V. M. in this city of Prague. Not being able to resist a demand so made, the religious of the convent with the subsequent consent of the General of the Order and by a capitular act dated May 23<sup>rd</sup> 1735, and by an act in writing of all the Fathers, they ceded as a gift to the above named Assistant General, the aforesaid venerable Image; to the end that it should be exposed to the public veneration of the faithful in the aforesaid church of Prague. It was in fact brought and exposed there in 1737 solemnly on the high altar with the due faculty and permission of the Archiepiscopal court, and there remained venerated by the faithful until the year 1787, in which year the convent and the church having been suppressed by a decree of the Emperor Joseph II., the religious were obliged to retire into other convents. One of them, however, took away the sacred Image and venerated it in the convent of St. Thomas in this same city; but he could not place it in the church because

PRIVATE USE ONLY

there was already another in it brought from Rome in 1760. On this account the religious kept it himself in his cell while he lived, and towards the end of the last century being near his death he left it as a gift to a relation, a pious lady, enjoining her to preserve it with the greatest respect and devotion, since it was a very venerable Image. It was in fact at the beginning and for many years after held in veneration by that family, but for some years the respect of those who had inherited it, became diminished and almost entirely ceased. It was known nevertheless, that the image had extraordinary claims to veneration, but the lady and mistress of the house where it was last found, seeing that she could not keep it with due respect, gave it about two years ago as a gift to the Father Guardian of the Franciscans (Min. Osservanti) of this city, out of gratitude to him for having instructed one of her children for first communion. And this pious religious kept it in his cell, hung on the wall. But neither was the image placed there in the honour which was due to it, and which Our Mother of Good Counsel wished to have paid to it. And hence she caused that it should be recovered by me, in a manner most singular and I should say, extraordinary, and so it was placed again in public veneration.

After being seven years here in Prague, I never knew anything of this image once so venerated in the church of St. Catherine; but in the month of August of the past year, I was shown an old book in the German language printed in 1737 by Fr. Mareschl, in which was recounted all the wonders before

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

described by me, of the image venerated in the church of St. Catherine. I was seized at once with a strong desire to know where I could find it. I made inquiry at the suppressed church of St. Catherine itself, which though always closed, preserves still the altars and paintings of the saints of the Order; but I could discover nothing for all that; I demanded of our religious and others well versed in the proceedings and misfortunes which followed the innovations of the government of Joseph II. No one could tell me a word. Not knowing what to do and desolate, I made known my troubles to Father Votka of the Society of Jesus. But he, though most learned in all the affairs of his country, and in ecclesiastical matters, of this image he knew nothing whatever; nor could he give me the slightest light which I had not already followed and exhausted without any success.

The day after this conversation, the aforesaid Father Votka had to go and speak about some affairs with the Father Guardian of the Franciscans, and whilst they conversed in his cell, he cast his eyes on the wall and saw an image of the Madonna of Good Counsel painted on white silk. It was a ray of light - a revelation. He asked to examine closely that picture, that Image. It was positively the very one. It was the Image of the Madonna of Father Socini, brought to Prague by Father Mareschl, and for many years venerated in the church of St. Catherine. It could not be doubted, for there was yet attached to the back and sealed the attestation of our Monsgr. Sacristan, Thomas Cerveone, in 1736, given at the instance of the said Fr. Mareschl; and besides this, the

PRIVATE USE ONLY

Guardian gave him other historical information after the suppression of the church of St. Catherine, as narrated above.

In this manner, as unexpected as it was pleasing, I had the happiness to find that celebrated and venerable Image of Mary of Good Counsel, which furthermore was graciously given me by the same Father Guardian. I showed my gratitude to him in return by an offering to his convent and by a present of another beautiful copy of the same holy Image of Our Lady of Good Counsel.

Glad to have recovered this most precious holy Image I took every care to have it restored and newly enclosed in a large and precious frame; and then in deference to the desire of the excellent Sisters of Charity of St. Charles Borromeo, who have here, the mother house of their congregation in this empire of Austria and Hungary, I gave it to their church, where it is placed upon a side altar of the same, and where it receives many devout visits not only from the religious, but also from the faithful of the city; and I have confidence it will continue to be more venerated in the progress of time, and will not cease to grant the graces and benedictions accustomed to be given by the glorious and most gracious Mother of Good Counsel to Her devout servants.

And now accept my most respectful salutations and begging you to recommend me to the Most Holy Virgin, I have the honour etc. etc.

Fr. PIETRO BELGRANO  
Augustinian

---

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

## Chapter XIV.

### DEVOTION OF POPES ETC.

1. Devotion of all classes to the Shrine. — 2. Of the Popes. — 3. Paul II.—
4. The Cardinal Rovere. — 5. Privilege granted to Father Mariano of Genazzano — Other favours — Pius V. — Innocent XI. — 6. Pilgrimage to Genazzano by Urban VIII. — 7. Centenary of 1667 — Crowning of the Madonna.— 8. Clement XI. — Cardinal Albani's gifts to the Sanctuary. — 9. Subsequent Popes — Great devotion of Benedict XIV. — Others. — 10. Pilgrimage to the Sanctuary by Pius IX. in 1864. — 11. Leo XIII. — 12. Devotion of crowned heads — The Imperial House of Austria. — 13. The Electress of Saxony's pilgrimage to the Shrine — Royal familes of Bavaria, Spain, Naples.— 14. Gifts of Cardinal Jerome Colonna and others. — 15. Pilgrimage of Cardinals to the Shrine — Of Cardinal Cappellari, afterwards Gregory XVI.— 16. Noble families. — 17. English speaking Prelates at the Shrine. Hopes for the devotion.

1. We have seen, but in an incidental manner only, up to the present, much of the devotion that has been shown to Our Lady of Good Counsel at Her Shrine in Genazzano, and elsewhere throughout the Church generally. The miracles narrated have been wrought in consequence, precisely, of this devotion. But nevertheless, it cannot fail to be of interest to the devout clients of Our Lady to know who they are, who have been thus devoted through the long series of years that have elapsed since the Wonderful Apparition, and how it is that their devotion

PRIVATE USE ONLY

is manifested. We shall see then that all classes in the Church, through all their degrees, from the Supreme Pontiffs and the spiritual Princes who under them rule the flock of Christ, down to the humblest peasants have manifested this devotion; and that all from the monarch to the beggar have been the recipients of the blessed and inexhaustible bounty of the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel, both at Her Shrine and wherever else in the world She is honoured under a title so pleasing to Her, and so endearing as well as valuable to Her clients.

2. In speaking of this subject, it is natural, that we should first consider the Vicars of Christ. If they, to whom the eyes of the whole fold turn not only for instruction but for example, have shown a marked personal belief in, and a consequent devotion to the Shrine Our Lady of Good Counsel, its cause is gained in the estimation of the Catholic world. In a matter involving as it does, the extraordinary and the miraculous—the supernatural in a word, to such a large extent, it is impossible that they could give the sanction of their high example, unless that matter was far removed from the least taint of the superstitious or the untrue, or even from the doubtful in any sense. And more. It is impossible that such a devotion should be otherwise than salutary, and, substantially, such as it is represented to be by those who write its history with the knowledge and permission of the authorities of the Church.

3. Now, from the very commencement to the present day, the Supreme Pontiffs have shown themselves most devoted to the Shrine of Our Lady of Good

Counsel. Paul II., who ordered the investigation we have spoken of at length, in the chapters where the proofs of the miraculous Apparition and Translation of the sacred Image were examined, not only did not interfere with the Sanctuary, but it was under him precisely, that the church of Petruccia was built; that the new and beautiful convent of the Augustinians in Genazzano was erected; that the miracles recorded by the public notary were placed in the public archives; and that « all Italy », to use the words of Coriolanus, were coming processionally to visit the Shrine.

4. And then during the four years that elapsed between the coming of the sacred Image and his death, the Cardinal who as Sixtus IV. succeeded him, was living in Rome employed in the composition of works, some of which treated directly of devotion to the Mother of God. This was Francesco di Rovera, who after being vowed from his very infancy by his mother to the Franciscan Order, subsequently entered it; and having in time ascended to its highest dignities and to its supreme command as General, was for his singular zeal and merit clothed with the purple. During his career as a Franciscan, he travelled through every province of Italy. He taught in all the great universities and preached Lenten exercises in the principal cities of the peninsula. No man was better versed in the politics of his day. He was made Cardinal the very year of the Wonderful Apparition, and consequently must have been thoroughly acquainted with the inquiry ordered by Paul II. and its results. He was the intimate friend of Coriolanus

PRIVATE USE ONLY

the General of the Augustinian Order. It is impossible to imagine that such a man, under the circumstances, could be otherwise than deeply interested by an event which stirred to its very depth the hearts of the people of Italy. As a Cardinal *in curia* he must have been informed of the result of the inquiry made by the Pope. For the same reason he must have been intimately acquainted with all the events, which during his active public life were taking place in Albania. When then we find, that such a man as soon as he became Pope, showed such a marked – such an intense devotion to the new Shrine of Mary in Genazzano, as to rebuild for the Hermits of St. Augustine, to whose care Our Lady was pleased to confide Her sacred Image, a vast church and convent, we may be perfectly sure that his belief was strong in all that was then related of the holy Image. Yet this is the only reason assigned by the Augustinians themselves, as we learn from their erudite historian Crusenius, who in his *Monasticum Augustinianum* page 3, cap. 29 writes « Hoc miraculo (that of the Wonderful Apparition of Our Lady at Genazzano) commoti Sixtus IV, et Cardinalis Guillelmus d'Estouteville Gallus certatim Ordini Eremitarum Sancti Augustini addicti, duas in urbe Roma, ecclesias eidem ordini erigendas deliberant, eisque liberalem manum apponunt: unam gloriosae Virgini Mariae de Populo, quam suis expensis Sixtus Pontifex, et alteram Divo Augustino quam Cardinalis affabre longe majoribus sumptibus creavit ad invidiam et aemulationem sanctum. »

##### 5. Other Pontiffs who, like Sixtus IV. were in

21

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

Curia at the time of the Miraculous Apparition, were also desirous to show favours to the Sanctuary. In this way, the singular privilege of liberating a soul from Purgatory when Mass should be offered up at the altar of the sacred Image, was obtained by Father Mariano; and so of other favours afterwards shown. In this way also, the Sanctuary became the object of the care of many of the Popes, from Innocent VIII. down to Clement the VIII., in whose reign the disputes between the rival confraternities, which sprung up, as we have seen, in Genazzano, were finally settled in the interests of the Sanctuary and its religious guardians. (Senni p. 319, cap. 17) We have already described the great devotion during this period of St. Pius V. to the Shrine, and his reward from Mary in finding under the very shadow of Her Sanctuary the leader whose genius gave the death blow to the Turkish preëminence upon the sea, at Lepanto.

6. Nor did this devotion of the Supreme Pontiffs decrease in subsequent ages. We have already referred to the first of their illustrious line who made a public pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady in Genazzano. There are some circumstances connected with this celebrated visit, which were then necessarily omitted, and which it will be here proper and interesting to note. The Pontiff was at the time residing at Castel Gandolfo, of which it may be said he was the founder – as the villeggiatura of the Popes. Having resolved to make a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Counsel, he determined to do so with every circumstance of honour. The pomp of feudal state had not then departed from the habits

PRIVATE USE ONLY

of European monarchs, and the Popes yet retained the great power which belonged to them not only as heads of the Church, but as first amongst the Sovereigns of the world. The usual notice was given of the intended journey; and on the day fixed, Pope Urban accompanied by a large number of Cardinals and Roman Princes of the highest rank, and attended by the Papal guards, proceeded to Genazzano by the way of Cave. There, he was met by the Lord of Genazzano, the Prince Constable Philip Colonna, with many thousands of soldiers of all arms, cavalry, and infantry, with cannon and all the implements of war. The roads were everywhere spanned by triumphal arches; and were lined by the multitudes of Latium and of more distant provinces. On reaching the gates of Genazzano, the Prince Colonna tendered on his knees, the keys of his stronghold and palace to his Sovereign Lord, the Pope. Cannons roared and trumpets sounded, and then amidst all possible regal and ecclesiastical pomp, the great Pontiff advanced to the beautiful Sanctuary of Mary. The Pope appeared enraptured with the unexpected beauty, freshness, and attractiveness of that sacred Image, of which, of course, no copy he had even seen, gave any proper idea. That love and devotion which brought him to the holy Shrine, and which caused him to be so devout during life to Our Lady of Good Counsel, now became, as it does in all who visit it, more intense and tender. It increased and produced its effects in him, as in Her more humble clients. Next morning, while multitudes who could not get within the church, or even get room in the town, awaited;

he offered the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at the altar of the Virgin Mother, with sentiments of the deepest fervour. He was a man not easily excited, but before that Image he was moved to the innermost recesses of his being. As soon as the Holy Sacrifice was concluded, he burst in the presence of all, into a downright flood of tears. They were tears of tender emotion and deep love, brought on by recalling all that Mary had done for him in the past, and by the secret assurance that his desires should be gratified, and that the Roman people for whom he pleaded, should be saved.

7. When such devotion was manifested by the Pontiff, it is not surprising that in subsequent ages, the feast of the Wonderful Apparition of the Madonna should be celebrated with extraordinary magnificence. In April 1667 so great were the multitudes flocking for its Centenary to Genazzano from all parts of Italy and from distant countries, that the little town was altogether unable to contain them; and all of the surrounding towns of Latium were full of pilgrims. The visitors included princes, prelates, and persons of the highest rank; and nearly all who came advanced in procession to the Shrine. It was on this occasion that the celebrated Poussin erected and painted a magnificent theatre in which the principal events of Translation and Apparition of the Madonna were represented. These paintings executed with all the strength of the genius of the artist were, unfortunately, destroyed, in the great fire which subsequently did such immense damage to Genazzano, and to many of the treasures of the Sanctuary of Our

PRIVATE USE ONLY

Lady preserved in the convent of the Augustinians  
(Van. 54-55)

It was just fifteen years after this celebration, that the crowning of the Madonna of Genazzano, which we have already described, took place. That event, not only demonstrates the deep devotion of so great a Pontiff as Innocent XI., but also the influence of the Sanctuary of Genazzano in giving as fatal a blow to the supremacy of the Turks on the land, as it had given upon the water.

No doubt, the holy and devoted Innocent XI. loved the Shrine; and it is worthy of notice that not only he, but all the Popes remarkable for singular devotion to Our Lady of Good Counsel, were amongst the most celebrated of their long and illustrious line. Urban the Eighth, who visited the Madonna, Innocent XI. who caused the sacred Image to be crowned, were as eminent in their days as was Sixtus IV. or St. Pius V. in former generations. So it was afterwards.

8. The successor of Innocent XI. was Clement XI. a native of Urbino and as is stated by several historians of the Shrine, of a family which originally, as its name (Albani) testifies, came from the country which the miraculous Image left. One thing however is certain the devotion of his family to the Madonna of Genazzano was very great. This devotion inspired, as Vannutelli tells us, his nephew, the celebrated Cardinal Albani, to do so much for the Sanctuary. He not only visited the sacred Image but left nothing undone to honour it. The magnificent altar and reredos, the pavement, and ornamentation in varied

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

coloured marbles, the columns of verd antique, which now enclose the sacred Image, are the gifts of this Cardinal. The Pontiff, his uncle, received in the year of Jubilee, which happened to be the year of his elevation, the procession coming from Genazzano with very unusual marks of favour. It may be well to mention here, that in these holy years of Jubilee, when all indulgences elsewhere cease, the same peculiar privileges granted to Loreto, are also extended to the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Good Counsel in Genazzano. (see Vannutelli, page 55).

9. The Popes, Gregory the Thirteenth, Benedict the Thirteenth, Clement the Twelfth, and Clement the Fourteenth, enriched, as the archives of the convent inform us, the Sanctuary with many spiritual privileges. It was reserved, however, for the great Pontiff Benedict XIV. to establish the devotion not only in the Sanctuary of Genazzano; but also to Our Lady of Good Counsel everywhere, by Apostolic authority. This he did by his brief approving the Pious Union, which he formally established, and in which he was pleased to be inscribed himself, (and with his own autograph) as the first member.

10. We shall pass over the intervening Pontiffs from his time, under whose auspices the Mass and Office in honour of Our Lady of Good Counsel were approved, to come down nearer to our own day, when we find the great Pontiff Pius the IX. going over the ground once before travelled by Urban the VIII. to visit that distant Sanctuary of Genazzano, hidden away in the mountains of Latium.

From his earliest years, the virtuous mother of

PRIVATE USE ONLY

this Pontiff, had inspired him with the tenderest devotion to the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel; and so great was this devotion in him, that he celebrated his first Mass before an altar dedicated to Her, in Rome. He loved to have Her beautiful picture always near him, and to Her he prayed in the many trials and difficulties which beset his path in his long, and notwithstanding temporal losses, most glorious Pontificate. He had from the moment of his elevation, a great desire to visit the Sanctuary of Gennazzano, as did Urban VIII., and this he executed on the Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady 1864. He came accompanied with all the pomp of a Sovereign and a Pontiff, and left enduring impressions of his piety and devotion upon the crowds assembled to witness an act of homage to the Sanctuary, so solemn and so sincere.

11. Leo the XIII., our present Most Holy Father, is, as was his predecessor, for many years a prisoner in the Vatican. The faithful of Rome and the faithful who come to the Eternal City cannot now be gratified by witnessing the cheering spectacle of the sacred state of the Supreme Pontiff. It is no longer in the power of Leo the XIII. to visit the Sanctuary, any more than it is to leave the sultry and unwholesome precincts of the Vatican in the fierce heat of Summer for the clear air of the Castle of Gandolfo. If it were, there can be little doubt that we should have another pilgrimage of the Vicar of Christ to the Shrine of the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel. For the writer is assured on the best possible authority of the deep devotion of Leo the XIII. to Our

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

Lady of Good Counsel. And certainly, no Pontiff has under unexampled difficulties shown the fruits of it by the possession of the gifts given to Her clients by the Seat of Wisdom, to a greater extent. Few have had affairs more intricate to grapple with; or have been placed in situations where Good Counsel has been more needed. Few, nevertheless, have surpassed him in the rare wisdom which has distinguished all his acts, since his coming to the lofty but arduous position he occupies. And his acts are emphatically his own. Already, the world has affixed to his name the special epithet of Wise - a title, it does not give to many, and which must be well deserved indeed, before it is granted. Nor is his, the barren wisdom which is safe because it will venture nothing. His reign up to the present has been one of vigorous, but well considered action. The immense and needed reorganization and restoration in that most difficult of all subjects to be either mastered or directed, the teaching of the schools, has been by him both mastered and directed with a thoroughness and a completeness that has astonished the Catholic world, and must continue to produce fruit while the Church lasts on earth. Prisoner as he is, he has essayed to restore discipline and recreate fervour. He has had to deal with the tangled web of European diplomacy, and has succeeded in bringing it to understand that without the Roman See from which it separated itself in its pride and in its folly, it can neither prosper nor even exist. Germany, Russia, and even England, antipapal as they are, and persecuting as they have been but too disposed to be, have veered round so

PRIVATE USE ONLY

far as to seek his friendship, and many of their foremost men, with a docility almost Catholic, incline to hear his voice. He has had from the very commencement of his reign to deal with nations once Catholic, falling into anarchy; with a Socialism advanced to its last stage of infamy; with the astuteness of an unscrupulous statecraft opposed to him in Rome and Italy; with the whole force of darkness banded in secrecy and seeking to baffle, to deceive, and to destroy his flock on every side. Nevertheless, he shows that the spirit of Good Counsel does not desert him, so that even his bitterest enemies confess his success and fear his coming victory. Already, that prevision which precedes dissolution is upon them; while the light in the heavens which announces another near and glorious day for the Church he governs, already and unmistakably appears. A hand is upon the helm of the bark of Peter fitted for the occasion, and guiding it steadily to the port of rest. Who can doubt in all this, that the help of Mary, the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel is with the Vicar of Her Child. We may hope then confidently, that when the port is reached, when the day of triumph dawns upon that bark, devotion to Her and to Her Sanctuary will be more intensified and extended; and that in the hour of its certain triumph, the whole Church of God will draw from Mary's fountains, Counsel and Strength for still greater conflicts.

Leo XIII. we are enabled to state upon the authority of the present Vicar-Forain of Genazzano, Don Filippo Vannutelli, showed even when a very young ecclesiastic the love he had for the Mother

of Good Counsel at Her Shrine. He is now a member of its Pious Union. His own venerable hand has written the scriptural words which encourage all to become children of Mary of Good Counsel, and which may be seen beneath Her Image in the sacristy of Santa Maria. The Parish Priest of the Vatican, the very Revd. Father Pifferi O. S. A. mentioned to the writer how often he has seen Leo XIII long, long, absorbed in prayer before the beautiful copy of the sacred original in Genazzano, which is enthroned above the high altar of the Pauline chapel - an altar erected to honour it by the loving care of Pius IX. It is not therefore too much to say that the rare wisdom and strength which he has so strikingly exemplified in his career, comes from a source from whence issued in the past all the real glories of Catholicity - from the Seat of Wisdom, Mary the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel.

12. Then not only Pontiffs, but lay rulers of nations have found the means of drawing the waters of wisdom from the fountains of Our Lady of Genazzano. Foremost amongst the royal houses who have thus shown a wise respect for the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel, comes the first and highest, as well as most ancient governing family of Europe, that of the Hapsburgs. At the moment we write, the august Ex-Empress and aunt of the present Emperor has for her confessor, as we already stated, the pious and learned Father Belgrano, late Prior of Santa Maria in Genazzano, the author of several devotional works upon Our Lady of Good Counsel. The venerable Ex-Empress, not able by circumstances to travel to Ge-

PRIVATE USE ONLY

nazzano in person, has been represented there by one of her court; and some of the most valuable offerings recently presented to the Shrine, came from her. She is a member of the Pious Union. The Ex-Emperor, her husband was distinguished for the same devotion; and as the House of Austria is the only Catholic dynasty in Europe which has not yielded to the influence of the Revolution, or been drawn into persecuting the Church, it may not be too much to say, that its devotion to Our Lady of Good Counsel has given it the wisdom and strength to resist malignant influences as fatal to the throne as to the altar. From the retirement at Prague, the Emperor Francis received continually from his affectionate, wise, and eminently Catholic uncle who abdicated in his favor and treated him always as a son, counsels in his greatest difficulties. There, separated from the world and absorbed in prayer, that uncle and his pious consort, no doubt drank in the wisdom, which has not been wanting in the evident blessings which marked and still marks the administration of the Emperor Francis II.

But the devotion of the House of Austria is not of recent date. It ascends almost to the period of the Miraculous Apparition at Genazzano. In Vienna and in Bavaria, we have seen that miraculous favours were extended to members of the Imperial Family through the intercession of Our Lady of Good Counsel, venerated in one of the copies of the sacred Image which had touched the original. There is a still more remarkable occurrence to chronicle.

13. In 1772, a personal visit was paid by the

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

Electress of Saxony to the original, in distant Genazzano. This pious Lady sent before her a casket formed after the fashion of a heart, and containing her marriage rings. On her arrival, she was overjoyed to see this mark of her homage to God's Mother pendant upon the crown given by the Chapter of St. Peter's. Few pilgrims of the many thousand fervent ones who visited the Shrine, showed more devotion while there, or more regret on departing from it, than this illustrious lady. She kept beside her to her last breath, a copy of the Madonna given to her by the Prior, Fr. Boschi. It was the greatest consolation of her life.

The example of the Imperial House of Austria and that of the Royal House of Saxony, has been followed by that of Bavaria and Spain in the last century, and of Naples in this.

14. Cardinals and Princes in great number have also manifested the same devotion. We have spoken of the devotion of Cardinal D'Estouteville, to whose love for Our Lady of Good Counsel, the guardians of the Sanctuary owe the church of St. Augustine in Rome; and of that of Cardinal Albano who enriched the present Shrine. In 1736 Cardinal Jerome Colonna gave the precious gifts in metal and coral — more precious than gold — which are yet used in the ornamentation of the Shrine on great festivals. He replaced the old railing with the present massive one; and bestowed on the fathers of Santa Maria rich vestments and altar services for the use of the Sanctuary. The Cardinals of Palestrina, for its bishops are always Cardinals, were most devoted to the

PRIVATE USE ONLY

Sanctuary. The present Cardinal (De Luca) takes such an interest in its welfare that he joins with the Augustinian Cardinal, Martinelli, and the Prior of Genazzano, in forming the committee ordered by His Holiness to expend the offerings of the Pious Union, for the best advantages of the splendid church now on the point of completion, and in which the sacred Chapel of Our Lady of Good Counsel is contained.

15. Indeed since the arrival of the holy Image from Scutari, members of the sacred College have never been wanting in fervent devotion to it. Upon this point, Luigi Vannutelli thus writes in his Historical Memoirs of Most Holy Mary of Good Counsel  
« In fine, I do not see a single month pass by, in which, distinguished and illustrious persons do not come to venerate this miraculous Sanctuary. Whether they be of the Sacred College, or of the prelacy, or of the Italian, or foreign nobility I always find them of every class, of every age, and of every province, devoutly kneeling before that altar. And very often it happens that those desirous of celestial favours and anxious to contemplate as near as possible those countenances of paradise, have to give way one to another in turn, and then with a holy displeasure to force themselves from the sacred altar before they had satisfied their devotion. I cannot relate, but with sentiments of edification and respect, that in the autumn of 1829, the most eminent Cardinal Cappellari (afterwards Gregory XVI.) who to-day (and well it is for us) pilots the bark of Peter, preceded with most tender respect by his friend Cardinal Bertozzoli, celebrated the unbloody Sacrifice upon that most accept-

able altar. May the Queen of the heavens preserve him to us for long years. And not many seasons passed when three other illustrious wearers of the purple, Cardinals Pedicini, Brignoli, and Pollidori might be seen on the same morning, the one after the other, celebrating Mass in the holy Chapel, not one of them being aware of the coming of the other. »

16. The devotion of many noble houses to the Sanctuary is very great. That, for instance, of the Colonnas and the Barberinis, the Albanis and others is historic. Scarcely a decade passes without some favours being signalized, as having been received by members of the ancient noble houses not only of Italy, but of other countries in Europe, from the Madonna of Good Counsel. It is not long since a member of one of these old families, the prince Barberini Colonna, obtained the singular favour of an heiress to his house through the intercession of Our Lady of Good Counsel; and this child, called Maria Consilia in thanksgiving, is frequently brought by her parents to thank their heavenly Benefactress. So it is that the Sanctuary is never without clients from the highest ranks in Christendom.

17. It would here be improper to neglect to mention, that devotion to the Sanctuary is already springing fast and fervent amongst many of the Prelates of those countries for which this work is specially intended. The recent purchase of the convent of San Pio by the Irish Augustinians, has directed the attention of several distinguished Irish Bishops, on their visit to Rome, to the existence of so sacred a Sanctuary in Genazzano. During the writer's stay at San Pio, the

PRIVATE USE ONLY

Most Reverend Monsgr. M<sup>c</sup> Evilly, the able and erudite Archbishop of Tuam; the Most Reverend Monsgr. Dorian, the venerable Bishop of Down and Connor, who has ruled with such success the immense ecclesiastical territory connected with Belfast; the Most Reverend Monsgr. Gillooly Bishop of Elphin, whose beautiful Cathedral and seminary and his other works for religion are so generally known to visitors in Ireland; the Most Reverend Monsgr. M<sup>c</sup> Cormack the zealous and youthful Bishop of Achonry; the Most Revd. Monsgr. Crane, the first Bishop of Sandhurst in distant Australia; the late and deeply lamented Bishop O'Connor of Ballarat; the Most Reverend Monsgr. Hyland, Coadjutor Bishop of Trinidad; the Most Reverend Monsgr. Kirby, Bishop of Lita and Rector of the Irish College of St. Agatha in Rome; the Very Reverend Father Carbery, Assistant General of the Dominicans, lately elevated to the episcopal dignity as Bishop of Hamilton in Canada; the Very Reverend Dr. Walsh, President of St. Patrick's College Maynooth; the Very Revd. Dr. O'Collaghan, Rector of the English College, Rome; the Very Revd. Dr. Verdon, nephew of the late lamented Cardinal Cullen, Vice Rector of the Irish College; and frequently by its very devoted client the Very Revd. Monsgr. Hostlot, the Rector of the North American College; the Very Reverend Father O'Callaghan, Prior and Superior of the Irish Dominican College of St. Clement; the Very Revd. Father Cary, Guardian and Superior of the Irish Franciscan College of St. Isidore, and by many clergymen from nearly every English speaking country in the world. In the past, the Sanctuary was

very dear to the late Monsgr. Polding, Archbishop of Sydney; to the present Venerable Archbishop of Melbourne, the Most Revd. Monsgr. Goold; and during the past few years it has been visited by the Most Revd. Monsgr. Butler, Bishop of Limerick; by the Most Revd. Monsgr. Fitz-Gerald, Bishop of Ross; by the Most Revd. Monsgr. Clery, Bishop of Kingston, Canada; by the Most Revd. Monsgr. Leonard, Bishop of Capetown, and by many others. The Sanctuary is indeed a favourite place of pilgrimage for nearly all the national colleges of Rome, during their vacations; and by none at present more than by those who are destined for the Apostolate in English speaking nations.

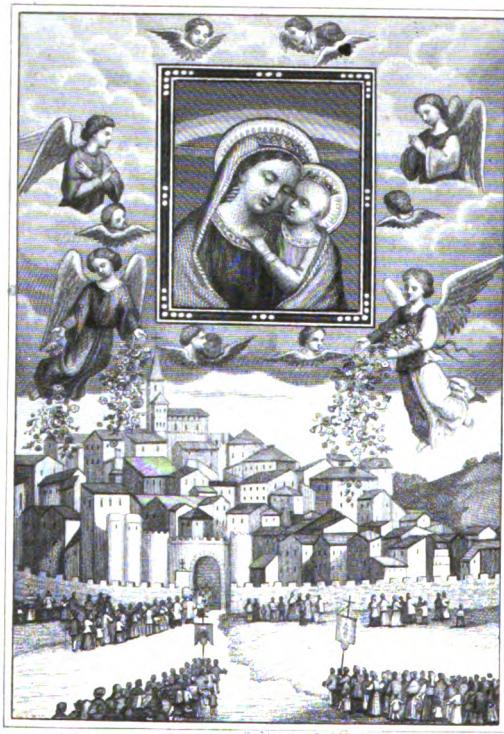
We have already spoken of the deep and tender devotion of Cardinal Acton to the Sanctuary. This is followed by others in England. The zealous Bishop of Salford has established the Pious Union in his diocese. The venerable President of the English Benedictines and several of his subjects love the devotion. Others desire to know it. All this is a favourable presage of what we may hope will be the speedy extension of a devotion so advantageous throughout all English speaking countries.

In the next chapter we shall see something of the devotion of the people at large to the Shrine, and of their favourite mode of showing it by public pilgrimages.

---

PRIVATE USE ONLY

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)



*Schäffer & Cari Mayer & Eduard August Schäffer*

**MARIA DEL BUON CONSIGLIO.**

Un concerto di plauso e di esultanza  
Solleva in Genazzano, o gente pia,  
Nel Tempio ove l'Imago di Maria  
Fermò sua Stanza.

PRIVATE USE ONLY

## Chapter XV.

### PILGRIMAGES TO THE SHRINE

1. Religious customs of purely Catholic nations ill understood in Protestant countries — Want of reason in this. — 2. The people of Italy in their manner of worshipping Our Lady of Genazzano. — 3. Pilgrims and pilgrimages. — 4. The pilgrimages from afar on the great feasts of the Sanctuary. — 5. The Church on these occasions — the Confessors — the Communions. — 6. Deep religion of the pilgrims. — 7. The waiting for the twenty — second hour. — 8. The *festa* in the town — Conduct of the pilgrims. — 9. Who they are and why they come. — 10. The merit in their act — Its warranty and antiquity. — 11. The reason in it. — 12. The Pilgrims on the road. — 13. The formation, gathering, and departure of each company. — 14. Devotional works directing them — Father Belgrano's advices — Prayers to be said before setting out and on the road. — 15. Pilgrims met upon the road. — 16. Action of each band on seeing Genazzano — Prayer to Mary. — 17. Entering the town — Going to the Sanctuary. — 18. Cardinal Castracani's attempts at « improving the occasion » by preaching — His failure. — 19. The pilgrims at the Shrine. — 20. Asking for graces — an instance. — 21. Pilgrims at night — at early morn. — 22. Grief and tears of the pilgrims leaving — retiring backwards from the sacred Image. — 23. The pilgrims' return home. — 24. Efforts of the Revolutionary Government to stop the pilgrimages to Genazzano — The officer appointed to stop them. — 25. Grief of the pilgrims dispersed — Disquiet of the Italian population grows dangerous, and pilgrimages allowed to take their course. — 26. Fate of the officer who dispersed the pilgrims — Opinion of the people thereupon.

1. It is very difficult for a Catholic accustomed to live, as English speaking Catholics everywhere live, in countries from which the public religious practices

22

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

of purely Catholic peoples have been long banished, to realize such a devotion as that of the Italian people for Our Lady of Genazzano. When one has been accustomed for a life - time, to confine the public expression of divine worship within the walls of churches, it appears strange to see it carried outside doors, through the roads of the country, and through the streets of cities. But this apparent strangeness will appear most natural and proper, when it is borne in mind that every one met with, is of the same faith and religious feeling as the worshippers themselves. It is nothing more extraordinary than to see devout individuals in groups, or singly, making the way of the Holy Cross in churches. So long as they do not interfere with the freedom of the passages, those who do not care to follow their example, do not complain, and are edified. It may come to the turn of the least devout to do the same, some day. In this respect Italy, and, indeed, every purely Catholic country, may be likened to one vast church. The most indifferent are of the same faith. The most abandoned have been trained to reverence holy things. There are no heretics who keep some practices of Catholicity while reprobating others. No Catholic trader, for example, in England has any hesitation in closing his shop on a Sunday or upon a Christmas Day. Why? All do it. It is a public act of religion. But as a rule he does not do the same on the feast of All Saints or of the Assumption. Why? The religious reason, is it not the same? The difference is, that Protestants have retained the Sunday and Christmas Day, but have rejected,

PRIVATE USE ONLY

with the doctrine of the worship and invocation of saints, all the other Church holidays. If processions and pilgrimages did not share the same fate, these practices would excite no more feeling or surprise now, than the marching of school children to places of amusement, or of benefit societies on days of reunion. It is therefore no wonder that in a Catholic country a procession in honour of God or His saints excites no more comment, than one which is formed to bury the dead.

2. The people of Italy have honoured and still honour the Shrine of Our Lady in Genazzano, both publicly and privately. They come there at all times for favours. Every night the Sanctuary is surrounded by a congregation of clients assembled to sing before the covered Image, the Litany of Loreto, and to join in vocal prayer; and every morning of the year at half - past - four, a large congregation of working people is present for the first Mass which is celebrated at the Altar of the sacred Image. All day long, numbers are found round the iron grating of the holy Chapel. This latter is never without its twenty lamps burning, nor scarcely is it ever seen without petitioners in prayer, many of whom come from great distances.

3. As from the beginning, so now, the year is never without its record of pilgrims singly, or in groups who come from love, and for favours, from all parts of Europe; from America; from Australia; and not unfrequently from Africa, and from Asia, to the holy calm of this favourite Sanctuary of Mary, the Mother of God. Distant, pilgrims are almost invariably sure of being

able to see the beautiful Image uncovered, by application to its custodians. But those living in the surrounding country, and who, probably, have again and again, been able to see it during the more solemn celebrations, are not granted so easily this privilege. Yet they too come, in an uninterrupted stream to the Shrine, for the relief of the manifold distresses to which poor human nature is subject; and they are sure to go away from the feet of their loving Mother contented. In domestic and personal distresses, it is a common practice for them to make a vow to visit the Madonna of Good Counsel at Genazzano; and, as is generally the case, the vow is heard, and the sought for favour obtained, the devout recipient goes off at once, his ten, it may be his twenty, or it may be his hundred miles or more, to fulfil religiously that vow. Pious writers on the Sanctuary strive rather to regulate and lessen, than to encourage this custom, but only with partial success. The Italian peasant has been accustomed for ages to live by faith, and by faith in Mary especially. He therefore has recourse to Her efficacious and certain help in his distress. Nor does it astonish him if he is heard. He looks upon the obtainment of a miraculous favour because of a vow, as a reason for deep thankfulness indeed, but no reason for wonder. Success comes to be regarded as a practical proof of the actual believed - in Providence and Power of God, used miraculously in favour of His prayerful and penitent people, who love God's Mother, and whose earnest, living belief in, and love for Her, appealed to under some endearing name, has caused Her to

PRIVATE USE ONLY

use Her power, Her influence, and Her authority with Her Omnipotent Son for the fervent petitioner.

