

**Saint Maria Domenica Mazzarello**  
**THE GIFT OF FAITH**







# Mornese



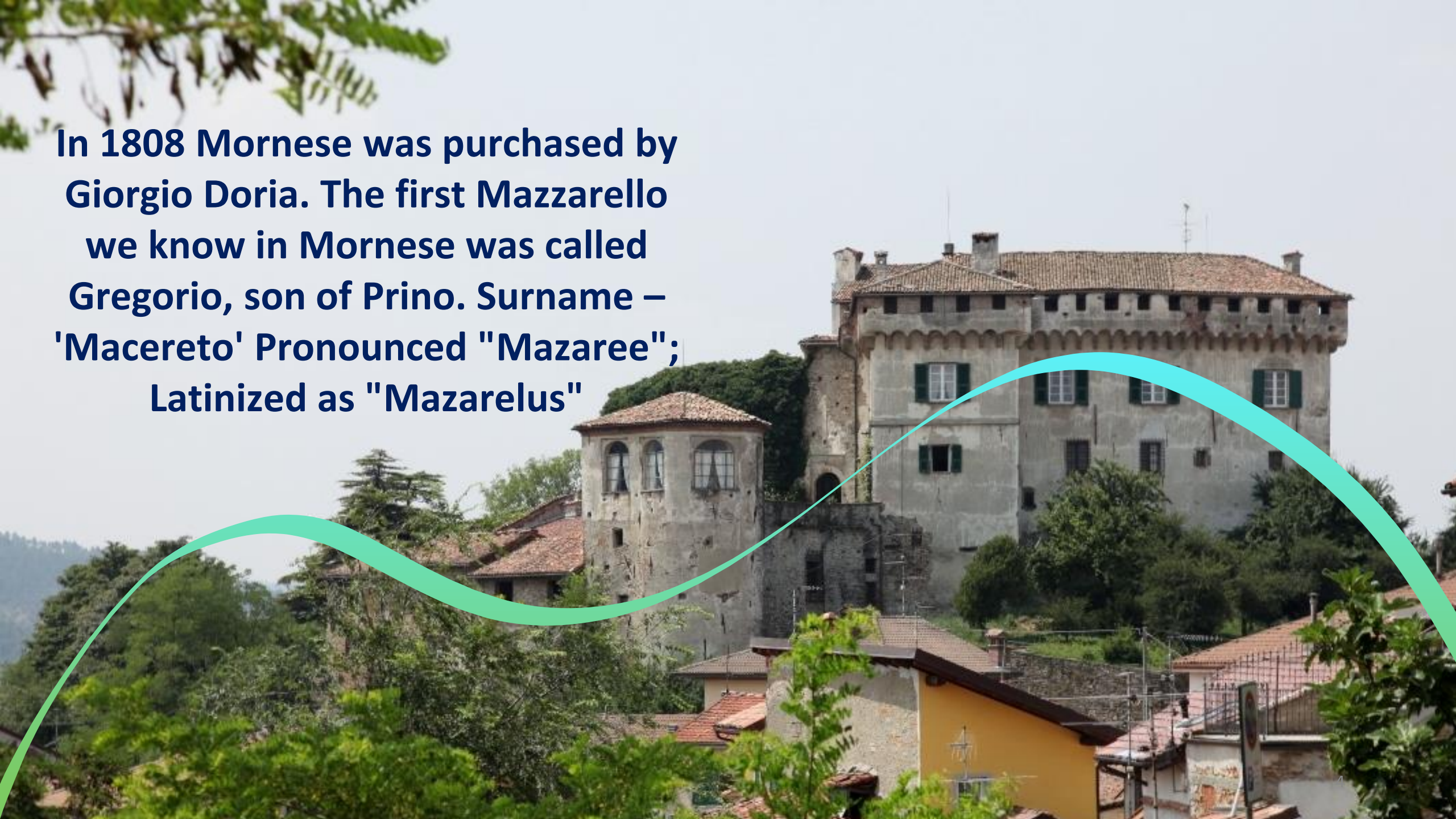
**Ancient name Molenesio – mulio, founded by traders who traveled on the back of mules**

