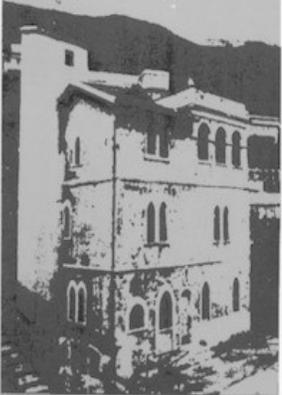


Pio (*Prophet of the People*), as well as a book on Mary Pyle titled *Mary's House*. In 1986 a motion picture contract was concluded relating the story of Padre Pio based on the book *Prophet of the People*.

Mary's House

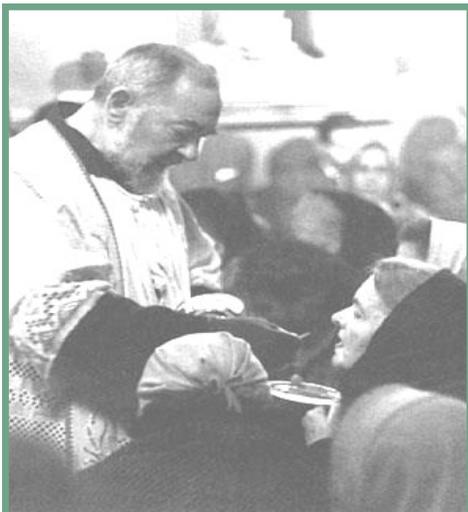
Dorothy M. Gaudiose



Mary Pyle: Under the Spiritual Guidance of Padre Pio

Mary Pyle herself died on 26 April, 1968, not far from the house where she had provided so much presence and charity to others. As her funeral slowly passed through the streets of her adopted town, a woman cried out, "What are we going to do without you Mary Pyle?" Mary had previously requested to be buried in the Capuchin Chapel and her wish was graciously granted.

The memory of Mary remains in the hearts of those who saw her charity and of those pilgrims and faithful who came to the holy places connected with the "Friar of Pietrelcina."



Mary Pyle receiving Holy Communion from Padre Pio

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.pamphletstoinspire.com

Padre Pio and Mary Pyle



Padre Pio and Mary Pyle



Mary Pyle was a saintly lady who spent much of her life near Padre Pio. She is regarded as one of his spiritual children. Born Adelia Pyle on the 17th April 1888 in Morristown, New Jersey, she was the daughter of James Tolman Pyle and Adeline McAlpin. Her family was wealthy for as Dorothy Gaudiose relates in her book on the life of Mary Pyle, she was related to the Rockefeller family. An American heiress, she

was a faithful Presbyterian who grew up in a religious atmosphere. She attended mainly private schools and learned to speak fluent Spanish, Italian, French and German. She also studied music, singing and dance, all of which she enjoyed. Adelia enjoyed an active social life, and, on one occasion, after a severe fall while horse riding, she was heard to say: "This is in reparation for all the dancing I've done."

During her adolescent years, Mary often travelled to Europe and, on these occasions, she met Maria Montessori, the educationalist who developed the Montessori method of teaching. This resulted in Maria Montessori asking Mary if she would like to travel with her as her interpreter. During her travels, she became interested in the Catholic faith and was Baptized into the Catholic church by Jesuits while in Spain in 1913, at the age of twenty-five. Her mother, on hearing the news, was horrified and in Mary's own words: "When she was making her will, she excluded me as if I were not her daughter."

Adelia said that she first heard of Padre Pio and his stigmata in 1921 but it was not until 1923 before she decided to go and see him for herself. We do not know much about that first meeting except what Mary herself said later: "We looked at one another only. Then, I fell on my knees and said: 'Padre.' He put his wounded hands on my head and said to me: 'My daughter, do not travel anymore. Stay here.'"

She left San Giovanni Rotondo, but returned at a later date and entered the Franciscan Third Order. In a simple ceremony, she took the new name of Mary (Maria) and received the brown habit of the Third Order from the hands of Padre Pio himself. Mary then built

herself a villa close to the Friary; furnished it in a Franciscan manner and settled down under the spiritual direction of Padre Pio. Eventually, Mary's mother came to terms with Mary's conversion to Catholicism and visited her in San Giovanni Rotondo, as did her brothers.



Mary performed many acts of charity and had built in Pietrelcina both the convent, the seminary and the Church of the Sacra Famiglia (The Holy Family). Thus she fulfilled the wishes of the inhabitants of Pietrelcina and of Padre Pio who had told her to build it: "... soon, and dedicate it to the Sacra Famiglia." The Convent rose up in the place where a young Padre Pio had prophesied, years before, that a convent would be built, for the sons of Francis. During the building work, Mary Pyle stayed at Pietrelcina, in the same house in Via Santa Maria degli Angeli where Padre Pio had lived from 1910 to 1916.

Mary began to receive English-speaking visitors to her home and thus began a lively correspondence with the spiritual children of Padre Pio. In many of her letters, she spoke of the importance of Guardian Angels. Mary always asked those who wrote to her to pray to their Guardian Angel and this may well have been encouraged by Padre Pio himself. She was one of the few women with whom Padre Pio would stop and chat to for a while.

Not only was she close to her beloved Padre Pio, but she also took care of his parents, in her villa, as they got older. In December 1929, Mary took Mamma Peppa and "zi" Grazio to San Giovanni Rotondo so that the two old peasants could be closer to their son. She cared for Padre Pio's parents, in her home, until they died.

In 1950, when Dorothy M. Gaudiose first met Padre Pio, during the Holy Year, on that same day, she also met Mary Pyle. For many years, Dorothy felt a great desire to share her knowledge of these two beautiful people with the world. Having herself lived for three years in the town of San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy, and also as having served as an interpreter for Padre Pio and as a volunteer to Mary Pyle, Dorothy Gaudiose wrote a biography on the life of Padre