4. All these single, silent streams of devout people, would seem to join together and become a torrent, on the occasions of the great feasts of the Sanctuary. The whole people of Latium, Sabina, and the various provinces of the Campagna, then arise in mass to honour Mary, the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel. They are joined by countless streams of the population of distant cities and far off districts, who come in ordered groups to do the same honour to the Mother of God, at this Her favoured Shrine. These feasts are first, that of the Miraculous Apparition itself, the 25<sup>th</sup> of April; and secondly, that of the Nativity of Our Lady, the 8<sup>th</sup> of September. The latter, possibly because of the season of the year being more propitious for long journeys; and because too, of the deep devotion of the Italians for the birth-day of the Queen of Heaven, is perhaps the most crowded. The former, however, attracts, during its continuance of nine days, as it ever did, immense numbers.

5. The Fathers of Santa Maria are always careful to provide for the spiritual emergency that invariably arises at these seasons of grace. Not only are the confessors of the community in readiness, and all the Augustinian Fathers who may be able to come from the Roman, or other convents; but all the Priests of the surrounding country are invited to attend the confessionals. Confessors of every order, secular and regular, are found by the walls and pillars of the church. These are engrossed by the women. Confessors for men are placed in the sacristy, in the choir, in

the passages, in the cloisters. The church, spacious as it is, cannot on those occasions accommodate both sexes of pilgrims; and so, as men can be heard in any place, its whole space is taken up by the sex which can there only be attended to. The services on these feasts are as grand as the Fathers can make them. There are bands and first class musicians to attend the choir; and singers come from the neighbouring cities.

6. But in truth, while all this is very pleasing to the good people of Genazzano, the mass of the pilgrims seem to have little thought of any thing beyond the Chapel of the Madonna, and the priceless treasure it contains. In that, and in the frequentation of the sacraments, which forms a necessary part of their act of homage to the Mother of Good Counsel, their whole time seems to be engrossed.

7. A very solemn act, however, takes place on the feast of the Apparition, which interests all deeply; pilgrims, priests, and citizens of Genazzano. From the twenty - first to the twenty - second hour of the Italian day, which at that season of the year corresponds to from 3 to 4 o'clock in the evening, the hour when the sacred Image descended and appeared upon the wall of the unfinished Church of Petruccia, the bells of the church of Santa Maria are rung without intermission. The same takes place every evening of the novena, its object being to remind the people of the happy event of the coming of the Madonna. On the day itself, the Fathers of the Augustinian Order, the clergy of the town and diocese, the visitors, the religious, and the whole people gather into the church

PRIVATE USE ONLY

and remain kneeling in perfect silence before the Altar where the sacred Image is exposed. The moment the bells ring the 22<sup>nd</sup> hour, the *Te Deum* is intoned by thousands, the organ peals, and all with one accord join in the hymn of praise in thanksgiving for the favour conferred, four hundred years before, upon Genazzano.

8. At this time, as also of course upon the 8<sup>th</sup> of September, all the grandeur possessed by the Sanctuary is displayed. The municipal authorities, in deference to the citizens, must join in the general jubilee. Fireworks, and the almost universal illumination of houses; the firing of cannon and of small arms, and all the appliances of civil gladness are provided in profusion. It is worthy of notice, that in Genazzano no accident has ever occurred in its narrow streets from those exhibitions of popular joy. For the pilgrims, these things are the least attractive. Some, indeed the greater number, do not seem to mind them. But it is very remarkable how differently the great crowd behaves from that of great crowds in our cities. The most perfect order and decorum reign everywhere. Even those who attend the fireworks, and who amazed by the brilliancy of some unexpected *jeu de feu* cry out, their cheer is always long live Mary! « *Evviva Maria!* » The majority – the vast majority – when not employed in devotions at the the Sanctuary are resting their weary limbs after many miles of travelling, not on beds, nor in houses – for ten towns like Genazzano could not contain their numbers – but generally upon the hard stones of the paved ways of the township. Each company

of pilgrims keeps to itself. The men and women, though of the same family, are rigidly separated. In no such gathering of many thousands anywhere else, is the same beautiful order and respect for purity and for modesty seen. The spirit of religion reigns over all.

9. It is evident, that these of whom we here speak, are not of the class of those who have come by coach, or by train, and then have formed into ranks to approach the Shrine of Our Lady. Of course, there are many of this latter class also, besides many who have come individually, and in parties of two or three. But the mass comes now as the mass came for ages, in large companies, and in formal pilgrimages. Their coming too, is an act of open reverence for the Madonna, from the moment they leave their distant homes, until they close their journey there again. It is now as it was in the time of Coriolanus, when the towns of Italy were almost emptied of their inhabitants going processionaly to Genazzano to venerate the Image, which had appeared so wonderfully on the walls of the unfinished church of Petruccia. They come to-day exactly as they came four centuries ago, and solely to honour Mary.

10. And surely in this coming of theirs, there is a great deal of merit. Even in a private pilgrimage there is always the element of self-sacrifice, a sacrifice of time, and means, and convenience, which cannot but be pleasing to God. In the old law, the principal feature of the true worship of the Almighty was a pilgrimage, which all were bound to make annually to Jerusalem. And though ~~the~~ the earth was the Lord's

PRIVATE USE ONLY

and the fulness thereof », though every locality was sanctified by His presence, He chose to make some places more acceptable to Himself than others. The spot where Moses saw the angel, was « holy ground ». The spot where Solomon erected the Temple was the only one in which God would, at all, receive sacrifice. It was the special place to obtain the remission of sins, and the granting of supplications. So in numberless other instances. An impulse of our nature itself prompts us to reverence persons, places, and things consecrated, or having relation to God. It was through this, that Magdalen went to the monument where the dead Body of Jesus lay. Instant relief came to the woman who in faith, humility, and love, touched the hem of the garment of Our Saviour. The shadow even, of the Apostles worked miracles. It was the same faith, so helpful in the many wants of life, that led to the pilgrimages made to the Holy Land for the veneration of the Sepulchre, which for a while, and only for a while, had the honour of containing the dead Body of Our Saviour. It is the same instinct of divine faith which brought, and which brings to certain places, Catholic pilgrims and organized pilgrimages. Faith warrants in these cases, what experience proves; namely, that in many places where relics, images, or other objects specially connected with God, His Mother, or His servants are venerated, spiritual favours are granted.

11. Moreover, if one can be devout without these helps, one can be very much more devout by their means.

He who reasons otherwise, forgets all that a

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

pilgrimage necessarily implies. It means absence from affairs of every day life, for a work, which in its whole bearing, is for God alone. It means innumerable prayers, mental and vocal. It means a noble, fearless confession of faith, and contempt of the world. It expresses confident hope of favours from God through His sanctified servants. It calls forth charity. The love of God must animate any soul making with pure motives such an act. It means the sanctification of labour and toil, undertaken in a penitential spirit for the remission of sin. It means, in fine, the reception of the holy Sacraments, the gaining of indulgences, charity for the poor, prayers for the dead, and other good works of every conceivable kind.

12. A glance at the innumerable bands of Pilgrims coming for one of the great festivals to the Shrine of the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel at Genazzano, will put what is here advanced in the strongest possible light. Sometimes, as in cases of public calamity, the whole population of a town come together. This, however, does not often happen. Each company contains a number varying from thirty to one hundred. The men of each party always go first, and the women follow. A picture of Our Lady of Good Counsel well framed, and supported by a staff, is carried in front. The women, dressed in the fanciful holday - attire of the Italian peasant, bear upon their heads huge wooden vessels, which contain the provisions of the party for all the days of their journeying. The men, as a rule, walk bare headed, hat in hand, and with the national cloak flung over the shoulder. The Italian peasant is generally a swift walker. In Latium,

PRIVATE USE ONLY

in Southern Italy, and in Sicily he does not, as we already observed, live upon the land he cultivates; but in towns for the most part built on steep heights, from whence he descends daily to toil at a distance of three or four miles, and returns at night to his home. This necessitates swift walking to save time. The women too, are laborious and patient workers. The weight they manage to carry upon their heads is enormous. Firewood, grain, grapes, olives, all the produce of the small cultivators are thus generally transported. Three or four days travelling, therefore, will bring them an immense distance; and thus even from far off towns of « the kingdom, » as they still call Naples, thousands come to venerate the beloved Madonna of Genazzano.

13. In the town from whence they come, the pilgrimage, of course, is a subject for consideration for months previous. All who have made vows, look forward eagerly, to the opportunity of fulfilling them. It is only on such an occasion as the going of a large party of relatives and neighbours, that adequate protection could be afforded, especially to the female portion of a party. When all going, are ready to depart, a day and an hour are fixed. Each family provides itself with necessary provisions and money for the journey, and in their best attire they assemble in the parish church where Mass is celebrated, and a most affecting prayer is recited by the Priest, if of the party, or if not, by its elected or appointed chief, whom all obey during the pilgrimage. They then form into procession and amidst the benedictions of those left behind, commence their journey, alternating

prayers and hymns with the rosary and spiritual reading, to far off Genazzano.

They are a hardy race, these peasants. They are extremely temperate. Their wants are few, and easily supplied. Sometimes they rest in the towns through which they pass, and which are, perhaps, also sending a contingent of pilgrims to the holy Shrine. Sometimes, if the weather is very hot, as in September, they journey through the night, and rest while the sun is fierce, beneath some friendly shade. It is most edifying to meet them on their way by night or day. Grouped picturesquely, with eyes cast down, they all seem supremely impressed with the act of religion they are performing. Invariably, the old form a noticeable portion of every band, giving by the intensity of their devotion a staidness to the whole. But every class of life is represented, from the aged grandsire to the child in arms. The strong young men and women best able for the journey are, of course, most numerous; but tottering age, making the last loving journey for the priceless favour of a happy death, is never wanting in any party. As they sing the sweet canticles of the praises of Mary with their naturally beautiful Italian voices, it is pleasing in the extreme to hear their cadences dying away in the distance. The voices deep and powerful of the men, mingling with the softer and higher notes of the women, form a beautiful harmony not unpleasingly broken by some child's endeavour, or by the attempt of the aged whose will to chant Mary's praises, is far in excess of the power to do so.

PRIVATE USE ONLY

14. There are numerous popular manuals of devotion for the well ordering of these pilgrimages, written by pious directors. From any one of them, the Catholic reader of other lands, may easily gain an insight into the nature of such manifestations of public devotion in Italy. In every one of them, it will be found that the client of Mary is cautioned against rashly making vows to undertake such long, devotional journeys. He is invariably advised, that if he does so, he ought to make his vow conditional, or revocable, or changeable at the will of any Confessor. A vow lawfully made ought be fulfilled, and therefore should be made with all due consideration.

« Above all things, » says Father Belgrano, whose little book is an excellent sample of these pious manuals; « Above all things the pilgrim should bear in mind, that he ought be most careful in making a vow to undertake this, or any other pilgrimage, particularly if the locality be far distant. You should » he says, addressing his pious readers « reflect well whether it may cause you to neglect any duty of your state in life, or any obligation you are under to others. Under every circumstance make always the condition. « If I can » or, « so that any Confessor to whom I go can dispense, or change my vow ». « Be careful further to select a proper time to make your pilgrimage, that is, on some occasion when no grave duty of your state in life or office may impede you. Provide then, that all your affairs be in such order, that by reason of the pilgrimage, or during it, none of your duties may suffer »

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

After other good advice, they are told how to go to the church, and what prayers to say there. The Father, then proceeds to the method of arranging and conducting the journey. He says.

« Let the pilgrims go all together and never be disunited. As far as possible let the men and women be separated. Let each one keep always before his mind, the devout and pious scope of the journey. Hence, let no one fall into distractions or lightness of demeanour or relaxation, but let every one be attentive to conduct himself with modesty, with devotion, and with edifying deportment. When prayer in common is not being made, let the pilgrim enter into himself and reflect upon the needs of his own soul : Let him prepare for a good confession. Let him turn his mind and heart devoutly and with faith to the Most Holy Virgin, by means of some brief but fervent prayer which the heart will dictate. Let him implore from Her goodness the grace he most desires, and of which he has most need for the salvation of his soul. Should the pilgrims be obliged along the way to stay at some hotel, or still more, if obliged to stay the night there, let them be most careful to preserve in everything a devout and grave demeanour, that all may see that the pilgrimage is made from devotion only. It is the office of the president or director to appoint from time to time the prayers to be recited in common, and to cause some canticle in praise of Mary to be sung, particularly when the company passes close to, or through some city or village ».

15. The writer has seen hundreds of these pious

PRIVATE USE ONLY

bands on their way to the Sanctuary of Genazzano. He has met them near it, and at a distance from it; and in no single instance did he ever witness one of the above rules violated. The deep earnestness of the men, the beautiful modesty of the women, the intense, frequently tearful fervour of the older people, the demeanour even of the children, showed that every company felt its responsibility, as a deputation from its locality to the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel in Genazzano. Each individual has, moreover, his or her own object in view, much too important to be endangered by indevotion; some favour to ask for self, or for some dear ones afflicted at home. A sister comes to obtain a brother's conversion. A father to provide for some member of his charge. A child to ask for a parent's recovery. This one to return thanks for life or health, for honour or means miraculously preserved. That one to pay the vow, that saved him in some dire extremity. That other again comes to get the grace and to have the opportunity, at a place where unknown, and to strange and learned Confessors, and near the seat of Mary's tender mercy, the secrets of his overburdened conscience may with ease and assurance of pardon be disclosed. All are animated with intense love and reverence for Mary of Good Counsel, Whose mercy and power they full well know. No wonder then, that the silence, the fervour, the prayer and praise inculcated by their manuals of pilgrimage, and by the custom of ages should be well preserved. One thing worthy of notice is, how constantly they use the refrain  
• *Erreva Maria, Maria Erriva, Erreva Maria e Chi*

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

*la cred.* This is repeated always to the same melody after every verse of the hymns sung, and is frequently interspersed with an *Evviva Maria!* given exactly after the fashion of a cheer or hurrah.

16. When the pilgrims come in sight of the Sanctuary, a very edifying ceremony takes place. The moment the tower of Santa Maria peeps out beyond the trees, at whatever distance, let the roads be as they may, the whole band at once fall upon their knees, and the chief of the party recites a prayer such as the following, translated from one of their manuals.

« Hail venerable and Holy House of Mary where doth reside Her wondrous Image. Hail O Mary Mother of Good Counsel, Who hath selected this temple to be Thy dwelling place, from whence as from Thy throne of mercy and grace Thou dost dispense to all, with extraordinary liberality, Thy benefits and the blessings of Thy Good Counsel. O Brightest Star, Who dost guide us over the boisterous sea of our life. Purest Star which doth comfort us in all the distresses of our exile. Most sweet Star which doth recreate and inundate our hearts with joy and gladness, we devoutly salute Thee. Eviva Maria! Eviva Maria of Good Counsel! Animated with sweet hope and with the greatest confidence, we come to Thee, O Dearest Mother, and we rest secure we shall obtain from Thy goodness abundantly, the fruit of this our pilgrimage ». Three Hail Marys are then recited.

17. After this prayer the whole company is placed in strict order by the director. The banner or painting of Mary is carried a little in advance. The step is more measured, and all the men of the party

PRIVATE USE ONLY

walk with uncovered heads, careless of sun or rain. Their sweetest hymns or litanies are sung, and thus they advance through the narrow streets of Genazzano until they reach the steps of Mary's temple. This is often so crowded that they have to await their turn to enter. The sacred songs of each group - invariably the Litany of Loreto when they enter the Church - continue until they reach where the lamps of the Sanctuary may be seen burning. Instantly then arises an *Evviva Maria!* from the new party, which, as it is followed by another from all in the church, has a stunning and strange, but withal a most devotional effect upon the stranger unused to such cries. But it is the voice of praise heartfelt, devoted, and loving from children to their Mother. It is moreover peculiar to those times of pilgrimage, and except at the solemn Mass of the feast, there is no effort to restrain it. In fact it would be impossible to do so.

18. And here an anecdote may be related. To many it seems strange, as it did to the writer, that at times of such immense concourse in Genazzano, there should be no attempt at preaching in the church of the Sanctuary, where so many thousands could be benefited by the word of God. The assurance of the impossibility of being able to do so, seems difficult to understand, at first sight. The celebrated Cardinal Castracani, Cardinal Bishop of Palestrina could not believe in the impossibility of doing a something. He determined, as Ordinary of Genazzano, that the occasion of doing so much good should be improved. He would hear nothing of the difficulties. He felt

certain that his position as Cardinal Bishop, would obtain for him a devout and reverent hearing. And he accordingly determined to be himself the preacher at the first opportunity, and so inaugurate the good work. He appeared therefore in the pulpit once, when the crowd was greatest, and succeeded admirably in giving out his text. But a man in the crowd happened to receive, at the next moment, a grace from the Madonna, and raised the usual *Evviva Maria!* in thanksgiving. The whole church answered again and again with a deafening roar which drowned completely the voice of the preacher. He, however, was not to be daunted by this reverse, and essayed to continue his discourse. But soon a new band of pilgrims happened to move through the crowd outside the porch, seeking admittance. Their *Evviva Maria!* was taken up too, and immediately the church rang again with the cry, and the Cardinal's ears were stunned another time with the praises of Mary. The crowd, however dense, is accustomed to make a willing way for the sick, the blind, the lame, and the afflicted of every kind, brought generally by some relatives to the Shrine. The *Evviva Maria!* of the latter is the method to make known their object and to get a passage. It is taken up by the crowd outside the church and by those within. The good Cardinal's last effort was stopped by one of these; and as it was impossible to proceed, he realized the difficulty of « improving the occasion » and abandoned the attempt which no one has since repeated. And so, on the occasion of the two great feasts, the church has

PRIVATE USE ONLY

to be given up to the devotion of the pilgrims. Mary's silent voice alone is heard by all.

19. These bands of pilgrims come and go all day long. By an old custom, born of necessity, they leave the church the moment their religious devotions are completed, that others may enter. Thus room is secured; and except on the occasion when the town awaits the recurrence of the hour of the coming of the Madonna, the people are left to discharge their duties at their leisure. Masses go on ceaselessly at many altars from 4. A.M. to mid-day. The confessionals are attended without intermission; and thus the religious needs of thousands are, without inconvenience, attended to in a few days.

In all this display of devotion, nothing, perhaps, is more affecting than the approach and departure of the pilgrims, to and from the Shrine. The greater number come on bended knees from the principal entrance of the church to the gates of the Sanctuary. Many women with heads covered, are led by female friends, and on hands and knees, at every movement kiss the ground.

20. It is impossible to describe the fervour exhibited at the Shrine itself. One or two instances witnessed by the writer last September, (1882) will suffice for illustration. Amidst the various groups of pilgrims surrounding the iron bars which protect the Sanctuary, came one from the kingdom of Naples. Its number was about fifty persons, and amongst them was a poor woman, who not only came on her knees kissing the ground to the Sanctuary, but actually, seemed to touch with

her tongue every inch of the way. After the usual devotions of her party, she arose and led to the grating her son, a fine looking young man, apparently about thirty years of age. The reason of her extraordinary devotion became soon apparent. He was a victim of the terrible disease of epilepsy, and from the frequency and severity of his fits, was in constant danger of death. He knelt, as a little child would, suppliant at the railing, while his mother in a loud voice, made the most touching appeal imaginable to the Mother of God, for his cure. Had Our Lady been visibly present, the appeal of this poor mother could not have been more real or ardent. Her language was eloquent, for it came from the heart indeed.

« Mary » she said « You were Yourself a Mother, and You know what a mother suffers in her son. I brought my son to You from the kingdom of Naples. You can do what You will. Have pity on me and heal him ». She then told Our Lady how she had reared him in the Catholic faith to love the Madonna; how good a son he was; what the parish priest thought of him, and all the people; and what he suffered. At every period when she paused, the whole of her fellow pilgrims cried out, *Grazia Maria! grazia! grazia!* again and again, and in this demand all in the church heartily united. At this time I asked one of the crowd the meaning of so much noise, and he answered in surprise, « we are asking a favour from the Madonna ». At long last a great *Evviva Maria!* burst from them. The pious mother - though of course she could not at a moment be certain of the cure of that disease - knew,

PRIVATE USE ONLY

or seemed to know, that her petition was granted. Both son and mother left the Sanctuary satisfied; and though inquiry was made, it was not heard that the young man suffered anything during his stay in Genazzano. In the light of what was witnessed in the case of Lydia Vernini, it is probable at least, that he is one of the many miraculously cured by the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel at Her Shrine.

21. If it is edifying to meet these pilgrims on their journey or in the church, it is yet more so to see them during the nights. Many, weary with long walking, take a brief repose; but the majority continue their rosaries, and prayers, and hymns. The still night air resounds with *Evvivas* and appeals to Our Lady. The morning light finds a multitude awaiting the opening of the temple at four o'clock; and it remains thronged during all the early Masses. The grand High Mass at the Shrine which takes place late in the day, with every accompaniment of splendour, is perhaps the least noticeable for the devotion of the people. The Sanctuary of Mary of Good Counsel is their one, their greatest, their only attraction. Many are found there for long hours together, kneeling at a distance, so as not to impede the approach of succeeding bands of pilgrims. The pressure of the crowd needs all the strength of the strong iron bars to resist its pious enthusiasm, never weary of contemplating the beautiful Image of Mary, unveiled. Whether veiled or unveiled, the reverence and love for it are all the same. But all who can, wish to contemplate as long as possible the beautiful and well beloved Image. Mothers lift

up their little children to gaze upon it, and no such child ever forgets it through the course of his after life. All are anxious to get a print, a beads, a medal which has touched even the glass cover, or the altar of the Image. None leave it without regret; and it is this feeling which gave rise, as we shall see, to the Pious Union, - a means by which the pilgrims can always be united to Mary of Genazzano.

22. The love of the sacred Image, however, seems never so intense as when the pilgrims leave the Shrine. All having satisfied their devotion, and having confessed and communicated, repair at a signal from the director, to the church. Kneeling lowly they remain a while in silent prayer, and then a solemn act of thanksgiving is read, after which some vocal prayers are said. All then rise, and few are seen who are not weeping. The bitter, downright sobbing of some is so sincere and tender that it is impossible to witness it without emotion. At last the final *Evviva!* is given, and the Litany, the sign of departure from Genazzano, is intoned. The whole body retire backwards, some even on their knees, until the Church doors are reached, and the lamps of the Sanctuary are at last hidden from their sight; then, filled with holy emotion, they return in procession as they came through the streets of Genazzano. Finally, they move together for their distant homes where they are anxiously expected.

23. Full often, all find that in their absence, the dearest wishes of their hearts have been granted. Not unfrequently they bring in their own persons the proofs of Mary's goodness. All have obtained the

PRIVATE USE ONLY

plenary indulgence. And then many learn that their necessities have been fully met, — the difficulty has passed away, the erring one is changed, the persecutor is assuaged, is gone perhaps for ever; life, honour, means, health are preserved. All are consoled. Some little memorial of the Madonna brought by loving hands satisfy those left at home. And it is this practical experience of all, which causes the Sanctuary of distant Genazzano to be frequented from generation to generation by the people of all the localities in Italy, which have never ceased for four hundred years to make those wonderful pilgrimages.

24. It must, we may here remark, be remembered, that if pilgrimages to Genazzano continue, it is despite the efforts of the present Government to stop them. Scarcely had the Freemasons obtained the supreme power in Italy by the help of France and England, when they commenced their well known persecution of the Church of their fellowcountrymen. Amongst other regulations they prohibited all religious processions, except by the written authority of the « Minister for Worship ». It is true that since then, it was found prudent, in the face of the danger of a revolution, to modify this strange ordinance of freedom. But while such an ordinance did last, several persons were cast into prison for indulging, after the custom of their fore-fathers for centuries, in the very harmless occupation of marching in companies to honour God and His Saints. It was natural, that a Sanctuary which was a foremost offender in causing those processions, should feel the weight of the vengeance of the « Minister for Worship ». And so an officer with a detachment

of well armed gendarmes was despatched to Genazzano. This brave and very able individual discharged his duties against unarmed and inoffensive country people with exceeding great zeal. He drew a military cordon round the town, and by every road that pilgrims came for the feast of the Nativity of God's Mother, they were met by « the guardians of freedom, » and after days of journeying to visit their beloved Madonna, they were dispersed and forced to return home.

25. Great was the grief of thousands on that memorable occasion. Many scattered themselves over the mountains, and timidly made their way by circuitous routes into the church. But as the pilgrims generally consisted, as we have seen, of neighbours and relations, — many being females who could not be permitted to separate — they were forced to go back as they came, without entering Genazzano. It was thought that such a lesson would have stopped pilgrimages to the Shrine altogether, as people would not again undertake so great a journey with the risk of disappointment. But a result very different followed. There was excitement not only in Genazzano, and in the towns from which the pilgrims came, but in all the towns they passed through. The government officials became alarmed. Discontent might assume, perhaps, too formidable a proportion; and so the « Minister for Worship » thought proper not to enforce his draconian decree.

26. The over officious officer or lieutenant was named Acqua, a Garibaldian of a pronounced type. He gloried in his achievement, but he never entered the

PRIVATE USE ONLY

town again from which he had driven the pilgrims. On his next visit he was shot by robbers in mistake for some one else, upon the very bridge where he had with a party of his men forced back some poor pious people who came from a great distance to visit the Madonna of Good Counsel. A small stone now mouldering, has an inscription regarding his death upon the spot of the encounter. His untimely end may have been an accident, but the country people for miles round point with horror to the spot, and firmly believe his fate to be a supernatural punishment for carrying out to his own heart's content the decrees of the Government, which are largely left to the discretion of the officials confided with their execution.

---

## Chapter XVI.

### APOSTLES OF THE DEVOTION

1. The Augustinians — Their history — Their saints. — 2. Celebrities in the past — Position in Rome. — 3. Their Cardinal Protector — Cardinals in Curia. — 4. Living learned professors. — 5. The Ven. Menochio, Sacristan and Companion of Pius VII. — The Ven. Bellesini, the modern Apostle of Genazzano. — 6. Devotion of their Generals to the Sanctuary. — 7. The Sanctuary « the apple of the eye » of the order. — 8. General Vasquez. — 9. Commissary General Neno. — 10. Augustinians at the Sanctuary — Remarks of Buonanno. — 11. Why Our Lady of Good Counsel selected the Augustinians and their church of Genazzano. — 12. The devotion not confined to the Augustinians. — 13. St. Alphonsus Mary di Lignori and the Redemptorists. — 14. The Image of the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel « his heart ». — 15. Graces received — The dying sinner at Avenzo. — 16. Devotion of Redemptorists in Belgium.

1. Amongst the many who have been instrumental in preserving and diffusing devotion to Our Lady of Good Counsel, the foremost place belongs, as naturally it should, to that Venerable Order so prolific in saints, in doctors, and in pontiffs; and of which the greatest luminary of the Church in his own, or indeed, in any other day, St. Augustine, was the founder. The followers of his rule divide themselves into two distinct communities. The Canons Regular, to whom St. Dominic belonged, modelled after the

PRIVATE USE ONLY

manner of those who lived the regular life of the great Doctor after he was elevated, with what reluctance we all know, to the See of Hippo; and the Hermits, who preferred the stricter seclusion in which he spent his penitential days before that event. In 1170, the Hermits, scattered in separate bodies over various countries were, by order of the Holy See, united under one General, and numbered amongst the four mendicant orders, which did so much for Italy and for the world in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, and in every century since.

This action of the central authority soon brought a great blessing upon the united community. St. Nicholas of Tolentine, St. John of St. Facundo, St. Thomas of Villanova, the Blessed Egidius, and a host of Beatified and Venerable Servants of God appeared within a very brief period. In it, the rule of St. Augustine, called by Pope Alexander the VII., the fruitful parent of Saints, has in every generation since, proved its right to that title. The last Canonization at the Vatican inscribed the Blessed Clare of Monte Falco an Augustinian, amongst the number of the Saints. Her beautiful body lies as if asleep, and as perfect as the day she died, in the convent of her order, after the lapse of five centuries. This wonder, which thousands from all parts of the world go to witness, is not taken notice of by the Church. It formed no proof in the process of her canonization. But there were other miracles more certain with which God glorified this, His faithful servant. Her heart, when opened, was found to contain a figure of the Crucifixion, and figures too of all the instruments of the Passion, sculpt-

ured in the flesh. These still exist. Her body, furthermore, contained three balls of identical size and weight, and yet having this miraculous quality; that any two will weigh not more than any one, and any one as much as any two. This miracle represents the mystery of the Most Holy Trinity to which the Saint was so devoted. The Venerable Alphonsus De Orozco was also, at the same time, beatified.

2. The number of spiritual writers and of persons of great sanctity and learning, at all times in the Order, has been very great. The Venerable Thomas of Jesus, and other names familiar to all Catholic readers, demonstrate this. And in our own day, the Venerable Bellesini and the Venerable Menochio, whose causes for beatification are now pending, enlightened the world, by the supernatural holiness of their lives, and by the miracles with which God was pleased to attest that holiness. The order was once spread over Spain, Italy, Germany and France. Its members were the Austin friars of England. Though never perhaps, so much diffused as the Franciscans, they had at one period no fewer, than three thousand monasteries under the obedience of their General. As children of the most learned doctor of all time, they naturally led in learning. The erudite and able Cardinal Seripandus, who presided at the Council of Trent was of their number; and to them also belonged the profoundly learned Cardinal Norris, the son of an Irish exile, and who possessed the rare merit of refusing the Tiara.

In Rome, they have, since their formation, occupied a foremost place in the Pontifical Court, and in the Schools. Two of the chief parishes in the Eternal

PRIVATE USE ONLY

City, Santa Maria del Popolo and St. Augustine's are served by them. The Bishop Sacristan to his Holiness is always an Augustinian; and the Vatican and Quirinal palaces, are distinct parishes under his jurisdiction, and served by sub-sacristans who like himself must be Hermits of St. Augustine. They were and are still employed in a like capacity, in many Courts of Europe. The chair of Sacred Scripture in the University of Rome is always filled by an Augustinian.

3. The pious and learned Cardinal Martinelli, occupied this post for many years previous to his elevation to the purple. It is a position requiring vast erudition and great ability, above all in a city like Rome, where the learned of the world congregate. The devotion of this Cardinal to the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel, is very great. And certainly, She has wonderfully endowed him with the rare gifts dispensed at Her Sanctuary in Genazzano. His present position, as the guardian of the souls of the faithful from the tainting influences of bad literature, requires them all. There is no position where the Spouse of Christ needs more vigilance, and indeed, subtlety of discernment, so that no poison may infiltrate itself into the teaching of her children, or amongst the teachers of that teaching. History, Philosophy, Theology, every branch, sacred and profane of human knowledge, is exposed more in our day than in any past time, to dangerous, and sometimes all the more dangerous, because skilfully disguised corruption. The activity of the Sacred Congregation of the Index has been equal to the occasion,

and certainly, no more able guide for it could be found than this humble child of Mary. English speaking readers will be edified to know, that his life when not engaged in the duties of his high office, is passed amongst the students of the house of studies of the Irish Augustinians in Rome. He shares with them, all their exercices of devotion, from early morning until night — himself the first at every exercise. He conducts their retreats, hears their confessions, and delights to occupy himself in every work of God, having for its object their spiritual advancement. This great and learned Prince of God's Church appears to be the humblest member of the community. He loves the plain habit of his Order; and nothing, when in the house, but the simple red zuchetto or skull cap shows his Cardinalitiate dignity. His labours are incessant.

4. The writer who has had the privilege of witnessing his edifying life, while in Rome, has also had the happiness of seeing the same religious simplicity in other princes of the Church who are not even religious; and some of whom have been in their time, such as the Cardinal Bishop of Palestrina, De Luca, ambassadors from the Holy See at Courts like that of Vienna. He gladly mentions the fact, to show how utterly without even the shadow of foundation, are those pictures of Roman ecclesiastical princes drawn by the imagination of such novel writers, as the late Lord Beaconsfield. Those in Rome, from the youngest, Cardinal Parocchi, to the oldest, the Dean of the Sacred College, are of the one stamp, learned and able indeed, but withal simple, affable, zealous, and sincerely anxious to do what they can do for

PRIVATE USE ONLY

the glory of God and the good of God's people. Their revenue is not that of a very humble bishop in Australia, not that of many priests. The calls upon it are very great. The labours of their office are arduous. Yet out of their little, they delight in saving a something for the love of God. Cardinal Martinnelli has recently spent all he could spare from a poor life enough, to decorate the beautiful chapel of the Crucifix, in the church of Our Lady in Genazzano, through devotion for the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel. Besides being Prefect of the Index, and member of many congregations, he holds this year the post of Camerlingo to the Sacred College.

5. Father Sepiacci, lately elevated to episcopal rank by Pope Leo XIII., is looked upon as one of the first living theologians in the Eternal City. He took, by public concursus the chair *De Locis Theologicis* in the same University. One of the first living Oriental scholars, at present interpreter for the S. Congregation of Propaganda and professor of Oriental languages at the college of the Apolinare, Fr. Ciasca, is of their Order. Their present Commissary General, Father Neno, after acting for many years in the United States of America as professor, president, missionary, and finally provincial of that province, has brought to Rome the creative zeal of newer lands, together with great administrative ability. The state to which the confiscations and vexations of the Piedmontese reduced his Order in Italy, has taxed all his powers of reconstruction. Instead however, of lying down under the load of oppression, he has gone to work with a will; and an immense measure of success has attended his

efforts. A few years has enabled him to place his ancient Institute already on a basis capable of defying at least the present persecution, and of being able to do vast good in all Italy. He has reopened novitiates in many places where they had been closed, and, under the shadow of St. Peter's, has erected a vast new professoriate, or school for the study of the young professed members destined to sustain the Institute. The learned historian, Lanteri, is an Augustinian, as is also the Venerable and Saintly Bishop Marinelli, long the Confessor and confidant of Pope Pius the Ninth. The late beautiful Italian poet, Balzofiori, was a Roman Augustinian. Father Semenza, of this Order, is amongst the first pulpit orators in Italy at the present moment. Father Ferrata. Secretary of the Order, is, though young, Professor of Hebrew at the Propaganda. The Augustinians drink, at present, in common with their brethren of the other Orders, the chalice of bitterness given them by the governments of France, Spain, Italy, and Germany in such overflowing measure. But a turning point in their fortunes is near. Spain cannot do without their missionary labours in the Philippine Islands. Italy has to tolerate them; and, thank heaven, especially in the new zeal of their General, there is an evident sign of a coming and a brighter day in which they will do more, than perhaps at any past period for the benefit of the Church of God.

5. We may here take occasion to say a few words in reference to the two members of the Order, declared Venerable, in this century, and whose holy lives were witnessed by living men; namely the

PRIVATE USE ONLY

Venerable Servant of God, Bishop Sacristan, Menochio; and the Venerable Servant of God, Father Bellesini. The first was the companion, Chaplain, Confessor, confidential adviser, and fellow sufferer of the illustrious Pontiff, Pius VII. The second, lived for many years, as master of novices and as curate of the parish of St. Mary's, at Genazzano. It would take a volume to record all the latter did, to spread devotion to Our Lady of Good Counsel. Born at Trent, he entered the Augustinian Order early, and experienced all the vicissitudes through which it passed upon the coming of the French to Italy, both at the period of the Revolution, and upon the rise of Napoleon. He saw his Order disbanded, its members scattered, its property confiscated, and its churches desolated. He had to fly. But neither adversity nor prosperity could separate him from his brethren. A crust with them was dearer, than all the riches of the world without them. In his native land, he became prized for his zeal by the Austrian government, and was placed over the work of education, - a work in which so much can be done for religion and for souls. But the moment peace came to the States of the Church, he left all to join once more his brethren in poverty. Loving discipline with an ardent love, it is related of him, that even when living with his relations he made a cloister of his room, and there performed all the duties of a religious. As the eloquent historian of his life, Fr. Balzifore well says, he was « avid of common life », the true, and indeed the only secure life for a religious who has vowed poverty to his God, and must one day give an account of the practice of a virtue which he has

sworn to keep through all his days. Therefore, as the disturbances of the times did not permit perfect common life being practised in some communities newly reestablished, he deemed it a rare good fortune when his heart's desires were realized, on being placed in the convent of Genazzano, where, in reverence for the Madonna, common life had never once been interrupted. Here the soul of God's servant developed under the radiance of Our Lady's most wonderful Image, into one of the fairest of the flowers in the garden of the Church. His heart, always innocent, always on fire with the love of God and of God's Mother, now dilated still more; and he advanced with giant strides in the ways of the saints. Virtue, that before was perfect, now became heroic; and as teacher of novices, and as parish priest, the community soon came to know, that the long line of the Augustinian saints was destined to have yet another matured in the light of Our Lady of Good Counsel. It would be a pleasing task, if the writer of this notice of this child of the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Good Counsel, had space to do so at length, to tell of all his holy works. He was at once the father, the servant, the spiritual guide, gentle but firm, of his novices. He was then, the zealous pastor who in very truth — « in deaths often » — generously laid down his life for his sheep. He spent his age and strength freely for the souls committed to his keeping. Miracles in life — miracles in death, attested his sanctity. He was declared Venerable soon after his holy death; and it is with much consolation we have heard, that his Beatification is

PRIVATE USE ONLY

almost certain of being accomplished within a short period.

