



Parrocchia Santa Maria Maggiore PIGNOLA

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Year 2025



Archdiocese: Potenza-Muro Lucano-Marsiconuovo

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Parish priest: Don Antonio Laurita



MASS timetable

holidays

11:00 MAIN CHURCH		
	S .ROCCO	18:30
11:30	PANTANO	19:15

working days

18:30 S .ROCCO (*)
19:15 PANTANO

(*) at Main Church:

from 3rd Sun of Maj to 3rd Sun of Sept



Listening Centre Maria SS degli Angeli
via Risorgimento
Monday 18.30 - 20.00

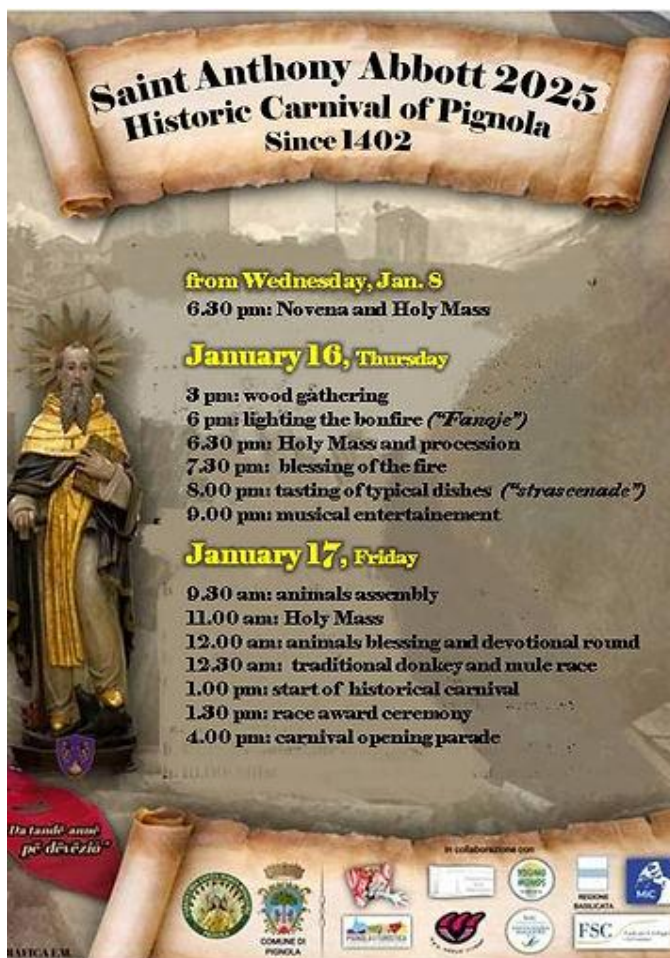


food and clothing distribution

Tuesday and Thursday - 10 am to 12 am



ARTICLES



FAITH and SUPERSTITION

An interesting formation meeting entitled Faith and Superstition was held at St. Anthony's Church in Pignola on Tuesday, January 14.

The theme was treated with simplicity, clarity and competence by don Rocco Moscarelli, penitentiary of the



diocese, who dialogued with Francesca Conte, leader of the adult sector of Catholic Action.

The meeting was part of a training path promoted by the adult group of Catholic Action in which, following the guidelines of associative catechesis, important themes such as the relationship between science and faith, faith and tradition, faith and communication are being addressed

The last one addressed namely faith and superstition was among the most significant also because it was treated during the novena before the feast of St. Anthony Abbot, the saint who made his faith a shield against all forms of temptation. On the other hand, the catechetical journey that A.C. is promoting this year invites us to place mercy at the center of our formation journey, inviting us to make the Gospel of Luke our companion on the journey. In addition, the biblical icon that serves as the backdrop for the catechetical journey of all sectors invites us at the same time to be witnesses of our faith by broadening our horizons in responding, like Peter and the apostles, to Christ's call. So this is the invitation that every associate intends to internalize with these formation meetings, that of being enlightened by the Word and to undertake, together, a journey of co-responsibility.

For this reason, don Rocco Moscarelli's contribution was valuable and significant: with his role and particular charisma he provided us with useful indications to help us overcome all the obstacles that could interfere with our growth in the faith, and one of them could precisely be a distorted perception of faith often confused with superstition.

Don Rocco highlighted this concept by arguing that faith cannot be based only on the emotion of the moment but must be sustained by prayer, the one and only true weapon that can overcome the obstacles of temptations and sustains us in the difficulties. At the same time, faith cannot disregard reason and, in fact, fides et ratio are an inseparable pair. Rather, superstition embraces the irrational and often gives a distorted perception so it is important to understand that growing in faith means embarking on a path full of obstacles but which rests on prayer and Eucharistic participation and is illuminated by the Church in its communal dimension.

Angela Guma



ITALIAN CATHOLIC ACTION
Parish of S. Maria Maggiore – Pignola
St. Roch Church – Saturday March 1

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF TRUST and CATHOLIC ACTION JOINING

- ❖ 6 pm: Recitation of the Rosary
 - ❖ 6.30 pm: Holy Mass
 - ❖ 7.15 pm: delivery of cards
 - ❖ 7.30 pm: speech by Sister Orsola Cricchio on *FAITH and YOUTHS*
- The meeting is coordinated by
Francesca Conte (AC adults responsible)
and will be attended also by
Vitina Ferrara, AC Diocesan president.

EVERYBODY IS INVITED



ITALIAN CATHOLIC ACTION
S. Maria Maggiore Parish - Pignola
ADULT GROUP TRAINING FLOW



Thursday March 20th - at 7.00 pm St. Roch church

GIUSEPPE TONIOLO – GOD'S ECONOMIST

- Introduction **Angela guma**
Parish AC president
- Speech **Giancarlo Grano**
Diocesan team adult sector
- Conclusion **don Antonio Laurita**
Parish Priest



Yesterday...in the fight against illiteracy... today victims of computer illiteracy



Once upon a time there was the Bibliobus. Starting in 1949, the Ministry of Public Education in collaboration with the Education Superintendents began a campaign to fight illiteracy, starting first from the province of Salerno, the largest in the entire national territory, together with that of Potenza, and including in the early years also the province of Matera. Shortly after, the campaign was extended to other Italian regions

In practice, two buses were set up, with a well-studied project, transforming them into perfect travelling libraries, hence the name *bibliobus*, equipped with special educational and audiovisual aids available at that time (we were at the beginning of the fifties and just emerging from the Second World War).

The bibliobus allowed, both from the outside and from the inside, an excellent display of books of various kinds in the squares of the towns visited, arousing in the population of all ages from elementary school children to the elderly, vast interest and participation. Furthermore, there was a selection of texts of absolute validity, pertaining to professional and didactic training but within everyone's reach, coming from publishing houses like Hoepli, Edagricole, Lavagnolo, Ramo editoriale degli agricoltori.

In this way, not only an immediate interest was stimulated but also the understanding of the need to be able to read, write and calculate. The richly illustrated technical and professional texts aroused the curiosity of the potential reader, who, even though he did not know how to read or write, by stimulating his logical and rational connections led him to leaf through the book, which thus became in his hands a work tool, a utensil indeed.

What happens today instead? We *navigate* on search engines, but this does not absolutely mean research; we use “apps”, we follow media paths that are quite insane, almost unconsciously driven by “influencers” who love stimulating the curiosity of the Internet user but certainly not in the sense that Plutarch assigned to the term, that means a stimulus to knowledge, thus revealing themselves as perfect masters of stupidity in its most exact lexical meaning!

Surely the initiative of maestro Antonio La Cava, who with his itinerant bibliomotocarro stimulates the curiosity of children to handle books, is to be preferred; he well remembers the visits of the bibliobus when he was still a boy in his village! The growing computer illiteracy requires to be contained as soon as possible, avoiding to use the media in a passive way. Democracy itself is at stake: it is being distorted by the economic power that wants to keep it under its control.

The upgrade is mandatory and that's enough!

Michele Vista



HOLY WEEK



“It is the most celebratory week of the liturgical year; it recalls the passion, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. These are days of prayer, silence and meditation in which the Christian community relives Christ’s sacrifice for humanity.”

It is a special period of the liturgical year when we can stay close to Jesus to relive together the most difficult days of his life on Earth.

It begins with **PALM SUNDAY** and ends with the Easter Vigil and is full of celebrations. In those days the Church reflects on God's love for the world, a love so great that it led him to sacrifice his Son to save us from sin and death. During this week we are called to gather frequently in church to listen to the Word of God that narrates the moments of salvation, to pray with gratitude to the Lord to celebrate the Eucharist, which is the sacrament in which we find the bread and wine, that is, the body and blood of Jesus, offered for the forgiveness of sins.

The first event that is remembered is the Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem: Palm Sunday, in which we celebrate the joy for Jesus' arrival in the holy city, seven days before the Lord's Passover.

In the Holy Scriptures it is written that the Son of God arrives in Jerusalem riding on a donkey, a gentle and peaceful animal, while the crowds welcome him waving olive and palm branches and shouting: "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the kingdom that comes in the name of the Father David! Hosanna in the highest heavens".

This event is called **MESSIANIC** because the crowds recognize him as the **MESSIAH**, **AND WELCOMED HIM WITH ENTHUSIASM**. However, those who applauded will then condemn him to death.

The priest reads the Gospel that narrates this episode, which is usually commemorated with a short procession in which the faithful carry olive and palm branches and raise festive songs. Later, the olive trees and palms are blessed, and everyone will take them home after the celebration of the mass.

Inside the sacred buildings and on the altars, vases full of olive branches are placed, as a sign of peace but also of hope, and palms, a symbol of eternal life and resurrection.

The liturgical color of this Sunday is red, just like the cloaks laid out on the ground by the crowd as Jesus walked, but mainly like the blood shed by Jesus for the love of humanity.

His entry into the city is also a moment of hope, because a new alliance between God and men is about to be fulfilled. Every day we can welcome Jesus with joy and hope in prayer, during the mass, reading of the Holy Scriptures; but every day we can practice **GENEROSITY AND CHARITY**, so that **OUR HEART CAN BECOME A SMALL JERUSALEM THAT WELCOMES JESUS WITH TRUST**.



HOLY THURSDAY



On the morning of Holy Thursday the Chrism Mass is celebrated in the cathedrals, presided over by the bishop, and during which the priests renew the commitments of their ordination.

In this celebration, the holy oils are blessed:

- the oil of the catechumens, used for baptism;
- the chrism, used in confirmation, priestly and episcopal ordination
- the oil of the sick



Holy Thursday marks the end of Lent and the beginning of the TRIDUUM OF THE PASSION, DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF THE LORD, more simply called the EASTER TRIDUUM

During the evening mass, the Church remembers the Last Supper and the institution of the Eucharist: it is called MESSA IN COENA DOMINI.

The priest reads the Gospel that narrates the Last Supper, that is, the last Passover of the Jews celebrated by Jesus with his friends in Jerusalem.

That evening he instituted the sacrament of the Eucharist, told Peter that he would deny him and Judas that he would betray him, then to everyone's amazement he took a basin with water, wrapped his loins in a towel and washed the feet of his apostles.



Likewise, in every church, the priest WASHES THE FEET of 12 people sitting around the table; in our community the priest washes the feet of 12 children who will soon receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. At the end of the liturgy, thanks to the May feast committee, blessed bread was distributed, as a symbol of the bread shared by Jesus with the apostles and a symbol of the body of Jesus.