**The castle was built around 1270 by the Genoese, Rosso of Volta family.**





**In 1808 Mornese was purchased by  
Giorgio Doria. The first Mazzarelo  
we know in Mornese was called  
Gregorio, son of Prino. Surname –  
'Macereto' Pronounced "Mazaree";  
Latinized as "Mazarelus"**







# Mazzarelli

## *Birth Place*







# Main

**she was born on May 9,  
Tuesday, on the day  
dedicated to the  
Guardian Angels.**



**\*Baptized the same day**

**\*She was given the names:**

**Maria in honour of her maternal grandmother**

**Domenica in memory of her paternal grandfather**





**Maria** – the name of Our Immaculate Mother  
**Domenica** – belonging to God



# Giuseppe Mazzarello and Maddalena Calcagno

The faith of her parents  
was passed on in a wise  
and natural way.







**Her father's discreet intervention leads her to:**

- **discern the events of daily life**
- **in the light of the Christian faith**
- **in an atmosphere of joy and hope**



**\*Maria felt loved and wanted by her parents**

**\*Key Christian concepts she learned:**

- **Becoming children of God involves responsibility**
- **Live daily life in fidelity to her baptism**





*"What did God do  
before creating  
the world? "...?"*



**She had a concrete and intelligent  
Awareness of God**





**Through daily experience, she  
discovered:**

**the religious element as an  
integral part of the person**





**There was a religious atmosphere that favoured:**

- **respect and love for God**
- **the idea of God, Father, Creator of all things**
- **a Christian vision of life**
- **dependence on the Supreme God**





**The life of the people  
was permeated  
from this Christian vision of  
life and firmly founded on  
faith**

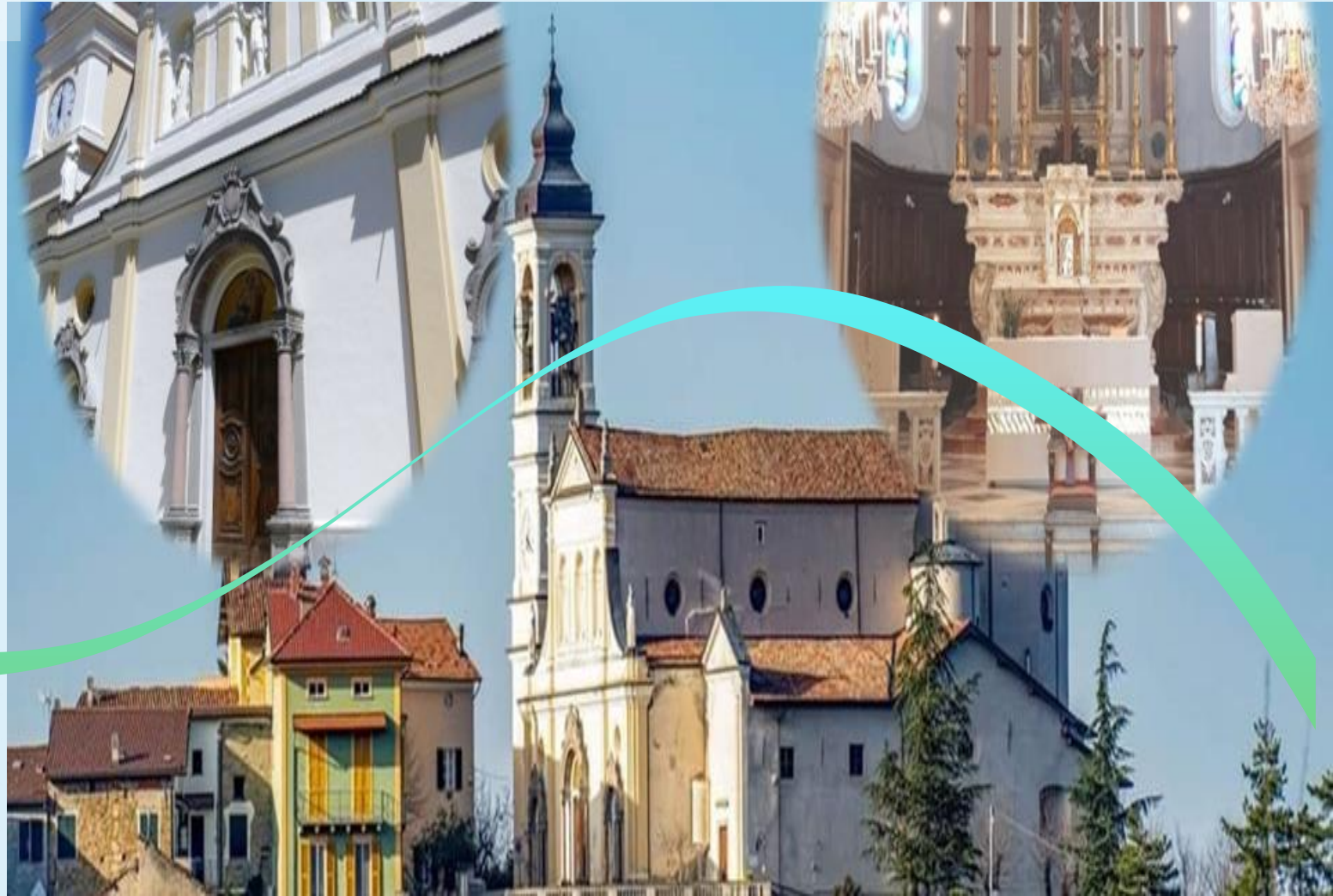
**Mary was initiated into**  
**\*personal prayer**  
**\*appreciation**  
**of the Eucharist**  
**and of the sacrament of**  
**reconciliation.**





