

A short history of the image of **Our Lady of Good Counsel**

- Records dating from the reign of Paul II (1464–71) relate that the picture of Our Lady, at first called "La Madonna del Paradiso" and now better known as "Madonna del Buon Consiglio", appeared at Genazzano, a town near Rome, on St. Mark's Day, the 25th of April 1467, in the old church of Santa Maria, which had been under the care of the Augustinians since 1356.

- According to tradition it came from Albania. The image had indeed disappeared from its church of origin and an empty space of its exact dimensions was still present in the Albanian church.

- In 1630 Urban VIII himself went to Genazzano on a pilgrimage, as did Pius IX in 1864.

- On the 17th of November 1682, Innocent XI had the picture crowned with gold by the Vatican Basilica.

- In 1727 Benedict XIII granted the clergy of Genazzano an Office and Mass of Our Lady for the 25th of April, anniversary of the apparition, the feast being kept a day later elsewhere so as not to conflict with that of St. Mark the Evangelist.

- On the 2nd of July 1753, Benedict XIV approved of the Pious Union of Our Lady of Good Counsel for the faithful at large, and was himself enrolled therein as its founding member; Pius IX was a member, and also Leo XIII.



✚ Your earthly pilgrimage is beset with many dangers.

✚ You are in need of advice for life's serious problems.

✚ Remember that Jesus gave you a Counsellor, Our Lady of Good Counsel, who will never fail you.

Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel
– 26th of April



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Our Lady of Good Counsel



Go to your Heavenly Mother with childlike confidence and abandonment. Entrust yourself to her prudent guidance, for she is your

Mother of Good Counsel

Our Lady of Good Counsel – The Miraculous image

- The icon, which is drawn on a thin sheet of wall-plaster, was observed to hang suspended in the air without the slightest apparent support; thus early tradition tells how one might have passed a hoop around the image without touching it.

- Pope Paul II (1464–1471), ordered a thorough investigation into the miraculous nature of the image and the events surrounding its arrival in Genazzano.

The following determinations were made:

- 1) The painting which had been done on a thin layer of porcelain or plaster, the thickness of an eggshell, could not have been removed from its original surroundings (wherever that may have been no one knows) by human hand.

- 2) This thin layer of porcelain or plaster stands upright without support of any kind except for a narrow ledge on which it rests.



- All of Italy came to visit the blessed image; cities and towns came in pilgrimage. Many wonders occurred, many favours were granted...
- The very beautiful image of Mary appeared on the wall without human intervention.
- So great was the number of healings that a notary was appointed to make a register of the more important cases.
- This record, which is still preserved, notes that from the 27th of April until the 14th of August 1467, 171 miracles occurred.
- Conversions, healings, and specially requested graces are among the numerous accounts of extraordinary occurrences related in connection with the image.
- The miraculous image is still to this day, and has been for more than 500 years, suspended in the air by itself.
- Countless miracles have been attributed to the prayerful intercession of Our Lady of Good Counsel.

Prayer of Pope Pius XII

Holy Virgin, moved by the painful uncertainty we experience in seeking and acquiring the TRUE and the GOOD, we cast ourselves at thy feet and invoke thee under the sweet title of MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL.



We beseech thee: come to our aid at this moment in our worldly sojourn when the twin darkneses of error and evil plot our ruin by leading minds and hearts astray.

Seat of Wisdom and Star of the Sea, enlighten the victims of doubt and of error so that they may not be seduced by evil masquerading as good; strengthen them against the hostile and corrupting forces of passion and of sin.

Mother of Good Counsel, obtain for us from thy Divine Son the love of virtue and the strength to choose, in doubtful and difficult situations, the course agreeable to our salvation.

Supported by thy hand we shall thus journey without harm along the paths taught us by the word and example of Jesus our Saviour, following the Sun of Truth and Justice in freedom and safety across the battlefield of life under the guidance of thy maternal Star, until we come at length to the harbour of salvation to enjoy with thee unalloyed and everlasting peace.

Amen