The rite of the washing of the feet is rich in meaning: with it Jesus teaches humility and service and demonstrates his immense love for humanity. Just as the Son of God placed himself at the service of the Father and humanity, the apostles will also be called to serve God and the world, spreading the Gospel; but we too are all exhorted to help our brothers and sisters. The washing of the feet anticipates a greater gesture: the gift of Christ's life for the salvation of the world.



Jesus knows what Peter, Judas and the other apostles will do and forgives them. Forgiveness is a precious teaching for everyone: he forgives to show us that it is always possible to forgive. Giving something or giving yourself is an act of love and Jesus came to earth precisely to tell all of us that THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT IS THAT OF LOVE!

THE ALTAR OF REPOSE



On Holy Thursday, at the end of communion, Jesus, truly present in the consecrated host, is not placed back in the tabernacle, but is carried in procession on a previously prepared altar, decorated with white flowers, wheat seeds germinated in the dark that symbolize the passage from the darkness of death to the resurrection, the bread and the lamb, which represent JESUS THAT SACRIFICED HIMSELF FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF OUR SINS.



On Wednesdays, the catechism children bring to church the little sprouts that have been cared for and grown in the various groups. Little plants that grow with love like our children and that crown Jesus along the path of the altar of repose. *“Let the children come to me, do not hinder them...”*

This altar is called the altar of repose because on it rests, or is exposed, the Eucharist, that is, the body of Christ.

On the evening of Holy Thursday, churches remain open until late at night, to give the faithful the opportunity to visit the altars of repose and to pray in front of Christ, truly present in the Eucharist.

Normally, before these altars, one kneels and says a prayer of praise and thanksgiving: "let the Most Holy and Divine Sacrament be praised and thanked at every moment", then people recites three times the GLORIA, the prayer meant to profess faith in the Most Holy Trinity, that is, God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. From 10 pm to midnight, one meets in church for adoration led by the parish priest.

the catechists

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EASTER 2025

GOOD FRIDAY

On Good Friday, we commemorate the death of Jesus, as the prophet Isaiah had predicted: “He has taken on our sufferings. He is mistreated, he lets himself be humiliated and does not open his mouth; he is like a lamb”. The liturgy picks up where we left off on Holy Thursday, before Eucharistic adoration. During the rite, the Eucharist is not celebrated because it is a moment of great suffering and sadness for the Church: on this day, we relive the moments in which the Son of God, betrayed by Judas, is unjustly arrested, denied by Peter, condemned by the crowd, mistreated, crowned with thorns and mocked, then loaded with a cross on his shoulders, helped by a certain Simon of Cyrene and, having reached Mount Calvary, crucified between two criminals.

At the foot of the cross were Mary his mother, John, the women and some disciples who saw him die without being able to do anything; at the end, his body was taken down from the cross and placed in the tomb by one of his disciples, Joseph of Arimathea. On Good Friday we listen to the story of these painful events and keep in our hearts the sufferings endured by Christ for the love of humanity, becoming aware of how many afflictions Jesus had to suffer for the sins of men.

The celebration ends with the adoration of the cross. The most painful moment of the entire Easter Triduum is listening to the story of the death of Jesus, who faces with dignity and courage every terrible moment, every humiliation and every suffering that is inflicted on him, entrusting himself totally to God. Jesus said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple, take up his cross every day and follow me”. The Lord asks us to have courage. Life is not always simple, sometimes it offers challenges that are not easy to overcome, tiring days to face, but the Lord is with us, he holds our hand. It is great to read in the Gospel “Courage, it’s me. Don’t be afraid!”: said Jesus to his frightened disciples, when he surprises them walking on the water. He amazes us, but he reassures and comforts us showing with his ordeal that fatigue and pain can be faced and overcome. While Jesus carries the cross and is crucified, Mary is with him, in suffering and difficulty, in the same way she is beside us and comforts us in moments of affliction.

Kissing the Cross

On Good Friday we perform a very suggestive and intense gesture of veneration towards the dead Jesus and adoration towards God who, with the sacrifice of his Son, has demonstrated infinite love towards humanity. Because of sin we distance ourselves from God, but Jesus, dying on the cross, erases all our guilt: with the crucifixion of Christ the world is reconciled with God. By kissing the cross we remember the suffering of the Son of God, the trials and difficulties he had to face, we recognize his courage and we also arm ourselves with patience and strength to face our problems and overcome them with dignity. When we adore the cross, it is as if we too were at the foot of Golgotha; with our eyes and heart turned to Jesus crucified with open arms, ready to embrace and forgive us. Before dying he will say, "Father, forgive them, because they don't know what they are doing" In front of his cross and looking at these words we feel small and fragile and, at the same time, we feel that God is great, because he never ceases to amaze us and loves us with an immeasurable love. That crucifix that we adore on Good Friday is both gift and sacrifice: with it, in fact, God gives his Son to the world, that is, he sacrifices his life for the good of humanity.

Living Via Crucis



After the liturgy, as for decades now our community relives the last painful moments of Jesus' life in the streets of the historic center. Adults, young people, and children represent the stations of the Via Crucis starting from the Garden of Olives up to the crucifixion and deposition from the cross.

Moments that touch the heart. The crowd of faithful is silent, attentive, follows the various stations and prays together with the parish priest.



Each station is preceded by the invocation; "We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you, because with your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world"

When they arrive at Calvary, the highest part of the town near the church of S. Donato, the figures are stripped and here comes the most emotional moment: the crucifixion.



Christ, shortly before dying, asks for water; they give him something to drink with a sponge soaked in vinegar on the end of a cane. "It is finished," he says, and he breathes his last.

A soldier pierces his side with a spear and blood and water comes out, a sign that Christ had totally offered himself to the world; darkness falls and the heavens are torn open.



His body, taken down from the cross, is given to Mary who holds him close for a final heartbreaking farewell before placing him in the tomb. Mary accompanied Jesus throughout his life until his death; in the same way, our heavenly Mother accompanies us throughout our lives.

And all together we carry the effigy of the dead Jesus towards the Mother Church, with the catechism children forming a circle carrying torches. Memories come to our mind, we become children again remembering when, in a large chapel at the back of the church behind a heavy black curtain, this statue of the dead Christ at the feet of Our Lady of Sorrows was kept. It was dark behind that curtain, there was only a small light bulb that created shadows...and yet curiosity overcame fear, so that we peeked out behind the heavy curtain to see that scene of pain and love at the same time. Jesus and Mary of Sorrows... *The sad little Madonna*, as a three-year-old girl called her. Mary followed her son to Calvary and remained under the cross, while the prophecy of the old Simeon at the presentation of Jesus in the Temple came true: "and a sword will pierce your soul too". And that is exactly what happened: Mary's heart was pierced, saddened by the death of Jesus. Mary weeps under the cross, and her son, with his arms open to the sky, dying, worries about her and says: "Woman, behold your son!" and then, turning to the disciple John, he adds: "Behold your mother!". With these words Jesus expresses his will: he wants John to take care of Mary just as a son would and for Mary to take care of John, like a mother.

For the Church this disciple actually represents all of us: JESUS ENTRUSTS US TO MARY.

Holy Saturday

The Holy Saturday preceding Easter is a day without celebrations, in which the Church relives the burial of Jesus. On this day, as the Creed says, Jesus descended into hell to take to heaven those who had hoped in him even though they had not known him. It is a day of silence and meditation. We can only imagine the shock of Jesus' friends in seeing the Son of God lifeless, after having followed and listened to him for years: He who had given sight to the blind, multiplied the loaves and fishes and raised the dead was now placed in a tomb. They must have felt confused and remained speechless, in silence. The Church asks us to do the same, inviting us to meditate in our hearts on what we have heard, read and felt in the previous days; it asks us to stop and be silent. This day has also been called the great Saturday or the longest day, because it marks the passage between death and life, between crucifixion and resurrection, between pain and joy. We can take advantage of this moment to reflect on what our life would be without Jesus: it would certainly be sad, melancholic, and dark like a day with no sun.

Easter Vigil



After the Saturday, the Gospel tells us that the women who went to the tomb carrying aromatic oils to embalm the body of Jesus saw that the stone at the entrance had been rolled away: Christ was resurrected. The Easter Vigil, which is usually celebrated on Saturday

shortly before midnight, summarizes the ancient history of salvation and celebrates the resurrection of the Lord. It is also called the Night of Grace and is a moment of listening and prayer during which humanity shows its gratitude towards the Lord and expresses great joy in front of the empty tomb.



The vigil begins with the lights off and continues with the blessing of the fire, or *Lucernario*. Jesus, in fact, is the light that shines on men; he is the risen one who, from the darkness of shadows passed to a new life freeing the world from sins. At the fire the priest lights the candle, a sign of Christ, the light of the world, and announces his resurrection. Engraved in the Easter candle is a cross with the letters



Alpha at the top and Omega at the bottom; within the arms of the cross are the four numbers of the current year. In the new fire the children burn little paper flowers, symbols of the small sacrifices they have committed to make in this Lenten season.



Then we have the Liturgy of the Word which narrates the creation of the world, the ancient alliance between God and man, the Jewish Passover and the discovery by the women of the empty tomb. Then the baptismal liturgy takes place with the blessing of the water and the celebration of possible baptisms.

On this day of joy, the Church invites us to praise God for giving his Son to humanity.

HOLY EASTER

In the Jewish Passover, which Jesus celebrates with the apostles during the Last Supper, lamb is eaten to celebrate the liberation of the Jews from slavery in Egypt. In the Christian Easter, the sacrificial lamb is Jesus, who after his death is resurrected: "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world."

The Easter season begins with the Easter Vigil and ends fifty days later with the Vigil of Pentecost, which commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit on the apostles and Mary.

On Easter Sunday, the Gospel that narrates the resurrection of Christ is proclaimed; the wonderful event that strengthens the trust that, like the apostles, we all have in him. The liturgical color of Easter time is white, but on Pentecost Sunday, red is used.

The first eight days of Easter time constitute the *octave of Easter* and are celebrated as a solemnity of the Lord. Forty days after Easter, the ascension of the Lord is commemorated, that is, the moment in which Jesus ascends to heaven.

By reliving this paschal mystery of the death and resurrection of Jesus from which our faith is born, the Church encourages us to live according to the will of God and the teachings of Jesus, that is, by practicing charity and mercy, loving our neighbor and God as ourselves.

From the message “URBI ET ORBI” by Pope Francis on April 20, 2025:

“Dear brothers and sisters, in the Lord’s Easter, death and life faced each other in a prodigious duel, but the Lord now lives forever and gives us the certainty that we too are called to participate in the life that knows no end, in which the clash of weapons and echoes of death will no longer be heard.

Let us entrust ourselves to Him who is the only one who can make all things new. Happy Easter to all!”

The catechists

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“At 7:35 this morning, the Bishop of Rome, Francis, returned to the house of the Father”

In these moments, radio, television, newspapers, various social media, high prelates, writers, actors, politicians, in practice everyone is talking about the death of the Pope and reminding us of his figure; we too would like to add a few considerations.

At the time of his election, choosing the name Francis, he gave a clue of what his pontificate would have been like. A name that was a program in itself: that of a Saint known as “the poor man of Assisi” because of his choice to lead a minimal life, stripped of everything that was not absolutely necessary.

And he started immediately, presumably causing the first shocks in the Vatican: he chose a home that was certainly more modest than the Vatican apartments, he did not want to go around sitting on the back seat of a luxury sedan but sitting next to the driver of a FIAT 500L; he continued to recommend to everyone - and mainly to the clergy - to use money mainly for charitable purposes and not for themselves and so on, to the point of writing in his will that he wanted to be buried in the bare earth inside a simple wooden coffin without any frills, after a funeral ceremony without any pomp, and not in St. Peter's but in Santa Maria Maggiore.