Genazzano is full of the fame of his miracles. The writer has seen a child, who while falling from the wall of the church of Santa Maria, was saved through the intercession of the Venerable servant of God. Good Father Berio, who came to Genazzane but two years after the death of Bellesini, tells of several; and was eye witness of the cure of a lame man performed at the tomb of the Venerable, in the church of Santa Maria. This modest tomb lies by the wall side, not far from the Sanctuary of his beloved Madonna. He foretold the hour of his death and its manner; and his body, years after that event, was found perfectly incorrupt, and so identified for the purpose of his Beatification.

The Venerable Menochio, a brother in religion and a contemporary of Bellesini, was Bishop Sacristan to the much persecuted Pontiff, Pius VII. He shared in all the sufferings inflicted upon his master by the atrocious conduct of the ungrateful Napoleon. He travelled also with the aged Pontiff through all the fatigues of his forced exile; and both in exile and in Rome gave proofs of such heroic sanctity, that the necessary process for his being placed upon the altars of the Church, commenced soon after his death. Devotion to Our Lady of Good Counsel was, as became a member of his Order, one of the leading features of his life. He strove by every means in his power to extend it, especially by means of the Pious Union, in all the places through which he had to journey with Pius VII., and in the Eternal City. He provided for its permanent establishment

in Ancona; and no doubt took care that his saintly principal should be filled with the same devotion — a devotion so needed then — and which may have been no small part of the cause why the Pontiff was able to meet the astuteness of the diplomacy of Talleyrand, the pride of Napoleon, and the long troubles of his reign, with such gentle yet firm inflexibility. Mary of Good Counsel alone under God could make him equal to his trials.

The same devotion is extended by his saintly successor, the present Bishop — Sacristan; and most actively by the Subsacristan, the Very Rev. Fr. Pifferi — a veritable Apostle of its extension by means of the Pious Union. He is the agent for its spread in France, and is unceasing in his efforts to advance it in every other country. The greatest delight of this good man's life, is to get away from the Vatican to Genazzano, and when there to spend all the time he can spare before the beautiful Image of Mary. His being amongst the living, prevents us to say more of all he does for the Sanctuary and the glory of Mary everywhere.

The above brief sketch will enable the reader to know something of the Order, to which it pleased the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel to confide the keeping of her most beautiful and miraculous Image. That Order has been most grateful for the trust, and most zealous to advance the honour of a treasure it has always esteemed as the most precious possessed by it. We have already seen what the General, Coriolanus, wrote regarding it, and how much was done for the Church of Santa Maria, the Sanctuary

PRIVATE USE ONLY

and the devotion during his tenure of office. The zeal of Coriolanus and of the whole Order for Our Lady of Genazzano, did not die in that generation. It continued, on the contrary, to increase until the Shrine and the devotion became, as it were, « the very apple of their eye » to them. In 1715, for the greater dignity of the sacred Image, the Father General, Adeodatus Summanticus decreed, that unless for Princes of the house of Colonna, Bishops, and some other dignified personages, the sacred Image should not be uncovered without the unanimous consent of all the Fathers of the monastery. Subsequently, the Father General, Gioja decreed, that unless upon the feasts of the Translation of the Image, the Nativity, Annunciation, and Assumption of Our Lady, and the great feasts of Easter, Pentecost, Christmas, and the Epiphany, it should be not exposed at all to the public; and that no priest, not a bishop, should be permitted to celebrate Mass before the picture uncovered without permission in writing from the General himself. Neither was the Image to be unveiled at any time, save with all possible ecclesiastical pomp; with incensations before and after, and with at least twelve wax candles of the larger sizes, lighted. The litany of the Blessed Virgin and other prayers to be recited or sung, were prescribed both before and after.

The most Reverend General, Nicolantonio Schiaffinati had the convent declared a generalitiate one, by Pope Clement XII. That holy Pontiff, on the occasion of being supplicated for this honour for Genazzano, desired to know the reason why the General wished for so singular a favour for a convent inferior

in size to many other Augustinian convents in the Roman province. « Your Holiness » replied the General « If Our Lady Most Holy, after a long voyage from Albania to Genazzano, wished to confide her Image to the hands of the Augustinians, I feel it my duty as unworthy Superior of that Order, to have a distinct care and zeal for that holy place, and to promote with your Holiness the lustre and honour of that Sanctuary, which ought to be the pupil of the eye of myself and of my religion. »

Under this General, the convent was constituted not only a generalitiate one, but also a house of holy retreat; and in all the subsequent changes and vicissitudes of the Order, it never lost its preëminence for the keeping of strict common life; and generally also as a chosen home where the Augustinian novices were trained in the highest sanctity under the shadow of Mary's Shrine.

8. The General, Francis Xavier Vasquez, a Peruvian, was also a specially zealous promoter of the devotion to this Sanctuary. By his means, Benedict XIV. approved of the Pious Union; and upon its approval, the General ordered, that the Union so productive of spiritual blessings to millions, should be established in every church of the Order. He built the sacristy of Santa Maria, formed the choir, and improved the whole church, the convent, and the Shrine; and in many ways proved himself to be amongst the best benefactors of the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Good Counsel. The gratitude of the community of Genazzano to this General is evidenced, by a beautiful marble

PRIVATE USE ONLY

bust, and by an inscription to his memory which is placed in the sacristy, and reads as follows.

FRANCISCO . XAVERIO . VASQUEZIO  
PERVANO  
MAGISTRO . GENERALI . EREMITARVM . S. AVGUSTINI  
OB . INGENIA . BENEFICIA . CONLATA . IN . SACRARIVM  
TEMPLVM . ET . COENOBIVM . IENAZZANI  
MAMOREAM . EFFIGIEM  
PATRES . COENOBII . LIBENTI . MVNERE . DEDICARVNT  
ANNO . CHRISTI . MDCCCLXXXV  
OBIIT . POSTRIDIE . KAL . FEB . EIVSD . ANNI

9. Subsequent Generals vied with each other in extending the devotion, and the prestige of the Sanctuary; and as we write, it forms a foremost object with the present ruler of the Augustinians, the Most Rev. Commissary General Neno, already mentioned, who takes the most lively interest in all that concerns the Sanctuary and devotion to Our Lady of Good Counsel. This he forwards by every means at his disposal, but more especially by means of the Pious Union. Meanwhile, other members of the Order were not less zealous than its Generals, for the treasure confided to their care. It was, as we have already seen, by means of Augustinian Fathers that so many miraculous copies were brought to so many places, as to Genoa and elsewhere; while the great preachers and theologians of the Order always make it a special study to advance the honour of Our Lady of Good Counsel by every means in their power.

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

10. At the present moment the attention of the whole Order is concentrated upon the Sanctuary. The church containing it, is being embellished with a new splendour surpassing anything attempted before. Every penny supplied by the Pious Union goes to the work. This source of revenue is providential, in view of the fact that the entire revenue of the convent has been confiscated by the Piedmontese. While the church progresses, the services of the Sanctuary are not diminished in grandeur. Twenty silver lamps still burn their olive oil continually before the sacred Image. The festivals of Our Lady advance rather than decrease, in the number of those who come to celebrate them, and in the solemnity of the celebration. Religious exercises take place in the church at stated periods for the benefit of the people. The divine office is chanted at the regular canonical hours of the day; and the rule of the Hermits of St. Augustine is observed by a community, which if not so numerous as it used to be before the Italian Government took the convent and its funds from them, is yet sufficient for at least all the needs of the Sanctuary. The present Prior, Father Martinelli, is busily employed in finishing the paintings of Santa Maria by means of the best available artistic talent in Rome. His predecessor, Fr. Belgrano, greatly to the regret of the people of Genazzano and of all who loved the Shrine, was translated at the request of Pius IX. to the post of Confessor to their imperial Majesties, the ex-Emperor and Empress of Austria, as we have already stated. His leisure has been as fortunate for the Sanctuary of

PRIVATE USE ONLY

Our Lady of Good Counsel as his active life. It has enabled him to give to the world a large volume on the devotion, and to publish an invaluable manual for the benefit of the pilgrims to the Shrine. He has added many thousand members to the Pious Union, in Germany and Bohemia. But to say the truth « as Father Buonanno observes » the whole Order of St. Augustine has nourished always, and still nourishes the most intense devotion for Our Lady of Good Counsel, and acknowledges as a work peculiarly its own, the obligation of spreading Her worship; in as much as Providence, having decreed to confide that Image to the care of the Hermits of St. Augustine, and so, having declared them depositaries and guardians of a treasure so precious, they in truth, have, as such, never been found wanting in zeal to promote the glory of the Sanctuary and to extend the devotion. There is not an Augustinian cloister, which does not live, and flourish under the shadow of Mary of Good Counsel. There is not a church of theirs, without an altar, or a chapel dedicated to Her, and where the feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel is not kept annually with pious pomp. There is not a religious, who does not nourish singular love for Her, who does not see Her in Her Image, ever present to his mind, and who does not write and preach the glories of this most sweet Mother. Nay more, there is not to be found one of them, who does not by every possible means endeavour to spread in the minds of the faithful, devotion to Mary Mother of Good Counsel, and who does not induce them to join the Pious Union of Genazzano, the fountain of

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

innumerable celestial graces. In fine, we may say, that the love of the Virgin of Good Counsel is so far, and with such good reason, inviscerated in the souls of these religious, as to become the glorious ensign of all the Augustinian Order, which, though it was at all times reputed grand and illustrious, is now, by such zeal for Mary of Good Counsel, adorned with a new glory in sight of the Catholic world. »

11. It was to this Order, therefore, - to the children of the great Doctor of Hippo, that Our Lady of Good Counsel determined to confide the most wonder-working and precious, the most faithful and perfect Image of Herself, the world has ever possessed. Their ruined Church in Genazzano, was dear to Her on many accounts. It was dedicated to Her under a title loved by Her, and expressive of the abiding strength in Her of the Holy Spirit of God, Her Spouse. It celebrated Her triumph over Venus, and over all the horrors of the abominable rites by which that fiend in female form was worshipped. St. Augustine too, was the first to celebrate Mary's heavenly praise as Mother of Good Counsel. It was meet then, that to his children, and to Genazzano, Her sacred Image, destined to represent Her in all after ages under that title, should come. The church of the Augustinian Tertiary, Petruccia, was perhaps the only one on earth, dedicated at the time to God's Mother, under the title given to Her by St. Augustine. It was certainly the only one, which under that title, celebrated Mary's triumph, upon the very scenes of the orgies of Venus. No fitter fountain therefore for devotion to the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel could be selected.

PRIVATE USE ONLY

St. Augustine overcame the heretics of his day by the Counsel he received from « Her, Who alone has overcome, » through the medium of servants like him, « all the heresies that have ever appeared in the whole world. » To all other forms of error and force which war against souls, She opposes instruments, made apt as he was, by the same Spirit of Counsel. In Her servant Scanderberg, we have seen, that She was « formidable as an army set in battle array » to the hosts of the Infidel; just as in St. Augustine, She was to the intellectual foes of the truth of Christ. In Genazzano, She determined to give the graces of Counsel and Strength necessary to overcome both heresy and vice; and from Her throne there, and wherever else She may be worshipped as Mother of Good Counsel, to send forth for the defence of Christianity, champions like St. Augustine and Scanderbeg, to the end of time.

12. But though the Augustinian Order has been naturally foremost in devotion to Our Lady of Good Counsel, and to Her beautiful Image at Genazzano, it has been, by no means, the only religious body which has been thus devoted. A devotion at first specially confided to a single body, may, as that to the Sacred Heart for instance, soon go far beyond that body, without, at the same time, being disassociated from those who, so to speak, cradled it, and spread it in time to all the societies and individuals of the whole Church of God. The Rosary, the Scapular of Mount Carmel, the Sacred Heart, confided by Providence to Dominicans, Carmelites, and Jesuits, are now as universal as the Church; and unquestion-

ably would survive the Orders through which they sprung, if these, in the order of Providence should pass away. So it is with the devotion to Our Lady of Good Counsel, and of the Pious Union of those who in the spirit of the brief of Benedict XIV., desire to honour Her throughout the Church.

13. A most remarkable instance of this occurs in the case of St. Alphonsus Liguori, and of the congregation of missionary priests established by him. These excellent men are remarkable for the fidelity with which they adhere to the rule left them, and to the example of their learned and holy founder. No saint of the Church perhaps, is more widely known, than St. Alphonsus. His moral theology, and his works of a more scholastic kind, have made his name famous in all ecclesiastical schools; while his smaller works, intended for the instruction and edification of the faithful at large, are found in every language, and are used with unspeakable profit throughout the world, No portrait of any saint is more generally known; and it will be recollect that he is often represented with a picture of the Madonna near him. He had but one. He kept it nearly all his lifetime. He never parted with it until his work for the Church was done, until broken with age and sickness, he left his diocese to return and die with his children in religion.

14. The daughters of St. Francis de Sales, whom he had directed for such a length of time in the way of the highest perfection, were inconsolable at his departure. When they found that they were indeed to lose him, their spiritual father, for ever, they asked

PRIVATE USE ONLY

some remembrance. Then, and then only, did the Saint part, as his Master parted from Mary, on the Cross, with this beloved Image. He sent it to them with this message « I leave you my heart. » He had nothing else he loved on earth to give: that Image was a copy, and a very beautiful one, of Our Lady of Good Counsel of Genazzano.

15. It would be easy indeed, from this fact, to understand the numberless lights and graces which the holy Doctor obtained from the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel. In him, surely, that Most Pure Mother triumphed over the foul efforts of the Venus of impurity in every shape, just as She did in Genazzano. From Her he drew those copious streams of learning and of wisdom which were destined to enlighten and to direct, in a manner never known before, the consciences of confessors and of people. No tongue can tell, no pen can write, the real, secret, silent good effected by this singularly devoted child of Mary, when, in presence of that little Image, he so much loved, he wrote and sent out these works of his upon the world. Only in the full flood of the light of Heaven shall we be able to see the power of the Mother of Good Counsel, as exemplified in this Her favourite child from Naples - the city in which above all others, the same Virgin Mother of Good Counsel is most honoured. To this day, from his far distant province, priests and people come to Genazzano, for his spirit is upon them. He not only used the sweet Image of Mary for his own needs, but as a missioner and as a Bishop, he used it for the needs of those for whose salvation he laboured. Miracles are recorded as having

been performed by aid of his medals and pictures of Mary the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel, one of which, being of peculiar interest, we shall mention briefly.

At Avenzo, an aged and scandalous sinner came to die. He refused the ministrations of the Priest. Nothing apparently could save the unfortunate man. St. Alphonsus sent him a little image of Our Lady of Good Counsel, exhorting him to have recourse to Her. The dying man at the sight of it, not only at once returned to God, but to bodily health, and lived to do penance and repair his scandals.

16. The same touching devotion was exhibited by the Fathers of the Redemptorist Order, whom the saint left behind him. In Belgium and elsewhere these good missionaries established sanctuaries, formed on the model of that of Genazzano; and that with incredible fruit for souls. Other religious orders practise the same devotion; and to the writer of this little work in honour of Mary of Good Counsel, it was pleasing to hear from a venerable Father of the missionary Society of Marists, that the devotion was not new to them; and that it was made known and extended by their present General, under whose sway the Marist Community has assumed such immense proportions; spreading not only through France, but through Ireland, Scotland, England, America, Australia, and Oceanica; keeping everywhere to its primitive spirit, and to the essential blessing of every religious order — common life with perfect discipline. A beautiful, special chapel is erected at the novitiate of this Society near Lyons, where its youth may learn wisdom at the feet of the Madonna of Good Counsel.

---

PRIVATE USE ONLY

## **Chapter XVII.**

### **CANON BACCI**

- 1. Other Apostles. — 2. Devotion of Andrew Bacci, Canon of St. Mark's. —**
- 3. His work's. — 4. His celebrated letter. — 5. Image at St. Mark's. —**
- 6. His death at the Sanctuary — His epitaphs.**

1. From what has been said in previous chapters, it is evident that the propagation of the devotion to Our Lady of Good Counsel, however much extended by the Fathers of the Augustinian Order, or by members of other religious orders, or by canonized saints, has been in no sense confined to them. Pontiffs, princes, and people have all coöperated in spreading it. It is also, at the same time, true, that perhaps no shrine has received less assistance from human means. It has, from the first, subsisted by the very force of its own power; coming as that assuredly does from the Queen of Heaven; and preserved, as it certainly is, by Her continual favour. Whom She wills, She selects to advance it; and in this, Her ways are in unison with the wonderful ways of God at all times, and all the world over.

It is also a fact worth noting, that since the first appearance of Her sacred Image in Genazzano

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

until this hour, no efforts have ever been made to influence in any way the multitudes who come to venerate it, in Mary's Sanctuary. They come and they go. They stream before the Sanctuary, through the tribunal of Penance, before the Eucharistic table. They kneel for hours before the Shrine, often too, when the sacred Image is veiled from their eyes. But who they are, or why they come, none inquire and none can tell. Their departure, which so often reveals them bathed in tears, or crying outright on leaving the Sanctuary, tells of hearts eased and grateful; of hearts released from bonds of sin, and grief, and pain, which none but heaven may know.

2. It was to a relief of this kind, that the Sanctuary of the Madonna of Genazzano owed one of the most zealous — perhaps the most zealous — of all the apostles of Our Lady of Good Counsel, in the last century. This was Andrew Bacci, a Canon of the Basilica of St. Mark, in Rome, who in a season of deep distress accidentally came to the knowledge of the wonderful power of the sacred Image of Genazzano. He went there, and obtained at once, the relief he had long in vain sought after. The mercy of Our Lady of Good Counsel so moved him, that in gratitude, he became a life long promoter of Her devotion in the Eternal City; and, as far as he could, throughout the whole extent of the Church of God. With all whom he could influence, with apostolic missionaries, with ecclesiastics of position, and with all others capable of advancing the devotion, he met in the Centre of Catholicity, he never lost a chance of diffusing by means of Images, pictures, and pious

PRIVATE USE ONLY

treatises his beloved devotion to Our Lady of Good Counsel.

3. His zeal animated the custodians themselves of the Sacred Image with fresh ardour. Through his advice, a new registry of miracles was opened by the Fathers in 1748. Through him, a beautiful proper office was composed for the feast of the Wonderful Apparition, and is now recited in Genazzano; in all the Cardinalitiate diocese of Palestrina; in the whole Augustinian Order, and in very many dioceses throughout the world. He obtained from Pope Benedict XIV. the privilege to establish the Pious Union of Our Lady of Genazzano in the church of San Pantaleo ai Monti in Rome. His zeal and liberal contributions caused the church in which the Sanctuary is situated, to be furnished with costly vestments. The magnificent marble of the great altar; the marble balustrade; the rich altar of the most Holy Crucifix; the pavement; all came from his deep strong love and gratitude to his Benefactress, the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel.

He further caused Father De Orgio to write a history of the Translation and the Apparition of the Image of Our Lady of Genazzano, which has been of much value to all subsequent writers on the Sanctuary.

4. We find in page 135 of that history, the following letter from himself to Father De Orgio, which gives in detail the reasons that led him to go to Genazzano, and the nature of the relief he obtained there. His meeting with, and relieving a poor boy on the way is a singular circumstance; showing the

power of charity. No one knows the nature of the trial from which Our Lady delivered him. But that it must have been a trial, real, severe and external, is evidenced by the word he uses « fatal. » We here give a translation, as near as possible, literally of this letter, to preserve the genuine evidence of simple truth which marks the whole composition. Our readers will find it not only deeply interesting, but abundant in its proof of all we have hitherto advanced in favour of devotion to Our Lady of Good Counsel. It is as follows.

« Very Reverend Father.

• Two things are required of me by your Very Rev. Paternity. The first is, to explain the reason, or motive that led me to take such a deep interest in the Sanctuary. The second, to tell what graces or wonderful gifts I know to have been granted through the most venerable Image of Most Holy Mary of Good Counsel, by means of the many copies on paper, given by me, and scattered throughout Italy and far beyond Italy.

« With regard to the first; in order to satisfy to the full your pious desire, it is necessary that I should make an open and most sincere narration of all that which happened to me in the year 1734. And for no other object could I be induced voluntarily to make this statement, except that it may advance the greater glory of God, and of that most amiable and most wonderful Image, to which I feel myself fixed and bound with all the affections, and with the most intimate feelings of my heart.

PRIVATE USE ONLY

« In the month of December of the above mentioned year, I found myself so agitated internally by certain fatal circumstances which disturbed my mind and soul, night and day, to such an extent, that I knew not where to turn, in order to find a proper remedy. One day, which was precisely the 7<sup>th</sup> of the present month, having visited a certain house in which a young person lived, who by a most painful contraction of the nerves, could not for eight years continuously, stand upon her feet, I found her completely cured, free from pain, and happy. Struck with sudden astonishment, I at once asked; how and in what manner was she cured of her grievous and painful malady. The good young girl then, with perfect clearness of language told me, how a few days previously she had been brought to Genazzano in order to receive through its most wonderful Image, the grace she so ardently desired ; and that while she found herself at the foot of the sacred altar, contemplating and admiring the beautiful Image of Paradise, uncovered to her gaze, and listening to the Litanies which were being chanted for her at the foot of the altar of the Shrine, she suddenly felt the nerves of her feet loosen themselves and become vigorous ; then, that her contracted members were forced apart; and that there ran through her whole body such an energy of motion, that she instantly wished to stand up and endeavour to move. In fact she did get upon her feet and found herself so vigorous, sound, and free from pain, that casting aside her crutches she commenced to walk , and thus returned to Rome , after having first rendered most

heartfelt thanks to her benign Liberatrix in Genazzano.

« In hearing such a true and candid account, I, at that very moment, (which for me was a moment very memorable) felt myself inflamed to visit the same Sanctuary, and that too in such a manner, that I had a certain, secret, internal assurance, that there, from the most benignant Mother of Good Counsel, I should obtain a salutary remedy for those ills which destroyed all my internal peace. Instantly, without regarding the severity of the season, or any of the dangers of the journey; on that very night, the seventh of December, the vigil of the Immaculate Conception, I took a carriage and set out alone for Genazzano.

« And here I ought to let your Very Revd. Paternity know of an agreeable event, which happened to me on the way. About 12 miles from Rome, I heard the coachman cry out to a poor boy who tried to sit at the back of the vehicle, that he should get off. The poor child, only eleven years of age, trembling all over with cold, then said that he had sore feet, and therefore, for charity, he prayed to be allowed to remain. On hearing the plaintive, childlike voice I dismounted at once from the carriage, and saw the poor boy thrown on the ground, unable to get upon his feet, and all suppliant and trembling. Moved with pity and tenderness, I lifted him up and placed him beside me in the carriage, covering him as best I could with wrappers. I brought him with me to dinner at my own table at the osteria of San Cesario, We recited the rosary together in the vehicle,

PRIVATE USE ONLY

and at the commencement of that rosary, he said to me with an imperiously sweet tone of voice, that I should always think of saying it every day. After the rosary was over, he commenced to speak in the following unexpected form and to say to me: « For that much charity which you have shown me this morning, go now and you will have that grace which you are going to ask from the Virgin Mary. » Surprised and astonished at such unexpected expressions, I said to him, « do you know then where I am going » He answered with frankness; « you are going to Genazzano to demand from the Virgin Mary of Good Counsel a grace which you need greatly; go by all means, and without any doubt you will obtain it. » I was then seized with unusual astonishment, in as much as the child did not know, nor humanly speaking under the circumstances could he know, where I was going to, or what motive was bringing me to Genazzano. Finally, we arrived in the neighbourhood of the town, near the beautiful villa of the Signori Sonnini, where the road divides itself into two branches, one of which leads to Genazzano, and the other to Paliano and the kingdom of Naples. I then looked again with wonder and tenderness to the good child. I gave him some pence in charity (as much as I could afford) to help him on his journey, and left him in holy peace to pursue his way to the Abruzzi, through which he said he was obliged to travel. Now having gone on some ten or twelve paces in the carriage, there arose in my heart an ardent desire to see the child again, and to bring him to Genazzano with me. But with all the diligence that I and my

coachman could use, it was impossible to find him; although he could not possibly be distant more than three or four yards on a road long and straight. I was then more astonished than ever; and having again mounted in the carriage, I soon found myself in Genazzano where I was lovingly received by its religious.

« Afterwards, at the proper hour, the sacred Image having been uncovered for me, I venerated and worshipped it with all my heart, and with an extraordinary internal tenderness, asking of the Most Holy Mother of Good Counsel the great grace which I sighed after, and which so much concerned me. And then I saw – and clearly saw, that the blessed Image towards the middle of the Litany which was being recited, became suffused and enkindled as a purple rose. And I was the more confirmed in the sentiment of not being deceived by my sight, when one of the good religious on taking leave of me said, that Most Holy Mary would, without doubt, grant me the grace which I internally demanded, because the holy Image uncovered, showed a countenance joyful and roseate in hue. In fact on my return to Rome, with the most lively confidence of having been already heard, I received immediately the desired grace; and with such and so great completeness, that presently my dark and sorrowful aspect changed; and consequently, there arose within me such peace, calmness, and quiet of mind, that I esteemed myself the happiest, and most fortunate man in the world.

« Behold then, ingenuously, and confidently unveiled to your Very Revd. Paternity, the motive, and the

PRIVATE USE ONLY

remarkable motive, for which I have conceived such great devotion to the most blessed Image; always having it fixed in my mind to promote its veneration and estimation wherever I could.

« With regard to the second part of your zealous inquiry, I shall tell you with equal ingenuousness, all that has happened to my knowledge in Rome, and outside Rome, by means of the same holy Image.

« Inflamed, as I have said a little before, with love and devotion for that great Mother of Good Counsel, I commenced forth - with to speak of Her most singular prerogatives. With the experimental knowledge of what had happened to myself, I commenced, by exhortations and familiar reasonings, to influence all, especially persons troubled and afflicted, to have recourse to the aforesaid Most Loving Mother. I also commenced to distribute to the devout, Her Images on paper; making on such occasions earnest exhortations to those who received them, to the effect, that they should keep them in their houses with becoming respect, and that they should recommend themselves to the Mother of Good Counsel there represented, with all their hearts and with a firm purpose never more to offend the Divine Majesty for the love of Mary. Thus continuing for the course of fifteen years, I have seen wonders, and strange wonders, which, with all truth and security of conscience, I can attest, and always prove before any authority whatever.

« I have seen by means of the devotion advocated and established by me amongst the faithful, towards this most amiable and most pure Mother of

Good Counsel, and by means of large pictures given by me, which at the present moment amount to the number of ninety seven thousand, I have seen I say; peace re-established in houses, in families, and even in pious places; youth retiring from the slippery ways of the world and seriously thinking upon the most important concerns of the soul and of eternal salvation; and others leave and abandon perverse occasions and inveterate bad practices. I have seen people almost reduced to despair, opportunely saved by Most Holy Mary with Her Good Counsel, and other needful and timely assistance. I have heard, that with the holy Images dispensed by me; some have been liberated from chronic diseases; from gangrene, asthma, varicose veins, violent flux from the eyes, through which they ran fatal danger of becoming blind; from difficulty of breathing; from rheumatism; and others from malignant and burning fevers with many mortal symptoms. Women in labour devoutly reverencing this sacred Image, have been happily delivered: and some who could neither bring forth nor conceive, after having applied for three or four days, this holy Image to the breast have been most happily consoled. I have known, and securely understood, that besides the innumerable maladies of fever, of wounds, of acute pains, there were even incurable diseases suddenly healed by the holy Images dispensed by me. Many and many by this salutary means, and with this same devotion, have been liberated on journeys from imminent danger of perishing, either through falls of a perilous kind, or through the planned attacks of assassins, or evil designers, or by the flood-

PRIVATE USE ONLY

ing of rivers, as lately happened to Signor Niccola Piaggi, courier of the cabinet of his Majesty the king of Portugal. This gentleman having returned to Rome last year narrated, in presence of several couriers and many others, how by means of an Image of Most Holy Mary of Good Counsel which he had sewed in his breast, he found himself saved most wonderfully from the deadly peril of being submerged and drowned by a flood of water in a rapid river of those parts, which he wished courageously to pass by fording. Others moreover, have either gained certain suits which they looked upon as lost; or found those in a good state when brought again, which previously had been very badly conducted and judged. Others on having recourse to this most blessed Image, and to its powerful and most loving patronage, have unexpectedly found deeds, money, and other objects of consideration which they had given up as lost. And others, in fine, by the powerful favour and assistance of Our Great Mother of Good Counsel have happily settled their daughters in life and provided for their sons. Finally, I have admired, and known, and discovered, that many, by becoming devout to this holy Image have wisely provided for their spiritual needs, and reacquired the peace and tranquillity of their conscience; and that several who were much in dread of death, by placing before their eyes this most blessed Image of Paradise were suddenly enlightened, resigned, and placed in perfect calm; that they disposed rightly of their temporal and spiritual affairs, and thus peaceably passed to eternity.

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

« And since the graces and the wonders which it has pleased, and always pleases Most Holy Mary to grant through these devout Images on paper, have come to the knowledge of many far distant provinces and kingdoms, people there have prayed and besought me by letters and frequently repeated requests, to send them copies. I have thus sent very many of these holy Images again and again to the kingdom of Naples; to the Ecclesiastical States, to Florence, to Genoa, to Venice, to Lombardy, and even to Istria in Dalmatia; to Portugal, to Catalonia, to Brazil; and many others to Africa and to America, by means of various apostolic missionaries. And indeed here, I have had the spiritual contentment of seeing and knowing that Our Lady, by means of these same Images, has worked everywhere great wonders amongst the faithful who have taken up so profitable a devotion to Her.

« I would never finish, if I were to recount the profit, the glory, and the graces granted by Mary, precisely by means of Her dearest Images, of which, as I have said a little before, I have given away through pure charity, and through the desire of making new devout clients and children of the great Mother of Good Counsel, over ninety thousand. And I always wish to dispense more, until God is pleased to take me out of this mortal life. I conclude, however, this my letter, by narrating succinctly one more prodigious event.

« Perla Gradiglia, a young Hebrew girl, a child of ten years, of excellent mind, and of great promise of genius, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> Septr. of the past year was taken

PRIVATE USE ONLY

from the Ghetto and placed in the Conservatory of Catechumens of this mother city of Rome, in order that she may embrace our Holy Christian Faith. After a few days she repented of what she had done. There was no means omitted by exhortations, instructions, prayers, and teachings to make her know and discover the great deception and battle of hell. Finally, I was called, in order that I should bring a devotional Image of Most Holy Mary of Good Counsel of Genazzano. I went immediately, and very willingly I gave her the holy Image, and twice spoke to her of the graces and celestial prerogatives of Our Lady. Ordering however, that in the convent there should be commenced at once a novena before the holy Image, which the young girl frequently looked upon with tenderness. Thus it happened, that on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of the novena, Perla called the Superioreess, and she protested not to be able to resist the divine invitations any longer, and that positively she felt in these days of the novena, that her heart would break, if she did not embrace the Holy Roman Catholic Religion.

« There was presently a great jubilee amongst all who heard such happy news: and now the good child who has often upon her lips — Jesus, Mary, Joseph! disposes herself for baptism, and will be devoted and deeply devoted for ever to the most wonderful Holy Mother of Good Counsel.

« I believe I have, at least in part and in brief, satisfied the anxiety of your Very Revd. Paternity; and I am ready even to satisfy it to a greater extent, if you command me. Meanwhile praying you to reccommend me heartily to that most amiable Mother

of ours, of Good Counsel, whom I hope soon to come to visit: I am with all esteem. »

« Of Your Very Revd. Paternity »  
Rome 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb. 1748

The most devoted and humble Servant:

ANDREA BACCI

Canon of St. Mark. »

5. The good Canon wrote this letter in 1748, and for ten years longer continued his unceasing labours for his beloved Virgin Mother of Good Counsel, Who certainly had in him, no ungrateful child. In the Basilica of St. Mark, in which he held his benefice, they celebrate, as we have already noticed, to this day, the feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel with great pomp, and with a proper mass and office, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of July. The picture of Our Lady of Good Counsel placed in this Basilica by him, is reputed miraculous. Towards the close of his days he retired to Genazzano, so that he might be as near as possible to his beloved Virgin Mother. There he increased daily in sanctity and in fervour.

6. Finally, he took up his residence at the convent, where close to the wonderful Image of Mary Whom no man loved or served better, he breathed out his soul to God and to Her, just as the great feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord was dawning upon the world in August 1758. His body was interred in the Church of Santa Maria, at a little distance from the balustrade of the high altar, and within a few feet of the railing of the Sanctuary of his beloved

PRIVATE USE ONLY

Madonna. In gratitude for his services and his love for Our Lady of Good Counsel, the Prior and Fathers of the Convent at Genazzano placed a marble inscription to his memory, surmounted by his portrait, near the entrance to the sacristy. Another inscription was placed upon his tomb, which lately, in consequence of the marble pavement recently laid down over all the church, has had to be removed. This latter one, which possibly, from its tenor of humble depreciation of himself, was composed at his desire, if not by his own pen, ran as follows.

ANDREW BACCI  
AN UNWORTHY SINNER  
CANON  
OF THE BASILICA OF ST. MARK IN THE CITY OF ROME  
LIES HERE  
DUST AND ASHES  
IN THE TEMPLE  
OF THE DIVINE MOTHER MARY  
OF GENAZZANO  
HIS MOST PIOUS PATRONESS  
AWAITING  
THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD  
AND LIFE OF THE WORLD TO COME  
HOPING IN CHRIST JESUS  
  
PRAY FOR ME  
HE LIVED LXIV. YEARS, III. MONTHS AND XI. DAYS  
AND DIED IN THE YEAR OF SALVATION REPAIRED 1758  
IN THE CONVENT OF ST. MARY, GENAZZANO  
ON THE 5<sup>th</sup> DAY OF AUGUST ABOUT MIDNIGHT.

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

The community of Santa Maria placed another tablet with the following inscription, which has been lately inserted in the wall near the entrance to the Church and facing the Sanctuary of Mary.

INTEGERRIMO PISSIMOQUE VIRO  
ANDREA BACCIO  
BASILICA S. MARCI IN URBE ROMA  
CANONICO  
QUOD  
CULTUM  
DEI GENITRICIS MARIAE GENESTANENSIS  
DE BONO CONSILIO NUNCUPATAE  
PER UNIVERSUM TERRARUM ORBEM  
LATISSIME PROPAGARI CURAVIT  
EIQUE DICATUM COENOBIUM  
MAGNIS AC FREQUENTIBUS BENEFICIIS  
CUMULAVIT  
PRIOR ET PATRES AUGUSTINIANI  
A. AE. V. MDCCCLVIII  
GRATI ANIMI  
MONUMENTUM  
P.

« The Prior and Fathers of the Augustinian Order with grateful hearts place this monument in remembrance of Andrew Bacci, Canon of the Basilica of St. Mark, in Rome, a man of the greatest integrity and piety, who took care to propagate most widely throughout the world the worship of Mary, the Mother of Good Counsel of Genazzano, and who endowed with great and frequent benefits the convent dedicated to Her. 1758. »

PRIVATE USE ONLY

## Chapter XVIII.

### DON STEPHEN ANDREA RODOTÀ

1. Devotion of the Albanians in Italy.— 2. Their colony in Calabria.—
3. Their Apostle, Don Stephen Andrea Rodotà. — 4. Letter regarding his labours from Don John Francis Avato, to Father De Orgio.

1. It is a very remarkable circumstance, and, as we have seen, a proof of the miraculous Translation from Scutari, that ever since the apparition of the miraculous Image of Our Lady in Genazzano, the Albanians, not only at home, but in all the lands of their exile, have never ceased to regard it, though gone from Albania, as still and peculiarly their own. It is inseparably connected in their minds with the glory of their nation. They recall with pride the fact, that while it remained with them, no power, not even all the power of the Turks, could overcome them. They are sensible that the reason why Mary left them in Her Holy Image, was because of the laxness, first in faith, and then in fervour and in purity of life, not of all indeed, but of many amongst their ancestors. Hence, to-day, those in Albania who have held the faith are amongst the most fervent Catholics in the world.

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

Out of Albania, they and their descendants for many generations, have kept and keep the recollections of their faith and fatherland; and demonstrate the most tender devotion to the Madonna which left Scutari. They come from all parts to venerate the sacred Image, even to this day.

2. Amongst the many colonies of Albanian emigrants, which the generosity of the Pope and the Italian princes established in Italy, after the Turkish occupation of Epirus and Illyria, that settled in Calabria, through the fostering care of its Dukes, is very remarkable. This colony long kept the customs, religious and national, of its fatherland; and it is worthy of note, that when peace and prosperity produced a decay of fervour amongst them, devotion to the famous Madonna of their nation caused them, and indeed all their neighbours in Calabria, to return to the ways not only of faith, but also of Christian perfection.

3. This was effected by a fervent priest of their blood, who became, like Canon Bacci, an apostle of the devotion to Our Lady of Good Counsel, in Calabria and Southern Italy generally. Father De Orgio, when composing his Historical Notes of the Sanctuary, wrote to the best authority he could find in Calabria, about the nature and the effects of the singular zeal of this devoted client of Mary of Good Counsel, named, Don<sup>1</sup> Stephen Andrea Rodotà.