# Parish St. Silvester (Pope)

- \*The parish is the center of the religious life of the people.
- \*The pastoral approach in Mornese was characterized by a rather rigorous theological thought.
- \*Influenced by Jansenism whereby people distanced themselves from the Sacraments



**Holy Communion  
was given on the  
occasion of the fulfilment  
of "Easter duties" with  
the permission of the  
parish priest.**







# Don Domenico Pestarino

- He was born on 5 January 1817, the third son of Diambattista Pestarino and Gastaldi
- ordained priest on 21 September 1839
- collaborated with Giuseppe Frassinetti
- tried to develop priestly virtues
- He was zealous in his apostolic experience



# Don Domenico Pestarino

- He returned to Mornese in 1847, after some ministerial experiences in Genoa.
- The life of the parish gradually changed, thanks to his pastoral commitment.
- The people of Mornese have begun to receive daily Communion.
- The need to confess has also increased.





- **Don Pestarino said he came to look for work in the Lord's vineyard.**
- **He was extremely zealous in his tasks and Don Gino (the parish pastor) gave him full freedom.**
- **Dynamically contributed to the gradual improvement of religious life in the Parish**
- **Don Pestarino has won the goodwill and trust of the entire population.**



- **Don Pestarino was Mary's spiritual director for 27 years, until his death.**
- **He taught her catechesis**
- **He was her confessor**
- **He gave her wise and adequate advice and guidance.**





**For Maria the Parish  
was a place of formation,  
personal and apostolic growth:**

- **Catechesis**
- **Informal instruction**
- **Preaching**
- **Sacramental life.**



# Mornese

A scenic view of the town of Mornese, Italy, featuring a prominent church with a tall bell tower and red-tiled roofs, framed by lush green trees. The image is overlaid with a decorative cyan wavy line.

**Mornese, the Mazzarelli, the Parish: these are the places where Mary's life was welcomed as a gift.**



**God's grace has found fertile soil in which to take root and grow.**



# PERSONAL REFLECTION

1. When and where were you baptized? What name were you baptized with and what does this name mean?
2. Who are the people who helped you grow in faith as a child?
3. Indicate two or three aspects of the faith that they passed on to you. What aspects have remained part of your experience as a Christian or religious to this day? Name them and thank God for this blessing.



## PERSONAL REFLECTION

4. Can you recall an experience of who God was to you as a girl? Describe it with an image, a word, a phrase or a passage from Holy Scripture.

5. Main fell in love with "her" Eucharistic Jesus, but had difficulty in receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation. Is there a sacrament that you absolutely love and another that you struggle with? Stay with your answer and think about why this is so.



*Thank You!*