His approach to people was also very minimalist: when a Pope, looking out over St. Peter's Square, appears happy but also almost surprised at seeing so many open umbrellas and says "thank you for being here even in this bad weather" and concludes his Sunday speech with a "Enjoy your meal", what else more “humane” could he say? The same when he said he would have given a punch in the nose of anyone who would have offended his mother ! (words that have made some modern Pharisee wrinkle their noses, who found it convenient to remember "turn the other cheek"...))

When he passed through St. Peter's Square in the popemobile, between two wings of cheering crowds, one could sense that he was "obliged" for reasons of safety and time: he would have gladly walked through the crowd of faithful, dispensing handshakes, hugs, kisses to children and blessings to everyone.

In short, Francis entered everyone's heart because we felt within us that his easy-going, paternal way of doing things was not an “external” attitude but a true expression of his being, and that when (lot of times) he invited the humble and powerful to love their neighbor, all the more the poorer and more unfortunate they are, he was not "preaching well", but wanted to convey what he felt first.

Let us remember that he began his pontificate with the same act done at the end: a visit to prisoners.

Among the various voices captured in interviews with ordinary people, someone said "He seemed like a person with whom you could talk like your neighbor", or "For me he was a person full of mercy and love for all people, no matter how poor or what country they came from: he loved everyone".



We also have to recall his openness to interreligious dialogue and the attention he paid to those who are discarded by societies based on consumerism and materialism, and his recommendations to respect the creation when he urged reducing harmful emissions and increasing the use of natural sources of clean energy; and of course also his constant exhortations (unfortunately unheard) for the cessation of the many, too many, armed conflicts that afflict innocent people in many parts of the world.

Pope Francis took up the defense of migrants as a sign of faith, because Christianity was born from Abraham, the migrant par excellence, at the cost of perhaps causing some destabilization even within the hierarchies of the Church; but that was how he was made: he guided Peter's boat in rough seas, sometimes against the current.

The representative of an NGO said that Francis once, pointing to a painting depicting a hand reaching out to another emerging from the water, said to him: "*Do you see it? I look at that every morning to remember what we have to do.*"



Even in the most difficult cases he was guided by divine teaching: "*If a person is gay and seeks the Lord and has good will, who am I to judge him?*"

Who am I! The representative of Christ on earth was saying it!

It was his firm belief that "*The Church does not close the door but opens it wide to everyone*"; and even about the divorced and remarried he said "*They are baptized, they are brothers and sisters; the Holy Spirit pours gifts and charisms into them for the good of all; their presence in the Church testifies to the will to persevere in the faith, despite the wounds of painful experiences*".

And he insisted: "*Do not forget this word: all, all, all*" that is, "*all those who struggle on the path of faith, because everyone needs merciful and encouraging pastoral attention. Jesus said it in a parable: when the wedding guests do not come, the master says to the servants: 'Go out into the streets and bring everyone' – 'Lord, all the good ones, right?' – 'No, everyone, good and bad, everyone'. Do not forget that 'everyone', which is a bit of the vocation of the Church, which is the mother of everyone*". All this makes us understand why Francis was loved even by many non-believers.

Certainly unforgettable is his image in a completely deserted St. Peter's Square, strangely silent and wet from the rain that Friday of Lent, when he was praying to implore God for the of the Covid pandemic: "*Lord, you ask us not to be afraid. But our faith is weak and we are fearful. So do not leave us at the mercy of the storm. Repeat again: 'Do not be afraid. And we, together with Peter, cast all our worries onto You, because You care for us'*"

It may be a fortuitous coincidence dictated by chance, but Francis firmly wanted to take one last lap of the square on Easter Sunday, just before leaving this earth. Well, in the Gospel it says that "Jesus loved the disciples until the end": and he wanted to stay among his people until the end.

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Witnesses of a historic moment: At the funeral of Francis - the Pope of humanitas



It is April 26 of the Jubilee Year 2025, a day that will remain in history. Rome confirmed to really be “caput mundi”, placing itself at the center of media attention and the interest of the entire world, because today it hosted the main world leaders, here to homage an extraordinary person: Francis, the Pope who more than anyone placed at the center of his pontificate the concept of humanitas, that is the interest in every need of the human race.



St. Peter's square was incredibly full of people, from the powerful to the last, from the elderly to the young, and there was a particular atmosphere, not of despair but of that serenity that comes from the awareness that with death a true life begins, the eternal one.

The jubilee song of the adolescents was mixed with a silent and respectful mourning for the Pope who with extreme dignity put the evangelical message into practice with concrete gestures. Pope Francis has placed the man, as a creature of God, at the center of his pontificate and has been able to speak in a simple but effective way, also revealing himself to be an extraordinary communicator.



The language he used was that of the parable, so that his words could reach everyone without filters and superstructures; he was always following integrally the Gospel to the point of being uncomfortable and at times revolutionary just like the Saint who inspired him. Also for this reason he was loved, although someone considered him too much too much progressist.

In the crowded St. Peter's Square, there was a heartfelt participation, not distraction but prayer, not despair but serenity, not a message of death but of Resurrection, not a complete absence but rather the lack of a physical presence, in the full awareness that his teaching will always remain in our hearts and now he will be the one to support us with that prayer that he always asked us to do for him.

Angela Guma

**Anniversary of the first apparition of
St. Michael the Archangel**

Thursday May 8, 2025

Sanctuary of San Michele - Pignola
Place of the spirit in the Jubilee Year 2025

from 10 am
visit to the sanctuary through
the "Path of the Warrior Angel"

4 pm: Holy Mass

Following,
incensing of St. Michael with the
"Brazier of the Warrior Angel"

snack for children with Nutella
and biscuits;
for adults a sandwich
with omelette and "vitacchie"

This year the cave
is illuminated and can be visited
from 10 am until the end of the
celebrations

Grafica F.M.



Na votë a S. Angelo ngh'erë u roffëlë... e mo?

(once near S. Angelo there were the springs... and now?)



The elevation at 940 meters above sea level where there are the Church of San Michele with the ruins of the old convent of the Zoccolanti Friars, acts as a watershed between the Fosso delle Mele and S. Angelo. Entirely covered by a dense forest of chestnut and turkey oak, as the altitude increases towards its eastern part called Il Pisco (1089 m), surrounded to the north-east by siliceous spurs covered by the centuries-old beech forests of Monte Serranetta (1475 m), of Ciglio (1439 m), and to the south-west, limestone, from the Piano della Madonna (1477 m) to Mount Crocetta (1319 m) with beech forests, turkey oak and chestnuts. In the lower eastern part, at about 910 m., there were several perennial springs loudly

coming out from the rock, named

“u roffëlë dë San Michelë” in local dialect, that today are part of the public water network. Once the area was abandoned by the monks, the territory offered extensive pastures for the flocks but and in particular for the numerous herds of “Podolica” cattle, coming from nearby towns in the summer.

The doctor and botanist from Potenza Orazio Gavioli, like some other talented botanists such as Emilio Fittipaldi from Pignola, makes a detailed description of the vegetation in the area; he wrote “... 892 species belong to the vascular flora of Monte Serranetta”

This was very important for the quality of milk and dairy products that could be obtained, in particular for the stretched curd ones, which became an absolute excellence. In the fresco of the nativity painted by Giovanni Todisco (1559) in the church of S. Maria del Rosario in Anzi, you can see two scamorza cheeses hanging from a beam, and in the 1884 Italian General Exhibition held in Turin dedicated to the quality of dairy products, a medal was awarded to a Master Cheesemaker from the Pignola area.

Today it has been preferred to create industrial structures for cattle breeding in easier places, also circumventing the many constraints linked to the establishment of the so-called natural parks, born attempting to enhance the tourist side of the territory. We thus return to the dilemma we posed in our title: and now?

Welcome then to the fascinating rediscovery of the religious tradition linked to the Holy Warrior!

Michele Vista

Symbolism in the statuary iconography of San Michele



The vast and detailed literature on the Michaelic cult is based on testimonies that start from old mythological origins, then borrowed in various ways in the Christian tradition and have come down to us enriched by various representations of the Angel who defeats the devil in the guise of the dragon, as John tells us in the Apocalypse. Each one of the many sanctuaries present in Italy has its own history linked to the symbols of Michaelian devotion: the rocky walls of a cave, spring water, the unsheathed sword, the scales, the devil.

In the cult linked to the mystery of the Indo-Iranian deities of Mithra and Varuna who govern the two aspects of the human and cosmic order, as well as the alternation of day and night, the myth of the Persian god of light who makes water flow from a rock and slaughters the bull from whose blood the universe will then be born is celebrated. The cult of the god Mithra had wide influence in the Hellenistic Roman world and was practiced in underground places, called mithraea, near a water source.

In the Christian tradition the Archangel Michael pierces the evil with his sword, becoming the holy warrior defender of the faith. There is, however, another religious contamination called Psicostasia, a term of Greek origin which means weighing of souls, so the scales that the Archangel holds in his hand signify his task as judge of souls to the glory of Paradise or in the eternal flames of the hell. Satan, that Saint Michael crushes under his feet, is instead represented by a polymorphous creature who has various animalistic features, such as a serpent-like dragon, but a living expression of the evil one.

In the Italian peninsula, and beyond, there are numerous sanctuaries dedicated to the cult of the Archangel Michael; his image is present in the mosaic of the 5th century present in his chapel in Santa Maria Major in Rome, as well as in the Abbey of Mont Saint Michel in Normandy and the Sanctuary of Sant'Angelo on the Gargano.

In the sanctuaries and churches scattered throughout Italy different characteristics distinguish the celebrations of the canonical feasts of 8 May and 29 September; different traditions and origins are mixed, Greek Byzantine and Lombard, which refer to the apparitions of the Saint or to his thaumaturgical ability and are linked to the geographical position of the sanctuary and to the events of which there are clear testimonies.

There is even talk of an ideal *via sacra Micaelica*, a line which, according to legend, was traced by the blow that the Saint inflicted on the Devil to drive him back to Hell, connecting seven sanctuaries: Skellig Michael (Ireland), St Michael's Mount (Great Britain), Mont Saint Michel (France), the Sacra di San Michele (Piedmont), San Michele (Puglia), the Monastery of San Michele (Greece) and the Monastery of Monte Carmelo (Israel).

In addition to the religious aspect of the cult reserved for Saint Michael the Archangel, it is also possible to consider the more strictly anthropological one connected to it, the iconographic figure of the Saint in his multiple values of warrior, judge and miracle worker represents the antagonism between the Saint and the dragon, where a miracle materializes.

The warrior Archangel victorious over Satan is a judge of souls and at the same time does his thaumaturgical action when invoked in popular devotion regarding exceptional events. He becomes the prototype of a mythological hero who attempts to dominate nature in its multiple evolution, well represented in negative events by the dragon.

Michele Vista

1st Confession

"God's mercy is our liberation and our happiness. We live on mercy and we cannot afford to be without mercy: it is the air to breathe. We are too poor to set conditions, we need to forgive, because we need to be forgiven."

Pope Francis

Thirty-two children experienced the Mercy of God the Father for the first time, thirty-two families participated in their joy. This is why we decided to let them, the protagonists of this special day, speak.

The children:

"...there was very high tension, we entered and I wanted to go underground, I was very embarrassed, I was sweating.... Don Antonio was nice, not severe, after the individual confession I was calm until the end..."

"...I was a little afraid of making a mistake. We entered and I was so happy; after a while, one by one we went to confession and I had butterflies in my stomach..."