---

<sup>1</sup> «Don», which evidently appears to be a contraction of the Latin *Dominus*, pre-fixed to the Christian name, is the usual title given in Italy to the members of the secular Priesthood, when speaking either to or of them. Titles belonging to office

4. Speaking on this point, Fr. De Orgio says; « Not wishing to give anything of my own, it will suffice for me to refer here to the following full, and erudite letter, written to me on this very worthy and laudable subject, by the illustrious Don John Francis Avato, a most learned professor of the Greek language in the flourishing Pontifical Corsini College, at San Benedetto Ullano ». The following is a literal translation from the original Italian of this letter, which gives in detail all that Father Rodotà did for his people by the aid of Our Lady of Genazzano.

---

or dignity are prefixed to the family name. Except, however, in the case of prelates, « Don » is the title used most commonly even when speaking of capitular dignitaries. In families it is seldom or never lost. Brothers and sisters will talk of their « Don Nicolo » or « Don Giovanni » even when the latter has been for years a Monsignore, or even a Cardinal. There appears to be the element of endearment in the name, as in that of « Father » joined to the Christian name of a Catholic Priest, in Ireland, America, and the colonies. In Italy, as in all Catholic countries, the word « Padre » « Father » is only used in the case of priests who are members of a religious order. Should the latter have attained the highest grade in Theology, they are styled « *Padre Maestro* » — Father Master. While the latter title is very commonly in use in the case of the regular clergy, secular Doctors in Divinity are rarely if ever called, as with us « Doctor ». University titles in Theology or Canon Law are appended to the name of the individual possessing them, as with us happens in the case of literary graduates. We sometimes here of « Signor » Abate, Arciprete, Canonico etc. but the prevailing title is, even the case of these, « Don ». The same title is given, as in Spain, but in a much more restricted manner, to seculars of a very exalted rank; as Don Philip, Duke of Paliano; Don Amadeo, etc. just as we hear Don Carlos. It is, in fact, the highest general, secular title applied in love by a Catholic people, to their priesthood. It was probably first introduced, at least commonly, into Italy during the Spanish domination in the South.

The reader will find in it much of the complimentary, and round - about phraseology, common to Italian epistolary correspondence in the first half of the last century. But the writer deems it better to preserve this, than to weaken the value of the document, by giving it in a more modern, and, perhaps, more readable form. It is as follows

« Very Revd. Father.

« The happy, unexpected information reached me during the past month of the work which your Very Revd. Paternity was engaged in composing, upon the glories, and the immortal prerogatives of the holy and most august Image of Most Holy Mary of Good Counsel; and this information, confirmed afterwards in my mind by succeeding accounts, united to the many rare qualities which adorn your mind, and of which real proofs are found in the continued exercise of the principal onerous offices sustained by you in your renowned Order, - all this has filled me with extreme joy; because of the particular devotion which this seminary, and all this country profess towards that celebrated Sanctuary. And thus I am stimulated to give you some remarkable proofs of the singular devotion which this province of Calabria Citra has shown for that holy Image, and still shows to this day. Hence I can, in some manner, in the name of the Alumni and of the devout people, contribute in a small degree at least, to the glories of Most Holy Mary, by communicating to you such valuable records as are here preserved.

PRIVATE USE ONLY

« In the year, then, 1713, a noble germ of the renowned college of St. Athanasius in Rome, named Don Stephen Andrew Rodotà, having heard frequent conversations amongst persons worthy of every credit, regarding the wonderful and unmistakable prerogatives of that holy and most blessed Image of Most Holy Mary of Genazzano, which came originally from Albania, and of the miracles performed by it in its passage to Italy, he found himself, in such a manner inflamed with so ardent a desire to visit and venerate it, that without loss of time he betook himself to Genazzano, where he was received by the religious of that period with the greatest welcome and love; particularly when they found that he was a priest of the Greek rite, and by nation, an Albanian. The holy and most venerable Image was at once uncovered for him with a special demonstration of esteem. He was permitted to celebrate Mass at the altar of the same holy Image, and to fully satisfy his devotion and fervour by regarding and contemplating it again and again, as one who wished to have a vivid copy of it formed in the very centre of his heart.

« After this he returned to Rome; but so entirely inflamed was he with love, and overwhelmed with tenderness for that great, most beneficent Mother of Good Counsel, (Whom he often called the Madonna of the Albanians), that from that moment he commenced to conceive vast and holy ideas for the promotion of Her worship everywhere, and especially in Calabria Citra. He himself was a native of San Benedetto Ulzano, in that province, although the family, Rodotà,

enjoyed nobility in the city of Montalto, and were favoured with many privileges by the most excellent the Dukes, and were well known by many titles in all that country. Wherefore - omitting the labour up to that sustained by him as the most faithful companion of the missions of Father Baldinucci of the Society of Jesus, so greatly renowned for sanctity of life and for his heroic, apostolic zeal, - with a copy of the above - referred - to most holy Image, he fled, as it were, after having by his apostolic labours, and with the above named most zealous Apostle of Italy, travelled through and sanctified many provinces and especially the Romagna; he fled, I have said, to San Benedetto Ullano, and there commenced at once to cause his zeal for the worship of Most Holy Mary of Good Counsel to become resplendent with the idea and the design well pondered upon, to sanctify by means of the holy Image, the Albanian colony more than others, by bringing them back to the perfection and first lustre and splendour of the Greek rite, which for want of subjects skilled in the Oriental ceremonies, was on the point of falling and of losing its majesty, purity, and decorum.

Now I cannot certainly express with the pen in a few sheets, what and how great apostolic fatigues he undertook, followed up, and sustained to his very death, to the great spiritual advantage of the whole population, and of the devoted Albanian race especially. I could easily, of such an ample subject, form an entire work. I will, however, relate some of the most remarkable and valuable facts, in order that in the voluminous work which your V. Revd.

PRIVATE USE ONLY

Paternity is about to send soon to the press , they may assist in giving edification to the people , and in the increase ever more of the worship in truth of that most amiable, and most gracious holy Image.

« The first of these facts is this; that scarcely had that zealous, new Apostle, elected by God for the sanctification of that people , and for the propagation of the worship due to the Most August Empress of the Heavens , commenced with sermons, with panegyrics, with exhortations, and with assiduous familiar discourses, to unveil the glories, and the singularly high prerogatives of the most holy Image of Mary of Good Counsel, which came with such great and portent events from Albania to Genazzano; scarcely had he with well taken copies of the holy Image which he always brought with him , commenced to invite with apostolic words the Albanian colonies to acknowledge, and worship, and venerate their most benign ancient Mother of Good Counsel, than presently there became kindled in their hearts such a living fire, and such a fervent love, that all gathered with one accord to see and admire so beautiful and devotional an Image in all their towns and cities. All crowded to hear the voice of this beloved servant of Mary, who with such eloquent tenderness and zeal, preached, and assiduously evangelized upon that noble, holy , and delightful object. And hence were derived those copious heavenly graces, which at the commencement, as the first fruits of these souls, were gathered. All the land of San Benedetto Ullano immediately changed its aspect. Peace once again flourished in houses, in families, and in souls prone to re-

venge. Young women became such models of modesty and staidness of demeanour, that many of them embraced the perfect state of the virgin consacrated to God; and all with a holy emulation endeavoured to acquire a true devotion to Mary of Good Counsel. And in fact, they did acquire and demonstrated this in the first magnificent temple erected at Ullano in honour of the holy Image brought there and exposed frequently upon the altar, by the aforesaid Don Stephen. But in this, the Rodotà family distinguished themselves as much and more than all others, giving not only generous sums of money for the erection of the temple, but also providing, afterwards, precious vestments, chaplains, annual revenues, sacred vessels, lamps, and other very notable gifts. Hence to this day is seen and admired in that locality, this first majestic temple erected to the glories of the great Virgin and Mother of Good Counsel.

« The second fact is this, that in order to demonstrate how agreeable to heaven were the incessant apostolic fatigues of Don Stephen, and the singular devotion excited in the souls of these people, especially of the Albanian colonists, Most Holy Mary commenced very speedily to work astonishing prodigies, and to dispense most signal favours worthy of everlasting remembrance. Of these a whole volume could be written, as in fact many and many miracles have been registered, and others are everywhere being collected and registered. I will here refer to two only performed by the holy Image, since those first blessed moments, for the beloved family of Rodotà, so much interested and pledged in extending its veneration.

PRIVATE USE ONLY

The Lady Agatha Rodotà the daughter of Don Maurice - a man endowed with great probity and credit in that province, had a young son grievously afflicted in the eyes by an acrid burning and pertinacious humour, which already placed him in evident peril of losing both eyes. The most painstaking diligence was employed by the most skilful physicians to cure him, but it was always without effect or any advantage whatever. At last the devout, noble mother had recourse to Most Holy Mary of Good Counsel; and having anointed the eyes of her son with oil from the lamp which burned before the holy Image, presently his eyes became clear as at first, and he perfectly regained his sight by an evident miracle, and to the great astonishment of all. Thus also in the year 1738, the Lady Rosa Carraschi, wife of Don Luigi Rodotà, found herself given over by the physicians, and in a state prepared to render her soul to God at every moment, so much so, that already the matters necessary for her funeral were prepared by the domestics. At last, some of her near relations resolved to present a memorial filled with the most fervent expressions at the feet of the Image of Mary Most Holy of Good Counsel, in the above named Church of Ullano. This being done, even as one arises from death to life, the devout lady, Donna Rosa commenced at once to grow better, and presently saw herself perfectly cured, to the great wonder of the assembled doctors, all of whom declared that such an unexpected change could not have taken place but by a most signal grace of Most Holy Mary of Good Counsel.

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

« The third remarkable occurrence which I have here to notify to your Very Revd. Paternity, omitting the account of the great prodigies there operated by means of the copy of the holy original Image, of which I keep by me the sure documents, is, that from San Benedetto Ullano the devotion to Most Holy Mary of Good Counsel commenced so effectually to extend, amplify, and propagate itself, by means of the continual fatigues of the same Don Stephen, in so many other cities, lands, and villages of that province, (where so many devout people from Albania found refuge when obliged to fly, at the time their country was taken possession of by the audacious Turk,) that altars were to be seen everywhere erected to Most Holy Mary of Good Counsel. Everywhere too, this holy Image was called the Image of Mary of the Albanians. Many and many copies were taken in copper, in prints, and even in sculpture. Besides the spiritual profit to souls, the most perilous and obstinate maladies of their bodies were cured. The faith also constantly increased, through the most tender and most sweet discourses and reasonings of the before referred to, loving servant of Mary, Don Stephen Rodotà. In a little time, other new temples were erected to the immortal glory of the blessed Image. The Lady Donna Theresa Caccuri, sister of his Excellency the Lord Duke of Forano, a lady as illustrious for the nobility of her blood, as she was for the exemplary innocence of her life, caused another church to be erected immediately after that of Ullano, (which was precisely the second temple of Mary of Good Counsel) on her own feudal estate, excited and

PRIVATE USE ONLY

moved by the sermons and discourses of Don Stephen, upon the singular luminous gifts of that sacred Image. This second temple, built by the same devout noble lady; endowed with magnificent revenues; enriched with most sumptuous decorations; and provided withal with singular munificence; — so great munificence indeed, that when dying the Lady Teresa above named, and really worthy to be well praised, left heir to all her property, the same temple, erected in honour of Most Holy Mary of Good Counsel. The other temple was that commenced with great sumptuousness and magnificence, but not yet terminated, in the country of Falconara; and likewise another is seen erected with expedition and most perfectly completed in the district of San Giacomo, where took place that memorable miracle which I cannot pass over in silence. It happened that a manual, or day labourer, who was employed working and excavating foundations behind the church, in order to erect there two rooms for a priest or hermit was, all on a sudden, overwhelmed by a vast mass of stones which fell upon him, and he became buried alive under the irreparable ruin. Nevertheless, thanks to the most singular protection of Most Holy Mary of Good Counsel, many persons having gathered with the view of extracting at least his corpse from under the vast mass of stones and earth, and after having with great fatigue excavated for four consecutive hours, they found him, to their great amazement and joy, not only alive, but preserved from any, even the least hurt whatever. Hence entering into the before-named temple they rendered sincere thanks to Mary.

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

« Many, certainly, were the apostolic and glorious undertakings of Don Stephen, in all that great province, in order to found, and establish, and promote the worship, and the tender and most fruitful devotion to Mary Most Holy of Good Counsel. But then, he with his clear mind understood and knew, that the grand work commenced by him would never be prosecuted with such fervour, or sustained with such zeal, if in San Benedetto there should not be erected a Pontifical College with its Bishop of the Greek rite as President, specially for the Albanian colonists. Therefore, he speedily prepared himself to undertake for that laudable and holy object, a new voyage to Rome.

« Having arrived in fact once more in that Holy City, the first visit he wished to make was to his most loving and most sweet Mother, Most Holy Mary of Good Counsel in Genazzano, Whom he ever had with wonderful sweetness upon his lips, and deeply impressed upon the very depths of his heart. He therefore presented himself for the second time in Genazzano. With most copious and tender tears he worshipped anew the beautiful Image of Paradise uncovered to his eyes. Before it, he celebrated Mass with intense fervour of spirit, and at its feet he left a supplication or memorial written in Greek, but written with such profound sentiments of tenderness, of devotion, of doctrine, of esteem, and of love, that it cannot be read without the most vivid emotion. He recommended with this most fervent supplication to Mary, the great cause for which he had come to Rome; and as he himself afterwards ingenuously

PRIVATE USE ONLY

confessed to his friends, he saw in that moment, the holy and most amiable Image change itself graciously in colour, and become in countenance as a vermillion rose, florid and rubicund; and he heard then indeed in the interior of his heart, a sweet, secret voice which said to him, « take courage Don Stephen, because if what you ask redounds to the glory and honour of My Son, know that I will obtain it for you, and hear your prayer. »

« It is true, that because of the very great and important difficulties which then arose upon the point of the appointment of a Greek Bishop for the benefit of the Albanian Colonies, which Don Stephen alone had promoted, both with the Congregation of the Propagation of the Faith, and with the Holy See, he was immediately compelled to place such a weighty burthen upon the shoulders of his brother, Don Samuel, a personage of singular prudence and learning, and to retire himself to his most beloved people, the Albanian race, to extend and amplify much more the worship and devotion to Mary of Good Counsel. Amidst these holy and apostolic labours, rich in merits, and laden with a glorious conquest of souls, he died a short time after. But still it is true, that by means of his prayers, as we piously believe, in heaven, not only have we obtained the appointment of the aforesaid Greek Bishop, but further the erection of a Pontifical College so ardently desired by him for the Italo-Grecian youth. Thanks to Pope Clement XII. of holy memory, both these great benefits were granted to that nation; and if in this land of San Benedetto Ullano there is erected that majestic far famed

college as it is now seen, called the Pontifical Corsini College, the first Greek Bishop-President of which was the aforesaid Don Samuel Rodotà, with the title of Archbishop of Borea, and whose erection has been already confirmed by his Holiness Pope Benedict XIV. in the Bull *de Ritibus Graecorum*. From thence have departed, and still depart Italo-Grecian alumni, so well instructed in the purity of the Greek language, and of the Oriental ceremonies, and of holy and most exemplary morals, that to them every Albanese colonist acknowledges his greatest advantage; and by means of them, the great devotion introduced by the zealous spirit of Don Stephen Rodotà towards the great Mother of Good Counsel in this fortunate province, goes on evermore increasing and extending; whence it is to be hoped that within a few years, will be seen and admired in every city, in every town, and in every Albanese colony, either a new Temple, or at least a most sumptuous altar in honour of the Image of Most Holy Mary of Good Counsel, copied faithfully from the most sacred original which is preserved in Genazzano, and worshipped with such assiduous concourse of people as is demonstrated on the greater solemnities of the year.

« This is what I can at present with security state in brief to your Very Revd. Paternity; and you can securely, if you so please, cause it to pass into print, since of all these things stated by me, besides being public and manifest, and even well known to persons living and of standing, the clearest proofs are preserved in this seminary; and beseeching you to recommend me to the most sacred original Image

PRIVATE USE ONLY

of the B. V. of Good Counsel, (I being born under Her most powerful protection) with full and sincere esteem for the merits of Your Very Revd. Paternity I devoutly kiss the hands ».

« Of Your V. R. Paternity.

Your sincere, humble, and obliged servant,  
Don GIOVANNI FRANCESCO AVATO  
Greek Lecturer. »

« Corsini Seminary of San Benedetto Ullano,  
14<sup>th</sup> February 1748. »

---

While this chapter was passing through the press of the Propaganda, the writer was informed by his Eminence Cardinal Martinelli that steps were about being taken to have declared Venerable, another most zealous Apostle of the devotion to Our Lady of Good Counsel; namely, Father Modestino, whom we already referred to in page 302 of this work. Father Buonanno states that during the life - time of this wonderful man, (for he died a victim of his evangelical charity) he renewed the face of Naples by his devotion to Our Lady of Good Counsel. It was his custom to carry a copy of the sacred Image of Genazzano from house to house in that city, and it is impossible to describe the number of families sanctified and the number of sinners converted through the sweet influence of Mary thus represented, and in the hands of an Apostle so zealous.

---

## Chapter XIX.

### THE PROPER MASS AND OFFICE

1. Value of granting a Proper Mass and Office as a proof of the approval of the Church. — 2. First Office granted in 1727. — 3. The Proper Office sought for. — 4. Delay in granting it to Loreto. — 5. Genazzano more favoured. — 6. Investigation — Proper Mass and Office granted in 1789. — 7. Description of the liturgy. — 8. The Proper Office from the Roman Breviary. — 9. Its extension through the devotion of many Bishops, religious orders, and people.

1. The final, and the most emphatic seal of approval which the Church gives to any devotion, is to arrange a special liturgy, and appoint a special festival for it; and then to command its Proper Mass and Office to be used, under the penalty attached to the neglect of a Church law, by all, or by any portion of her children. All this she has done in the case of the devotion to the wonderful Image of the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel in Genazzano.

2. So impressed, in fact, was the Church, by the miracles which for centuries had been wrought under the very eyes, as it were, of the Vicar of Jesus Christ; and so great were the spiritual fruits derived by all her children, who showed — and they were multitudes — devotion to Our Lady of Good Counsel;

PRIVATE USE ONLY

that early in the eighteenth century, she took into consideration the question of approving a Proper Mass and Office in honour of the miraculous Image of Our Lady, under the title of Good Counsel. Then, after that mature deliberation, which always marks the action of those commissioned with the government of the universal fold by the Vicar of Christ, an order issued from the Sacred Congregation of Rites on the 12<sup>th</sup> of July 1727, by which the clergy of the town of Genazzano, secular and regular, were privileged to celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel. The anniversary of the Miraculous Apparition was appointed for the festival. Soon after, the same favour was extended to the clergy, secular and regular, of Palestrina. The feast was then elevated to a Double of the Second Class, but without an octave.

3. It must be understood, however, that this privilege only contemplated the usual, or, so to speak, common office already arranged for the feasts of Our Lady. There was nothing in it which spoke of the fact of the Wonderful Apparition, even as a fact well established by the evidences of human credibility. It is indeed certain, that unless the S. Congregation of Rites knew and believed this fact, no common Mass or Office would ever be permitted. But to permit and to encourage amongst the faithful a well founded belief, known to be productive of the most certain spiritual advantage, is one thing; and to teach, even upon human evidence, that belief, through the medium of the Church Liturgy, is another thing. In this last particular, the Church has been always most careful. Even though, most clearly, the matter may have no

element whatever in it of divine faith; even though it relates to a fact ascertained upon the clearest human testimony, about which there need be no more doubt than of the existence, say, of Charles V. or of Napoleon Buonaparte ; still the Church is cautious and more than ever cautious, when there is question of a miracle. Not, certainly, that the Church believes miracles to be impossibilities. If the miracle is there, she recognises it. Just as she recognises the historical or the natural fact, she recognises and acknowledges the supernatural one. She knows nothing of the cowardice which fears the sneer of the disbeliever in miracles. She is not afraid of the reasoning of the Atheist. But as little will She yield to the indiscreet zeal or devotion of the enthusiast. She knows that men may be deceived; and that where there is question of the supernatural order, they are more likely to be led astray than in the merely natural order; and that, therefore, it is necessary to use the utmost caution. And so in all her courts, when proposals are made to acknowledge supernatural occurrences, she has officials well skilled in Canon Law , in evidence, and in affairs, whose special duty it is to oppose by every means in their power all such claims. Hence the processes for the beatification or canonization of saints, or even for the introduction at all of such processes, are hindered for years, and are often entirely prevented.

4. A remarkable instance of this intense caution is found in the case of the Proper Office and Mass in honour of the Miraculous Translation of the Holy House of Loreto from Dalmatia to Italy, in 1291. No historic

PRIVATE USE ONLY

fact could well be more known to, or more believed in, by the faithful; or indeed, better established in every way. Pontiff, after Pontiff, had received miraculous favours at Loreto, and shown magnificent signs of gratitude. Pilgrims flocked there, as at the present moment, from all parts of the world; and yet, it was not until the reign of Innocent XII., — four hundred years after the translation, — that a Mass and Proper Office, in which any notice of the Miraculous Translation was inserted, was granted. Even then the Proper Mass and Office were not permitted beyond the province of Piceno.

5. The Sanctuary of Our Lady of Genazzano, has been more fortunate than that of Loreto. The Wonderful Apparition occurred in 1467. In 1727, the common Mass and Office was granted. On the 18<sup>th</sup> of December 1779, finally, a decree of the Sacred Congregation of Rites was promulgated, authorizing in the same manner as in the case of the Translation of Our Lady's House of Nazareth, a Mass and Proper Office.

6. From the time the first of these favours was granted, until the Proper Office was approved, fifty two years came and went. In this interval the Sacred Congregation caused a severe, critical, and, it may be said, crucial examination, of all the proofs of the Miraculous Apparition to be made. Two of the ablest archaeologists at the period in Rome, the brothers, Calisto, and Cajetan Marini, Custodians of the Secret Archives of the Pope at the Vatican, were employed to investigate all records, monuments, and traditions, adduced by the postulator, for the Proper

Office. The result of their labours, was a work of vast erudition and of great critical research, upon the investigations which they themselves made upon the spot, and which succeeded completely in placing the truth of the Miraculous Apparition in the clearest possible light. Therefore, upon a memorial being placed by Cardinal Archinto, based upon the statements of the critical experts above mentioned, before the Sacred Congregation of Rites, the Proper Office composed by the Postulator, Fr. Daniel Marcolini, was finally approved by a decree bearing the signature of Cardinal Marefuscos, the Prefect of the Congregation, under the date of Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> 1789.

We shall now, give the general reader a brief description of this Office; and then for the information of Ecclesiastics, we shall add the Office itself in Latin, as approved by the Sacred Congregation.

7. The hymn of Matins, composed to the metre of the *Iste Confessor*, is very beautiful. It is full of allusions to the Miraculous Apparition, and to the numberless maladies both of body and soul which were cured upon its appearance. The singular fact that public calamities, pestilences, and the like, were always kept away from the dwelling place, so to speak, of the Image of Our Lady of Good Counsel. is expressly mentioned; *Longe et aerumnas Latio imminentes Ipsa fugabat.*

The lessons of the first Nocturn are from the Book of Proverbs, and have a most distinct reference to the gifts of Wisdom, Knowledge, and Counsel, which the Church always teaches her children to look for, both in and from the Mother of Jesus Christ. The

PRIVATE USE ONLY

1<sup>st</sup> Lesson is taken from the second chapter, from the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> verses inclusively, where the Wise Man teaches the value and use of wisdom, « If wisdom shall enter thy heart and knowledge please thy soul, *Counsel* shall keep thee, and prudence shall preserve thee » etc. The second Lesson is taken from the third Chapter, from the 21<sup>st</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup> verses inclusively, and urges perseverance in wisdom by showing its advantages « My son let not those things depart from thy eyes, keep the law and *Counsel* ». The third Lesson is from the eighth chapter, from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> verses inclusively, and is full of the praises of that virtue, which it is the special pleasure of Our Lady to give to those devoted to Her Shrine of Good Counsel. « I, wisdom, dwell in *Counsel*, and am present in learned thoughts. The fear of the Lord hateth evil. I hate arrogance and pride and every wicked way, and a mouth with a double tongue. Counsel and equity are mine; prudence is mine, strength is mine. By me, kings reign, and lawgivers decree just things. By me, princes rule, and the mighty decree justice. I love them that love me, and they that watch for me in the morning early, shall find me. »

Those, who ponder upon these words, will find how entirely applicable they are to Mary; and how comforting it is, that gifis so heavenly, and so needed by all having charge of others — above all, by those having spiritual charge — may be obtained infallibly, upon having recourse to the guidance of Our Lady of Good Counsel, whether at Genazzano or in any other locality. Mary, the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel, may be found even in the secret of one's chamber.

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

There, certainly, every « leader in Israel », every Priest, and yet more every Prelate of the Church of God can easily, after the example of St. Alphonsus Liguori, and of the great Popes, Pius IX., Benedict XIV., and Leo the XIII., have always within sight, ready for use upon every occasion, an Image of Our Lady of Good Counsel. Only the light of Eternity, a light which shines so soon, and generally so unexpectedly, upon all arriving at the care of others, and above all upon those arriving at Prelacy, will ever truly reveal the numberless blessings which such a practice as this — small as it is, and simple, — has caused to flow, and will cause to flow, until the end of time, upon the people of God. That little picture upon the writing table, or above the kneeling stool, or on both, may be as small as the one so lovingly held, and so long, by St. Alphonsus; but it has, nevertheless, in the love of the heart which keeps it, and in the constant recourse to it which that love invites, a marvellous power. That light of Eternity which shines with such searching effect on the past, upon the day of one's judgment, will tell how many perils to eternal, and even to temporal life the practice of habitual recourse to the little picture of Mary has caused the soul to escape. The false steps avoided; the snares detected and shunned; the enemies baffled, converted, or removed; the froward softened; the difficult dealt with; the erring brought back; the little ones saved; the designs of the crafty and the malignant defeated; the aids received; the power to use the mild but irresistible charity and forbearance of the Gospel with the strength of the saints

PRIVATE USE ONLY

for the conversion, the care, and the preservation of all; — these and a thousand other blessings will be then seen to have come to those in authority, blessed with devotion, even in such a simple way, to this heavenly representation of Mary.

The Lessons of the second nocturn, are from the works of St. Augustine and St. Fulgentius. They describe the dignity of Mary as the second Eve. The third Lesson finishes after the manner of the third Lesson in the office for the Translation of the holy House of Loreto, with an account of the Wonderful Apparition. It says. « And as there is nothing that is not sublime in this Most Holy Virgin, Whom the angel saluted as full of grace, it is not without the action of Divine Counsel, that even Her images are held in the highest honour, and are illustrated with prodigies and miracles. Amongst these, that Image which appeared wonderfully upon the wall of the church of the Fathers of the Order of Hermits of St. Augustine, in the town of Genazzano and diocese of Palestrina, in the Pontificate of Paul II, is principally honoured; as is proved by Pontifical diplomas and monuments of nearly equal weight. Moved by which facts, Pope Pius VI. conceded to the religious of the said town a Proper Office, to be recited on the seventh of the calends of May, (25<sup>th</sup> April) that is to say, on the very day of the Apparition; and then, upon the day immediately following, fixed in future for its recitation, he extended it, to the whole of the aforesaid Order, under the rite of a double major ».

The third nocturn is, of course, upon the Gospel of the feast, and consists of three Lessons, taken from

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

a commentary of St. Thomas, Bishop, which speaks specially of the incomprehensible dignity of Mary, as the Mother of God.

The prayer is, as that in the office of Our Lady of Loreto, a supplication, with a simple allusion to the fact of the Wonderful Apparition, asking through the prayers of Our Lady that we may come to enjoy the happiness of our celestial country.

In the Mass, the Introit is the same as that used on the joyful solemnity of the Assumption. The Epistle is taken from the Book of Ecclesiasticus, XXIV. 23, where the praises and rewards of those seeking wisdom are most strongly dwelt upon. « He that hearkeneth to me shall not be confounded, and they that work by me shall not sin. They that explain me shall have everlasting life. »

The following is the Office postulated for, and granted in full.

### DIE XXV. APRILIS.

IN FESTO

APPARITIONIS SACRAE IMAGINIS

B. MARIAE VIRGINIS DE BONO CONSILIO  
NUNCUPATAE

**Duplex secundae classis.**

*Ad Vesperas; Antiphona, Dum esset Rex, cum reliquis Antiphonis et Psalmis ut in officio parvo B. M. V. et in fine, uniuscuiusque Antiphonae additur Alleluia.*

*Capitulum. Eccli. 24. b.*

*Ab initio, et ante saecula creata sum, et usque ad futurum saeculum non desinam, et in habitatione sancta coram ipso ministravi.*

PRIVATE USE ONLY

*Hymnus.* Ave maris stella.

¶. Dignare me laudare te, Virgo sacra, alleluia.

¶. Da mihi virtutem contra hostes tuos, alleluia.

*Ad Magnificat Antiphona.* Sancta Maria, succurre miseris, juva pusillanimes, refove flebiles, ora pro populo, interveni pro clero, intercede pro devoto femineo sexu: sentiant omnes tuum iuvamen, quicumque celebrant tuam sanctam festivitatem, alleluia.

*Oratio.*

Bonorum omnium largitor Deus, qui Genitricis dilecti Filii tui speciosam Imaginem mira Apparitione clarificeare voluisti, concede, quaesumus, ut eiusdem Beatae Mariae Virginis intercessione ad coelestem patriam feliciter perducamur. Per eundem Dominum.

*Ad Completorium et per Horas in fine Hymnorum dicitur:*

Iesu tibi sit gloria,

Qui natus es de Virgine.

*Ad Matutinum Invitatorium.* Sancta Maria Dei Genitrix Virgo \* Intercede pro nobis, alleluia.

*Psalmus.* Venite.

*Hymnus.*

Plaude festivo, pia gens, honore,  
Dum Genestani veneraris aedem,  
Qua Dei magnae Genitricis alma  
Splendet Imago.

Haec ubi mira specie repente  
Obtulit sese populis videndam,  
Multa mox secum bona ferre nostras  
Visa per oras.

Ipsa tunc aegris aderat, molestos  
Corporis morbos animique pellens,  
Longe et erumnas Latio imminentibus  
Ipsa fugabat.

Virgo, quae magnis decorata signis  
Nunc quoque effulges, miseris iuvamen  
Affer, et fusis patiens clientum  
Annue votis.

Sit salus illi, decus, atque virtus,  
Qui super coeli solio coruscans  
Totius mundi seriem gubernat  
Trinus et unus. Amen.

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

*Antiphonae et Psalmi Nocturnorum ut in Officium Parvum B. M. V.*

IN PRIMO NOCTURNO.

¶. Specie tua, et pulchritudine tua, alleluia.

℟. Intende prospere procede, et regna, alleluia.

De libro Proverbiorum.

Lectio i. *Cap. 2. 10. etc.*

Si intraverit sapientia cor tuum, et scientia animae tuae placuerit, consilium custodiet te, et prudentia servabit te, ut eruaris a via mala, et ab homine, qui perversa loquitur; qui relinquunt iter rectum, et ambulant per vias tenebrosas; qui laetantur cum male fecerint, et exultant in rebus pessimis, quorum viae perversae sunt, et infames gressus eorum.

℟. Sancta, et immaculata Virginitas, quibus te laudibus efferam, nescio: \* Quia quem coeli capere non poterant, tuo gremio contulisti. Alleluia.

¶. Benedicta tu in mulieribus, et benedictus Fructus ventris tui. Quia.

Lectio ii. *Cap. 3. 21.*

Fili mi, ne effluant haec ab oculis tuis. Custodi legem atque consilium, et erit vita animae tuae, et gratia faucibus tuis. Tunc ambulabis fiducialiter in vita tua, et pes tuus non impinget. Si dormieris, non timebis, quiesces, et suavis erit somnus tuus. Ne paveas repentina terrore, et irruentes tibi potentias impiorum. Dominus enim in latere tuo, et custodiet pedem tuum, ne capiaris.

℟. Congratulamini mihi omnes, qui diligitis Dominum; quia cum essem parvula, placui Altissimo; \* Et de meis visceribus genui Deum et hominem. Alleluia.

¶. Beatam me dicent omnes generationes, quia ancillam humilem respexit Deus. Et.

Lectio iii.

Ego Sapientia habito in consilio, et eruditis intersum cogitationibus. Timor Domini odit malum, arrogantiam, et superbiā, et viam pravam, et os bilingue detestor. Meum est consilium, et aequitas, mea est prudentia, mea est fortitudo. Per me reges regnant, et legum conditores iusta decernunt. Per me principes imperant, et potentes decernunt iustitiam. Ego diligentes me diligo; et qui mane vigilant ad me, invenient me.

PRIVATE USE ONLY

R. Beata es, Virgo Maria, quae Dominum portasti creatorem mundi. \* Genuisti qui te fecit, et in aeternum permanes Virgo. Alleluia.

Y. Ave Maria gratia plena: Dominus tecum. Genuisti. Gloria Patri. Genuisti.

### IN SECUNDO NOCTURNO.

Y. Adiuvabit eam Deus vultu suo, alleluia.

R. Deus in medio eius non commovebitur, alleluia.

De Sermone S. P. N. Augustini Episcopi.

*In Natali S. Ioannis Baptiste.*

#### Lectio iv.

Hominem concepit Elisabeth, hominem Maria; sed Elisabeth solum hominem, Maria Deum, et hominem. Mira res est, quomodo potuerit concipere creatura creatorem. Quid est ergo intelligendum, fratres mei, nisi quia ipse sibi fecit carnem de sola matre, qui fecit primum hominem sine patre, et matre? Primus ille noster casus fuit, quando remota, per quam mortui sumus, in corde concepit venena serpentis. Persuasit enim serpens peccatum, et admissus est male suadens. Si primus noster casus fuit, cum femina concepit corde venena serpentis, non mirandum, quod salus nostra facta est, cum femina concepit in utero carnem Omnipotentis. Uterque ceciderat sexus; uterque fuerat reparandus. Per mulierem in interitum missi eramus: per mulierem nobis redditus est salus.

R. Sicut cedrus exaltata sum in Libano, et sicut cypressus in monte Sion: quasi myrrha electa \* Dedi suavitatem odoris. Alleluia.

Y. Et sicut cinnamomum, et balsamum aromatizans. Dedi.

De Sermone sancti Fulgentii Episcopi.

*De laudibus Mariae ex partu Salvatoris.*

#### Lectio v.

Quoniam Diabolus per serpentem Eva loquutus, per Evae aures mundo intulit mortem, Deus per Angelum ad Mariam pertulit verbum, et cunctis saeculis vitam effudit. Angelus sermonem eiecit, et Christum Virgo concepit. Hoc splendore concipiatur Dei Filius; hac munditia generatur. De coelis Medicus transiens per Virginem, post transitum suum illaesam fecit Virginem

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

permanere. Qui enim disrupta corporum membra in aliis poterat integrare tangendo, quanto magis in sua Matre quod invenit integrum, potuit non violare nascendo? Crevit enim eius partu integritas corporis potius, quam decrevit; et virginitas ampliata est potius quam fugata.

R. Quae est ista, quae processit sicut sol, et formosa tamquam Ierusalem: \* Viderunt eam filiae Sion, et beatam dixerunt, et reginae laudaverunt eam. Alleluia.

Y. Et sicut dies verni circumdabant eam flores rosarum, et lilia convallium. Viderunt eam.

#### Lectio vi.

Maria quam preclarissimis tribus bonis sublimetur, auscultata, salutationis angelicae, benedictionis divinae, et plenitudinis gratiae. Sic enim eam legitur salutasse: Ave Maria, gratia plena; benedicta inter mulieres. \* Et ut nihil non sublime esset in hac sanctissima Virgine, quam Angelus gratia plenam salutavit, non sine Divino consilio factum est, ut eius etiam imagines summo essent in honore, et prodigiis miraculisque clarescerent. Quas inter ea tribus ab hinc saeculis praecipuo honore colitur, quae Paulo Secundo sedente mirabiliter apparuisse in pariete Ecclesiae patrum Ordinis Eremitarum sancti Augustini in oppido Genestani Praenestinae dioecesis ex pontificiis diplomatis, et supparibus monumentis comprobatur. Quibus permotus Pius Papa Sextus praefatis eiusdem oppidi coenobitis officium proprium concessit septimo Kalendas Maias, ipso scilicet Apparitionis die recitandum, ac deinde illud die, quae immediate subsequitur, pro eius recitatione in posterum assignata ad universum praedictum ordinem sub ritu duplicis maioris extendit.

R. Ornatam monilibus filiam Ierusalem Dominus concupivit: \* Et videntes eam filiae Sion, beatissimam praedicaverunt dicentes: \* Unguentum effusum nomen tuum, alleluia.

Y. Astitit Regina a dextris tuis in vestitu deaurato, circumdata varietate. Et videntes.

Gloria Patri. Unguentum.

#### IN TERTIO NOCTURNO.

Y. Elegit eam Deus, et praelegit eam, alleluia.

R. In tabernaculo suo habitare facit eam, alleluia.

PRIVATE USE ONLY

## Lectio sancti Evangelii secundum Matthaeum.

## Lectio vii. Cap. 1.

Liber generationis Iesu Christi, Filii David, filii Abraham.  
Abraham genuit Isaac, Isaac autem genuit Iacob. Et reliqua.

