

A Prayer to the Madonna

The Preghira is a prayer asking the Madonna's intercession in a major crisis the person is facing. A prayer of thanks for some grace they have received. The Preghira is a heart to heart talk with the Madonna.

A bystander seeing this total reverence to the Madonna would most times ask, "What is this power of the Madonna?" The answer was always, "Do you need to ask?"

When pilgrims would approach the Montevergine Chapel in Haverstraw they would sing fervently:

"Madonna Mia, Di Montevergine, we have come again with humility and piety to thank you for the many blessings you have bestowed on us and our family. We come to you in prayer asking for your continued favor in helping us cope with our family problems, sickness, or to give us the grace of a happy death."

In leaving they would say the Rosary in unison. At the end of the Rosary they recited: "Madonna Mia, we have visited with you in prayer, we sat, we ate, we had some wine, and we danced, all of this in your shadow. If for some reason we cannot visit you next year, we shall meet again in Paradise."

Jerry Mastromarino



OUR LADY OF MONTEVERGINE
Circa 1119