"...when I entered the church and saw my father I was a little shy, but then I was reassured. My heart was beating fast, I thought of the words my grandmother told me, I was very happy to have confessed my sins and to have a pure soul..."

"... I couldn't feel my bones anymore, I was afraid of making a mistake, I was very tense, at the same time I was happy and I couldn't realize that I was confessing, I was shaking but I was happy... In the end I was so happy that I wanted to do it again another time..."

"...When I arrived I was very anxious but the catechists encouraged me, while I was saying the first prayer I felt that God was next to me... I freed myself from the anguish I had for having sinned. When I went up to the altar I was very happy I knew that God had forgiven me and from that moment my life would start again and without sin..."

"... Since I was very anxious I reflected, I said to myself why be anxious, I should stay calm and not worry, and I calmed down, in the end I was super happy"

"... At the beginning I was very anxious, when I went to Don Antonio he gave me confidence. The most beautiful thing that made me emotional was at the end, when we all hugged each other even with the catechists..."

".... I was afraid of making a mistake, but Don Antonio helped me... This day was the most beautiful and I will never forget it..."

"... I felt anxiety, fear of making mistakes, shame, in the end cheerfulness, joy, happiness, I was satisfied, happy, free... I was cheerful as if I had done the most beautiful thing in my life and I am happy to have confessed my sins"

"... I was shaking with fear of making a mistake, but I had a lot of fun. It was the best day of my life..."

"It was a beautiful and exciting experience, except that during the final ballet I was a little ashamed... The celebration of the first confession is very beautiful, I would like to do it again..."

"I let myself go and had a lot of fun, I felt joy and happiness..."

"After I confessed I was shaking a lot but I felt happier and more relaxed... The happiness was too strong and as I danced I calmed down. As soon as we finished dancing a hug was really needed and in fact it was like that..."

"At first I thought everything would go badly because I was anxious... I spoke to Don Antonio, it felt like I was talking to a friend, I felt free.... We hugged each other at the end, it was a beautiful experience..."

"... it was a beautiful day and I especially want to thank Jesus for forgiving me... I felt so much happiness and joy..."

"...the part I liked the most was when we went to confession..."
"... I felt anxiety at first, but then great joy..."
"...I was happy and I was very relieved..."
"... I felt a lot of happiness and also a lot of relief after confessing..."
"...I got so emotional I almost cried..."

The parents:

"It's difficult to put into words what you conveyed to our children... they were tense and were so afraid of making mistakes but you were fantastic, you put them at ease, you brought out the best... The wonderful final dance... Thank you for everything and for always accompanying our children with a smile... Top catechists. Don Antonio a wonderful priest!"

"Seeing the children walk towards the altar singing... And I don't think they sang just because they had to: it was their love for Jesus, you could feel their emotion, especially in their final embrace. This only happens when faith and love are transmitted in a simple way."

"Seeing the children so serious and excited as they approached the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time moved me very much... The ceremony was beautiful. A heartfelt thank you to Anna, Carmela, Mariagrazia and Teresa for the commitment and dedication they used to accompany them in these years, and to Don Antonio for the words used to remind the importance of forgiving and being forgiven. And to our children, because they have been wonderful... With the hope that they are increasingly aware that, whatever they can do, there will be a merciful Father who awaits them with open arms and rejoices in every child found."

"Confession... such an intimate and unique sacrament experienced by our children with extreme emotion and participation, thanks to the simple and essential way in which they were accompanied on this journey by our catechists, attentive to their needs, to every question or concern. A celebration with attention to every detail, very simple but at the same time full of emotions... an unforgettable moment for us"

"On May 4 there was my daughter's first Confession; a day full of emotions, engaging, which deeply touched the hearts. I want to give a special thanks to the catechists who have been alongside the children, guiding them with care and gentleness, making this day unforgettable. Thank you very much"

"On Sunday 4 May our children received one of the most important sacraments of Christian initiation. Our thanks mainly to the catechists, who followed and accompanied these children on this important journey; it was exciting to see them enter the church holding the baptism shirt in their hands, but even more exciting was seeing their complicity and collaboration during the "flash mob". We thank you for everything"

And we thank you all from the bottom of our hearts for sharing your emotions with us, we are truly very happy....

Carmela, Mariagrazia, Teresa ed Anna



**There is a new bell at
San Michele church**



The oldest bells in Europe were found in Crete and date back to the second millennium BC, although at that time they were made of terracotta; they were also known to the Romans, as shown by some mosaics in Pompeii depicting how they were used to call people to thermal baths.

The spread of the bell in Europe is due to Christianity, which led to the creation of several foundries. According to tradition, St. Paulinus of Nola (355 – 431) introduced bells to religious use and promoted the production of bronze “*Vasa campana*” (literally: bronze vases from Campania, the region of south Italy where there is Naples) from which the word “Campana” comes.

The Church ritualized the use of bells in the 11th century: their sound urged the faithful to gather and participate in liturgical celebrations, to call them to moments of prayer during the day, especially with the triple greeting to the Virgin Mary. The voice of the bells therefore expresses in a certain way the feelings of the people of God when, gathering in the same place, they manifest the mystery of His unity in the one Lord.

Over time, the sound of bells has also acquired other functions, including that of signaling danger or, especially in rural areas, of marking the passing of the hours, thus the rhythms of work and rest, the announcement of a new day and its coming to end, the signal of a celebration and mealtime.

Calling the blessing of the bells a “baptism” is not an official statement of the Church, but simply a common way to describe the special ceremony used for many centuries; it emphasizes the sacramental power of the bells, where sacramental means an “extension” of the sacraments: a sacred sign that offers spiritual help through the intercession of the Church. The bells in fact lead us directly to the celebration of the Eucharist, calling us to worship God on Sundays and during the week.

The blessing of the bells also concerns their purpose of chasing away evil spirits and protecting the Christian faithful from storms:

“Let the faith and piety of the people increase whenever they hear their melodious peal, and their sound drive away all evil spirits; let thunder and lightning, hail and storm be banished; let the power of your hand defeat the evil powers of the air, making them tremble at the sound of this bell, and flee at the sight of the holy cross that is engraved upon it... when the peal of this bell shall resound among the clouds, may a legion of angels watch over the assembly of your Church, the first fruits of the faithful, and grant them your everlasting protection in body and spirit.”

Ultimately, bells are instruments that can be interpreted by everyone, since they speak a universal language that tells of joys and sorrows; bells have a familiar and reassuring sound.

Let’s close with a phrase by Filippo Tommaso Marinetti, which provides a joyful image: “*The bells move up and down like girls’ skirts on a swing*”

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Our Patronal Feast



Pignola has expressed also this year its deep devotion to the Most Holy Madonna through the celebrations, the appointments, the various moments of the patronal feast in honor of Maria Santissima degli Angeli, celestial patron of our town. It was not just a matter of living traditional rites handed down over time, but it was above all an opportunity to declare once more the faith of the people of Pignola, that has always reserved a special place in its Christian life to the veneration of Mary, confident of her protection and intercession with God.

People never tire of looking at Mary as the one who reflects the light of God's love, recognizing Her as a loving Mother who shows the way to follow the footsteps of her Son. Thus, they followed again the itinerary of both processions of the feast and of the octave, to be guided by Her and reach God through Her.

The feast of the Madonna, with its various references to the figure of the Queen of Angels, is a path, an itinerary, which finds in Mary a source of intercession to reach Him who is the Way, the Truth and the Life, and therefore the feast is a mirror of the life of every Christian: a dynamic journey made of experiences, charity, live faith and sincere search for God.

With the enthronement of Her effigy, the faithful witnessed the very touching moment when the statue, with an ascending movement, is placed on her throne above the

presbytery: the scene recalled our tension towards God. Like Mary, we will all ascend towards the place that the Lord has promised us and prepared as a stable and eternal home, in full happiness.

The feast of Our Lady is to become pilgrims in our life with Mary, who becomes a traveling companion and a mother who guides to God. In fact, we have walked with Mary and we found refuge in her protection and intercession, we consolidated our faith and we are looking forward the heavenly homeland where She awaits us with joy and maternal love. The feast is also a reminder of true life, of which we find in Mary an encouraging example. May our patronal Marian feast always be so enlightening and engaging, as a way to get closer to God through Mary.

Long live Mary!

Rocco Marcogiuseppe

A heartfelt thank you from the Festa 2025 Committee



On February 8th, our parish priest Don Antonio called together the historic groups of Santa Lucia, Madonna delle Grazie and San Donato to put in place the Festa 2025 Committee; other fellow citizens joined the meeting offering their availability. Well, the following day this “exceptional” committee was formed, made up of 17 women plus the precious support of Rocco Laurita, to whom we owe our gratitude. Initially, we were quite worried of such a task, but the support of our parish priest has never failed us. Don Antonio had suggested to don’t “think big”, but rather try to achieve the “small” things that have always been the basis of the feast. But you can’t control your character, so I



dedicated myself with the utmost fervor to the cause, often overwhelming the other members of the committee with requests (perhaps to the point of almost making myself hateful); but now we are proud of the success, as demonstrated by the many consents obtained.

The patronal feast is a great project to be realized in many successive steps, and during the activity some unexpected hitch always occurs from which you don’t know how to get out. Well, precisely in the moments in which the situation seemed



desperate we saw the solution appear, certainly thanks to the protection granted to us by our beloved Patron, who ensured someone to come and help us: so, thanks to all those who have worked in various ways to help us overcome all the obstacles.

I would like to point out that the Committee was made up of women only: mothers, grandmothers, workers who had to work hard to combine this effort with their personal commitments that sometime were forced into the background in order to be able to complete this “mission”. I therefore believe correct to thank their families for having endured the consequent inconveniences, and also for giving a hand when the need arose.

We believe it is our duty to extend our thanks to all the citizens and the sponsors for the financial support provided, which allowed us to carry on the project; at the same time we want to apologize if at times we seemed a little intrusive. And thanks also to Don Antonio for his faith in us.

We also want to thank those who expressed some criticism, which should always be taken into consideration, as well as we apologize for the disturbance caused to those who did not answer our Sunday rings at their doors.

Obviously we cannot forget to thank Mayor Antonio De Luca and the Commander of the Local Police Nicola Sabatella for their availability and collaboration; as well, I would like to mention Commander Accogli of the Carabinieri Station who dispelled all my concerns and ensured the safety of all events, also with the contribution of Gerardo Fierro with his Civil Protection units.

Also worth mentioning are the valuable support provided by Rocco Corleto, the “institutional” presence of Saverio Scavone, the publicity of the various moments by Gerardo Mazzone with his “E20 Pignola”, the total collaboration received from Teodora and Paolo De Luca, the inevitable presence of Gerardino Vista, the participation of the Knights, the Statue Bearers, the Angels of Pantano, and the Terra-Paschiere-Convento teams for the traditional “Uglia”.

Finally, allow me to address the last thank you, with all my heart and with the utmost affection, to the members of the Committee who with their tenacity, energy, broad collaboration and so much faith contributed together to the successful completion of the initial project: Giuseppina De Lucci, Gaetana Fusco, Maria Antonia Lagrotta, Anna Maria Lattuchella, Elisabetta Lauria, Anna Maria Marino, Marilena Marino, Angelina Montagna, Anna Maria Oliveto, Antonietta Passarella, Domenica Petraglia, Luigina Postiglione, Anna Vignola, Anna Vista, Antonietta Vista, Carolina Vista, and Rocco Laurita. May the Madonna continue to protect us and give us strength and serenity.