## Homilia sancti Thomae Episcopi.

## In Cant. 2. Nativ. B. M.

Cogitanti mihi, ac diu haesitanti, quid causae sit, quod cum Evangelistae de Ioanne Baptista et aliis Apostolis tam longum fecere tractatum, de virgine Maria, quae vita et dignitate omnes antecedit, ita summatim percurrant historiam; cur, inquam, non traditum est memoriae, quomodo concepta, quomodo nata, quomodo nutrita, quibus moribus decorata, quibus virtutibus ornata, quid cum Filio in humanis egerit, quomodo cum illo conservata est, quomodo post eius ascensionem cum apostolis vixerit? Magna erant haec, et memoratu digna, et quae cum summa devotione a fidelibus legerentur, a populis amplecterentur. Quis enim dubitat, quin in eius nativitate, et pueritia mira multa contingent; et Puella haec in teneris annis stupendum saeculis virtutum omnium monumentum extiterit?

R. Felix namque es sacra Virgo Maria et omni laude dignissima: \* Quia ex te ortus et sol iustitiae Christus Deus noster, alleluia.

¶. Ora pro populo, interveni pro clero, intercede pro devoto foemineo sexu: sentiant omnes tuum iuvamen, quicumque celebrant tuam sanctam festivitatem. Quia ex te.

## Lectio viii.

Haec mihi haesitanti, cur de actibus Virginis, sicut de actibus Pauli, non est compositus liber, nihil aliud occurrit (accusare enim Evangelistas negligentiae, sicut impium, ita et temerarium judico) quam ita placuisse Spiritui Sancto, eiusque providentia Evangelistas siluisse, propterea quia Virginis gloria, sicut in psalmis legitur, omnis intus erat, et magis cogitari poterat, quam describi, sufficitque ad eius plenam historiam: quia de illa natus est Iesus. Quid amplius quaeris? Quid ultra requiris in Virgine? Sufficit tibi, quod Mater Dei est.

R. Beatam me dicent omnes generationes: \* Quia fecit mihi Dominus magna, qui potens est, et sanctum nomen eius, alleluia.

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

¶. Et misericordia eius a progenie in progenies timentibus eum. Quia.

Gloria Patri. Quia.

Lectio ix.

Non eam Spiritus Sanctus litteris descripsit, sed tibi eam animo depingendam reliquit, ut intelligas, nihil illi gratiae, aut perfectionis, aut gloriae, quam animus in pura creatura conceperre possit, defuisse; immo re ipsa intellectum omnem superasse. Ubi ergo totum erat, pars scribenda non fuit, ne putares, quod scriptum non fuerat, eidem forsitan defuisse. Si ancillas suas, et ministras domus suae potentissimus Dominus ita mirifice decoravit, ita donis, et gratiis venustavit: qualem existimas condidit Matrem suam, unicam Sponsam suam, quam ibi ex omnibus elegit, et p[ro]ae omnibus adamavit? Omnibus eam altissimus p[re]posuit non solum virgineis, sed etiam Angelicis Choris: quia Mater eius est, et Matrem Dei decet omnis celsitudo. Quidquid igitur de Virgine scire, aut intelligere cupis, totum in hoc clauditur breviloquio: De qua natus est Iesus. Haec longa, et plenissima historia eius est.

Te Deum laudamus.

AD LAUDES ET PER HORAS

*Antiphona.* Dum esset Rex in accubitu suo, nardus mea dedit odorem suavitatis, alleluia.

*Psalmus.* Dominus regnabit cum reliq. de Dom.

*Antiphona.* Laeva eius sub capite meo, et dextera illius amplexabitur me, alleluia.

*Antiphona.* Nigra sum, sed formosa filiae Ierusalem; ideo dilexit me Rex, et introduxit me in cubiculum suum, alleluia.

*Antiphona.* Iam hiems transiit, imber abiit et recessit; surge amica mea et veni, alleluia.

*Antiphona.* Speciosa facta es, et suavis in deliciis tuis, Sancta Dei Genitrix, alleluia.

Capitulum. *Eccli. 24. 6.*

Ab initio, et ante saecula creata sum, et usque ad futurum saeculum non desinam, et in habitatione sancta coram ipso ministravi.

*Hymnus.* O Gloriosa Virginum.

¶. Diffusa est gratia in labiis tuis, alleluia.

¶. Propterea benedixit te Deus in aeternum, alleluia.

PRIVATE USE ONLY

## Ad Benedictus.

*Antiphona.* Beata es Maria, quae credidisti: perficietur in te, quae dicta sunt tibi a Domino, alleluia, alleluia.

*Oratio ut supra.*

*Ad Primam in i. brevi dicitur y. Qui natus es de Virgine.*

## Ad Tertiam.

*Antiphona.* Laeva eius.

*Capitulum.* Ab initio, *ut supra.*

*R. br.* Specie tua, et pulchritudine tua \* Alleluia, alleluia.  
Specie.

*y.* Intende, prospere procede, et regna. Alleluia.

Gloria Patri. Specie.

*y.* Adiuvabit eam Deus vultu suo, alleluia.

*R.* Deus in medio eius non commovebitur, alleluia.

## Ad Sextam.

*Antiphona.* Nigra sum.

*Capitulum. Eccli. 24. 6.*

Et sic in Sion firmata sum, et in civitate sanctificata similiter requievi, et in Ierusalem potestas mea. Et radicavit in populo honorificato, et in parte Dei mei haereditas illius, et in plenitudine sanctorum detentio mea.

*R. br.* Adiuvabit eam Deus vultu suo \* Alleluia, alleluia.  
Aduiuabat.

*y.* Deus in medio eius non commovebitur. Alleluia.

Gloria Patri. Aduiuabat.

*y.* Elegit eam Deus, et praelegit eam, alleluia.

*R.* In tabernaculo suo habitare facit eam, alleluia.

## Ad Nonam.

*Antiphona.* Speciosa.

*Capitulum. Eccli. 24. 6.*

In plateis sicut cinnamomum, et balsamum aromatizans odorem dedi: quasi myrrha electa dedi suavitatem odoris.

*R. br.* Elegit eam Deus, et praelegit eam \* Alleluia, alleluia. Elegit.

*y.* In tabernaculo suo habitare facit eam, alleluia.

Gloria Patri. Elegit.

*y.* Diffusa est gratia in labiis tuis, alleluia.

*R.* Propterea benedixit te Deus in aeternum, alleluia.

*In secundis Vesperis omnia ut in primis, sed Antiphona ad Magnificat.* Beatam me dicent omnes generationes, quia ancillam humilem respexit Deus, alleluia.

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

The privilege of having this beautiful Proper Mass and Office, has been asked for by several dioceses, where wise pastors have considered its value in promoting devotion to the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel amongst their clergy. Its use has, after a time, led to some dioceses supplicating the favour from the Holy See, that Mary, under the title of Virgin Mother of Good Counsel, should be constituted a special Patroness. Many Bishops in Italy and elsewhere labour to extend by this, and every means at their disposal, a devotion so profitable amongst all classes. It is easy to understand the benefit which such Bishops will derive from a work so valuable; a work which continues for a period longer than the duration even of Cathedrals, the praises of Mary in a diocese; a work which brings down also for generations, the unspeakable blessings of Good Counsel upon an entire fold of the Church of God. Very recently, the Archbishop of Prague and the four bishops of Bohemia, joined in supplicating the Holy Father for permission to celebrate this feast, as at Genazzano. This was granted, on the condition that the day of its celebration should be the 26<sup>th</sup> of April, so as not to interfere with the feast of St. Mark. Others in Germany, have either supplicated for the same privilege, or are about doing so. It may be well to note also, that several Prelates have carried their devotion to the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel so far, as to place her beautiful Image on their coat of arms. This has been done by Monsgr. Gould, the present Venerable and zealous Archbishop of Melbourne; and by the late scholarly and eminent Cardinal Archbishop of Malines.

PRIVATE USE ONLY

Several religious Orders have already obtained the privilege of using the Proper Mass and Office; and amongst them, is the now extensive congregation of Marist Fathers. Other religious Orders are upon the point of supplicating for it; and amongst these latter is the ancient Congregation of English Benedictines, the devotion of whose venerable President we have already referred to. We may hope then, that in a few years, the Proper Mass and Office, and with them, love, deep, sincere, and tender for the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel will be general not only in Italy and Europe, but also in all the lands where English is spoken, and throughout the whole extent of the Church of God on earth.

The Nuns of the Visitation in Brooklyn have obtained the favour of the Proper Mass through the Venerable Bishop of the diocese. It is, we have heard, on the point of being postulated for by the entire hierarchy of Ireland. Monsgr. Crane the zealous Bishop of Sandhurst in Australia is, this year, seeking for the privilege of having not only the Proper Mass and Office, but also of obtaining the favour of having his extensive diocese consecrated canonically to the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel.

---

## Chapter XX.

### INDULGENCES AT THE SHRINE

1. Privileged Altars. — 2. Votive Proper Mass. — 3. Plenary Indulgences. — 4. Partial Indulgences.

1. The indulgences and other spiritual favours with which the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Good Counsel in Genazzano is enriched, are very numerous, and precious. Some date back, to the very generation which witnessed the Miraculous Apparition. Others have been granted, as late as our own days. They are in all as follows.

Besides the privilege of liberating one soul from Purgatory every time Mass is celebrated at the altar of the sacred Image, — a privilege granted by Alexander VI. to Fr. Mariano, we find the altar of the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Good Counsel made a « privileged altar » for every day of the year and for all priests, secular and regular. This was granted by Pope Gregory XIII. on the 6<sup>th</sup> of December 1653. The same remarkable favour was confirmed by Pope Benedict XIII. on 16<sup>th</sup> of June 1725; and by Benedict XIV. on 14<sup>th</sup> of December 1751.

PRIVATE USE ONLY

2. Further, by a rescript of Clement XIV. dated the 16<sup>th</sup> of December 1771, permission was granted to celebrate the Proper Mass of the Blessed Virgin of Good Counsel, approved by the Sacred Congregation of Rites, on all days except on Doubles of the first and second class, and excepting the conventual Mass.

In this votive Mass, the *Gloria* and the *Ite missa est*, are said, although the *Credo* is omitted.

Pius IX. also confirmed the above great and unusual privilege,— a privilege not granted to the votive Mass, at the very tomb of the Apostles, at St. Peter's— by a decree of March 14<sup>th</sup> 1867. Moreover, whenever a priest should be impeded at the altar of the Sanctuary, it was permitted to celebrate the same Mass at any other altar of the church, and with the same privileges.

## INDULGENCES.

3. First. A plenary indulgence is granted once every year to all who shall visit the Church of Our Lady of Good Counsel, and there, pray for the intentions of the Sovereign Pontiff, after having confessed and communicated. (Clement XII. Brief *Universis* 2 March 1734.)

Secondly. A plenary indulgence on the above conditions, once only, in the year, may be gained by all pilgrims. (Benedict XII. 26 April 1742.)

Thirdly. A plenary indulgence, once in the year, and applicable to the souls in purgatory, is granted to all, who being truly penitent, and having confessed and communicated, shall devoutly visit the said church and

28

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

there pray for some time, for the Pope's intentions.  
(Pius VIII. 8 February 1830.)

4º. A plenary indulgence is granted to all, on the above conditions, who shall visit the church, on the feast of the Immaculate Conception; and the same, on the same conditions, upon the feasts of the Nativity of Our Lady, of Her Presentation, of Her Visitation, and of Her Purification. (Benedict XIV. Rescript 14 December 1751.)

Fifthly. A plenary indulgence, applicable to the holy souls in purgatory, is granted on the same conditions, to all who shall visit the church on the Feast of Pentecost; on the Sundays of the Month of May; on the Feast of the Apparition, 25<sup>th</sup> April, or on any one of the seven following days, at their option; on the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lady, or on any day of its octave. (Pius VI. Brief. 15<sup>th</sup> June 1782.)

4. Sixthly. An indulgence of seven years and seven quarantines, is granted to all those, who at least with contrite heart, shall visit on any day of the year, the altar of the Blessed Virgin of Good Counsel, and there recite thrice, the Ave Maria.(same).

Seventhly. The same indulgence is granted to all, who assist at the Litany of Our Lady, which is sung every evening in that church. (same).

Eighthly. An Indulgence of 300 days is granted to all, who before the Image of Our Lady of Good Counsel shall say; « Mary of Good Counsel with You, may your Son bless us. » (same).

To the above indulgences are added the following, granted in favour of the altar of the Most Holy

PRIVATE USE ONLY

Crucifixion, an account of which is given in the appendix.

1.<sup>o</sup> The Altar, is privileged on every day and for ever, and for all priests, secular and regular. (Pius IX. Omnia Sabatum, 7 June 1872).

2.<sup>o</sup> A plenary indulgence, applicable to the souls in purgatory, on the usual conditions of Confession and Communion, is granted to all who shall visit this altar, on the Friday nearest Quinquagesima Sunday; or on any Friday of Lent, after the rising of the Sun, (except Good Friday), and there pray for the Pope's intention. (same).

3.<sup>o</sup> The same, on the same conditions, is granted to all, on the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, from first Vespers until sunset. (same).

The above indulgences, are confined to the church of Santa Maria in Genazzano. The indulgences, plenary and partial, which the members of the Pious Union may gain, will be found in the next chapter. To make the above indulgences more sure, the guardians of the Sanctuary obtained from the Sacred Congregation of Rites the following decree, which renders their authenticity beyond doubt

« Sacra Congregatio Indulgentiis Sacrisque Reliquiis praeposita praesens Summarium Indulgentiarum, quae tum Ecclesiae B. Mariae Virginis de Bono Consilio in opp. Ienestani, tum Congregationi<sup>i</sup> sub eodem titulo ibidem erectae, concessae sunt, uti authenticum recognovit, typisque imprimi ac publicari posse censuit.

« Datum Romae ex Secretaria eiusdem S. Congregationis die 25 Aprilis 1873. »

Loco~~S~~ Signi

L. Card. BARILI Praefectus  
DOMINICUS SARRA Substitutus.

## Chapter XXI.

### THE PIOUS UNION

1. Feeling of loving regret, on the part of those who visit the Shrine when leaving — Instances — Urban VIII. and others. — 2. An every day instance.— 3. Rise, therefore, of the Pious Union.— 4. Its advantages for those not able to visit the Shrine. — 5. Its duties. — 6. Its approval by Benedict XIV. who became its first member. — 7. His example useful for pastors of souls and other superiors. — 8. His Brief *Iniunctae nobis* in the original Latin and in English.— 9. Value of this Bull, as warranting the facts of the Miraculous Translation from Scutari. — 10. Example of Benedict XIV. followed by many. — 11. French Revolution. — 12. Present position of the Pious Union. — 13. Increase of indulgences in 1860. — 14. Duties. — 15. Indulgences Plenary and Partial. — 16. Special advantages to members given by the guardians of the Sanctuary.

1. One of the most remarkable features of the devotion exhibited so tenderly, for ages, to Our Lady of Good Counsel in Her Sanctuary at Genazzano, is, as we already, and more than once, have had occasion to notice, the loving regret which all, who come with the intention of honouring so benign and powerful a Mother, experience when leaving Her Shrine. Urban VIII., during his famous visit, was, as we have seen, deeply moved on beholding this wonderful Image, and while celebrating Mass at its

PRIVATE USE ONLY

modest but beautiful altar. It was when leaving, however, that this great and holy Pontiff felt most. He burst out into tears. The Electress of Saxony after her long journey and long stay, was, upon the day of her departure, similarly affected, and, in fact, inconsolable.

2. The writer of this, does not wish to speak of his own experience. At present, he can only say with all humility for his absolute unworthiness, *secretum meum mihi*. But he can speak of what he has seen in others. And besides that which he has related in previous chapters, he may mention one other occurrence. Upon going one early morning to the Sanctuary, he saw a Priest, who together with a family of high position, had come a great distance to satisfy a deep devotion. The good Father had not had the permission necessary to celebrate before the Madonna « scoperta » (uncovered); but after he had said Mass at the altar, (the holy Image being veiled) with a devotion truly marvellous; and after he had communicated his friends; a permission which the Prior has power to grant once every day, was given; that, with all the usual reverence and ceremonies, the sacred Image should be unveiled. When, therefore, the twelve wax candles were lighted, and the prescribed incensation duly made, the covering was slowly removed; and when the almost divine appearance of the Mother and Child beamed upon that Priest, it could be seen at a glance, that the Image was already deeply engraved in his heart. He looked fixedly upon it, just as a mother might upon the beloved face of a child risen from the dead. Long and earnestly he looked, and then his face began to swell, his body to tremble,

and he burst into a flood of tears. The same thing happened in the case of every member of his party, as each one drew nigh. And all continued thus weeping silently, while the Image remained uncovered; and while the Litany, the *Salve Regina* three times, and the other prayers prescribed were said. When the ceremony was over, and the beautiful Image was veiled from their eyes, they remained long in prayer before the silent Sanctuary, and then reluctantly tore themselves away.

Such an occurrence as this is so common, that no one, - even amongst the guardians of the Sanctuary -, seems to notice it. But it has been repeating itself for hundreds of years; and so it has happened, that in order to satisfy the desires of the devout, a custom sprang up amongst pilgrims to the Shrine, of leaving their autographs - as it were portions of themselves - at the feet of Mary.

3. Like that devout chronicler, who, as we have seen in Chapter IX., from pure devotion, compiled the register of miracles; each client of the Sanctuary hopes to see once more before death, that beautiful vision of Our Lady; and to secure through Her intercession the certainty of seeing the glory of the Original, Mary Herself, in Heaven.

And in truth, « I love those who love me » are the words of Wisdom, which the Church of Christ « the pillar and ground of truth »; the infallible guide and teacher, attributes to God's Blessed Mother. Out of this tender necessity, then, of satisfying the devotion of the loving clients of Mary, arose the Pious Union of Genazzano.

PRIVATE USE ONLY

4. But that Pious Union had another advantage. It extended to all those in the wide expanse of the Church of God , who could not visit the Sanctuary itself, all the benefits obtainable by those who could. It is true, as we have seen, that no copy of the Madonna of Genazzano equals the original, but the hearts of Christians can love that original everywhere, however imperfectly represented. They can keep and honour a copy of it in their homes; and they can at least send their names to the Sanctuary, as a testimony of their love.

5. The Pious Union, then, is, in the main, a means of being constantly reminded of Our Lady of Good Counsel; first, by keeping a copy of Her holy Image of Genazzano; and then by doing some little thing constantly in Her honour, after having sent one's name to the Shrine, where the heavenly original Image is enthroned.

Those who see daily in their homes, a beautiful, touching representation of God's Mother and Her Little Infant, cannot but be brought to love Both, before long. If one does the rest; that is, if one says three Hail Marys daily, and offers a Mass or a Communion once a year for the benefit of his fellow associates, he fulfils all the conditions, and gains all the indulgences and graces of God, which the Bull of Benedict XIV. promises.

And then, there is much love in these simple actions in honour of Our Lady of Good Counsel. They bind all Her children, no matter where situated, to Her; and so it is, that though arising from the hearts of Her clients, in the first instance, the Union

has finally received the most marked approbation which the Supreme Authority in the Church of God could give to any work.

6. In 1753, the Pious Union of Genazzano, on the petition of the General of the Augustinian Order, Father Francis Xavier Vasquez, was solemnly approved by a special Brief of the learned Pontiff, Benedict XIV. It was enriched by him with many indulgences, which shall be given in detail at the end of this chapter. And the great Pontiff did much more for the good work. He requested, that his own name should be the first inscribed upon the first page of its authorized register; and he wrote that name with his own hand.

« We receive », he said, in a letter to the General, « with the greatest pleasure, this page, and we esteem it much. In it we shall be ascribed to this spiritual league, so that we ourselves may participate in so great a spiritual treasure ».

And after that, even as the humblest of its members, the greatest of the Pontiffs of the last century, kept his picture of Our Lady of Good Counsel near him; said his three Hail Marys, every day; and offered his Mass for the associates yearly.

7. And he was right. Though all want the light of Counsel, none require it more absolutely and fully, than those to whose care is committed the ruling and guidance of souls in the Church of God.

So much depends upon all their qualities; upon their moderation, their charity, their knowledge of sacred science, their vigilance, their forgetfulness of self, their unwearied labour, their prayer still more

PRIVATE USE ONLY

unwearied, their spotless lives, their patience under calumny, persecution, and affliction; their fatherly heart, their devotion and unswerving fidelity to the Centre of Unity, their sinking of fleeting vanity, ambition, or jealously in the grand cause given them to foster, or destroy; their total hatred of avarice, and of every one of those passions by which the devil so often tempts men, to make mistakes as terrible as the mistake of Eve; often as irreparable as that of Lucifer.

All these, and far more qualities, are required to make up the character of any ruler in the Church of God; but most of all of him who holds the loftiest, and consequently, the most dangerously exposed position. Where can the light come from, that men placed so high may not err? may not damage instead of furthering the interests of Christ, and of souls redeemed by His Precious Blood? Where? From the Spotless Spouse of the Holy Ghost. From Her, Who, as we have said in the commencement, crushes for ever the cunning of the serpent's head; - from Her « by Whom kings reign, and framers of law decree judgment; » - from Mary the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel.

The wise Pontiff, Benedict XIV., when he attached his venerated name to the registry of the Pious Union of Our Lady of Good Counsel, gave a splendid example to pastors of souls, and indeed to all those having the charge of others. In giving his reasons for his act he has encouraged every superior of the Fold to provide, that, like him, the children of God, each one for himself, might participate in so valuable a spiritual treasure.

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

In order to show his estimate, not only of the Pious Union, but also of devotion to Our Lady of Good Counsel in general, and his belief in the history given in this volume, we here give at length his celebrated Brief, *Iniunctae nobis*, in the original Latin, together with a translation in English.

---

8. The brief *Iniunctae nobis* of Pope Benedict XIV. regarding the Pious Union of Our Lady of Good Counsel in Genazzano.

BENEDICTUS PP. XIV.<sup>1</sup>

AD PERPETUAM REI MEMORIAM

Iniunctae nobis, qui supremas Pastorum Principis IESU CHRISTI vices in terris plane immerentes gerimus, Apostolicae servitutis ratio postulat, ut Apostolicae Auctoritatis partes, et Coelestium munierum thesauros, quorum dispensationem imbecillitati nostrae credere dignatus est Altissimus, alacri, libentique animo fideliter impendamus, cum ad magis augendam Christi fidelium pietatem erga Beatis-

<sup>1</sup>

BENEDICTUS PP. XIV.

FOR A PERPETUAL MEMORY OF THE THING.

The account which we, who, though manifestly unworthy, hold the place here on earth of Jesus Christ, the Prince of pastors, have to render of the Apostolic duty enjoined upon us, demands, that, with a free and willing mind, we should expend the offices of Apostolic authority, and the treasures of heavenly gifts, the dispensation of which it has pleased the Most High to accredit to our weakness, whenever we are confident that it would be for the greater increase of the piety of the faithful of Christ

PRIVATE USE ONLY

simam semper Virginem Mariam Immaculatam, et procurandam animarum salutem confidimus fore profuturos. Quoniam autem sicut dilectus Filius Franciscus Xaverius Vasquez Frater expresse professus, ac Magister et Generalis Prior Dilectorum Filiorum Fratrum totius Ordinis S. Augustini Nobis nuper exponi fecit, in Ecclesia sub invocatione Sanctae Mariae de Bono Consilio nuncupata Monasterii eiusdem Ordinis S. Augustini in Oppido Genazzano dicto Dioecesis Praenestinae reperitur Cappella, in qua colitur Effigies, sive Imago eiusdem Immaculatae Virginis Mariae de Bono Consilio, *sicut pia fert traditio* per Angelorum ministerium ex Scodra Civitate illuc olim translata. Ad hanc itaque Virginis Effigiem, sive Imaginem venerandam confluentibus undique ab initio Christifidelibus, et suorum compotibus votorum revertentibus ob coelestium munerum sibi a misericordiarum Patre, et totius consolationis

---

towards the Most Blessed ever Virgin Mary Immaculate, and for procuring the salvation of souls. But since, as our beloved son, Francis Xavier Vasquez, a Brother expressly professed, and Master and Prior General of our beloved sons, the friars of the whole Order of St. Augustine, has lately made known to us, that in the church of the monastery of the same Order of St. Augustine, in the town of Genazzano, belonging to the diocese of Palestrina, and dedicated under the invocation of Our Lady of Good Counsel, there is found a Chapel in which is worshipped an Effigy or Image of the same Immaculate Virgin Mary of Good Counsel, translated there formerly, as pious tradition tells, by the hands of Angels from the city of Scutari. Therefore, from the beginning, the faithful of Christ, coming from every direction to this venerable Effigy or Image, and returning with their souls' desires satisfied, because of the abundance of celestial gifts granted by the Father of Mercies and the

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

Deo per ipsius Virginis suffragia impetratorum copiam factum fuit; ut Dilecti Filii Capitulum et Canonici nostrae Vaticanae Basilicae S. Petri Apostolorum Principis eamdem effigiem sive Imaginem, in qua Sanctissimi Iesu Filii sui Parvuli Ipsam a sinistra complectentis etiam Effigies, sive Imago depicta conspicitur, dupli corona ex auro, quemadmodum in more positum est, die XXV Mensis Novembris MDCLXXXII insigniendam curaverint. Exinde vero adeo erga Eamdem Beatissimae Virginis Mariae de Bono Consilio Imaginem auctus est cultus, ut hisce praesertim temporibus maiori, quam antea pietate affecti utriusque sexus Christifideles omnium Ordinum Genazzanum concurrant ad coelorum Reginam venerandam, sive ob accepta beneficia gratias acturi, sive opportunam Eiusdem Virginis opem rebus suis impetraturi. Nec defuere quam plurimi, sicut memoratus Franciscus Xaverius Prior Generalis pariter

---

God of all Consolation through the intercession of that same Virgin; it happened that our beloved sons, the Chapter and Canons of St. Peter, Prince of the Apostles, took care to adorn that Effigy or Image, with which also the effigy or image of the Most Holy Child Jesus Her Son, embracing Her on the left hand side, is seen, with crowns of gold; and which crowns, according to custom were placed in position on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of November 1682. But thenceforward so greatly did the worship increase towards the same Image of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary of Good Counsel, that in these times especially, affected with greater piety than before, the faithful of Christ of both sexes and of every grade in society, flocked to Genazzano to venerate the Queen of Heaven, either for the purpose of returning thanks for benefits received, or to implore the opportune aid of the same Virgin for their concerns. Nor were there wanting very many, as the aforesaid Francis Xavier, Prior General, likewise caused to be explained

PRIVATE USE ONLY

Nobis exponi fecit, qui longe dissiti, cum illuc iterum accedere non valeant, enixe expostulare consuerunt; ut, quo omnium piorum operum, quae inibi in eiusdem Sanctissimae Dei Genitricis honorem fere quotidie peragi solent, quamvis absentes participes fieri possent, nomina eorum in volumine describrentur. Ea propter Superiores Ecclesiae in Monasterii huiusmodi de memorati Prioris Generalis consensu instituerunt Unionem quamdam, sive quoddam spirituale foedus eorum omnium, qui in dicto Volumine describi iam exorarunt, sive deinceps exoraverint, pro quibus, ut praemittitur, sive descriptis, sive describendis Religiosi praefati Monasterii, praeter quotidiana pietatis christiana opera, obsecrationum suffragia, ac sacrarum laudum Cantica in Ecclesia dicti Monasterii praestanda et applicanda, semel in singulos annos Missam solemnem ad Altare eiusdem Virginis de Bono Consilio in aliquo intra octavam

---

to Us, who living far away, and when they were again not able to return there, were accustomed earnestly to demand, that though absent, they may be made participators of all the good works, which in honour of the same Most Holy Mother of God were there almost daily performed, by the means of having their names registered in a volume. On which account the superiors of this church and monastery, with the consent of the aforesaid Prior General, instituted a certain Union, or certain spiritual compact of all those who in this volume had already desired to be inscribed, or who afterwards should so desire, for whom, as it was promised either already inscribed or to be afterwards inscribed, the religious of the aforesaid monastery, besides the daily works of Christian piety, the suffrages of prayers, and the canticles of sacred hymns, to be given and applied in the church of the said monastery, there should be offered up once in every year a solemn Mass, which should be celebrated at the altar of the same Virgin of Good Counsel, on some one of the days

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

diei Festi, qui incidit in vigesimaquinta Mensis Aprilis, celerabunt; atque per novem continuos dies opportuno tempore in singulos itidem annos peculiaria pietatis opera, et praecum officia exercebunt. Vicissim vero ipsi utriusque sexus Christifideles, sive descripti, sive describendi tenentur quotidie tribus *Ave Maria* salutare Ipsam Virginem, eiusque cultum promovere, Imaginem quoque Ipsius, sive Effigiem domi servare, ac semel in anno unam Missam ubicumque fuerint, sive celebrare, sive celebrari facere in quacumque Ecclesia, et Altari, quod propter eamdem Missam dumtaxat, erit tamquam Privilegium, si possint, sin aliter Sacra Sanctissimae Eucharistiae Communione refici, atque haec omnia pro omnibus adscriptis, sive adscribendis mutuo applicare. Nos itaque hanc Piam Unionem sive Institutionem, quippe quam ad maiorem Eiusdem Virginis Mariae cultum, ac venerationem fore cessuram in Domino confidi-

---

within the octave of the festival day, which falls upon the 25<sup>th</sup> of April: and that for nine continuous days, at an opportune time each year, peculiar works of piety and offices of prayers should be exercised. But in return, those, the faithful of Christ already inscribed or afterwards to be inscribed, are bound each day to salute the same Virgin with three Hail Marys, and to promote Her worship, to keep Her Image or picture in their homes, and once in the year to celebrate, or cause to be celebrated one Mass in any church, or at any altar (which altar will be privileged for that Mass only), if they could do so; but if not, they should receive the sacred Communion of the most Holy Eucharest; and all these things they should apply mutually for all those inscribed already or afterwards to be inscribed. We, therefore, in as much as we confide in the Lord that this Pious Union or institution, will prove to advance the greater worship and veneration of the same Virgin Mary, and

PRIVATE USE ONLY

mus, quo firmius subsistat, tenore praesentium Apostolica Auctoritate non solum approbamus, et confirmamus atque inviolabili Apostolicae firmitatis Patrocinio munimus; verum etiam, quo maiora capiat incrementa virtutum, tenore et auctoritate paribus concedimus et impertimur iisdem utriusque sexus Christifidelibus, sive adscriptis, sive deinceps describendis, qui vere poenitentes, et confessi, ac Sacra Communione refecti fuerint eo die, quo vel absentes, vel praesentes adscribi contigerit, aut die Dominico immediate sequenti, sive Festo die Plenariam, ac eisdem sive adscriptis, sive adscribendis in cuiuslibet eorum, et earum mortis articulo, si vero poenitentes, et confessi, ex Sacra Communione refecti, vel quatenus id facere nequierint, saltem contriti Nomina Iesu, et Mariae ore, si potuerint, sin minus corde devote invocaverint, etiam plenariam; atque

---

in order that it may subsist more firmly, by the tenor of these presents, do with Apostolic Authority, not only approve and confirm and strengthen with the inviolable patronage of Apostolic firmness; but also, in order that it may receive a grater increase of virtue, by the tenor and authority of these presents, We concede and impart equally to the same faithful of Christ of both sexes, either already inscribed or hereafter to be inscribed, who truly penitent shall have confessed and shall have been strengthened with the Holy Communion, on the day, whether absent or present they happen to be inscribed, or on the Sunday immediately following that day, a Plenary Indulgence: and likewise to those inscribed or to be inscribed, in the article of death of each one of them, if truly penitent and confessed and strengthened with the Holy Communion, or in so far as they cannot do so, at least if contrite, they pronounce the Names of Jesus and Mary with the mouth if they can, and if they cannot, with the heart, also a plenary indulgence: And to those who

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

ipsis, qui vel quae Missae solemniter, ut prefertur, cantandae interfuerint, plenariam quoque omnium peccatorum suorum Indulgenciam, quam pro adscriptis in charitate Dei defunctis per modum suffragii applicare valeant; plenariam itidem, ut praemittitur, semel tantum lucrificiendam in uno ex ante dictis novem diebus; in reliquis vero septem annorum, et totidem quadragenarum iisdem, qui praefatis operibus Pietatis in dicta Ecclesia peragendis pariter interfuerint. Iis vero ubicumque locorum existentibus, et adscriptis utriusque sexus christifidelibus, qui vel Missam celebraverint, vel celebrari fecerint, vel Sacra Sanctissimae Eucharistiae Communione refecti fuerint, quamcumque Ecclesiam ea ipsa die visitantes, ibi pro Christianorum Principum concordia, haeresum extirpatione, et Sanctae Matris Ecclesiae exaltatione pias ad Dominum preces effuderint, plenariam quoque Indulgenciam, etiam per modum Suffragii, ut

---

shall have been present at that Mass which is solemnly, or, if preferred, sung, also a Plenary Indulgence of all their sins, which may be applied by way of suffrage for all those ascribed who have died in the charity of God. A Plenary Indulgence likewise once only, to be obtained on one of the before-mentioned nine days, but on the other days, seven years and seven quarantines, to those who shall have been present at the foregoing works of piety, in the aforesaid Church. But to those faithful of Christ of both sexes everywhere existing and inscribed, who shall either celebrate Mass, or cause it to be celebrated, or shall have been strengthened with the Holy Communion of the Most Holy Eucharist, visiting any church upon that same day, and there pouring out pious prayers for the concord of Christian princes, the extirpation of heresy and the exaltation of Holy Mother Church, also a Plenary Indulgence which is also applicable, as has been stated, by way of suffrage. But as often as they

PRIVATE USE ONLY

praemittitur, applicabilem. Quoties vero pauperes hospitio suscepint, vel pacem inter ipsimicos componerint, seu componi fecerint, vel procuraverint, qui corpora defunctorum quorumcumque ad sepulturam associaverint, aut quascumque Processiones de licentia Ordinarii faciendas, Sanctissimumque Eucharistiae Sacramentum tam in Processionibus, quam cum ad infirmos, quam alias ubicumque et quandcumque pro tempore deferetur, comitati fuerint, vel impediti, campanae ad id signo dato, semel orationem Dominicam, et salutationem Angelicam dixerint, aut quinques, Orationem et salutationem easdem pro animabus defunctorum huiusmodi recitaverint, aut devium aliquem ad viam salutis reduxerint, et ignorantibus pracepta Dei et ea, quae ad salutem sunt, docuerint, aut quodcumque aliud pietatis vel charitatis opus exercuerint, toties pro quolibet praefatrum Operum exercitio sexaginta dies de iniunctis eis

---

shall have sheltered the poor, or made peace between enemies, or shall have made, or procured settlements, or shall have followed the bodies of any persons dead whomsoever to the grave, or shall have accompanied any processions made with the license of the Ordinary, or the most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist; as well in processions when carried to the sick or otherwise, whensover and wheresover, for the time it may be carried; or if impeded, shall say once the Lord's Prayer and the Angelic Salutation, when the bell gives the signal for that purpose; or shall recite five times the said Prayer and Salutation for the souls of the dead; or shall have brought back any one to the way of Salvation; or shall have instructed the ignorant in the precepts of God and those things necessary for Salvation; or whatsoever other work of piety or of charity they shall have exercised; as often as each one of the above works are exercised, we relax sixty days of the penance enjoined, or otherwise in

29

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

seu alias quomodolibet debitibus poenitentiis in forma Ecclesiae consueta relaxamus. In contrarium facientibus non obstantibus quibuscumque. Praesentibus perpetuis futuris temporibus valiturus. Volumus autem, ut earumdem praesentium Litterarum transumptis, seu Exemplis etiam impressis manu alicuius Notarii publici subscriptis, et sigillo Personae in dignitate Ecclesiastica constitutae munitis eadem prorsus Fides adhibeatur, quae ipsis praesentibus adhiberetur, si forent exhibitae vel ostensae.

Datum Romae apud Sanctam Mariam Maiorem sub annulo Piscatoris die II Iulii MDCCLIII Pontificatus Nostri Anno Decimotertio.

Loco  Signi.

CAIETANUS AMATUS.

9. This is a most remarkable Brief, not only for the favours which it confers upon the Pious Union of Our Lady of Good Counsel, but, as we have be-

---

any manner due, according to the usual form of the Church. Any thing to the contrary notwithstanding, these presents to be of value for all future time. And we desire that the transcriptions, or copies even printed, of these present letters, subscribed by the hand of any Public Notary, and confirmed with the seal of any person constituted in Ecclesiastical dignity, should have the same faith, which would be given to these presents if they where shown or exhibited.

Given at Rome, at Saint Mary Major, under the seal of the Fisherman, this 2<sup>nd</sup> of July 1753, being the thirteenth year of Our Pontificate.

Place of Signature.

CAIETANUS AMATUS.

PRIVATE USE ONLY

fore observed, for the testimony it bears to the claims of the sacred Image to be, what history and tradition represent it to be; and especially as having been carried by Angelic hands from Scutari to Genazzano. Rome is guarded in speech and slow in approval; and certainly no Pontiff ever lived who could be more careful in the examination of the claims to sanctity of persons, or places, or things, than Benedict XIV., as his vast work on the Canonization of the Servants of God amply proves. And yet what could emanate, even from the Vicar of Christ, more telling than this Bull, the whole tenor of which is an exhortation to devotion to the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel. The Image is spoken of in a most tender manner. The devotion of the past is taken up, is lauded, is signed with Apostolic approval; and then is enriched with plenary and partial indulgences so great, that scarcely a parallel can be found, at that period at least, of so many spiritual favours being conferred on a mere written aggregation of persons, not an order, nor even a confraternity.

10. No wonder then, that after the example of this great and learned Pontiff, numbers hastened to avail themselves of privileges so easily obtainable. His Catholic Majesty, the King of Spain, soon joined the Pious Union; and he was followed by the Colonnas and a host of other temporal magnates. Towards the close of the last century, there were no less than one hundred and ninety thousand names enrolled as members on the lists kept in the convent of Genazzano.

11. But a break soon came. The torrent of the French Revolution passed over Italy and over Europe,

overturning the order of ages, the spiritual as well as the temporal. The religious communities of the Catholic Church, had to bear a large share of the shock; and, indeed, had not a Divine Hand sustained them, they would then have been surely swept, and for ever, from at least the revolutionized countries of Europe.

12. But they arose, when that storm had spent its force, in greater strength and purity than before. The Augustinians returned to their plundered convent, which in its greatest treasure, the miraculous Image, its Shrine and church, remained untouched; except in so far as it was robbed of its ornaments in precious stones and metals. The power of Mary was then as ever, over Genazzano; and beyond the theft of the revolutionists, no evil occurred to the Sanctuary or sacred Image. Soon, the strict discipline which in the hours of their deepest distress, the Augustinians always religiously enforced in Genazzano, became once more practised. Common life was observed. The praises of God ascended not only on public occasions, but at every canonical hour of the day. People and priests gathered round the Shrine as before, to glorify the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel, and to pray to Her for the living, and for the dead.

With this, the Pious Union once more acquired its pristine vigour, and after 1821, soon swelled into something like its old proportions: and subsequently, to a wide world extent, which it had not known before.

Through the Augustinian communities settled in Ireland and America, it reached, in part, these coun-

PRIVATE USE ONLY

tries, though it is much to be regretted that its way had not been still broader. In Italy, Germany, Bavaria, Bohemia, and France it has had an immense extension. As before, persons of the highest Ecclesiastical and secular rank, are being numbered amongst its members. Amongst the latter, are princes of the Imperial House of Austria; and of the former no less lofty names are recorded, than those of the late Pontiff, Pius IX. and his no less illustrious successor, Leo XIII., whose names, as we had occasion to remark before, are inscribed as members of the Pious Union on the books of Genazzano.

13. Having so far, treated of the nature and history of the Pious Union, we shall now explain to our readers, in brief, all that is required to be done by them, in order to obtain the spiritual benefits of so valuable a means of serving the best interests of their souls; while, at the same time, showing their love to, and extending the glory of Mary, the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel. It will be seen, that the obligations are very light indeed. And then, while they are light, they are of such a nature, that the heart, even of the most tepid Catholic, would almost instinctively of itself adopt them. The first is to keep in one's house, in one's bed room, or elsewhere in one's dwelling place, a copy of the beautiful likeness of the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel. Then, if this be inconvenient, - if one should not have, for instance, a house of one's own; if one should live where it would not be well to expose the sacred Image; then it may be kept in one's trunk, in one's prayer book, or otherwise, where it may be venerated,

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

at convenient times. This simple act of thus keeping such a picture of Our Lady with the heart's love and reverence may appear to be little. But it is great, in its effect for good. It is lauded as a practice by all that the Church of God ever said and did and suffered for the honour, which it taught, against the efforts of heretics, to be not only lawful, but praiseworthy and salutary to give to the representations of God, and of God's Mother, and of God's saints. It is a continual act of love, the same simply that prompts the keeping of the photographs and other images of the dearest to us on this earth. We do not keep, at least in loving reverence, the likenesses of those we dislike. And then, this Image of Mary with Her Infant Child, — God Incarnate as He is — is so touching in its tenderness, so benign, so heavenly, and yet so full too of human, maternal sweetness, that no one can contemplate it without being moved.

If life then, remained always one, still, even flow of monotonous duty, there would be both consolation and profit in the possession of such an Image. But it is never so. It has many seasons. It has sunshine and storm, scarcity and plenty, joy and sorrow; alas, more often sorrow, than joy. It is tried by sickness, and must submit to death. If it is found sometimes in honour it has often to face shame and disgrace. Ah! who can tell, in the varied vicissitudes that come upon it, the value of the Image of the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel. We read, amongst the miracles recorded at the Shrine, how jealously the Queen of Heaven watched over one of these Images, which a beggarman had sewed in the inside of

PRIVATE USE ONLY

his hat. His poor clothing was the only house he had, but the best chamber in that house was given to the Image of Mary, and Jesus Her Son. Heaven only knew what love and prayers and praise, that little picture drew from the heart of that poor man, just as heaven alone knew what an extent and what an intensity of holiness once filled the soul of the beggarman who is now known as St. Benedict Joseph Labre. The appearances, which strike the world, are nothing in the reckoning of God. It is man's heart He wants. The tinsel of the earth, its palaces, its refinement, the produce of its arts are nothing in the sight of Him, before Whom all men are equal. We see the equality ourselves, when we come to contemplate the skulls in the tombs of generations long passed away. We cannot tell the master from the servant, the beggar from the monarch, the rich from the poor. The love of God in man's heart, is what makes the difference in eternity - the difference, that is never to end. Whatever creates this love then, and leads to its greater intensity, must be amongst the most priceless treasures to be found in this life. And we believe that for the Catholic, who has always at least the inclination, the disposition, to love, and cling to God's Holy Mother, there are few things we know of, outside the sacraments, more capable of keeping him in the love of God when he has it, or of leading back to the love of God, when he comes unfortunately to have lost it, than the keeping close to his mind and heart in reverence and in love, this beautiful Image of Mary. Those who are their own masters, may keep it honour in their homes.

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

Those who are in the service of others, may keep it in their rooms, if they can do so with convenience; if not, in their trunks, in their prayer books, or otherwise at their option. The beggarman that kept it stiched in his clothing, kept it, so as fully to satisfy this first condition, which is now required to join the Pious Union.

It is true, that in Italy and other Catholic countries, many members of the Pious Union who have homes, generally keep their picture of Our Lady of Good Counsel in very great honour. Its painting, or oleograph is beautifully framed; and before it is a small altar on which is placed flowers, amidst which a little oil lamp is lighted, at least on Saturdays and on all festivals of Our Lady. A kneeling stool is placed before the altar, and thus it forms an oratory to which all in the house have recourse from time to time, and before which, the family assembles for the Rosary and other evening devotions. This does not prevent each individual from having a picture in his room, and in his manuals of devotion. The Image so honoured offers the family homage, as a family, to Our Lady of Good Counsel. But however beautiful, laudable, and useful, it is not necessary for membership of the Pious Union. All required by this primary condition from members is, to keep a copy in the house, or with oneself, of the holy original of Genazzano; and then to interest oneself in spreading devotion to Our Lady of Good Counsel.

14. The next condition, binds members to recite three Hail Marys every day. This too, is very easy and simple. Those who are doing much for their

PRIVATE USE ONLY

souls already, will find no difficulty in an obligation so trifling, yet necessary, to gain all the spiritual favours granted to the Pious Union. But who can tell, what an influence for good it must have upon those, who may have fallen away from other practices of prayer, and perhaps have lapsed far into sin. In the works of St. Alphonsus Liguori and of other spiritual writers, we find many instances given of sinners saved by a practice apparently so very small. Neither faith, nor hope, nor indeed charity, however sadly imperfect, can be altogether gone from the man who holds in reverence and love, the picture of God's Mother, and will never give up the practice of thrice honouring Her for the mystery of the Incarnation, and thrice asking Her, to pray for him « now and at the hour of his death. » The case of a sinner known to the writer may here be recorded. The poor man was near death, but could not be brought to believe, that his end was so very near. No effort - and many were made - could induce him to go to confession. At last, he commenced his Hail Marys, and when he came to the third he could not stop. He continued and continued it, until at length the love of God's Mother led him to deep and fervent acts of contrition. He prayed alone on a hospital bed the whole night; and next morning to the surprise of every one, he sent for his Confessor and made what is to be hoped, was his perfect peace with God. He received, in tears, the last sacraments; and so passed to the Mother Whose love he would never part with, in all his many and far wanderings; and Who so clearly prayed for him and that efficaciously « at the hour of his death. » The three

Hail Marys, then, to be recited – when, and where, and how, is left at the discretion of the member – every day, forms the next necessary condition for gaining all the Indulgences of the Pious Union.

The third condition is also a wholesome one, not only for all the members collectively, but also for each one individually. It must be remembered, that there are a great number of priests in the Pious Union. Therefore, it is said, that each member must celebrate one Mass, or cause one Mass to be celebrated once every year, for the benefit of the whole of the associates. If, however, he cannot either celebrate a Mass or cause one to be celebrated, if he be poor for instance, it will suffice to offer up the Holy Communion once for the associates. Nothing further need be said of the value of this sacred duty.

Of course, all the three good works, – the retaining in love and honour a copy of the sacred Image with the *desire* to extend the devotion; the daily saying of the three Hail Marys; the offering of the Mass, or the Holy Communion are all to be done, for the benefit for the associates living and dead.

In return, according to the tenor of the Brief of Benedict XIV., those who are inscribed and faithfully perform these good works, besides the many and valuable indulgences plenary and partial, which we shall now mention, participate in all the good works – Masses, Communions, novenas, offices, pilgrimages, prayers, works of charity, etc. etc. – which take place continually throughout the year at the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Good Counsel in Genazzano. It may be here, also, added, that in 1830, the indulgences

PRIVATE USE ONLY

granted by the immortal Benedict XIV. were increased; and those again were amplified and confirmed by a decree of the Sacred Congregation of Indulgences, on the 25<sup>th</sup> of June 1875. The following is a summary of all the indulgences granted to the Pious Union as they stand at present.

---

15. INDULGENCES AND SPIRITUAL ADVANTAGES GRANTED  
IN FAVOUR OF THOSE INSCRIBED IN THE PIous UNION  
OF OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL.

I. A plenary Indulgence, is granted on the day itself upon which the name of the member is written in the book of the registry; or on the next Sunday or Feast Day, on condition of going to Confession and receiving the Most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist.

II. A plenary indulgence, applicable to the souls in Purgatory, is granted on the five following feasts; the Immaculate Conception, the Nativity, the Annunciation, the Purification, and the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin; and on any four Saturdays of the year to be selected at will by each person inscribed; — provided, that having gone to Confession and received Holy Communion, such member visits any church and offers prayers according to the intentions of the Sovereign Pontiff, who conceded these Indulgences.

III. A plenary indulgence is granted at the hour of death, if confessed and communicated, or not being able to do so, if truly contrite, the inscribed member should with the heart pronounce the Most Holy Names of Jesus and Mary.

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

IV. An indulgence of seven years and seven quarantines, also applicable to the souls in Purgatory, is granted to all those inscribed, on the feasts of the Presentation and Purification; provided that at least being contrite for sin, they visit any Church, and pray there some time for the intentions of the Sovereign Pontiff.

V. A plenary indulgence is granted, on the day on which an associate celebrates, or has celebrated, the required yearly Mass.

VI. A plenary indulgence, applicable also to the souls in Purgatory, is granted to all those inscribed, wheresoever they dwell, on the 26<sup>th</sup> of April, or on any other day, on which, with the permission of legitimate authority, is celebrated the Feast of Most Holy Mary of Good Counsel; provided that they be present at least five times at the public novena before the feast, or on all the days of the triduum, when a triduum only takes place; and that truly penitent, confessed and communicated, they should devoutly visit the church where the said feast is celebrated, and there pray, for the concord of Christian Princes, for the extirpation of heresies, for the conversion of sinners, and for the exaltation of Holy Mother Church. (Pius IX. brief *Expositum nuper* 16 March 1875.)

VII. A plenary indulgence, applicable to the holy Souls, is granted to all those inscribed, who dwell in places where no triduum or novena takes place in public, if they perform one or the other privately; and upon the day of the 26<sup>th</sup> of April, if truly repentant, confessed and communicated, they should devoutly visit the parish church, or the principal church de-

PRIVATE USE ONLY

dicated to the Blessed Virgin, and there pray as above. (same brief).

VIII. An indulgence of seven years and as many quarantines, applicable as above, is granted on every day that the inscribed, with at least a contrite heart, shall be present at the public novena or triduum, or shall make the one or the other privately.

IX. A Plenary indulgence, is granted to all members if confessed and communicated, they shall assist at the Solemn Mass, which is celebrated every year for all the inscribed, at the altar of the Sanctuary, on a day within the octave of the Apparition, which falls upon the 25<sup>th</sup> of April. (applicable as N. 6)

X. A Plenary indulgence (applicable as N. 6) is granted to all members, on any one of the nine days, from the 25<sup>th</sup> of April inclusively, if they should assist at the novena which is made at Genazzano for all the inscribed. On the other days of the same novena, an indulgence of seven years and seven quarantines, provided that the conditions be observed as at N. 6.

XI. An indulgence of 60 days is granted, every time they accompany devoutly the processions, either of the Most Holy Sacrament to the sick, or of the dead to burial, or that they recite for the holy Souls five times, Our Father and Hail Mary; or that they exercise any work of piety or devotion, or mercy, or charity, or procure peace between enemies, or correct, or instruct in Christian duties, or give alms.

XII. Every inscribed member has part in the multiplied pious works which, in the course of the year, are practised in the Sanctuary.

All here stated, is supported by the chapters of

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

erection in the above mentioned letters, and by the following decree of the Sacred Congregation of Rites.

### DECREE

« 25<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JUNE 1875.

« The Sacred Congregation placed over Indulgences and Sacred Relics, acknowledges the present Summary as authentic, and considers that it may be printed and published. In the faith of which etc.

« Given at Rome at the office of the same Sacred Congregation.

I. Card. FERRIERI Praef.

Rev. P. D. Secretary MARIANUS MERLINI-NOLFI. »

Finally, all the conditions necessary to become a member of the Pious Union of Our Lady of Good Counsel, and to gain all the indulgences and privileges hitherto described, may be summed up thus; 1. It must be distinctly understood that the association is one of simple voluntary aggregation. 2. It is not a confraternity. 3. None of its duties oblige under any sin or penalty whatsoever. 4. Admission to it requires no ceremony. It is in fact an immense spiritual boon, granted by the Vicar of Christ, in favour of those who desire to honour the beautiful miraculous Image of God's Virgin Mother, translated amidst so many prodigies from Scutari in Albania, to Genazzano. All required, then, is as follows.

PRIVATE USE ONLY

## CONDITIONS NECESSARY TO BE INSCRIBED.

I. To go personally and give, or to send by post, or otherwise, one's name to the Very Revd., the Prior of the Augustinian Convent of Genazzano; in order that it may be written in the register of the Pious Union.

II. To recite every day, three Hail Marys.

III. To keep with oneself, or in one's house, a copy of the holy Image of Our Lady of Good Counsel of Genazzano, and to interest oneself to promote the devotion.

IV. To celebrate, or have celebrated one Mass every year, in any church, or on any altar (which by concession of Benedict the Fourteenth, will be for that one occasion privileged;) or, if being unable to say or get a Mass celebrated, to offer instead the Holy Communion.

V. To apply all the above named works for all the associates.

16. So far, we have considered the Pious Union as a purely spiritual league, to which no tax whatever is affixed, to which no subscription is paid, and which all, even the poorest, may join. In order, however, to find funds for the necessary improvements of the temple, the Sanctuary, and worship, the Fathers determined to add other and greater advantages for the spiritual benefit here and hereafter of all the members of the Pious Union, who may assist these works; works so dear to all who love the chosen home of Our Lady of Good Counsel; and works, it may be added,

now of imperative necessity, since the Italian Government, with less open violence than the French Revolution, but with far more deadly effect, has despoiled the Religious of every farthing of income, which at one time they possessed; both for their own support, and for the sustenance of the church and Sanctuary also. They have now, literally, nothing whatever; so in order to get funds, not, let it be remembered, for their own necessities, but for the necessities of the church, the Sanctuary, and the necessary expenses of God's worship, they now promise to all the members of the Pious Union who may give them a mere trifle yearly, or its equivalent in a single sum, the following advantages in addition to the other spiritual advantages of membership

1.<sup>o</sup> One hundred Masses are offered up each year for the spiritual and temporal well being of all the living members; and besides this, in every month of the year, there is offered for the same intention a triduum, when a solemn Mass is sung.

2.<sup>o</sup> One hundred Masses, are offered up each year for the members who are dead, and whose payments, of course have ceased; and a triduum and solemn Mass, are also offered every month for their souls.

3.<sup>o</sup> The members thus assisting, alone enjoy the fruit of the special prayers and Masses, which are offered up through the year at the Sanctuary, amongst which is the Salve Regina sung every night after the Litany, before the sacred Image.

All these advantages, together with a certain number of special masses on the news of the death of a subscriber reaching Genazzano, are given to

PRIVATE USE ONLY

those who subscribe the sum of two shillings and six pence yearly, (half that, or fifteen pence a year for the right to a lesser number of Masses at death) or who give thirty shillings (for the lesser number, fifteen) in one payment, *which suffices for life*. The news of the death of a paying member should be transmitted by the friends of the deceased, to the collector of the locality; or direct to the Prior of Santa Maria, Genazzano, Italy, when the Masses will be at once said. The deceased, of course, immediately commences to enjoy the advantages of the hundred yearly Masses for the dead, the triduums, and all the works carried on as before mentioned to the end of time, for the benefit of deceased members in general.

On the transmission of the sum above stated, from any part of the world to the Prior of Santa Maria Genazzano, Italy; by Post Office Order, or Draft on any bank in Rome; an answer with a paper of aggregation both to the Pious Union and to the additional advantages secured to subscribers, will be immediately forwarded.

The letter may be in English, as an English speaking Father is always in the convent for the benefit of persons needing an English speaking Confessor. A father of the American Augustinian Province at present occupies this post; and attends to the spiritual, and also indeed, with great kindness, to any other wants, of English speaking pilgrims, who now come in large numbers to the Sanctuary.

Any additional information which may be required, can be readily obtained from the Prior of Santa Maria in Posterula, N<sup>o</sup>. 143, Via Tordinona,

30

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

Rome. English speaking visitors to the Eternal City from any part of the world, can there also be directed as to the best means of getting to Genazzano. When the Irish Augustinian students occupy San Pio, English speaking Ecclesiastics desiring to celebrate Mass at the Shrine may, upon application to the Prior, obtain hospitality amongst the community; and may be also directed in the manner of obtaining from the General of the Augustinians in Rome, the privilege of offering the Holy Sacrifice before the sacred Image unveiled. We here translate from Buonanno, a notice of those who have been lately aggregated to the Pious Union. He says. « To give the names of some, at least, we shall notice the following: the Most Eminent Cardinal, Philip De Angelis, Archbishop of Fermo, Cardinal Pacca, and Cardinal Edward Borromeo passed to a better lefe; His Eminence the Most Revd. Sixtus Riario Sforza of blessed memory, Archbishop of Naples inscribed on the 25<sup>th</sup> of Juny 1873; Monsgr. Francis Pedicini, Archbishop of Bari, inscribed on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 1873; Monsgr. John Acquaviva of the Oratory of Naples, Bishop of Nusco, joined on the 16<sup>th</sup> of Feby 1873; Monsgr. Dominic Ramaschiello, Bishop of St. Agatha of the Goths, aggregated on the 14<sup>th</sup> of Septr. 1873; Monsgr. Francis Xavier Petagna, Bishop of Castellammare di Stabbia; the Bishop of Foggia; the Bishop of Callurico; Monsgr. Ne groni, Minister to Pope Pius IX.; and Monsgr. (now Cardinal) Francis Ricci. Besides, Monsgr. Herbert Vaughan, Bishop of Salford in England, and other distinguished prelates have established the Pious Union of Genazzano in their dioceses.

PRIVATE USE ONLY

## Chapter XXI.

### THE CHURCH AND SANCTUARY

1. The old church. — 2. The old alto-rilievo in marble of Our Lady of Good Counsel. — 3. The Sanctuary. — 4. The church of Father Felix Leoncelli of Cave. — 5. Subsequent improvements — Works by Canon Bacci. — 6. The convent built by Prior Bosca — The ejection of the religious from it by the Revolutionists. — 7. Improvements by Vasquez and others. — 8. Consequences to church and convent on the coming of the French and Bonaparte to the Papal States — Valuables contributed to their exactions from Pius VI. — 9. New exactions of the French from the Pontiff and new contributions from the Sanctuary — Lists. — 10. The French take Rome and carry off the Pope to France — Final spoliation of the Sanctuary — List of valuables taken. — 11. Some objects restored — Fate of sacrilegious spoliators. — 12. Santa Maria during Napoleon's tyranny. — 13. Its rise on the return of Pius VII. — 14. Improvements effected by Father Fanucchi. — 15. Cardinal Pedicini renovates the Sanctuary — Its frescos and artists.

1. After all we have hitherto said of the Sanctuary of Genazzano, a glance at the varied fortunes of the celebrated temple in which it is found, cannot fail to interest our readers. Those whose good fortune may enable them to visit the Shrine, will look for this; and indeed, it is necessary in order to completely understand the history which is here given. It must be always remembered that it was the condition

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

of the temple in 1467, which led, proximately at least, to the coming of the sacred Image within its unfinished walls. It had an interesting history previously.

We have seen, that by the care of Pope St. Mark I., the first Christian temple built over the ruins of the worship of Venus and Robigo in Genazzano, was one dedicated to the Mother of God, under the title of Our Lady of Good Counsel. In that temple, for a thousand years before Prince Giordan Colonna called the Augustinians to its care, the people of Latium assembled on the old feast days of heathenism, to worship the Most Pure Mother of God. Eleven hundred years came and went from its foundation, to the time when the holy woman, Petruccia, became inspired to prepare a better home on its site, for the Queen of Heaven. We cannot follow all the fortunes of the old edifice, during those long years. It is certain, that all its guardians were not as careful of it, as could be desired; otherwise, Prince Colonna would not have been so anxious for the change which he effected, and which put, practically, the *jus patronatus* out of the power of his family. But it is equally certain, that great devotion was at all times manifested in it, to Our Lady of Good Counsel.

2. A proof of this exists in the very beautiful alto-rilievo of the Virgin and Child, which must have been executed at a rather early period; possibly a century or two after the erection of the first church. It is still preserved in a domestic chapel of the convent; and indeed so great was the devotion of the people to it, that for a long time after the coming of the sa-

PRIVATE USE ONLY

cred Image from Scutari, it yet retained its position in the church. It was not removed until as late as 1629, when the present edifice was rebuilt. It must have been executed by no ordinary artist, and may be said to be a wonder, for the age to which it is commonly ascribed. The face of the Virgin is most gracious; She is represented sitting, with a veil covering the head, and falling negligently upon the shoulders. The Divine Infant is represented naked, and standing by Her side, with His body and arms leaning towards His Mother's knee. The sweetness of the Child's face is very remarkable, and the look of tender love the Mother gives Him, shows astonishing power in the artist, at a period, when art had much decayed. The visitor to the Shrine should not depart without a visit to the little chapel, containing such an interesting and ancient, as well as devotional sculpture.

We have already seen, with what speed the church of Petruccia advanced to completion, after the coming of the miraculous Image. Although it was constructed from designs, as Senni thinks, by the architect of the fine convent of San Pio, the same who also, as is generally believed, constructed the lordly castle of the Colonnas, that church was, from the peculiar position it occupied, very defective in form. It ran crosswise; and the still older church of St. Mark, formed a kind of vestibule to it; while its chief entrance faced the narrowest of the present side streets. The architect had to respect the foundations laid by Petruccia, and also the line of the streets; while he had, at the same time, to save for use, as

much of the old building as possible. The sacred Image remained as it came, suspended in the air; and of course, his first care was to provide a covering for it. This he did at once; and in a manner which shows a master mind and a full Catholic heart. The tribune erected by him, chiefly, it is said by some, at the charge of the Colonna family, stands to this day. It has been embellished and strongly enclosed; but neither the original design, nor the richness of the material could be improved upon. It is said, that the architect ornamented the edifice elaborately, to make up for other defects; but it was irregular and wanting in light; and after about one hundred and fifty years, the Fathers of the convent, had to think seriously of erecting another in its stead. This they did, chiefly through the unwearied energy and zeal of the Prior at the period, Father Felix Leoncelli, of Cave, who left nothing undone, to obtain offerings from the Colonna family and the wealthiest inhabitants of Genazzano, as well as from the pilgrims to the Shrine, and the faithful of the surrounding territory and of the Abruzzi. In nine years he rebuilt Santa Maria anew, and in the form in which it is now to be seen. The older temple of Petruccia disappeared, and with it an immense number of votive offerings and inscriptions which covered its venerable walls and floor.

3. The new edifice consists of a wide nave, and two side aisles. What we would call a chancel, is formed by the extension of the nave some fifty feet, and in this is found the high altar, with a fine choir behind, and an ample sanctuary in front, enclosed by a balustrade of polished marble.

PRIVATE USE ONLY

At the end of the aisle on the Gospel side, stands the magnificent Shrine and Sanctuary of the Madonna; and at the extremity of the other aisle, is an altar richly decorated, where stands the miraculous Crucifix. Side altars are erected in both aisles, in place of the chapels which existed in the old edifice.

4. Little, substantially, if we except the facade renewed recently, and some buttresses to one of the external walls, has been added to the edifice of Prior Leoncelli, of Cave. As soon, however, as his work was completed, gifts for furnishing and for decorations, began to pour in upon the temple, in honour of the Sanctuary of the Madonna. Thus, the fine organ was erected in 1633, and restored in 1735, by Cesare Calarinozzi. Cardinal Albano, in 1734, placed the present precious altar and Shrine for the sacred Image of Our Lady; and two years later, Cardinal Jerome Colonna, besides bestowing most valuable candelabra and vestments, enclosed the whole Sanctuary with the massive iron railing which subsists to this day.

5. A few years later on, the indefatigable zeal of Canon Bacci, and the zeal which he infused into the Fathers of the Sanctuary themselves, caused splendour to appear in the whole temple. The altar of the miraculous Crucifix, was newly, and with lavish expense, embellished. The massive marble balustrade, appeared in front of the great altar. The pavement, the walls, and the whole church in fine, was improved in some form or another.

6. In 1774, Father Bosca, the Prior at that period, commenced the convent, and in 1777, it was finished as it stands to-day.

This magnificent pile, together with the church, filled up the large square, between four of the narrow streets of Genazzano. It accommodated a numerous community, and the novices of the Roman, and other Provinces, whom the General of the Augustinians desired to have specially trained under the shadow of the great Sanctuary of Our Lady. It was also a house of retreat, for such Augustinians as desired to pass the evening of their days in the presence of Mary's miraculous Image. Within its walls also, Ecclesiastics and religious men from distant localities coming to visit the holy Shrine of the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel, received true monastic hospitality. This noble and beneficent building, continued almost uninterruptedly to accomplish the purposes for which it was intended, until the evil day that saw Victor Emmanuel enter Rome by the breach at the Porta Pia, and the Vicar of Jesus Christ deprived of the last remnant of his States, by fraud and force combined. The agents of the Revolution, in their accustomed hatred of the friends and servants of God, lost little time in driving the religious and all belonging to them, from this, their home. The community, the novices, the Fathers on retreat, and such pilgrims as were receiving hospitality from the religious, were all cast upon the streets. Fortunately for the Sanctuary, the church of Santa Maria was a parochial one; and the Piedmontese for fear of raising insurrections amongst the Catholic people of the country they were so bent upon de-Christianizing, spared in their anti-religious crusade, parish churches. But in the cases of such churches served by priests of

PRIVATE USE ONLY

religious orders, they took care to confiscate the revenues. A pious and wealthy gentleman - Signor Clementi - who held property in Genazzano, gave up his residence there, to the Fathers. This provided them with a shelter, and enabled them still to serve the Sanctuary. The fine convent adjoining the church, was handed over to the municipality. But notwithstanding, that the municipality established all its offices in it, and turned its halls into government schools, still a large space remained unoccupied. This space, indeed, might have been utilized as a grain store, or let go to ruin, as is commonly the case with suppressed convents in the small towns of Italy. But the people began to move in the matter. Discontent began to assume alarming proportions; and so, at length, the municipality were forced to readmit the Fathers into a part, — and of course the most wretched part, — of their own dwelling, *as tenants*. There, still, *as tenants paying rent*, they are tolerated, but barely tolerated, and obliged to submit to the continual apprehension of being ejected, at the instance of the first faithless municipality officer, who may have little religion enough, to brave the anger of his fellow townspeople, by moving the authorities to eject them, even as tenants and paying rent, from their own property.

7. But to return to the improvements effected in the church, during the last century. Soon after the building of the new convent, the great General, Francis Xavier Vasquez, improved the choir, and then the sacristy, at an expense of 4,000 Roman crowns; and received from the gratitude of the Fathers the marble

monument with a half bust, which we have already spoken of, in the same sacristy.

The zeal of the friends of Our Lady of Good Counsel, meanwhile, had grown apace; and new and more beautiful embellishments were being designed, or about being placed in position, when the French Revolution, the scourge of Europe in the last century, after desolating France, swept over the beautiful, peaceful plains and cities of Italy.

8. This fact has so much to do with the Sanctuary of Our Lady, that it merits a brief retrospect, in so far as it concerned the States of the Church. In 1793, the imprudence and wilful misconduct of the French agent at Rome, ended in his death; and gave the Republic a coveted opportunity for creating a quarrel with the reigning Pontiff, Pope Pius VI. The armies of France, with little previous parley, over-spread the States of the Church, and after « attaching » the greater portion of the Legations and the Marches, forced the Pope to pay out of the residue of his dominions, a million of lire to the Directory. This was the work of Napoleon Bonaparte. To meet so heavy a war indemnity, the Pope was obliged to appeal to the wealth, which the piety of many ages had accumulated, and consecrated to the service of religion, in sanctuaries and monastic houses. Genazzano, of course, together with very many other famous Shrines, had to bear a large portion of this unavoidable burden. An interesting document left as a receipt, by the Vicar General of Palestrina, who acted for the Pope in making the requisition at Genazzano, gives an idea of what was then the wealth of the Shrine.

PRIVATE USE ONLY

The following objects were, as proved by this document, then, given up.

	lbs. oz.
Six chandeliers of silver, weighing in all.	34 11
Four ditto of silver,	> > 2 6
A silver bell,	> > 0 6
Eight silver chalices,	. . . . . 13 7
Twelve silver lamps,	. . . . . 46 0
Two patenas of silver, gilt	. . . . . 2 10
Two fonts and aspersories,	. . . . . 1 1
Two torch stands, in silver,	. . . . . 26 0

Seven medals in gold, of Clement XIII. and Clement XIV. were also offered.

9. It would be well if the spoliation ended here. The Sanctuary could have borne the loss, and moreover, upon the return of prosperity, the Pontifical exchequer would be sure to replace whatever had, in an evil day, to be taken for the necessities of the State. But the aim of Napoleon was, evidently, to get out of the convents by means of the Pope, that which his force could never manage to extract. In 1797, the very year following, he forced Pius VI. to purchase peace anew, at the hollow treaty of Tollentino, by the payment not only of the first twenty, but of another thirty millions of lire; and then, moreover, of three hundred thousand lire to the family of the firebrand, Basseville, whose conduct had created the pretext for the French occupation. The Pope had consequently, to make another demand; and this drew from the convent of Genazzano the following additional objects in the precious metals, as is manifested by the receipt of the Vicar

General of Palestrina, before mentioned, to whom the objects were consigned viz.

	lbs. oz.
Six silver lamps, weighing . . . . .	34 8
Six candlesticks with crosses and pedestals .	28 0
Large silver chalice . . . . .	3 8
Three other silver chalices . . . . .	4 0
Silver cases . . . . .	7 4
An ostensorium of silver. . . . .	3 0
A censer and boat, in silver . . . . .	2 8
A bambino, of cast silver . . . . .	4 4
Two flower vases, Do, Do . . . . .	4 4

10. All this payment of treasure on the part of the Pope, did not satisfy the French. Early in 1798, the Directory's troops entered and annexed the remnant of the Papal States; and on the 30<sup>th</sup> of February of that year, Berthier was master of Rome. The Pope refusing to abdicate, was sent upon his sad pilgrimage of imprisonment, first to Siena, then to Florence, then to Grenoble, and finally to Valence on the Rhine. There, worn out with the weight of years, and by persecution, his martyrdom was consummated, in August, 1799, in the 82<sup>nd</sup> year of his age, and the 24<sup>th</sup> of his Pontificate.

Meanwhile, the « Republic » was proclaimed in Rome, on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February 1798; and on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of the following March, certain « deputies » appeared at the church of Our Lady in Genazzano and demanded in the name of the Government, not a part, but everything of value the convent and Sanctuary possessed. These worthies, were fit forerunners

PRIVATE USE ONLY

of those who in the name of Italian unity, have taken every thing from the religious of Italy in our day. The list they left, shows how rich in precious objects the Sanctuary of Our Lady was, even after having given so much valuable articles for the necessities of the Pope. It is sad to find so many votive offerings of, not only intrinsic, but historic value amongst these objects, which went neither to the Government nor to the people, but into the possession of reckless individuals, who with conscience seared enough to rob religion, made little scruple of professing themselves infidels and republicans, so that they may have the chance of plundering with impunity. While the mass of the people remained aloof, these few sided with the invaders, took up the cant phraseology of the Revolution, assembled and elected themselves « deputies » and « representatives » — without a people to represent; and fortified by the bayonets of the stranger, proceeded to rob with the forms and jargon of « the law of the strongest, » their Church and fellow-countrymen. The law compelled them, to leave a note of what they took; but what they did actually take, went of course to the service of these « citizens of the republic » themselves. The following is a copy of the document, which yet exists. It is all that the Fathers ever received in place of their property. It will be noticed that several articles which must have beened heavy, are mentioned without the weight being attached. Yet such weights as are given in pounds and ounces, prove the value of the objects themselves

« NOTE OF OBJECTS TAKEN FROM THE CHURCH AND CONVENT OF THE AUGUSTINIANS OF SAINT MARY OF GOOD COUNSEL, BY THE MUNICIPALITY OF GENAZZANO, AND CONSIGNED TO THE CITIZENS OF THE MUNICIPALITY.

**Silver**

lbs. oz.

Votive offerings in silver, found on the walls of the chapel of the Madonna . . . . .	19	6
Other silver offerings . . . . .	24	4
Others again, in another division . . . . .	15	0
»     »     »     » . . . . .	2	0
A silver tablet, containing a heart of silver with flowers, countersigned with the seal of the municipality.		
Another tablet, with a crown and heart of silver.		
Silver taken from the glass frame of the Image of the Madonna, countersigned as above .	46	0
Other silver ornamentations . . . . .	46	0

**Gold**

The crown of the Madonna in gold. . . . .	7	2
The crown of the Child . . . . .	7	7½
Two hearts joined, in gold . . . . .	6	0
Heart in gold, of the Electress of Saxony, with two rings within. . . . .	7	7½
Crown of silver, gilt, with two heads of silver, gilt. . . . .	11	0
Bracelets with ornaments . . . . .	1	3
Ornaments in pearls. . . . .	0	18

PRIVATE USE ONLY

**Besides**

A comb of coral, gilt.

A breast ornament.

A cross of beryl.

Two others of same.

A star of silver, with topaz.

Two ovals, one of Clement XIV. and another with  
that of St. John Nepomucene.

A necklace of silver, with divers precious stones.

A cross and three pendants with pearls, sealed by  
the municipality and by the convent.

A crown with twelve stars of beryl, and a star formed  
of one white, and several coloured gems.

	lbs.	oz.
A lamp gilded. . . . .	12	3
Five other lamps, of silver. . . . .	38	0
Two angels of silver. (weight not given).		
Four vases of silver. . . . .	6	3
A grand and small silver crown . . . . .	11	8
Four cornucopia.		
Six table candlesticks.		
Two large, and one small heart.		
One cruet.		
Two chandeliers of silver displayed.		
Two cornucopia not displayed, which stand in the chapel of the Madonna . . . . .	5	0
Basin and ewer in silver, gilt. . . . .	7	2
>    >    >    vase and aspersory . . . . .	3	8
Three chalices with patens gilt . . . . .	8	0
Gilt chalices with paten. . . . .	2	5

(Left by municipality)

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

	lbs.	oz.
Three chalics of silver with patens, gilt. . .	8	0
An incensor with boat and spoon. . . .	3	0

(Left by municipality)

**An ostensorium and box.**

(Left by municipality)

Ornaments for mantle, and two crowns of silver. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .	22	10
Ornaments for the steps of the altar of the Madonna. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .	2	6
4 silver, gilt chains, and cross in silver. . .	3	7
Two medals, a reliquary, two rings. . . . .	3	0
Six reliquaries, of silver. . . . . . . . .	5	8
82 reliquaries. (weight not given).		