Gina Fusco

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May 23, 2025 - CONFIRMATION

Today another cycle ends, twenty-two children receive the Sacrament of Confirmation after having attended seven years of catechism through many difficulties. It may seem to be a long time but in this span of time, those who were frightened children approaching the truths of our faith, became teenagers who carry with them all the problems of their age.

They are the teenagers of Covid, of internet and of the rebellion against rules, therefore giving catechism to them was quite complicated because we had to transfer knowledge clashing with curiosity, disinterest and desire for personal affirmation.

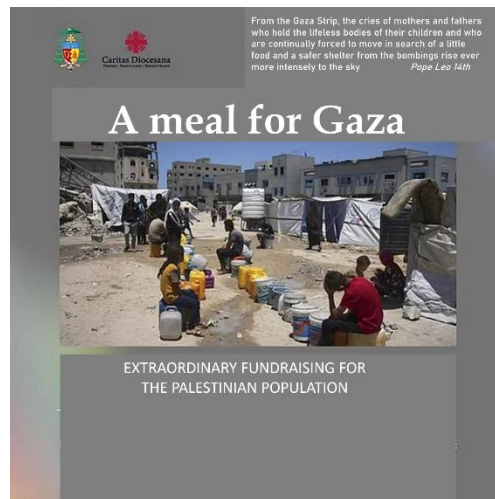
Beside these small difficulties we arrived at today, the big day.

The rehearsals of the ceremony continued to see twenty-two young rebels, but on the day of confirmation... the transformation: in the Mother Church twenty-two beautiful boys and girls appear in their simplicity and with faces that convey emotion.

The ritual begins with the processional entrance into the Church at the presence of the Bishop Monsignor Carbonaro, who presided the celebration; he did the homily interfacing with attentive and very excited boys and girls. The presence of parents and relatives was discreet and heartfelt.

As catechists, we want to thank these kids who have allowed us to experiment with a new way of doing catechism, and referring to one of the last speech by Pope Francis, we hope that our way of interacting with them to explain our faith and the strength of the Sacrament of Confirmation has been able to "remove the ash of habit and disengagement" so that these kids in their complexity "can become, like the torchbearers at the Olympics, bearers of the flame of the Spirit. " May the Spirit help them and help us on our journey!

The catechists



Pignola on pilgrimage to Rome for the Jubilee of Hope 2025

A day of faith, sharing and deep spirituality was experienced by 58 faithful of the Parish who, led by Don Antonio Laurita, went on a pilgrimage to Rome for the Jubilee of Hope 2025.

The pilgrims, having reached St. Peter's Square, joined the other faithful of the diocese in crossing the Holy Door in the majestic setting of St. Peter's Basilica.

The visit had its central moment with the Eucharistic celebration presided over by Archbishop Davide Carbonaro together with the parish priests of our various parish communities, including our Don Antonio. The ceremony took place at the papal altar in a basilica packed with faithful in meditation and with lively participation.

After the celebration and community lunch, the pilgrims took advantage of the afternoon to visit some of the most significant places in the Eternal City, also experiencing a cultural and fraternal moment before returning to Pignola.

An intense experience that left a mark on the hearts of the participants, strengthening the bond with faith and with the diocesan community, in the sign of the hope that this Jubilee wants to embody.

Davide Lauria



June 1 - First Communions – Considerations by two mothers



Shining with Light, you enter the Mother Church and I think “Hope that Walks in the Footsteps of My Son”.

It is an emotion that is difficult to explain: it is joy, gratitude, but also awareness that something is changing. You are growing, on your journey you will now encounter something big, something that cannot be seen with eyes, but that is felt very strongly in the heart.

It is as if you were saying: “Here I am, Jesus. I want to know you, I want to have you beside me”.

It is the moment when you declare your faith in a simple but sincere way, as only a child can do.

I look at you thinking “You are a pilgrim of hope. You are making your small, great pilgrimage. Not with a backpack on your shoulders, but with an open heart, with your doubts, your questions, your simplicity. With your strength, step by step, you are making your journey towards Jesus.”

It is not just a milestone to celebrate, but an event of grace, for him, for us as a family, for our community; an invitation to renew faith, to look at God with new eyes, to rediscover how beautiful it is to walk with Him. This gift does not end today.

It is a presence that will accompany him every day, in his joys and in his struggles. When he will be tired or afraid, when life would seem complicated, I will remind him that God is near, that He takes care of it. He is the answer. Always.

Today you are accompanied by Don Antonio and the catechists who, in these years, have followed you and led you towards a Christian life with great dedication and patience, and by your entire family...

Tomorrow we will be there, in silence, to pray for you. And to say thank you for the gift received.

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Today, after four years, a rich journey of spiritual preparation ends. In this time, guided by the catechists and our Parish Priest Don Antonio, our daughters and sons approached the Sacrament of Communion.



On this day of celebration, we are happy to be alongside our girls and boys and to see them welcoming Our Lord into their lives; we are happy to share with them a moment that will be an unforgettable end important memory. These four years that seemed so many and long, passed quickly because they were pleasant and intense for the experiences they gave. Our daughters and sons have been lovingly taken by the hand and joyfully accompanied along the path of Faith, and educated according to the teachings of the Gospel. They have been brought with awareness to this meeting with Christ. Ready today to receive with joy the Eucharist, which represents, together with Baptism and Confirmation, Christian initiation. From this Sacrament of love in fact springs every authentic path of faith, communion and testimony. First Communion represents the first step, after Baptism, of a strong belonging to Jesus Christ who wanted to give us, with the Eucharist, his body in the form of bread that saves us, forgives us, links us to the Father.



Dear girls, dear boys, on this special day we want to wish you to always keep alive in your hearts what you have learned in these four years, to live every day guided by the teachings received. May love, brotherhood, solidarity always be the values at the base of your behavior and the choices you will have to make. May you never lack hope, which finds its strength in Faith. May you never lack joy and strength that can only be found in the Word of God.

We thank again our Parish Priest Don Antonio and the catechists who with affection, competence, great availability and sensitivity have prepared our daughters and sons for this meeting with Jesus. To them too, who know how to give their time to others, our best wishes

for a joyful future full of every good thing.

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June 1st - First Communions - Best wishes from the catechists

On Sunday our children received the Sacrament of the Eucharist in their First Communion. An important step after a journey of knowledge but above all of faith and spiritual growth, through individual comparison and reflection, which sees in this day of joy and celebration the awareness of the real presence of Jesus in their lives.

We are grateful for the opportunity to have accompanied them on this bright path, up to this moment when they meet the love of God and commit to live according to his teachings.

Significant coincidence! The feast of the Ascension of Our Lord Jesus Christ with the day of First Communion. "Jesus ascends to Heaven but does not leave us alone, he gives us the Holy Spirit and leaves us his body and blood in the Eucharist". Dear children, be aware that only with a humble heart and in truth can you feel Jesus deeply, it is not necessary to be perfect but authentic!

Have a good journey of life.

the catechists

Homily at the funeral of Ferdinando Roma

Dear brothers and sisters, we know that toil and work are a consequence of original sin.

But God says that with sweat man must earn the bread of life, not of suffering or death, so it is difficult for us to accept the passing of our brother Ferdinando; and we remain shocked in front of a man who loses his life at work, which should be a source of sustenance, human dignity and Christian sanctification. The arms, the hands, the intellectual and manual skills put at the service of society through work are arms, hands, bodies and souls to be protected, to be defended, because behind those arms there are the values of a life, of a family, of relationships, of affections, of toils of the body and of the heart.

Today, together with so much pain for a brother dead so young, we also want to reflect on the preciousness of life, to be guarded with care and attention by promoting every possible system that can strengthen security.

Now we are wrapped in the sadness of separation, perhaps in anger for what has happened. Looking at the premature and tragic death of Ferdinando, the questions crowd pressingly and faith becomes wavering. Everyone attempts to find an answer that can sound as a comfort to the pain and also as a support for the life that must continue. There are no adequate adjectives: what happened was something that should never happen in a workplace where people go to build a peaceful and safer future for themselves and their children. All deaths are bad, but these at work are even more tragic.

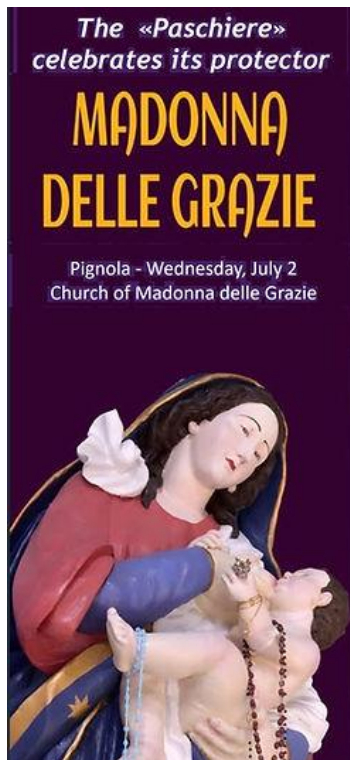
Today, with our pain, we turn to Jesus, who for Ferdinando and all of us in this mass renews his death to open us to the prospect of resurrection and new life. We want to open our ears and hearts to welcome the message of hope. In the book of Wisdom, the Lord consoles us: *"The righteous, even if he dies prematurely, will find a place of rest. Having become dear to God, he was loved by him and, because he lived among sinners, he was taken elsewhere. His soul was pleasing to the Lord"*. Every man or woman is a creature of God, who in his Providence reserves a plan for each one; and even if we do not understand it, the Lord assures us that everything is for our good, also suffering and even death. I know how difficult it is to understand that, so I myself and all of you try, as far as humanly possible, to empathize with the indescribable pain of his wife, children, relatives, and work colleagues, and to offer them our closeness full of affection, our participation, made not of words of circumstance, but of silent reflection and prayer. Our dismay is the expression of the dismay of the entire town: this is a tragedy for everyone. The health and life of workers, as for all people, are primary values for the defense of which it is worth spending any effort. As the Church has always taught, "work is for man and not man for work". This means that each person deserves to be valued for their own abilities, providing their contribution to the growth of a more just, more livable, more human society. Therefore everyone, from the worker to the employer, should contribute -each in their own role- to build the civilization of love.

Dear Ferdinando, the town says goodbye to you. That town that knew your smiles, your generosity, your availability. The town in which you built relationships and friendships; that town that stopped astonished knowing that the loyalty to your work was paid at the price of your own life.

We entrust you to the Lord with our prayers, not only for your soul, but also for your family and for the pain of a life cut short in the prime of its youth.

June 22 - Corpus Domini





Calendar of celebrations

11 am
Holy Mass

6.30 pm
Holy Mass with blessing of children

To follow:
procession through the streets of the neighborhood with the "Città Vallo di Diano" band

In the evening:
Buffet offered by pastry chefs, shopkeepers and residents of the neighborhood - entertainment and animation



**Father Antonio Laurita and Rocco Papaleo in an article
published in the Corriere della Sera newspaper on May 13, 2025**

Sky, stars, and sanctuaries. For another Basilicata Coast to Coast, like the title of the movie by Rocco Papaleo, which we'll hear later. Let's start to reach the Marian sanctuary of Monte Siri, 1,150 meters above sea level in the central Lucanian Apennines, in the Potenza province, about a hundred meters above the village of Anzi. Here, the sky is equally shared between the sanctuary and the astronomical observatory.

Moreover, as Father Antonio Laurita, parish priest of Pignola, the town famous for its decorated portals in the historic center, recalls, this proximity is not a coincidence: "At the beginning of the 1700s, Prior Serafino Montoro wrote "The Zodiac of Mary," identifying the various Marian shrines of the South: joining the peaks of Mount Siri with those of Abriola (Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta) and Castelmezzano (Church of Santa Maria), an important part of the ancient Templars' route is created, within the same constellation of the Zodiac."

Legends aside, those two domes near the sanctuary of the Blessed Virgin and built in 2008 in the same site where a watchtower against the Saracens once stood, constitute one of the most important astronomical observatories in Southern Italy.

"Thanks to the very low population density, we have one of the less polluted skies in the country," recalls Mariano Marcogiuseppe, one of the five members of the cooperative that manages the observatory, guarding the stars and the water: "We are in the heart of the Camastra Valley, where there is a dam, fortunately full at this time of year with its 12 million cubic meters of water."

From the stars of Anzi to the Renaissance frescoes by Giovanni Todisco in the sanctuary of the Madonna di Monteforte, 1,440 meters above the village of Abriola, reached after crossing the Sellata Pass and then following the Roman Via Popilia.

"What color is the sky above the sanctuary of Monteforte? A captivating blue," says Don Antonio who, when we reach the third star-sanctuary of the Zodiac (Sanctuary of Santa Maria dal Ciel Calata, in Laurenzana, near Castelmezzano), leaves us with the actor and director Rocco Papaleo, born in Lauria, Valle del Noce.

The author of Basilicata Coast to Coast, which will be the testimonial of the eponymous path connecting Maratea to Nova Siri, speaking about sky and stars says: "In the town's main square there's a traffic light, a state road, and my personal vantage point: at dawn, when the sun rises from the highest point of the mountain, the sky seems to merge with the sea, which in reality you can't see, but that sky seems to evoke it so strongly."

Stars and astronomy? "A Southerner and myopic like me would hardly distinguish the Milky Way from Orion. However, I remember one night when I saw a barrage of stars, from an area called "Jumiciddu," a small river. I found that barrage again in the Aeolian Islands."

Meanwhile, on the other side of the coast, sky and gullies surround the sanctuary of Santa Maria Regina di Anglona, between Tursi and Policoro. The landscape is lunar, thanks to the Italian Space Agency and the more recent SparkMe Space Academy, the Openet Technologies museum, in Matera, from which an Apollo mission will never launch; but if it's a question of intercepting space debris, it would be enough to "call" Sergei Schmalz, born in Siberia but naturalized Lucanian. He is the astronomer at the Castelgrande Observatory, which overlooks the sanctuary of Santa Maria di Costantinopoli.

End of the journey.

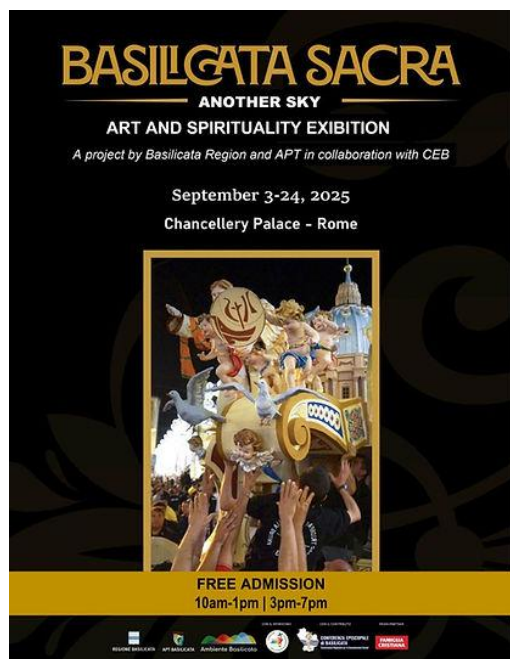
PEPPE AQUARO



An appointment with the Holy Bishop and Martyr of Arezzo that the inhabitants of the land cannot miss. For this occasion, they involve the entire Pignola community by inviting them to spend an evening together in the neighborhood, which offers a breathtaking view of the entire Pignola area. We watch the sunset with hope every day, letting our faces be illuminated by the red of the setting sun. It is an opportunity, in memory of a great witness to God's love, to experience fraternity as a necessary dimension of Christ's presence: a presence that restores to each of us the splendor of God's face



A cultural and spiritual journey that highlights the spiritual places of Basilicata, coming from the synergy between the Region, the Basilicata Tourist Board and the Basilicata Episcopal Conference.



In the heart of Rome, from September 3 to 24, the Palazzo della Cancelleria hosts the exhibition "Sacred Basilicata: Another Heaven," a moving journey through the spiritual, artistic, and popular roots of Basilicata. The initiative, born from a fruitful collaboration between the Basilicata Region, the Basilicata Tourist Board and the Episcopal Conference of Basilicata, under the patronage of the Dicastery for Evangelization, aims to highlight the richness of a land crisscrossed by journeys of faith, custodian of sanctuaries, and authentic popular culture.

Margherita Sarli, General Director of APT Basilicata, underlines: "In the Jubilee Year, we had to draw attention to a region as intimate as Basilicata. Promoting our region requires a blend of beauty, spirituality, and shared storytelling: 'Basilicata Sacra' is an invitation to an authentic experience, where art, nature, and faith interact, conveying a sense of peace and hospitality unique in Italy." The exhibition, which unfolds across four rooms designed with a careful focus on sensory experience, leads the visitor on a unique journey: from the history of

encounters and cultural influences in Basilicata, to its saints and blessed in the central rooms, to a contemporary Via Crucis animated by evocative painted sculptures, concluding with an immersive final experience that invites to experience a spiritual "other heaven," where people enters as spectator and emerges as protagonist of an inner journey capable to speak to each person's soul. Curator Merisabell Calitri explains: "We structured the exhibition in a visual and sensorial crescendo, leading to a full understanding of the profound meaning of our faith. This concept has only one equivalent in words: emotion."

Father Antonio Laurita, scientific advisor to the Episcopal Conference of Basilicata for the Jubilee, adds: "Basilicata Sacra is intended as an invitation to rediscover, through faith and culture, those spiritual places that are a source of peace and rebirth for our people. This exhibition represents an opportunity to experience our tradition with a renewed sense of belonging and spirituality." This invitation translates into a cultural and spiritual experience capable to link past and present, art and faith, in a story that speaks directly to the heart of every visitor. The inauguration ceremony on September 3, at 11:00 a.m., will be attended by prominent figures from the institutional, artistic, and religious worlds: Barbara Jatta, Director of the Vatican Museums; Sister Rebecca Nazzaro, Director of the Office for Pastoral Care of Pilgrimages, Vicariate of Rome – Opera Romana Pellegrinaggi; Stefano Ziantoni, Head of RAI Vatican; Cardinal Angelo De Donatis, Major Penitentiary; Vito Bardi, President of the Basilicata Region; and Metropolitan Archbishop Davide Carbonaro. At a time in history when reaffirming one's roots and valorizing one's cultural and spiritual heritage is more essential than ever, "Sacred Basilicata: Another Heaven" aims to bridge tradition and the future, an opportunity to rediscover Basilicata not only as a geographical location but as an experience of life and heart. Inviting everyone to immerse themselves in the beauty and spirituality of this land, the exhibition opens a door to another heaven, a precious space for reflection and rebirth where every visitor can feel a living part of a millennia-old history that continues to move.

September 3, 2025 - Unique Paths of Spirituality in the Land of Lucania

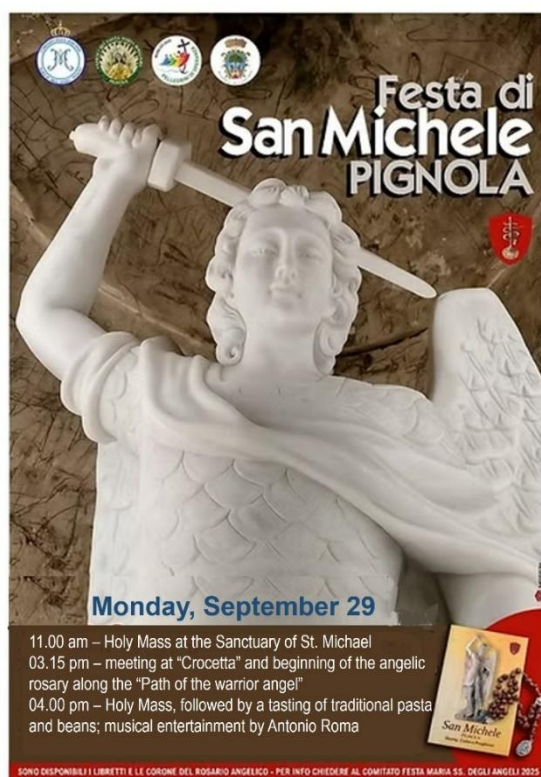
The exhibition, curated by the Episcopal Conference of Basilicata, with the patronage of the Basilicata Region and the Agency for Territorial Promotion, is housed in the *Palazzo della Cancelleria* in Rome, a magnificent icon of Renaissance architecture. It opened today with a moving inauguration ceremony held in the *Salone dei Cento Giorni*, with a large and attentive audience, who applauded the contributions from the various speakers and organizers of the exhibition.

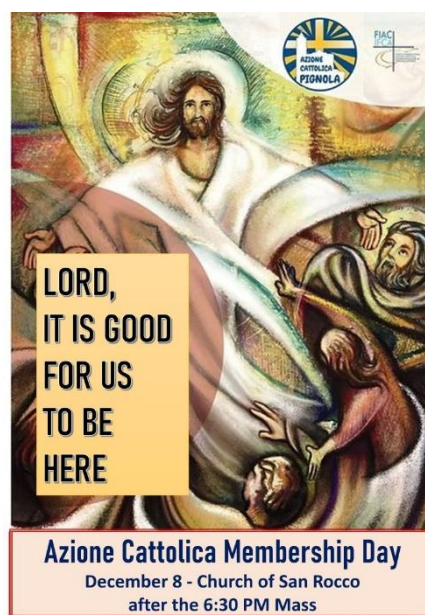
The four exhibition rooms offer the visitor a visual and at the same time immersive experience, through objects and images that symbolize a little-known aspect of popular religiosity in the various places of spirituality that abound in the region. Despite being among the smallest on the peninsula, the region boasts an archaic heritage rich in unique historical, cultural, and religious fusions.

Evidence of distinctive identity traditions, alternating between ethnological and anthropological aspects, borrowed from rural civilization. Hermitages, rock churches and sanctuaries scattered across a territory complex in its morphology and orography, allow us to still today identify the ideal and spiritual paths that united them in the cult of the Virgin Mary and many patron saints.

The exhibition seeks to revive the spiritual potential of these routes, along with the rediscovery of the natural and scenic beauty of creation, stimulating interest in visiting and exploring them in this new dimension, almost under another sky. In the dark times of our contemporary world, increasingly tormented by wars whose sole purpose is the extermination of innocent victims, may they become itineraries whose ultimate goal is a genuine desire for Peace!

Michele Vista





November 16 – Visit to the Abbey of the Holy Trinity in Venosa



"May the Lord bless you, Don Antonio..."



The news of the untimely passing of Don Antonio Meliante has brought deep sorrow to the parish community.

After the tragic accident last August, in which he suffered deep burns to his limbs and back, we had all prayed and hoped that he would overcome that terrible ordeal.

His silent struggle and his surrender to the Lord touched everyone's hearts.

We therefore join in the grief of his family and our brothers in the community of Pantano, and in unison we gather in his memory with deep gratitude for his work.

Don Antonio was a priest who knew how to be close to each person with the gentleness of one who protects the souls entrusted to his ministry. His life, spent with generosity and dedication, remains for all of us a shining sign of the Gospel lived authentically.