(Here follows the list of a number of object of little worth left to the convent.)

« We the undersigned, deputed by the municipality to receive the objects of the said church of Saint Mary, declare; that we have received all, according to the form of the above inventory. In faith of which, we inscribe our names this, 23<sup>rd</sup> of March, 1798. First year of the Republic.

11. The ring with the effigy of St. John Nepomucene, was restored to the convent by some unknown hand in 1820. But the rest disappeared completely. Some of the articles, such for instance, as the heart with the marriage rings of the Electress of Saxony, and the crowns of gold granted by the Chapter of St. Peter's, were, historically, of a price more

PRIVATE USE ONLY

precious than the metal or workmanship which gave them a very high value. The poor Fathers tried to make up for the robbery of the crowns and other decorations of the sacred Image, by substituting what best they could instead. Their lands, as in the present persecution, were confiscated; and some were never recovered by them even on the return of peace. Already, the invariable curse which long experience proves to be the fate of these ravenous persons, who, to enrich their families, do not scruple to take the property of the Church, has fallen upon most of the sacrilegious « purchasers; » and instead of founding wealthy houses, as they hoped to do, their families have instead lost not only what they gained from the Church but also what they held as their own patrimony. Besides which they, of course, lost cast, the esteem of men, and the benediction of heaven. A notable instance of this malediction may to-day, be seen in the fallen condition of one family immensely wealthy a few years since, and who are now living in a state of beggary within three miles of the Sanctuary they plundered.

12. The years which succeeded '98 were sad years for all Italy as well as for the church of Our Lady of Good Counsel at Genazzano. It is true that the coming of the Russians under Suwarow, caused the French « liberators » to loose their hold on the country and on the Holy See. It gave time for the Cardinals to elect a successor to Pius VI. That successor was Pius VII. All know the long and eventful history of this celebrated and most saintly Pontiff. After being restored to his States by the policy of Napoleon

had succeeded in making himself absolute master of the French, Pius VII. soon found out that instead of a new, noble minded Charlemagne, he had to deal with the meanest and most narrow-souled despot who had ever appeared with the genius and fortunes of a conqueror. Alexander, Caesar, Genghis Khan, Tamerlane, all were scourges to millions, but they, none of them, could be called mean in the sense in which Napoleon was undoubtedly mean. They were all generously grateful to their friends. Not one of them ever found in his career, a friend so beneficent, so faithful, and so forbearing as the great Pius VII. was to Napoleon. Yet scarcely had Pius the VII. crowned that Emperor, who backed by the fiery valour of France, made an easy conquest of the old fashioned continental armies, than he experienced — as Talleyrand, and even the uncle of Napoleon, Cardinal Fesch, and others experienced — that he had to deal with one who at heart was a tyrant, selfish to the last degree, suspicious and ungrateful to an extent never before witnessed in one aiming to be called a hero. Hence the imprisonment, the outrages and sufferings to which the Pontiff was long consigned by Bonaparte, until through his mad expedition to Moscow, that despot was hurled from the height he had reached. There, his boast « The Pope's excommunication will never take the guns out of the hands of my brave soldiers. » was we know, mocked at by Providence. The cold of Russia actually forced the muskets from his soldiers' hands, and the tyrant himself was crushed and humbled to the dust by the action of the elements.

PRIVATE USE ONLY

These years were terrible, not only for the Pope, but for Italy, and the Papal States especially. Napoleon was no friend of the religious orders. His idea was to force the Church to advance his ambitious designs. In Genazzano, after the annexation of Rome and the States of the Church to his Empire, the religious had again to leave their convents. In common with their brethren, they had also to endure suppression and expulsion at the hands of the victor of Austerlitz and Jena.

13. After the tyrant's final defeat, however, at Waterloo, and the return of Pius VII., we find the Fathers restored to Saint Mary's, and enabled once more to think of replacing something of what had been lost to their church and beloved Sanctuary. Poor as they were they found means to replace with a beautiful work in copper, richly gilt, the massive silver fastenings taken from the Shrine of Our Lady. This now adorns the case of the sacred Image, and makes up by its rare artistic beauty for what it wants in precious material. Benefactors again appeared, and their votive offerings once more filled the walls of the Sanctuary with hearts, and crowns, and models of broken or diseased limbs, made whole by the intercession of Our Lady of Good Counsel.

In 1835, Monsignor Cosmo Corsi, afterwards Cardinal Archbishop of Pisa, at his own expense constructed in marble, the four side altars of the aisles. In 1839, the floor of the Sanctuary of Our Lady was formed in the beautiful fashion in which it at present exists. A year after, the façade of the church was completed after a design of Father

Giusto Fanucchi, the Prior of the Augustinian convent at Bracciano.

14. Fortunately for the church of the Madonna in Genazzano, this Father was gifted in no ordinary degree with artistic taste and with great knowledge not only of architecture but also of church decoration. He had furthermore, the good sense, often found wanting in non-professionals who choose to be their own architects, of not confiding in his own judgment. In the many works which he constructed for his Order, (amongst which may be mentioned the very beautiful chapel of St. Mark at Corneto), he invariably consulted the best professional architects he could find, and especially those of Civita Vecchia. It was with much regret that he saw, while attending to the completion of the Façade of Santa Maria, that its interior was anything but decorated in keeping with its really fine design. Its inner roof was bare and its walls were covered with odd inscriptions of much piety but of little public significance and of execrable taste. Zealous like all his brethren, for the house of his beloved Madonna of Good Counsel, he determined to do what he could to remedy this glaring defect. He studied out a plan for its embellishment which could hardly be surpassed, and he had the good fortune not only to get the approval of the first professional skill in Italy, but also the active support of his enlightened General and of the Prior and community of Genazzano, in having his plan put into execution. This was to have the whole roof decorated with that wonderful stucco, which the early Romans used so well and to such an extent, and which the gen-

PRIVATE USE ONLY

ius of Raphael rediscovered and made such remarkable use of in the corridors of the Vatican. The walls and pillars were to be covered beneath for several feet with marble, and above that by the finest scagliola, while the floor was to be all of marble. The walls around were moreover to be decorated with paintings, in such a manner that when the ornamental stucco-work of the roof would be gilt, the interior should form one majestic whole.

Considering the means of the Fathers the design was vast, but they set about putting it into execution with incredible ardour. The stucco-work was confided to the ablest artist of Italy in that line, Signor Giuliano Corsini of Urbino, well known as the undertaker of works perfected in Corneto, Rimini, and Viterbo; and who had also been employed by the celebrated Roman architect Virginio Vespignani in the basilica of St. Paul and other churches.

He succeeded in his task to the satisfaction of all who study his splendid work at St. Mary's in Genazzano. The roof was completed in 1856, but the rest of the design was, by a series of unforeseen events, put off until very recently.

15. Meanwhile, much was being done to repair the injury caused by the French occupation. Several material improvements were effected. Cardinal Pedicini, in 1840, caused the whole of the gilding of the Sanctuary to be renewed. The frescoes, as they are now seen there, were executed by the best artists that could be then found in the Eternal City. The Espousals of the Blessed Virgin and St. Joseph are the work of the painter Achilles Ansiglioni. The Nativity

of Our Lord, with the prophets Isaias and Jeremias, and the angels underneath are by the same. The Prophets Daniel and Ezechial with the angels beneath, are by Ernest Sprega. The flight into Egypt and the Angels on the vault of the tribune, are by Paginini. The very well executed likeness of Pius the Ninth, attended by Cardinal Amat, and in the act of contemplating the sacred Image, is the work of Reinaldi.

16. Notwithstanding the improvements thus effected in the Sanctuary, the church in general remained for several years in an unadorned condition. At last, upon the appointment of Prior Martinelli, (brother of the Cardinal) some ten years since, a new vigour was infused into the works. The funds of the Pious Union, which are all devoted to the purposes of the church and Shrine, were given over to a committee formed of the Cardinal Bishop of Palestrina, the Cardinal Prefect, Protector of the Order of St. Augustine, and the Prior of Santa Maria in Genazzano. Since then the whole interior of the building has been renovated and decorated. The pillars and the lower portion of the walls have been encased in marble, and the upper portions completely covered with the finest scagliola. The best Roman painters have been engaged to adorn the walls with beautiful frescoes.

The writer cannot undertake to pronounce a judgment upon these latter works, but he has asked an artist friend to give him an opinion upon them. In reply to his request, the artist, — himself one of the most promising painters in Rome, — sent him a letter, a translation of which he here gives for the benefit of such of his readers as may hereafter come to visit the church of the Sanctuary. This artist says

PRIVATE USE ONLY

« The aspect which this church presents' to the spectator is very beautiful. On entering, one is struck with the appearance of the chancel, rich in the marbles of its high altar, its balustrade and its pavement. Its vault which is magnificently decorated in stucco, panelled, and full of rose representations, cornices, borders, and other ornaments, is entirely gilded over to perfection. In the perspective, where the orchestra is placed behind the high altar, above the choir, are two paintings in fresco. The one to the left hand represents the Immaculate Conception, in which the Most Holy Virgin is seen descending from Heaven and about to crush the head of the infernal serpent. On the right is the Assumption of Our Lady amidst the angelic hosts into Heaven. In the middle, upon a movable panel which covers the organ, David is represented in ecstasy and in the act of singing the praises of God upon the harp. At each side is an angel with a scroll upon which is read the words « *in corde et organo laudate Deum* ». These three paintings are by Signor Tito Troja of Rome ».

On the right side are three other frescoes of large dimensions. In the first, Most Holy Mary is seen seated upon a throne with the Child Jesus in Her arms. At Her feet are St. Monica and St. Augustine receiving the Cineture. In the second is a representation of the Visitation, in which the Virgin Mother is seen welcomed by St. Elizabeth who comes to receive Her, and both are in the act of salutation. Behind them are seen St. Joseph and St. Zachary who are also in the act of salutation, and above are represented two young women who are spectators of the whole scene. The third is the Annunciation. Here the Archangel Gabriel is seen making the great Announcement, and, at the same time, presenting to Most Holy Mary the lily of holy purity. The Virgin, in astonishment, receives the salutation. On high are two choirs of angels, at whose head is seen St. Michael who presents the sceptre to Our Lady. These three paintings are the work of Virginio Monti.

Following the passage round the high altar, we come to a very beautiful representation of the Presentation of the Virgin in the temple. There is here a sun effect and the picture is well peopled with figures. The little Child is seen alone upon the higher step of the Sanctuary and is followed by Sts. Joachim and Anne with several women. There are the priests and ministers of the Old Law in their robes of office, with others who await

at the summit, the coming of the holy Child. Pharisees pass by with interested looks at the new acquisition to the children of the Temple. At the lower end are groups selling pigeons and other things for the use of those coming to make offerings. These figures are a study. The middle painting represents the birth of the Blessed Virgin. A splendid effect of night light. Amongst the first figures, and seated in the middle, is a woman who holds in her lap the new-born Infant. The light is thrown upon this figure with exquisite art from the lamp which burns near and from other lights suspended in the centre of the chamber. Above, at a distance, is seen the bed on which reclines the mother St. Anne, and at the side of this bed St. Joachim is seated. Other women are near, and others with lights enter the room. The beauty of the Infant, the expression of motherly interest and pleasure upon the features of St. Anne, the calm joy of St. Joachim, and the womanly interest depicted in the faces of all the other female figures, show the masterly power of the painter in this fresco. The effect of the lamp-lights in the chamber and upon all the figures, has been rarely equalled and can hardly be surpassed. The expression upon the features of the young female figure holding the Infant, shows rare talent; and altogether this picture, large and full as it is, may well be regarded as a masterpiece. Both this and the former are the work of Signor Prospero Piatti. There is a third picture here also, of St. Augustine driving the heretics out of the Church, executed by Virginio Monti.

It is well worth while before leaving this place, to examine the wood-work in walnut of the choir and the marble of the balustrade and high altar, all of which possess artistic value.

Leaving the chancel, the vault of the nave, gilded like that over the high altar, catches the eye at once, and manifests the quality of the stucco-work of Signor Corsini and the beauty of the design of Fr. Fanucchi. Here, near the lunettes of the clerestory windows and painted in fresco are twelve female figures of great attractiveness. They are all taken from the Old Testament and are as follows. Commencing on the left from the Sanctuary is seen; 1. Esther, 2. Judith, 3. Bethsabee, 4. Deborah, 5. Jahel, 6. Rachel. Then, on coming round, is seen 1. Sara, 2. Rebecca, 3. Mary, 4. Ruth, 5. Josaba, 6. Abigail. All these are the work of Signor Troja and strike the most casual eye as being very beautiful in their place.

PRIVATE USE ONLY

At the end of the noble vault, on the arch over the principal entrance of the church, is a very fine picture by Professor Luigi Fontana — the crowning of the Virgin in heaven. Our Lord is represented placing the diadem upon His Mother's brow. The Eternal Father is seated on the orb of the world and with uplifted arm commands that the crown should be placed. Cherubim, Seraphim, Angels etc. on wing, crown the upper portion of the picture. And in the distance is seen Adam and Eve, patriarchs and prophets, the first martyrs of the Church, confessors, bishops, other angels, martyrs and virgins, St. Joseph, St. John the Baptist, and almost all the representations of heaven are found here. Finally a circle of angels, — child-figures give a finish to the whole.

In the triangles of the arches beneath the cornice, corresponding to the symbolical figures of the Old Testament, are painted twelve *putti*, child-figures of angels. These are placed so as to harmonize with the female figures, and are the work of Signor Tito Troja.

The grand painting of the whole Church, however, is the great fresco over the entrance door, which represents the coming of the sacred Image to Genazzano. The situation of the town itself is admirably rendered. The habits of the Italian people in the fifteenth century have been accurately studied, and the costumes of all the figures are in strict keeping with the period. The history of the event has also been well kept in view. The church of Petruccia forms the principal piece in the scene. It is represented as unfinished, the steps alone completed, and two new columns which are made very conspicuous for effect, are represented as standing. The accessories of a building in progress are well portrayed. The period during which it occurred is made known by several figures, which also bring to mind the feudal state of Genazzano at the time, and the customs both of its lords and its people. The Prince Colonna is represented coming from the chase, accompanied by his wife and son. These figures and those of their attendants, horses, and accoutrements are studies. The crowd at the fair is as numerous as the limits of the painter would permit. There is the Burgomaster with his rough, peasant look, and yet his rich robe of office. Peasants in all their degrees. The vendors of fair-wares and the frequenters. The sacred Image is seen on high surrounded by angels and celestial spirits in great number but rendered indistinct.

On the platform of the unfinished church, Petruccia is represented kneeling with hands outstretched, and near her are several figures of Augustinian Fathers. The look of intense devotion on the face of the holy Tertiary, and the satisfied, calm content of the Fathers, made to contrast with the stupefied, dazed astonishment on the faces of the crowd, are well given. The more intelligent and yet surprised look on the features of the Colonna and the devotion cast into the handsome faces of his wife and son, are all put very naturally. The whole forms perhaps one of the first works which the painter Prospero Piatti ever produced. It caused a great sensation amongst the art critics in Rome, and numerous photographs of it were sold there and in Italy generally.

Passing from before this magnificent picture and entering the left aisle, we come to a small altar of St. Nicholas of Tolentine, above which in the lunette is a fresco which shows him at the moment the Madonna appeared to him when he prayed for the souls in Purgatory. These are represented in a sea of fire at the foot of the picture. This is the work of Signor Caroselli who also painted the fresco on the lunette, of Jesus teaching in the temple.

Here, after passing a picture on canvass of little value, we meet the holy Sanctuary of the sacred Image, and passing on we cross before the high altar and come on the other side to the altar of the Most Holy Crucifix. Here are found some old frescoes restored with great care by Signor Troja and two figures of Our Lord bound to the pillar, an *Ecce Homo*, and, over the sacristy door, a Christ in the garden by the same artist. Passing down this aisle we come to the altar of St. Thomas of Villanova, which is very beautiful both in design and colour, and beyond this is a very powerful representation of the death of St. Joseph by Vannutelli. Two pictures are yet to be executed to make up the full number required at the extremity of the vault where stands the fresco of the Wonderful Apparition. One is to represent the miraculous Translation from Scutari, and the other, the crowning of the sacred Image by the Chapter of St. Peter's. Both are confided to Signor Prospero Piatti, the eminent artist who painted the Birth of the Virgin, Her Presentation in the temple, and the Wonderful Apparition.

---

PRIVATE USE ONLY

## Chapter XXIII.

### DEVOTION OF THE ITALIAN PEOPLE

1. Extent of devotion to Our Lady in Italy. — 2. Its manifestations. —
3. Exhibition of it in works of genius. — 4. Practical devotion of the people. — 5. Open manifestation — Shrines — Their number. — 6. The people as such « saturated » with devotion to Mary — Proofs — Churches, chapels, sanctuaries, houses, streets, shops, familiar discourse, exclamations.— 7. Objections made about the Sunday in Italy — The condition of the Church and the Holy Father etc. etc. — 8. Damage done outside Italy by these objections — Notwithstanding their want of reason. — 9. Answer in brief. — 10. Explanation about the « Sabbath ».—11. « Externalism » in religion — The Italian Catholic's day — The early morning Masses — Practices of piety — A reason for the existence of beggars.— 12. Purity of the Italian Catholics. — 13. The Clergy of Italy — Slanders of the Protestant press — Reason of the number of the clergy — The Regulars — The Cloister. — 14. The Seculars — Their selection — Training in the world. — 15. Religion in great cities — In Rome. — 16. Conclusion.

1. In the progress of this work we have seen, incidentally at least, a great deal of the devotion of the Italian people for Our Lady. That devotion is not confined to Her Shrine at Genazzano but over-spreads all the land. It pervades every class of society. It fills the palaces of the great. It lights up the lives of the most miserable with love, and hope, and consolation. It seems never absent from the

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

public religious mind. It remains even with the most abandoned when all else has departed. It softens hearts the most obdurate, wrenches the victim of sin from the strongest evil surroundings, and stays the mouth of the blasphemer. Sectaries of the deadliest dye succumb before death to its sweet, but irresistible influence. Its action is wonderful, whether we consider it as perfecting the just or converting the sinner. Indeed, if devotion to the Virgin Mother of God be, as it most assuredly is, a sign of predestination, no people on earth possess that gift to a greater extent than the people of Italy, taken collectively.

2. Now this devotion is exhibited in a thousand beautiful ways, all prompted by the love that has never ceased to fill the souls of the present and past generations. We have already seen, in the chapter of this work which treats of pilgrimages to the Shrine at Genazzano, one of its peculiar, public manifestations. The same may be witnessed at Loreto and at a hundred other lesser shrines of Our Lady throughout the country. Yet that is but one form of testifying the popular love for Our Lady. The fertile ingenuity of the most richly gifted intellects and imaginations in the world, has been exhausted for ages in devising means to manifest national, and family, and individual love for Mary the Mother of God.

3. It is needless to remind the cultivated reader of what that love has called forth from the master-minds of the past in Italy. The wealth of genius bestowed in such lavish measure by nature upon the great masters of painting, sculpture, and architecture, and perfected with such care by art, was, we know,

PRIVATE USE ONLY.

nowhere exhibited in greater measure and with more success than when employed to glorify Our Lady. Who can recall the splendid conceptions of Raphael, Michael Angelo, Leonardo da Vinci, Titian, Fra Angelico, or any one of the founders or followers of the mighty schools of Italy without thinking of the glories of Mary? Every event of Her life, every attribute of Her excellence, every benefit, general and particular, bestowed by Her maternal care upon Her clients, all have been immortalized by the heart and genius of the Italian masters. And all this, however much due to the masters themselves, was but the expression of the national heart's love and will to honour Mary. The painters, the architects, the sculptors, and the princes of the period of the renaissance had to meet this national sentiment, which no doubt was their own. It was a sentiment, then, deeply, fondly, faithfully attached to God's Virgin Mother. It had been so through all the previous centuries back to the very time when the sweet Image of the Madonna was rudely, but lovingly, painted in the crypts and upon the tombs of the catacombs. It continues still — strong, fervent, unconquerable, undying, when men are planning not only to supplant the Church of God, but to eradicate the very thought of the Creator from the minds of His creatures. We have no hesitation in believing that it will continue in Italy until man's history is over, and the true glory of Mary, the Second Eve — the real Mother of the Living — shall be revealed to all Her faithful clients in the life that never shall have an end.

4. We do not mean to speak here upon the magnificence of the art treasures which the love of Mary has called forth in Italy. The temples erected with such lavish expenditure in Her honour, the altars, pictures, statues, and shrines which may be found in all the churches throughout that land for the purposes of Her worship, are known to all. But there are peculiarities in the national devotion to Mary, of which it may be advantageous to speak, and from which the Catholics of other lands, who love God's Virgin Mother too, may obtain some practical information for their guidance in showing their devotion to Her and in reaping a harvest of profit from its practice.

5. In the first place, the Italian is never ashamed of manifesting his devotion to Mary. He loves to stamp it emphatically upon his public, external life. He shows this not only by occasional acts, such as processions and pilgrimages, but by the every day occurrences of his life. The city in which he lives, the house in which he dwells, the ways through which he passes, the ordinary affairs in which he is engaged, all breathe this devotion to his beloved Madonna. He is not satisfied with the ordinary ways of manifesting his devotion, he must also have extraordinary means of testifying his love. Hence comes the number of special shrines of Our Lady which are found in all parts of the country. Not to speak of the greater shrines to which we have referred, it may be said that there is not ten miles square of Italy which does not contain some more or less remarkable and indeed miraculous painting or statue of Mary, to which the whole surrounding

PRIVATE USE ONLY

country come, if not in pilgrimage as to the greater shrines at least in immense numbers, to satisfy their devotion. These special shrines surpass in number the very numerous Italian cities. The larger centres of population possess a great many. It would fill volumes to give a description of those to be found in Rome alone, to which histories most interesting are attached, and at which miracles have been performed for ages. To a less extent the same may be said of Naples and the other old capitals of states until recently independent. At almost every shrine the title of Our Lady is different: She is honoured under every appellation given to Her in the Litany of Loreto, or elsewhere in the offices of the Church, or by the devotion of the faithful. And when all these titles are exhausted, She is honoured from some circumstance connected with the locality, or the finding of the picture or statue venerated. Thus, the great sanctuary of Our Lady of Viterbo is called the shrine of the Madonna of the Oak, and that of Tivoli, the Madonna of Guadagnola, from the places where the pictures were, in both cases, miraculously discovered.

6. In truth, the Italian people, are, so to speak, saturated with devotion to Our Lady. The devotion, even of the worst of them, is so great that it everywhere requires something extraordinary to satisfy it. In every church there is always a chapel — in large ones several chapels or altars, — erected to honour the Mother of God. And a town must be very small and poor indeed, which has not besides, a special church consecrated to the Madonna, to

which, on stated occasions, the whole community may go in solemn procession, and to which individuals may repair, in their every day needs, for graces and consolation.

Then, the stranger will be surprised to find in many shops, often too in the most apparently worldly and business-like, a picture of the beloved Madonna, with a lamp constantly burning before it. There are pictures and statues of Our Lady placed at the corners of streets, in the fronts of houses and of vineyards, in every residence, even in the poorest, there is sure to be one. In many a lamp invariably burns before it night and day, and in all one is lighted at least on the feasts of God's Mother as they occur throughout the year. There are very few Italians who do not wear the scapular and carry rosaries and medals, and it may in truth be said that the Madonna never leaves the minds and hearts of the mass of the Italian people. Her name is the most familiar in their mouths both in life and at death. She is sought for in every necessity. « May the Madonna accompany you; » « may the Madonna guide you; » are the blessings which Catholics constantly give one another. Before Her sweet Image every head bows, every hat is raised, and every heart ejaculates a prayer. And those who thus love Her are those who preserve their faith. They frequent the sacraments, they are devoted to the Church, and defy all bad influences to subvert in them the love and the practice of the Catholic religion.

7. But then, the writer is very sensible of an objection which many from English speaking countries

PRIVATE USE ONLY

are but too ready to make. Granted, they say, that the Revolution in progress has done all the mischief it could, how comes it to pass, that the whole of Italy presents apparently such a singularly irreligious aspect, and even in matters which, to a large extent, must depend upon the will of the people themselves? How is it, that in all the cities and towns, the Sunday is profaned to such an extraordinary extent? How is it, that the worst literature in the world has circulation there? How is it, that men can suppress the religious orders, harass the clergy in a hundred ways, and, finally, reduce the Supreme Head of the Catholic religion to the condition of a prisoner in the midst of a Catholic people, if the masses were not consenting parties to these proceedings?

The writer has heard the above objections so often brought forward against Italy, that he deems it a duty to answer them fully. He knows the damage they do, not only to the repute of a great Catholic people and to the clergy of that people, but to Catholicity itself in English speaking countries. They are brought forward in a hundred shapes by the Protestant, and the Infidel, and even by the bad Catholic, for the purpose of weakening the faith of the fervent. The divinity, the sanctity, and even the efficacy of the faith, are held up to doubt and to ridicule by quoting the example of the country in which lies the centre and the citadel of its strength. The supreme authority of the Vicar of Christ, is sought to be discredited by representing him either as no better in

as

religion than those of whom he is, and amongst whom he lives, or, as impotent to make them, either clergy or laity, what they ought to be. Then the fervour and self-sacrifice of such faith as that of the Irish people, or of converts from heresy in English speaking lands, is sought to be damaged by the well known effect which the plausibly represented bad example of a whole Catholic people, is calculated to produce.

8. The argument is — Why are you fervent when the Italians themselves are indifferent? Why do you make sacrifices for that which they do not think it worth while to keep? Why do you build up at such cost that which they, after an experience of many centuries, have had too much of, and now pull down? Why do you seek and cherish that which they drive away? Why, in a word, do you value that for which they will do nothing?

Now, if all this were true, there would be, of course, no force in it. The Catholic religion is independent of any people. There will be always millions of Catholics on earth, whose faith will be the same as that of the Japanese Sovereign who, when told something of the kind here referred to, replied, that if all men, including the Supreme Pontiff (if that were possible) denied the truth of the Catholic religion, he would be willing to shed his blood for it. But then, there are Catholics whose faith is not so strong. There are those whom bad example will damage; and there are those already weak, bad, or negligent, who readily seize upon bad example as a means of fortifying themselves in evil courses, and as a means of advancing to worse ones. Once, the

PRIVATE USE ONLY

writer heard the following words addressed by a Catholic to a fervent young priest: « had you been to Italy you would take things more easily, you want experience. » And lay Catholics hear this. « In Italy the people don't keep the Sunday, don't keep the fasts, don't mind what the priest says, etc. etc.; therefore you are a fool to do what no Catholic does in Italy. » These assertions are false, but if true, they prove nothing. The Church wherever situated, and at all times, has good and bad within her bosom. So it was in the days of Our Lord Himself. So it was in the days of St. Peter. So it has been since, and so it will be for ever. But the wonder is, that in Italy, the bad Catholics are so few, considering the trials which the faith of its people has had to endure, and that the good Catholics in it are so numerous and so fervent.

9. England, North-Germany, and Northern Europe generally, lost the faith in a trial, which compared with the recent trials of Italian faith, may be looked upon as little indeed. This is known to all, and need not be here described. What we now say is, that the Italy, — the bone and substance of Italy — which has preserved the faith, keeps it as fresh and fervent to-day as at any past period of its history.

English speaking visitors cannot see this, without being first acquainted with the people as such, and with their mode of living. They must know the language of the country, and enter fully into the feelings, the ideas, and the manners of its inhabitants.

10. The customs of one country, even the religious customs of one Catholic country, may not be the same as those of another. The Italian would be apt

to think the faith of the well-to-do Catholic in English speaking countries, small indeed, who had not an altar of Our Lady with its ever lighted lamp in his best room. The English speaking Catholic, accustomed to the Puritanical idea of the sanctity of the « Sabbath, » — which is not the Sabbath at all, by the way, but the pagan Sunday kept now by a law of the Church instead of the Sabbath and for the same reasons, as a festival, — would be, and often is scandalized to see an Italian peasant buy a few articles of family necessity after Mass on « the Lord's Day. » — the name the Church gives the first day of the Jewish week.

Yet both may be mistaken. The former may not have less love for God's Mother, because he does not advert to the lamp and the household altar; and the latter may be easily excused, or be, by proper authority, dispensed, in using a portion of the day set apart by the Church for the special service of God, in some necessary work of buying or selling. A great deal of the pharisaical cant we hear of, about the manner in which the Italian peasants, — not the Atheists of great towns, — keep the Sabbath, would be got rid of, by a simple reflection as to the extent of the binding effect of the Sunday upon conscience; and the possibility of its obligation being removed by dispensation or by necessity.

No doubt, there can be no excuse for the formal violation of the day, in defiance of the Church, and in contempt of religion. But with this, the Italian people as such have little to do. That is the action of the enemies of Catholicity in the country; and exists, not because of the wishes of the people, but

PRIVATE USE ONLY

in spite of the people and, of course, in spite of the Church.

11. Again, though the Italian people have obtained the repute with us of being external in their religion,—and indeed they do love, and much love, the beautiful ceremonies of the Church,—still their religion is far from being confined to externals. Long hours before the English speaking visitors leave their hotel beds, the Italian population in cities and villages, are up and stirring, and up and stirring too simply because of religion. As early as half-past four, even on winter mornings, the Church of Santa Maria in Gennazzano is, as we have already seen, crowded by a congregation of people, who desire to hear Mass before going to their daily labour. With thousands in every city, Mass is not confined to the Sunday. The devout attend it every day. The works of St. Luigi which are very common, lead some millions in Italy to practise without ostentation, meditation, visits to the Most Holy Sacrament, and works even of the highest perfection. Those who seem in the streets and highways to be no better than Sabbath breakers and people without religion, are often Christians, as devout and fervent as any in the world. If there are beggars in Italy, it comes from the fact that there is no country in Europe where all classes, even the labouring classes, give larger alms.

12. Furthermore, notwithstanding so many calumnies to the contrary, the Italian Catholics are a people singularly pure in their morals. The large cities, of course, like large cities everywhere, produce their crop of social evil and crime. But the country towns,

of from a few hundred souls to some few thousand inhabitants, are pure because they are religious. Each town forms a large family in which, as in Ireland, disgrace would be worse than death, in the question of female purity. But a stronger reason is, that the Italian woman's life is passed in the practices of religion almost as much as if she lived in a convent. She is led to this, by the constant familiarity with the life and, as it were, the living presence of the Virgin Mother of God Whose holy example is ever before her eyes.

13. Then the clergy of Italy are slandered to a most unwarrantable extent in the Protestant literature of English speaking countries. They are represented as lazy, idle, ignorant; and sometimes, without any proof whatever being adduced, as vicious. They are also represented as being far too numerous.

In answer to this latter accusation, it must be borne in mind, that if the clergy in Italy were reduced to the person of the Sovereign Pontiff, they would be considered by those who make the objection, « as far too numerous. » If they are rather numerous, it comes from the fact that they are the offspring of such devout lay people as we have described. Italian fathers and mothers being intensely religious rear sons fit for the sanctuary, and delight to see them consecrated to the service of God. Italian zeal has opened the way to keep God's ministers. Thousands of these ministers live most poorly on the alms of God's people. They lead holy, laborious, and mortified lives. The cloister covers their abodes, and the abodes great and small of all the religious of Italy. No one

PRIVATE USE ONLY

of an opposite sex to that of the inmates, ever treads beyond the sacred line dividing the convent or monastery from the outer world. The inmates, except when compelled by necessity, must be within these enclosures after sundown. Numbers of religious orders add to these ordinary rules others still more severe. Hence there could not be found at any time in the Church, a body of more saintly-living men, than the regular clergy of Italy.

14. Then as to the世俗人. First, nothing in the Church surpasses the care taken of the young ecclesiastics in the seminaries of Italy. The youth who shows signs of a vocation is, of course, jealously watched by his parents. The least spot upon his young life would prove fatal to his advancement. At a very early age he enters upon his studies under the care of priests most eminent for holiness of life and for learning in his diocese, and under the eyes of the Bishop himself. He is thus guarded and trained in ecclesiastical knowledge and discipline until he reaches manhood. The seminaries of Italy are training schools not only in virtue and religion, but in every branch of science capable of forming not only the ecclesiastic but also the polished gentleman. Hence the stranger who has heard only calumnies about them, is often surprised upon meeting the reality. He likely regards the cultivated gentleman he meets, as an exception. But he finds as he goes further, that his exceptions are the rule, and his rule the exception. There is not in the world a body of men superior in dignity of appearance to the clergy of Rome, and, in a degree, to the clergy of Italy generally.

After leaving the seminary, the young priest is placed in a position where the eye of a superior, or of more than one, is continually upon him. Not only his reputation and his salvation but his prospects in life depend upon the exactness of his conduct. Along with this, he is usually placed near his family, and lives with them. This may have some draw backs in the case of parochial clergy, but it has many advantages. The young priest is preserved by the care of his dearest friends. The mother that reared him often lives to see him grow old in the service of God. At all events, the custom so operates that scandals amongst the clergy are more rare in Italy than in any part of the world. If we except the unfortunate Gavazzis and other apostates ensnared by secret societies, they scarcely exist at all.

15. Now as to the laity, the visitor to any of the cities of Italy will find the churches crowded at an early hour of the Sunday and festival mornings with fervent worshippers, amongst whom not only are men found, but are often found predominating. This is, as it ever was and ever will be, observable especially in Rome. There the Lenten services and other occasions of devotion are so crowded, that in the larger churches such as the Minerva and St. Augustine's, every available space to the very altars is filled by men chiefly, listening to sermons of an hour's length and more. On such occasions as Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Ash Wednesday, and the Solemn Commemoration of the Faithful Departed, the whole population seem to be occupied with no other thought but that of religion. This occurs too, it must be remembered, when the Church is com-

PRIVATE USE ONLY

pletely deprived of power, and when no motive but the pure love of religion can have any effect upon the people; — when, as we know well, every effort of the State is exercised to drag them in the direction at least of indifference if not of worse. In the Catholic societies which spring up in defiance of the Government, in the sacrifices many make for the necessities of religion, in the movement to lessen Sunday trading, in the assistance largely given to the Pope, there are signs of a greater fervour than ever over-spreading the land. The Church, stunned as it were, after the severity and suddenness of a first shock, is showing strong signs of activity, and in a newness of life and vigour the immense population of the country will soon prove that its faith is not only active but vigilant and enterprising, determined to withstand the efforts of the foe that sought to seduce and to strangle it.

16. Without writing a treatise we cannot here go further into the fact that the mass of the Italian people, clergy and laity, who do or do not live in large towns, are as full as ever of faith and of religion. That some thousands of people in great cities, and a few priests and religious out of hundreds of thousands of holy and faithful men, have gone against religion, is but too true. But when we consider what Italy has gone through, the wonder will be, not that the spirit of evil has obtained so much, but that Italian faith on the whole has been so triumphant.

Without departing from our scope we cannot here enter into the nature of these trials, which are but too well known to the readers of modern history. Our ob-

ject in this chapter has been simply to glance briefly at the devotion of the people to Our Lady and some of its most remarkable manifestations. We could not do this with any effect for the great body of our readers, without meeting the objections so commonly made against the faith of Italy by the anti-Catholic press in English speaking countries. We all know the damage these objections — ill founded and badly authenticated as they are — do to the Catholic faith in general, as well as to the character of a generous, pious, and highly gifted people; — a people to whom Europe and the world at large owe the most valuable traditions and treasures of antiquity ; modern civilization ; progress in the arts and sciences ; and what is more, under God, their very Christianity. In this chapter we have not entered into the wider question of the nature of the worship which the Italians in common with all other Catholics manifest to the Virgin Mother of God. We are sensible, however, than any work such as this would be incomplete without treating of a subject so very important, — so necessary for those who have erroneous notions of its nature, and so useful for all whether within or without the fold of Christ. We shall therefore devote the following chapter to a simple and popular explanation of the Catholic doctrine of the worship and invocation of Mary the Virgin Mother of God, and of its immense utility to all Christian people.

---

PRIVATE USE ONLY

## Chapter XXIV.

### THE WORSHIP OF MARY

1. Its effects. — 2. Shipwreck in faith through its absence. — 3. Need of Good Counsel from Mary. — 4. The doctrine of the worship and invocation of Mary. — 5. An objection in the Protestant mind. — 6. The nature of the Catholic worship of God and His saints explained. — 7. The knowledge of our affairs and the interest in them of the angels and saints — Their power with God — Admission of Protestants. — 8. Mary's superior dignity — In Her creation. — 9. The progress of Her merit — Her childhood — Her condition before the Annunciation. — 10. Her merit after. — 11. Her trials. — 12. Her merit from them. — 13. An ordinary objection met. — 14. Utility of prayer to the saints and especially to Mary. — 15. Mary left by Jesus to us at the Cross — Her love. — 16. Value of the honour paid Her. — 17. Necessity for devotion to Mary in these times. — 18. Mary opposed to Satan's arts in our days. — 19. Her quality as Virgin Mother of Good Counsel.

1. The last chapter has been written principally to show English speaking readers the fervour of devotion to the Mother God, in a land wherein it was supposed to be dying. All know what the faith of Italy has endured during the last fifty years. Devotion to Mary has not only saved it, but has also rendered it strong, fervent, and imperishable. It is devotion to Mary, the Mother and the Giver of Good Counsel, which will also save the faith of English speaking races, both in their island homes and in their

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

wide-spread migrations over Northern America, Australasia, South Africa, and the East and West Indies. In all these lands a new Church has arisen in this century, — a Church which we may confidently hope will continue faithful to the end of time, with that fidelity which has been the characteristic of the people to whom Providence has been pleased to confide the chief work of planting it, in an empire so vast and, in all probability, so enduring.

2. But without that devotion to God's Mother so characteristic of England and Scotland in the days of faith, — in the times of the Margarets and the Edwards, — and so characteristic of Ireland at all times, this will be impossible. And in our days an ordinary fervour will not suffice. Shipwreck in faith has occurred before our eyes amongst the oldest families in England. Families which held fast to it during the long and dark night of persecution, have lapsed into indifference and into worse. We have examples of this. When scarcely a breath of persecution blew, and when but the most shadowy rewards were not offered, but barely hoped for from the favour of a minister, men of ancient blood and high lineage have been enticed away so far as to strike a blow, — puny indeed, but not the less malicious, — at the Vicar of Christ and at all that Catholics hold most dear. Others, from apparently no cause but inertion, fall away. Shipwreck in faith occurs too, in the Colonies and in America, amongst the descendants of men, and even amongst men themselves, whose ancestors in Ireland suffered every thing rather than renounce their religion. In none of these cases is devotion

PRIVATE USE ONLY

to Our Lady ever strong. They are those whose Catholicity, on the point of Our Lady, is «minimistic» or null; whose inclination in theory and in practice, is to make little rather than much of the Catholic doctrine of the worship and invocation of God's Most Holy Mother. The misfortune happens to those who love to mix with Protestants, from a desire to sink those Catholic doctrines with which Protestants disagree. It is born of that spirit of worldliness and base sacrifice of principle characteristic of mean minds. But it exists also from the want of proper instruction and of solid devotion. From whatever cause it proceeds, there could be no danger greater to the soul. If a man wishes to tide over the strong currents of infidelity, he must not be ashamed of God's Mother. To save oneself from the dangers now threatening the Catholics of that great section of the human race for which this work is written, one ought to have, at least, that greater, stronger, living, loving faith in Mary characteristic of the worshippers who come to the Shrine of the Mother of Good Counsel in Genazzano; — over whom the tide of infidelity has swept in vain, and against whose faith all the arts of Satan have been employed with as little effect, as arts of the same nature have been employed in the past by heresy armed with irresistible might, against the people of Ireland.

3. And there is also a very special reason, why, under the title of Our Lady of Good Counsel, the Mother of God should be now worshipped; for under that title She meets a special need. That need is the want of Good Counsel in the world. The devotion is,

as the devotion to Jesus Christ in His Sacred Heart, and as the devotion to St. Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church, a devotion reserved for the wants of the faithful in the dangerous days coming towards the end of time. Devotion to Our Lady of Good Counsel is needed in like manner: for if it be true that to Her alone is reserved the power of crushing all heresies throughout the whole world and in all time, never was it more necessary to manifest that great power than in these days when all the streams of past error and malice unite with newer streams more deadly and wide-spread, to form a vast deluge of falsehood and error, meant by its author and his agents to wash out Christianity from the minds of men. It is the cunning of the infernal serpent, which has planned all this and made it universal. It is his power and sleepless astuteness which nurture and direct it. It is, for it must be Mary, therefore, Who is destined to crush him — to crush *his head*, — to leave not one of his machinations disentangled and obliterated until all are effaced by Her might. It is Hers to give the world that Wisdom, and Counsel, and strength necessary for its last and most terrible combat. By her Most Pure, Virginal, and Maternal Dignity, by the immensity of Her merit and Her share in the work of Our Redemption, She must end in crushing to atoms the head of that deadly enemy of God and man, who desires to strangle Her Child in the souls of those for whom that Child died upon Calvary.

4. These are strong words, yet words all too weak to convey to the minds of the faithful a true idea of the

PRIVATE USE ONLY

power of Her to Whom are applied by the spotless and infallible Spouse of Christ Her Son, the very words of the Holy Ghost, « in me is Counsel ». They are words, which to many millions of our fellow citizens sound strange, if not worse than strange. Yet how many such do we not all of us know, who only want a little instruction to lead them to the knowledge of the truth? The writer who has had long experience amongst Protestants; and whose good fortune it has been to receive hundreds of them into the Church, during twenty years of missionary life in Australia, cannot therefore lay down his pen without going a little into the reason of this strength in his words. He is conscious that the work he has written for those of his brethren « of the household of the faith » will reach many not of that household; and that of these, some will, if only for the sake of a friendship for himself personally, read what he has written. Therefore, for the good of all, he desires to speak at some length, and plainly, upon the Catholic doctrine of the worship and invocation of Her, upon one of Whose beautiful titles he has written this volume; — that is upon all that Catholics believe and practise everywhere in honour of Immaculate Mary, the Virgin Mother of God; and which they manifest at shrines like that of Our Lady of Good Counsel in Genazzano.

5. In the first place then, he desires to answer a thought which, though it may never be expressed, will, he knows by experience, arise in the Protestant mind, upon glancing over such a work as this. That thought is: — why all this extravagance in treating of

the Madonna? Why so many and such varied titles? Why such pilgrimages, devotions, and votive offerings? Would it not be better to spend this wealth of fervour and devotion upon the worship due to God alone? Why do so much for a mere creature such as Catholics confess Mary to be?

6. It is true that those Protestants, now a days, are very few indeed, who perversely persist in attributing to their Catholic fellow citizens an idolatry, which Catholics now, and ever did, abhor. There are few of them who need to have it explained that the worship paid to Mary is not the adoration due to God alone. The vast majority of them know as well as Catholics do, that the Catholic worship of Mary is as far from idolatry as the finite from the infinite, as the creature is from the Creator, that it is not only distinct but absolutely different. They know that the worship Catholics give Our Lady is altogether a relative honour rendered to a creature — higher than all other creatures in very deed, but yet only a creature, — for the sake of God alone. If they are unacquainted with the theological terms by which Catholics well and clearly distinguish the supreme adoration (*latria*) given to the Deity only, from the relative worship (*dulia*) rendered to God's angels and saints, and the worship called *hyperdulia* of the same nature as this latter but more intense and extended given to Mary, God's Mother, the Queen of saints and angels, they know the distinction substantially well. And all Protestants practically confess and act upon that Catholic doctrine. They are continually giving some person or thing — the Bible, for instance,

PRIVATE USE ONLY

their ministers etc. — some honour for the sake of some relation with God. They have no scruple in kneeling to the Queen, because none of them mean by such an action to make Her Majesty a goddess.

And then, Protestants nowhere blame scriptural personages, such as Abraham, Lot, and others for worshipping angels, for falling down and, as it is written, «adoring them; » for they thoroughly understand that such adoration or worship was not intended to be that supreme adoration due to God alone. (Gen. XVIII. 2. XIX. 1.) They know too, that the worship which the Patriarchs paid these heavenly beings, was most pleasing to God Who sent them, exactly as respect paid to the ambassador of an earthly ruler is pleasing to that ruler, as it derives all its value from the reference it has to the representation of himself.

God has also rewarded, and so approved of, the favour thus shown His servants; because it was all shown for His sake, — on account of the splendour in which He had chosen to envelop them, for their fidelity to Him, for the posts they held before His throne.

7. So of all such worship. Neither do intelligent Protestants of our day doubt, but that the angels and the souls of the servants of God enjoying with them the felicity of heaven, both can and do, take the deepest interest in all that concerns the salvation of the souls of mortal men struggling for heaven here upon earth. It is, as Protestants confess, a small part of our business to know how this happens, how they can learn what goes on here below; how they can hear our prayers, read, as it were, our every thought and respond to our supplications. But if any

ss

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

one should demand instruction on a point so plain, we need only say that if Revelation tells us the matter is so, God we know has power to effect it. All we are concerned with is the fact. And wonderfully clear that fact is made to us. The most secret thought of a man is, for instance, as a rule, his inward sin; and then perhaps, his inward repentance. Of both, God tells us the heavenly spirits have cognizance. He tells us, that the angels witness and complain of our transgressions; and this, of course, must be without leaving the beatific vision. He tells us that when any sinner returns, there is more joy amongst them, than for the good works also known, « of the just that need not penance ». « I say to you, there shall be joy before the Angels of God upon one sinner doing penance » (Luke XV. 4). This is only what we should expect from their exalted and illuminated state, from the intensity of the charity with which they are filled for those on earth, so dear and so interesting to God. They must also be filled with the truest compassion for our condition. Knowing how much we have at stake, knowing the infinite joys of heaven and the infinite torments of hell, they desire with an everlasting longing that we should enjoy the one and escape the other. They know the true value of the sufferings of the Son of God; and, in their love for Him Whose praises they never cease to chant, they desire with Him the salvation of those souls for any one of whom He would again willingly suffer all He endured on Calvary. Nothing therefore, can be more easily comprehended by reason, than the interest of the blessed in all that concerns the salvation of

PRIVATE USE ONLY

immortal souls. It accounts for that solicitude, that joy amongst them all « for one sinner doing penance, » escaping eternal damnation, gaining a right to a share with them in eternal glory. The terrible anger of the guardian angels against those who give scandal to their charges, is urged by Christ as a reason not to give scandal. That they should pray—ask for favours as well as for vengeance, is surely reasonable. Then, the angels know and are solicitous about our sins and repentance. If so, it is clear that they would, if they could, help us to repent and keep us from sin. It is also clear, that God has regard to their solicitude and their prayers for us. The angel prayed for the people of the Jews and for the Holy City, and was heard. (Zach. I. 12.) Angels heard the prayers of Lot and Abraham and granted their requests, of course, only by permission from God. The souls of the prophets Jeremias and Onias, are represented in the dream of Judas Machabeus, as praying much for their people and for the Holy City. (2. Mach. XV. 12.)

St. Peter, confident of his own salvation, promised whilst living, to intercede after his death for the Christian people. (II. Pet. I. 15.) And in truth, it was this same grand help, given in the New Dispensation with greater plenty than in the Old, that St. John saw in the vision of the « four and twenty ancients, » with « golden vials full of odours which are the prayers of the saints » who « fell down before the Lamb. » (Rev. V.8) Indeed, it appears just as proper, in view of the knowledge which the heavenly spirits have of the affairs of men, that they should intercede for us, as that people on earth should intercede for one another.

More Free Items at [www.catholickingdom.com](http://www.catholickingdom.com)

And this latter is surely pleasing to God and profitable, else the Apostle of the Gentiles would not have so earnestly recommended it by word and example. God is inclined to do much for favourite servants living or dead. He has shown this in the case of Moses living; of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and David, dead.

It was God Himself Who commanded the friends of Job to go to Job, that he might offer sacrifice and prayers which God absolutely refused from themselves directly. And Job we know was heard. (Job. XLII.7)

Whatever our Protestant friends may have imbibed by education against these truths, they now admit them in practice if not in theory. Else, why such expressions as « God and His Angels be with you ? » And speaking of a deceased parent, they say, « My sainted mother watches over me from Heaven. » These are common expressions in their mouths, and show the power of truth over the fiction, — the cruel fiction of man, which corrupted the clear truth of God to the disturbance of relations so holy, between the living and the dead.

8. But if all this be true of the other blessed, how much more true of God's Virgin Mother Mary.

Leave aside the imaginings — all true as will be seen hereafter — of those Italian writers, who speak in such apparently extravagant language of the wonderful prerogatives of the Madonna : take Mary in the bare light of the Bible, — in the light of reason enlightened by Revelation, — and see what She is: She stands out before us unquestionably as the Virgin Mother of God.

Then why let us ask a Virgin? Why a Virgin

PRIVATE USE ONLY

Mother? Why so unusual a miracle? Why? but because from Her, and from Her alone, was to come the Humanity of the living God. In that Humanity man was to be saved. It was therefore because of this, that the Woman was to be the means of crushing the serpent's head. The nation of the Jews was chosen and exalted above all the other peoples of the earth. Why? Because it was destined to preserve the true religion and to give the Redeemer to the world. But it was through Mary alone that it was give the Redeemer to the world. The sceptre was not to pass from Juda until a Virgin of its race « should conceive and bring forth a son whose name should be called Emmanuel — God with us. » Therefore came all that beautiful imagery which foreshadowed the coming of the « Virgin Daughter of Sion. » Therefore the Church calls Her « the glory of Jerusalem, the joy of Israel, the honour of Her people. »

We may here pause and consider the wonderful Being that nation produced. We know with what harmony God always adapts means to His Divine ends. The smallest insect is complete for its purpose in the natural order. The same wonderful adaptation exists in the supernatural order. Abraham, Moses, David, Judith, Solomon, Esther, — all were prepared for their missions by supernatural agency. But their missions were diminutive in comparison with that of Mary. They could be, and they were, defiled by sin. She alone never was. Our reason tells us that if God became man at all, He should take His Humanity from the most exalted of His creatures. He loves humility, but not degradation in His own sight, — not sin, not

inferior spiritual excellence. His standard of excellence is often different from the standard of excellence set up by His sinning human creatures. It was but meet then, that the Being, destined to give the Humanity which was to be for ever hypostatically united to the Divinity,—which was to form the connecting link between the Creator and man, His creature, should be of the highest order according to His standard. Mary must therefore have been wonderfully perfected for Her exalted office. No spiritual excellence should be wanting in that soul, no natural excellence in that body, which was to give of its flesh and blood and life, the flesh and the blood and the life of the Humanity of the Great, the Eternal, the Living, and the All-Powerful God. Our reason alone would therefore lead us to expect this excellence in the Creature destined to give the Humanity of Christ; and after such an intimate union, destined also to be His most devoted Guardian, His Protectress, His Friend, His Counsellor, in a word, His Mother. Then it is clear that Mary must have been created with at least all the excellence which God had ever given to any one of His creatures. It would be contrary to our ideas of congruity to think that, at any moment of Her existence, She was inferior to any one of the Seraphim, to even the chief of the heavenly host, St. Michael. If not at the first moment of Her existence as great as God could make Her, She was, at least, greater than any work He ever did make, or ever did intend to make, excepting of course, the Humanity of His own Son.

9. And this excellence was destined to progress by merit to an extent which to us is almost as in-

PRIVATE USE ONLY

comprehensible as the infinite, so far is it practically beyond of the reach our intelligence. If, as the ablest theologians hold, Mary was endowed with the use of reason at least from the moment of her birth, and, consequently, capable of meriting through the merits of Christ expected, just as did Her fathers in Israel, how immense must not have been this progress. When any soul is in the state of grace, we know that the increase of sanctifying grace in that soul comes from the perfection with which supernatural work is performed. The soul obtains an increase of sanctifying grace for every one of such works, if performed with perfect intensity of fervour. St. Thomas, whose reasonings are now admired even outside the Catholic Church, teaches us that it is doubled; so that if any work be done with such an intensity of fervour, it obtains a double amount of sanctifying grace for that fervour. If then we compare the first fervour to two, the result will be four; if four, eight; if eight, sixteen; and so on in the same proportion, doubling the amount of grace with the performance of each act. Now it is certain that Mary was without any sin, original or actual — without any imperfection whatever in Her actions. « Thou art all fair, O my beloved, and there is not a spot in Thee, » are the words of Solomon, attributed to Her by the Church. All Her actions were done with at least perfect fervour, if not with a fervour beyond comprehension greater than that of any angel or saint that ever did or ever will exist. Men who make calculation of the increase of money at interest, know that all the wealth of the world could not now pay the accumulation on a pound, had it been lent at or-

dinary interest in the time of Adam. The same calculators would exhaust their art in vain, to find out the amount of merit the stainless daughter of Jacob realized in a single year, even in a single day of Her earthly existence; for, being as perfect as She was, every act of Her life must have merited a twofold increase of grace. In a small work of profound learning, used in the Irish College at Rome during a novena in honour of Mary, this fact is put forward in that simple manner common to the writings of St. Liguori, and in so striking a light that it will well bear quoting. « And », the author says; « as Her (Mary's) charity was not retarded in its operation by any negligence or tepidity (which could not be admitted without doing an injury to the sanctity of the Mother of God), it is clear that She performed each act with all the fervour of which She was capable. Behold then the privileged soul setting out on her career of merit. By the first act She performed She doubled the grace received from God. This again was doubled by the next, and went on increasing in the some proportion with all Her succeeding acts. What mind then can conceive the graces She acquired. Supposing Her to have performed wondrous acts only as often as St. Francis de Sales is said to have made acts of the presence of God — every quarter of an hour — at the end of five hours She would have acquired graces more than 500,000 times as great as the highest of the Seraphim — supposing the grace of that exalted being to be the grace with which She began Her spiritual life. And if we prolong the calculation to the tenth

PRIVATE USE ONLY

hour, we shall discover Her to have exceeded the sanctity of this holy spirit more than five hundred and forty thousand millions of times. »

« But what shall we say, if we protract the calculation to the end of the first day? If we continue it for a whole week? If for an entire year? If for ten or twenty years? If for Her entire life?

« What shall we say, if She performed Her acts not merely every quarter of an hour, but every single moment, as divines commonly assert? What shall we say, if her first capital of Grace was not simply the grace enjoyed by an angel but by the countless hosts of blessed Spirits? Yes, and of all the Apostles, Martyrs, Confessors, and Virgins — of all angels and saints put together. For it is written, Her foundations are in the holy mountains, Yes, « the Grace of the Virgin », says the learned Suarez, « in the first moment of her sanctification, was more intense than the last moment in which men and angels are consumed. » Ah! no wonder, the pious reader will conclude that the Church should acknowledge her incompetency to extol this Holy Virgin in adequate terms, « by what praises to proclaim Thy praises, I know not. »

10. There is nothing at all extravagant in these words. They are but the reflex of what all the saints of God have taught of Mary, and of Mary destined to be, but not yet, the Mother of God. The Angel Gabriel, as tradition tells us, and as the Scriptures have it, giving Mary the first salutation, showed the truth of this. « Hail! full of grace, the Lord is with Thee. » These words are used, we must remember,

before She became the Mother of God. She was, even at that early moment, far above all angels in merit. Formed by the power of God, She was, by exaltation and acquirement, not unworthy to be the Mother of God. But the moment that event took place, imagination loses itself in the endeavour to follow the greatness not only of Her dignity, but even of the increased immensity of Her merit. Let us see this.

With the formation of the Humanity of Christ within Her, commenced Her Crucifixion — a Crucifixion so severe and continued, that to bear it, needed all Her powers conferred and acquired. She had to suffer for Her Son in the keen agony caused Her by the suspicions of St. Joseph. Her perfection prevented Her from speaking one word in Her defence. She endured the trial until God Himself was moved to liberate Her. She suffered, as we all often think upon, in the weary journey and terrible treatment She was subjected to, when coming to Bethlehem where Christ was born. Scarcely had that hard trial passed when blows fell crushingly upon Her young Mother's head and heart. It was joy to bring Her little Infant to the Temple of His Father, but it was the load of a three and thirty years long sorrow to hear the prophecy of Simeon in His regard. The sword of sorrow destined always for Her, hung over Her head and over the head of Her Child, and every day, and every hour, and every moment, excruciated Her soul, until at last it pierced that soul with a keenness of pain never felt by mere mortal before or since. It was joy to see, in the persons of the Kings of the East, the adoration of the nations about to be redeemed ; joy to find the

PRIVATE USE ONLY

sorrows of Her suffering Spouse lightened by the relief they brought, when none in Bethlehem were found to give a helping hand in the time of his bitter destitution; but, again, it was woe to be compelled to fly over the desert leading to Egypt, while the children of the mothers of Bethlehem were being massacred in order to reach the very Child no mother in Bethlehem seemed willing to receive. Hers were always the sorrows of the poor. She had to taste the cup of woe reserved to the widow without means for her orphan. She had to bear the grief of the mother whose only child is consigned to a public death of shame and pain by public authority. In fact, there is no agony, no want, no disgrace incidental to human misery, which that singularly holy, that perfectly innocent and most elevated of all creatures,—as we have seen She was, even before the Incarnation had been consummated with Her consent,—had not to endure, and, in a degree so intense, that it surpassed in an eminent manner all human woe. This continued even after Christ had ascended to heaven; for tradition tells how lovingly and how often She lingered over every spot where He had spilled His blood in the Passion; still, as it were, continuing Her own Crucifixion, until the moment came when like Him She too closed Her mortal eyes in death. By His power She arose from the tomb and was assumed to the very highest heavens, where placed above all creatures She continues Her true office of Mother of the Living,—the office of the Second Eve.

12. If it surpasses our powers of calculation to reach the extent of merit obtained by Mary in a single

year before she became the Mother of God, and when She was only the « Vessel of Election » destined for so great a dignity, what can we say of a single day's merit after she became God's Mother? What can we even imagine of such a merit, elevated by intense sufferings endured without a shadow of imperfection for the sake of God alone? Every moment extended that merit far beyond human conception. Every moment elevated Mary higher and higher above the dignity of the highest beings created; and there was a deep reason for all this. What a mortification for Lucifer who would make himself like unto God. He would « place his seat above the stars and be like unto the Most High.» He was cast down to the depths of hell, — from the mountain of eternal joy and light, to the deepest abyss of pain and darkness. He had his revenge in the fall of Eve. But now another Eve, the perfect model of humility, — the daughter of the sinner Eve, of the sinner David, of the sinner Ruth, of the sinner Thamar, of sinners in every generation — passes before him, conquers him, and crushes him. Ascending from this little earth, resplendent with a glory which even he with all his natural powers cannot comprehend, — so far does it extend, so great is its immensity; — She is placed for Her humility where he would place himself in his pride, — « above the stars, » — above the stars not merely of our firmament, but above all the stars of heaven, above the Angels and Archangels, the Principalities and the Powers, above the Cherubim and Seraphim, and all other beings created in holiness, brightness, happiness, and beauty to adore the Great and Living God. Lucifer

PRIVATE USE ONLY

who desired to be equal to the Most High is made the most low; while She, the most lowly, a fact which She Herself tells us God had regarded in exalting Her, is indeed elevated near the Most High,—so exalted, so immense in elevation, and power, and glory, that no tongue can tell the extent of Her magnificence and power. There is nothing to prevent us from believing that, in consequence of the good which She, above all creatures in heaven, still continues to operate on earth, Her merit and Her glory will advance, externally at least, until time shall be no more, « Who is that » asks Her ancestor, Solomon « Who progresseth as the morning advancing, fair as the moon, bright as the Sun, formidable as an army set in battle array? » It is Mary, the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God. The Light of the world. The Enemy of Lucifer. She who crushed the serpent's head. The Mother and Giver of Good Counsel.

13. A love for Jesus Christ, God Incarnate as He is, an ordinary appreciation of His Divinity, a calm survey of what it has pleased the Adorable Trinity to arrange for His Incarnation, will lead any reasonable Christian to view Mary the Virgin Mother of God in this light. And viewing Her in this light, it will be easy to account for all the love and devotion which Catholics now and in all times past have shown Her. The words of Her Son are objected, « For whosoever shall do the will of My Father that is in heaven, he is my brother and sister and mother. » But who amongst all the friends and servants of Christ ever did « the will of His Father in heaven » with a fidelity at all comparable to Mary? Whom can we conceive

amongst creatures, suffering more for God, serving God better than His own Virgin Mother? It was not then a simple office of dignity however high which the Second Eve held; it was one of service, the greatest, the most painful and long continued ever suffered, and suffered purely for God's sake. It would be impious to suppose Her otherwise than deeply concerned for the cause of all this,— man's soul. Her love for Her Son, Her interest in all that concerned Her Son, none can call into doubt. Since then that Son has so loved man as to lay down His life in such torments for his salvation, how can we suppose Mary indifferent to that supreme work? An ordinary good human being, a saint say, is never found without charity for his fellow men. To be a saint, he must love his fellow creatures next to God Himself. As the love of God increases in any one so does the love of man, until like St. Vincent de Paul, like St. John of Matha and millions of others, he thinks it a happiness to expend all his strength, his means, his very life for the salvation, and even for what is infinitely less, the alleviation of the sufferings, — even of some small temporal sufferings — of his human fellow creatures. He advances in love until like a St. Francis Xavier, like a St. John of God and others, he will kiss, yea, even suck the putrid sores of the diseased, to lighten their passing sorrows. And this is most pleasing to God, Who never fails to reward most copiously any act of charity, no matter how small, done for our neighbour suffering from any pain whatever in mind or body. Can we therefore believe that God's Mother, so far in advance of every other creature in the deepest love of God, could be less

PRIVATE USE ONLY

solicitous to do what is pleasing to Him than any of His saints? That She is less in Her charity for Her neighbour — for man — than all these saints put together? We cannot. And then, if an ordinary angel or the ordinary blessed spirit of a saved man in heaven, takes such interest, demonstrates such charity for us as to rejoice at every conversion, — whenever such conversion happens, and in the case of every sinner, no matter how steeped in guilt — how can we suppose God's Mother, Gods tender Mother, to be indifferent? Surely to suppose such a thing would be not only contrary to reason but cruel and impious.

14. But now when we know it to be the truth, that the blessed in heaven reigning with Christ, both can, and do, know what passes here below; when we know that their intercession has power with God for us; when we reflect again that prayer in the case of adults having the use of reason, is so necessary that without it God will not grant the pardon of sin, or in fact give salvation at all; then indeed we must be foolish if we do not make use of prayer not only to God, but to His saints, knowing their interest in us; and knowing too, that without our prayer to them,—thereby fulfilling the absolute requirements of God — they will no more help us, than will God Himself. Therefore the good of applying to them by supplication and the other forms of prayer in use amongst us.

But where in heaven, under God, can we look for charity to us, or intelligence or power greater than in Mary? The truth is, the Blessed Virgin is to us one of the most invaluable mercies of Jesus Christ. He loves us with an everlasting love, and this everlasting

love was displayed not only in dying for us, in giving us all that existed in His very Being, but finally in giving us His Own Ever Blessed Mother.

This He did upon the Cross. She was the last of His gifts, given only before He surrendered His own soul for our sake to His Eternal Father. *Ecce Mater Tua* — Son behold thy Mother, were His last words to us. *Ecce Filius tuus* — Mother behold thy son — were his last words to Mary. Her heart, before so full of compassion and charity, now opened with an almost limitless love for every human being, all the more intense as the misery of that human being may be the greater. Boundless must be Her love for souls, purchased as they were by the Blood of Her Son. Would She willingly let that Blood be spilt in vain? We have seen that Her office is to crush the serpent's head. Is She Herself ignorant of that office? Is She indifferent to the acts of the infernal enemy of Her Child? Will She, if She can help it, leave anything undone to crush his efforts everywhere, and in every soul until the end? Her mighty merits were not for Herself alone. She was certainly holy, certainly full of grace, before the Incarnation of Her Son. That immense ocean of merit, beyond human comprehension, which She acquired after, though indeed increasing Her own glory, was for us all. If we sinned, God could look upon one of us at least Who had never sinned, and Who had served Him with such a fidelity, that Her prayer joined to the supplication of any poor sinner on earth, would be powerful to move God's mercy to accept that sinner's return and to save a soul so helped by the power of Mary. Nor is it wonderful that the very grace

PRIVATE USE ONLY

to return, may be obtained by Mary's prayer. God has made Her a mother, who thinks only of her child, and of the pain she endured in bearing him. That Mary bore Jesus without pain is true, but She bore us in an agony such as no other mother ever endured. In this respect only, had She more children than Jesus. She brought forth all of us in the travail she endured at the foot of the Cross. It is incredible that, if She can prevent it, She will permit the devil to have one of these souls from out Her hands. It is impossible that it can be so without that soul's own fault. Oh the value of the little that enables Mary to save the sinner! — the value of that persevering little! Who can estimate it?

16. From what we have hitherto said, and without quoting a line from a single Catholic Doctor, we can easily comprehend all that the Catholic Church teaches and encourages with regard to devotion to Our Lady. We can understand how St. Bernard, in his love, called Her, « Our life, our sweetness, and our hope, » — meaning that practically, through Her boundless influence and immense charity, She is so, according to the desires and intentions of Her Son. We can also see how true it is, that every effort we make to pay Her honour goes entirely to Him through the most beloved, most faithful, most honoured, and most meritorious of all creatures, — His own Mother. And thus we come to see that every little flower placed upon Her altar by even the tiny hands of an infant, is a sweet odour of the love of Jesus offered to Him because of the tender, ineffable love His Mother inspires. We come to understand that the

poetry and eloquence of Catholic writers, who compare Our Lady to everything beautiful and grand and fair in nature and in grace, are but, after all, telling a part of the truth regarding Mary, Whose greatness and glory are above not only what their pens and tongues do say, but also far above what their minds can conceive though She is a creature infinitely under God in every attribute. We come finally to see the virtue and the wisdom existing in Sanctuaries like that of Genazzano. We come to understand why Mary's charity, through the power of Her Son, is able to give sight to the blind; health to the weak; even life to the dead; help to all that need it; why it is that She interests Herself in whatever concerns us here below; why She can pour consolation into our troubled spirits; defend us from our enemies; direct us in all our affairs little and great; and finally and above all, give us that wisdom, strength, and light,—in one word, that spirit of Good Counsel, which infallibly leads us through all the ways we are to walk in life, to a happy death and to the assured hope of seeing Her glory in heaven for ever.

17. This then, is the devotion which these pages are written to advance. Never were the times on earth so circumstanced as to need it more. The devil is deceiving the world by folly. The time is come that has been foretold, when he is unloosed to seduce the nations. Any calm observer can see that the world is at this hour in positive delirium. Where amongst pagan nations, could we find vices more apparently diabolical than those which now prevail among the civilized nations of Europe? When before was there a propa-

PRIVATE USE ONLY

gandism so fierce, immoral, and satanical as that advanced by secret societies, by the Communism, Socialism, Nihilism, Knownothingism, and other deadly organizations which aim at the destruction of Christianity. It is the old temptation of the serpent and the most effectual for his designs against man.— « Ye shall be as Gods — *knowing* good from evil. Ye shall not die. » « All the empires of the earth I will give thee... if *falling down* thou wilt adore me ». The world, inspired by the tempter, will do all things for the needy if the needy accept Atheism and hatred for God and for religion. If the child need education, the world will educate him but only at the same price. If the poor are to be fed, the orphan housed, the naked clothed, the sick cared for, the imprisoned comforted, it must be still to the exclusion of religion, and the acceptance of Atheism and antagonism to God. If the public man is placed in pay or power, he must make profession in some way or other of hostility to faith in Christ, — a hostility never so acceptable as when it is complete. If youths are to be advanced, it must be by Atheism in universities where hatred, open hatred, and persecuting contempt for religion, are made fashionable. The same sad qualities are also the surest recommendation to after employment and promotion. With a strange unity and fatality in every land, all that is of earth — fashion, the press, public opinion, all, have been turned adversely to religion. The world is hostile, contemptuous, or at best contemptuously silent about the things of God. Impurity is deprived of its hideousness and, to a large extent, of its legal criminality. It is prac-

tised unblushingly. The pride of life is rampant; and every day would seem to disclose the times which St. Paul speaks of as « the last. »

18. In these sad days above all other days, it is proper to meet the efforts — the last supreme efforts — of the devil, by the power of Her who crushed them from the beginning and will crush them to the end, — to lift up for the benefit of the faithful as high on the earth as we can, the standard of Our Lady of Good Counsel; for the necessity of having recourse in such evil times to Her Whom the Church of God is never weary of putting before us as the Seat of Wisdom and the giver of Good Counsel, must now be apparent to all. These are the special qualities by which Mary, the Immaculate Spouse of the Holy Ghost, is able to confound all the designs of Satan, however deeply laid and however carefully executed. We have seen that She not only progresses from the glory of the morning of Her creation, pure, bright, and spotless as it was, to that of perfect day, « fair as the moon and bright as the sun, » but also that She is « dreadful as an army set in battle array. » She has from God a universal and constant mission to accomplish. The pride of the devil is mental. He confides in the subtlety, in the deceit and cunning of his devices, in his knowledge, in his experience, in his power, in one word, in his intelligence. And in this, he is naturally as great as when he was first created. « *Non diminuta sunt in daemonibus* » writes St. Thomas « *bona naturalia* ». All the natural faculties the devils ever had, they have still though damned. And their power is great. Our wrestling says St. Paul is not against flesh and blood but against principalities

PRIVATE USE ONLY

and powers. It is against those who once had place amongst all the choirs of the heavenly host, whose numbers are great, whose concert to do man harm is perfect, and who are all under the orders of the prince of darkness, who has the faculty of making even his earthly victims to be « wiser in their generation than the children of light. » What other power could call into existence, so universally, the forces of secret machinations, which at this moment in every country strive with complete unity of action and identical malignity to ruin both in mass and in detail the souls redeemed by Christ. The devil is fierce, « knowing that now there is but little time, » and therefore his forces are more active and more united than ever. More than ever, at this moment his agents preach « the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life; » and more than ever before, victims are made by him. Never in all past generations were men found so completely diabolical, so perfectly open in their hatred for God and of all that belongs to God. Nothing is left undone to accomplish designs so completely satanic. All heresies are reproduced. All forms of persecution are re-introduced. The advance of men in natural knowledge, the discoveries of scientists, the unveiling of some little of the infinite riches and knowledge in the Creator,— all are turned against the Author and Giver of these, as « of every other good and perfect gift. » The very same pride and folly that damned the devil and his associates, is now clearly visible amongst the children of men. « Ye shall be as gods. » Break the Creator's law and ye shall

know good from evil. Fear nothing, enjoy the present. God, it is true, says otherwise. Experience and instinct may say the same. But the tempter and the temptation prevail. Then there is no death, temporal or eternal, for the followers of sin or the votaries of pleasure to fear. « No, you shall not die the death. » Enjoy the world, destroy order, property, government, ideas of sin and punishment, whatever, in a word, incommodes you. Seek every enjoyment, above all, voluptuous enjoyment. Remove whatever stands in your path. There is no soul, no sin, no punishment. Look to self. Be careless of all others. Destroy without scruple whoever stands in your way: a man is no more than a beast. Such is the preaching now amongst all the organized hosts of Satan, and nations and individuals bow down before it. Who can save them? Mary the Mother of Good Counsel. She, as the Church teaches, is destined to destroy all errors throughout the whole world. Who can meet the dark designs of Satan? She alone Who was destined to crush his head, — that head, the seat and centre of all his hellish astuteness and design.

19. We cannot place too much stress upon this quality of Our Lady. Advancing always « fair as the moon, bright as the sun, formidable as an army in battle array. » Now more than ever Her Counsel, Her protection, Her knowledge, Her power, are required by us. And now more than ever should all, both pastors and parents, have recourse to Her as the Seat of heavenly Wisdom. In extending devotion to the Virgin Mother of Good Counsel, they secure an infallible guide, a city of refuge, a tower of strength against the face of

PRIVATE USE ONLY

the enemy, for all those committed to their keeping. How blessed to explain this devotion! « By me, kings reign, and the framers of laws decree judgments ». Those who are vigilant, who take the trouble to keep close to the Mother of Good Counsel, find Her in all Her advancing beauty and strength. She loves those who love Her, and gives eternal life to those who make Her known. God grant then, that Her name and Her glory may not cease to advance, until every part of the Church on earth becomes filled with devotion to the Mother of Good Counsel; until every diocese shall move for that which many already possess, Her Proper Mass and Feast and Office, that so the priests and their people may together have cognizance of the desire of the Church to have Mary honoured as Mother of Good Counsel; until Her Image is in every house, that so fathers and mothers, and sons and daughters, may advert to the dangers that surround them in these disastrous days; until Her sweet likeness holding the Infant Jesus to Her breast is placed in every Catholic school, that so the young from their earliest days may draw from Mary that Counsel they are so certain to need throughout life; until all Catholics have near them and with them Her beautiful appealing features, that so they may, in their every vicissitude, have recourse to Mary, and ask in prayer at Her feet the strength and light to guide them through all the ills of life, to the rest and joy of a happy eternity.

ERRATA-CORRIGE

PAGE	LINE		
45	1	pilgrimage	pilgrimage
53	5	<i>virilli</i>	<i>virili</i>
55	31	beneiged	besieged
61	11	seeng	seeing
68	18	inflexbily	inflexibly
118	8	sheated	sheathed
119	17	seige	siège
258	10	whilever	whenever
269	29	elswhere	elsewhere
310	8	succeded	succeeded
321	3	Sanctum	sanctam
331	12	marks	mark
341	16	joumeys	journeys
346	7	holday	holiday
384	13	accidentalyy	accidentally
406	80	consacrated	consecrated
435	9	untill	until
441	28	jealously	jealousy
458	30	Baveria	Bavaria
456	28	stiched	stitched
466	16	lefe	life
474	12	a million of lire	twenty millions
475	9	Tollentino	Tolentino
476	12	Rhine	Rhone
477	4	beened	been
517	28	was give	was to give
519	31	of the reach our	the reach of our
564	6	Apian	Appian
594	21	For them	For such as them

PRIVATE USE ONLY