The image that everyone will cherish in their memories is the smile always present on his lips, a clear sign of the warmth that characterized his every gesture.

Thank you, Father Antonio, for your kindness and your attention, especially to the youngest and those in need. Thank you for all the times you used that "May the Lord bless you," your customary and familiar greeting.

Today, we invoke that blessing on your journey to the Father's house. Our parish will always remember you with affection and gratitude.

MEMBERSHIP SPEECH 2026

On the day dedicated to the Immaculate Conception the Catholic Action, as per a long-standing tradition, celebrates the Feast of Membership, the day when members, following the example of Mary, renew their "yes" to the Association. Choosing to join means much more than picking up a membership card; it means responding to a call with the commitment and responsibility that is renewed each year. This means feeling part of an associative family, growing together in faith, and recognizing a precious gift in each member. Ultimately, membership is an opportunity to reaffirm to ourselves and others that we are not spectators but rather participating and responsible actors.

From this stems my invitation to each of you to be there, to volunteer your time, and to propose ideas and initiatives to help Catholic Action grow, and above all to express a sense of community united without personalism but with communion and a shared purpose. This year's catechetical journey comes to us with this aim, since it has as a guideline the biblical icon of the Transfiguration, which recalls the episode in which Jesus invites three of his disciples and reveals himself in his essence. This episode exhorts us to look upward, to ascend the mountain where the Lord revealed himself in the light and fullness of his relationship with the Father. This is the first and most significant experience we do in the association:



placing ourselves under God's gaze and building a personal relationship with him through prayer, recollection of the Word, and trust. The other key word is sharing; indeed, if offering one's time is an act of responsibility, the other constitutive element of AC is teamwork, that is, the community dimension of the catechetical program, which is similar to those present in our diocese and in all other dioceses in Italy. This ecclesial dimension is where shared goals are pursued in collaboration with the assistant (our parish priest), who guides us in our growth in faith (interiority).

Over the past year, our adult sector has addressed many important issues and

themes. It has thrived because, while respecting the associative identity of Catholic Action, it addressed important topics such as the relationship between faith and science, faith and communication, faith and tradition, and faith and charity, without losing sight of the diocesan and national concerns and initiatives during the Jubilee Year. My dream is for the other sectors to take off, but in the meantime I sincerely thank those who have worked to share a journey of communion and a shared participation within the Association. I want to thank Don Antonio Laurita, who is always present and always involved in our activities; my personal gratitude goes to him because he introduced me to the Association in 1989; and this was and continues to be, one of my most beautiful "yeses," which gave me deep friendships, a more mature faith, a great deal of commitment as well as some disappointments; but undoubtedly the knowledge that God walks with me, step by step, in the simple, true, and even difficult things of life.

And I want to share this profound belief and love for this association with you on a journey that can only be fruitful because it begins under the protection of Mary Most Holy, Immaculate Conception.

Angela Guma

Baptism

8/2 - Flavia Miele di Graziano e Rossella Falce

6/4 - Matteo Argoneto di Gerardo e Debora Bennici

20/4 - Maria Teresa Lonato di Maurizio e Nunzia Scavone

20/4 - Giada Iannelli di Vito e Annalisa Masi

23/4 - Alisea Maria Deluca di Felice e Carmela Lo Parco

31/5 - Arianna Corleto di Francesco e Lucia Mineccia

31/5 - Noah Corleto di Christian e Maria Carbone

8/6 - Simone Rosa di Massimo e Antonella Palorcia

29/6 - Emanuele Riviezzi di Francesco Michele e Stefania Albano

13/7 - Giuseppe Deluca di Antonio e Alessia Paciello

24/8 - Jacopo Felice Pomponio di Gerardo e Concetta Macchia

14/9 - Mattia Bochicchio di Leonardo e Valentina Lorusso

14/9 - Emanuele Diterlizzo Riviezzi di Alessio e Ylenia Riviezzi

14/9 - Nives Santarsiero di Antonello e Rosy Albano

5/10 - Giusy Emiliana Bonelli di Francesco e Serena Grieco

5/10 - Carla Guerriero di Gianluigi e Simona Corleto

8/12 – Vincenzo Russo di Mirko e Michela Piro

First Confession - May 4



Manuel Abbandonato, Alfredo Albano, Flavia Basile, Vincenzo Buonansegna, Ilary Teresa Calvello, Arianna Carulli, Mia Carulli, Michela Cillo, Matias Donato D'Andria, Matilde De Luca, Ylenia De Marco, Giada Dell'Aquila, Gabriele D'Ercole, Clarissa Dolce, Laura Giordano, Emma Grandinetti, Michela Grosso, Alessandra Grosso, Michela Manzi, Simone Mecca, Mariagrazia Miele, Beatrice Nole', Rosalba Maria Letizia Onorati, Greta Radice, Antonio Maria Rocco, Gerardo Maria Rocco, Emma Rosa, Alessandro Rosa,

Donatella Sarli, Antonella Sarli, Amanda Trabace, Saverio Venetucci, Teo Volpe

Confirmation – May 23



Federico Bolettieri, Adele Calace, Samantha Dolce, Francesca Falce, Gabriele Gruosso, Luigi Lattuchella, Alessandra Lo Re, Francesca Luongo, Caterina Marino, Pasquale Pio Marino, Mattia Meduri, Carmen Lucia Miele, Claudio Nuvoli, Alessandro Oliveto, Saverio Perito, Sara Petraglia, Emilio Gaetano Petrone, Loris Sambataro, Ginevra Scavone, Paolo Signa, Shante Carlos Stasi Perito, Giuseppe Trivigno,

Adults

Grazia Contini, Saverio Darimini, Giuseppe D'Aversa, Marco Montagna, Luca Riviello, Gaetano Smaldone

First Communion – June 1



*Elisa Bianconi, Francesca Bochicchio,
Marianenza Bochicchio,
Greta Braidich, Giulia Buonansegna,
Ariel Calvello, Stella Carbone,
Rocco Cilla, Valentina Cunsolo,
Francescantonio Ignazio Datena,
Paolo Michele De Luca, Salvatore Diceste,
Andrea Fortalezza, Annaluce Ladik,
Grazia Pia Lisco, Angelo Lo Re,
Luigi Lonato, Miriam Manzi,
Angelo Raffaele Marino,
Monica Marino, Francesca Martoccia,
Francesco Miele, Maria Rosa Miele,
Mattia Muro, Chiara Perito,
Valentina Piro, Vincenzo Pio Riviezzi,
Chiara Strada*

..... Matrimony

*23/01 - Luca Marsan e Elena Losasso
22/02 - Michele Chiorazzo e Tania Petraglia
03/05 - Domenico Lomonaco e Mariangela Faraldo
02/06 - Paolo Caruso e Laura Villani
07/06 - Enrico Pignuolo e Lucia Argoneto
14/06 - Giuseppe Claps e Paola Rosa
14/06 - Alessandro Piro e Noemi Casella
27/06 - Egidio Di Michele e Lorella Lazzari
05/07 - Salvatore Mollica e Marika Vista
12/07 - Valerio Rosa e Rosa Dolce
02/08 - Valerio Riviezzi e Valeria Vanessa Lovallo
09/08 - Luca Riviello e Antonella Pietrafesa
11/10 - Pierpaolo De Angelis e Giulia Filomena Capriuoli
06/12 – Biagio Cristaldi e Carmen Mancino*

Silver wedding

9/7 - Rocco Faraldo e Carmela Gioioso

Golden wedding

27/12 – Paolo De Luca e Teodora Patrone

FUNERAL

Giuseppe Mancino	30-06-1949	02-01-2025
Rocco Pepe	04-08-1937	02-01-2025
Rocco Donato Colasurdo	30-12-1941	09-01-2025
Mariantonia Limontini	09-08-1933	12-01-2025
Teresa Dagrosa	01-12-1933	19-01-2025
Vittoria Anna Olita	14-09-1943	19-01-2025
Maria Concetta Cortesano	07-06-1937	21-01-2025
Carmela Coviello	08-06-1973	25-01-2025
Antonio Corleto	09-10-1958	28-01-2025
Angelo Fornarini	07-11-1925	07-02-2025
Giuseppina Di Bello	03-01-1939	10-02-2025
Antonio Corleto	28-07-1963	11-02-2025
Carmine Marsicovetere	27-11-1942	15-02-2025
Anna Maria Gerardi	08-07-1936	18-02-2025
Gaetana Marta Vista	12-02-1929	20-02-2025
Rosa Maria Olita	19-10-1959	20-02-2025
Gerardo Di Bello	11-11-1932	24-02-2025
Rosina Americano	15-10-1938	28-02-2025
Giuseppina Brunetti	06-08-1935	03-03-2025
Michele Albano	21-12-1949	16-03-2025
Rosa Maria Corleto	03-09-1927	17-03-2025
Angelo Raffaele Sabia	11-03-1948	22-03-2025
Assunta Cicognini	13-09-1938	27-03-2025
Vincenzo Dolce	15-08-1941	28-03-2025
Mariantonia Sangregorio	04-12-1933	31-03-2025
Pasquale Lonato	02-05-1945	20-04-2025
Carolina Candela	12-11-1937	10-05-2025
Vita Crescenza Santopietro	30-04-1931	16-05-2025
Rocco Roberto Citarelli	26-05-1955	19-05-2025
Carlo Gerardi	16-12-1956	25-05-2025
Raffaella Ricotta	27-08-1951	02-06-2025
Giuseppe Ligrani	11-10-1961	16-06-2025
Ferdinando Roma	10-05-1990	15-06-2025
Rocco Russo	06-05-1943	18-06-2025
Renato Cappelletti	07-08-1950	24-06-2025
Savino Albano	05-03-1953	26-06-2025
Domenico Piro	26-01-1945	02-07-2025
Franca Di Loreto	06-08-1929	03-07-2025
Carmela Riviezzzi	16-09-1938	08-07-2025
Stefana Proto	04-09-1933	17-07-2025
Michelina Albano	09-10-1953	25-07-2025

Angela Maria Destefano	28-09-1934	26-07-2025
Gaetano Brigandì	02-02-1974	30-07-2025
Mario Natale	22-07-1942	02-09-2025
Maria Pstrucha	03-05-1958	03-09-2025
Maria Piera Mangano	29-06-1977	09-09-2025
Incoronata Pacilio	13-05-1954	12-09-2025
Luigi Sangiacomo	10-09-1964	15-09-2025
Antonietta Datena	01-01-1937	16-09-2025
Francesco Biancardino	20-08-1986	22-09-2025
Rosa Masi	08-03-1930	01-10-2025
Michelina Miglionico	16-02-1945	01-10-2025
Filomena Destefano	09-02-1928	11-10-2025
Maria Postiglione	06-01-1950	12-10-2025
Salvatore Fornarino	27-05-1950	25-10-2025
Maria Lovaglio	24-10-1931	02-11-2025
Vincenzo Mecca	18-11-1947	02-11-2025
Armando Nicola Fanizzi	08-12-1929	06-11-2025
Nicola Santangelo	16-04-1941	24-11-2025
Michele Rosa	07-09-1936	29-11-2025
Antonio La Bella	11-01-1946	11-12-2025
Giulio Nappi	18-07-1974	11-12-2025
Francesco Nappi	15-07-2015	13-12-2025
Benilda Stigliani	19-08-1934	17-12-2025
Amgela Maria Darimini	16-01-1941	17-12-2025
Carmela Listone	06-04-1934	18-12-2025
Saverio Darimini	02-09-1938	19-12-2025
Luigi Lattuchella	29-04-1936	26-12-2025

CHURCHES



Main Church - S. MARIA MAGGIORE

The church is on the highest part of the town, called "Terra Vecchia"; it is made in local grey stones, and is dated back to XI century; the town grew around it.

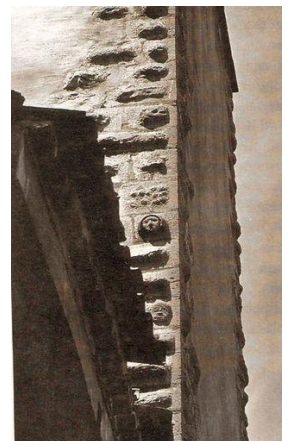
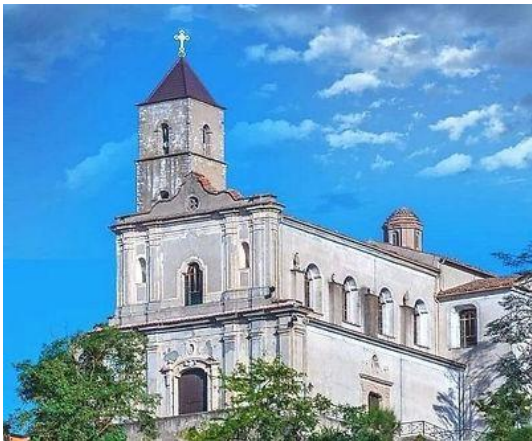
Beginning XIII century there were various implementations and in 1400 Jacopo Trifosiano terminated the bell tower, having square plan with a cusp and whose corners are padded by sculpted symbols and figures.

The church collapsed because of the 1694 earthquake, and was reopen in 1789 after the rebuilding activities cured by Antonio Magni, which followed the Vanvitelli style, up to the status we see today, despite some damages suffered after 1857 and 1980 earthquakes. In 1924 a lighting seriously damaged the cusp, that had to be removed; finally, in August 2019 it has been rebuilt.

The church has a latin cross plant, with a single nave with barrel vaulting, interrupted by naves at large windows, and by a dome topped by a lantern at the cross vault.

On the pendentives of the dome there are the four Evangelists, and along the vault some medallions report biblical scenes (high-relief in stucco).

The church houses wonderful works of art: paintings depicting S. Pietro Apostolo by Carlo Sellitto, S. Antonio da Padova e S. Diego by Filiberto Guma, the Madonna dei Martiri by Vincenzo Lombardo, Crocifissione and Madonna del Rosario (Pietrafesa school), S. Francesco di Paola by Feliciano Mangieri, a portiuncula (author unknown), some sculptures depicting S. Vito (XV century) and Mary Immaculate (XVII century).



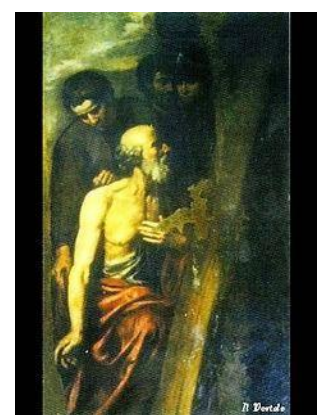
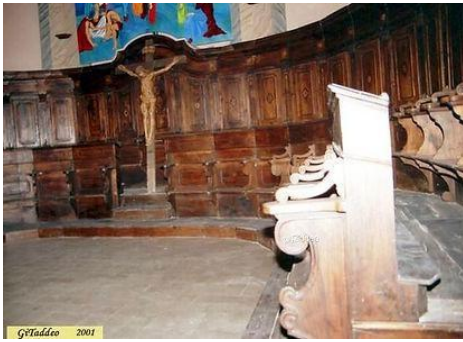
1858



yesterday



since Aug 2019



S. ANTONIO ABATE

Today only the main structures and the monumental entrance are left from the original church made in '400; the rest is the result of several parts added in different times.

Inside you'll find an age-old S. Antonio Abate statue, made of wood, and some interesting paintings. The artistic stone portal was probably sculpted by the same artists which made the two Main Church gates; at the top there is a S. Antonio low relief.

The presbytery and the two shrines are dated 1892, while the bronze main door was installed in 2000 (Jubilee year). In the central part of this door we have a man and a woman which raise up their infant, meaning that a new millennium is starting; on the left and right sides there are representations of biblical subjects related to Jubilee.

It's interesting the wall behind the altar, recently painted with a "mural style"



S. ROCCO

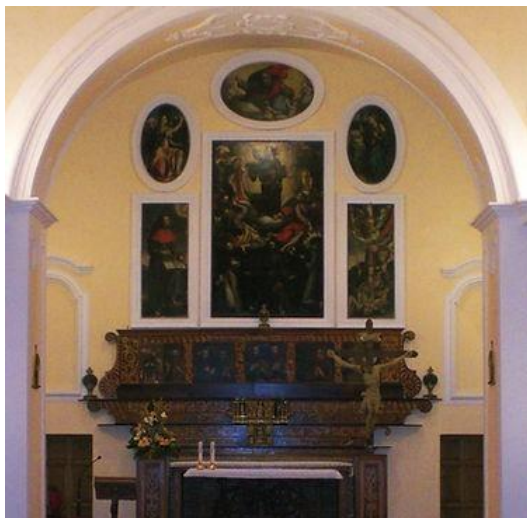
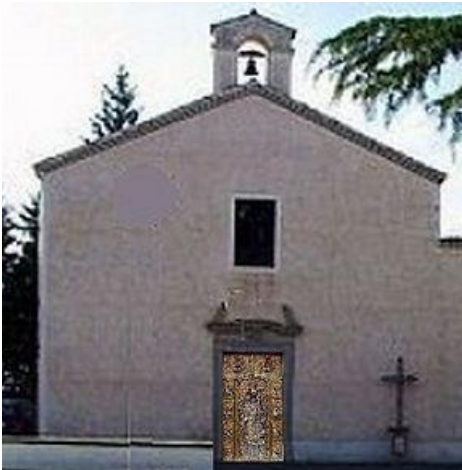
This church was included in a Capucins' convent, which abandoned the S.Michele convent to build a new one adjacent the church between 1590 and 1595. It had also a large vegetable garden with stables and barns.

In 1865 the convent, dedicated to the SS. Salvatore, became a school, then a leper hospital and later an holiday camp, till 1948 when it was demolished to construct municipal buildings.

The church, dedicated since the beginning to S. Rocco, was damaged several times by earthquakes but every time it has been rebuilt thanks to people's devotion : they trusted the miracle worker born in Montpellier, mainly when there were pestilences.

The high altar, dated XVIII, is completely made of wood artfully inlaid, and has a ciborium dated XVI. It has been reconditioned after the 1980 earthquake.

The polyptych that decorates the front wall was made by Pietro Antonio Ferro between 1590 and 1595: it depicts the Transfiguration, the Eternal, the Annunciation, San Bonaventura, San Michele. There is also a predella with Franciscan martyrs, the emblem of the commissioner and the artist self portrait. You'll also notice a S.Rocco statue (XVII century) made by Nicola Fumo, that replaced an older one of which there are no more info.



PANTANO SHRINE

The Shrine is about 3 km distant from Pignola, where in the middle ages there was a Cistercians rural settlement that was later abandoned until in 1524 Leone X gave it to the Chapter of Pignola.

As per other Sanctuaries, the legend says that the chapel was built where a shepherd found by chance the Virgin image that today is in a recess of the portal.

The building we see today was built in neoclassic style in 1789, as reported by a latin inscription on the carved stone portal, to replace the church collapsed because of the 1694 earthquake.

The interior has a central nave with domed ceiling and two aisles with barrel vaults.

The church has been reopen Sept. 21st, 1986 after six years needed to repair the damaged caused by another earthquake.

Here there is the image of the Virgin of Angels, made in notched wood between 1577 and 1587 by Geronimo Arnone, and commissioned by Don Francesco Cammerota, apostolic notary in Pignola; initially she was venerated as Santissima Assunta.

The statue was covered by pure gold after the church rebuilding in 1789. This sanctuary has been damaged several times by earthquakes; when it was not accessible or during wars or pestilences the Virgin image was guarded into the Main Church.

Every year a ritual is renewed: in September the statue is carried from the Pignola main church to Pantano, and in May it comes back, always accompanied by a faithful crowd.

This keeps happening regularly since more than 50 years, and in the past these processions happened more frequently, originated from severe problems impacting the population.



other churches



The little **S. Lucia** church is located on a steep spur on S. Michele river, near the town. It was probably built on XV century , being already known in 1587 when it was restored by “ masters Giorgio Olita and Carlo Boezio with the money given by the Pignola Hospice.” This chapel, accessible through a stairway made in 2011, is open for the triduum of the Saint from Siracusa, with an high participation of devotees.

The building needs restoration; the painting layers may hide some original elements. Inside the chapel, Santa Lucia is depicted with a polychrome wooden sculpture made by Geronimo Arnone in 1587.

The **Madonna delle Grazie** church was built replacing the San Giacomo church, and represented a meeting place for pilgrims going to Roma, to Monte S. Angelo on the Gargano, to Holy Land, or simply to reach the sanctuaries present in the vicinities. It was fully rebuilt in the last century by Potenza Civil Engineering, and inside there is a polychrome wooden sculpture (XVIII century) depicting the Virgin with the Child, which is venerated as Madonna delle Grazie (our Lady of Graces). The church is open to celebrate the masses just on July the 2nd



The rural Sanctuary of **San Michele** is located in Sant'Angelo, a gorge between the Ciglio and San Bernardino mountains, 4 km away. from the town of Pignola, in a forest of oaks, chestnuts and walnuts. The church was part of an ancient Observant convent, built around 1530, the ruins of which are still visible. Under the church, simple and with a nave, with the altar in the center on which the wooden statue of the Archangel is exposed for the veneration of the faithful, there is a natural cave, whose cult probably had as model the sanctuary of Monte Gargano, the oldest in western Europe dedicated to San Michele. The cave has a rectangular layout; in the terminal part two small steps lead to a raised floor, below which there is access to the



natural cavity, not yet fully explored; according to a popular belief, in the deep end of the cave there is a small tunnel, which has always been considered the home of the devil.

The cult of San Michele in Pignola dates back to the end of this 5th century: Pope Gelasius I asked Bishop Giusto of Larino in 493-494 to consecrate a basilica to San Michele and, two years later, presented a similar request to the Bishop of Potenza Erculenzio regarding a basilica of San Michele Arcangelo and San Marco. The Pope's intent was to replace the ancient pagan

cults with Christian worship. Most likely, his request arose in the passage of the cave from Mithraeum to a basilica dedicated to the Archangel.



A wooden statue depicting the Archangel Michael with his feet on the devil was venerated in the cave. The right arm was raised high to brandish the sword, while the left arm, facing downwards, supported the scales. The statue, dating back to the beginning of the 15th century, was stolen in 1996

and replaced by a new statue reproducing the ancient one, made of white marble. On 29 September and 8 May people goes to the Sanctuary, from where the image of the Archangel is carried in procession. Nearby there is a source whose waters were considered miraculous thanks to the intercession of the Archangel.



In Rifreddo there is a church dedicated to **S.Maria Madre della Chiesa**. Consecrated on Nov.8, 1967 by Monsignor Augusto Bertazzoni, it was donated by Potenza Municipal Authority on the occasion of his 90th birthday.

It is made of reinforced concrete, that sustain wooden beams in form of a spiral pointing upward: they seem to compete with nearby secular beeches in searching the light.

