

Parish of S.Maria Maggiore

Archdiocese of Potenza - Muro Lucano - Marsiconuovo

Via Dante 23/25 - 85010 Pignola (PZ) - Italy

Year 2015



MAIN CHURCH



S.ANTONIO



S.ROCCO



PANTANO SHRINE

Mass timetable

HOLIDAYS

WORKDAYS

Main Church	11:30	
S. Antonio	09:30	09:00 - 6:30pm**
S. Rocco	6:30pm*	
Pantano	12:00 7:00pm	7:00pm
Rifreddo	11:30	
Tora	10:00	

* at Main Church from 3rd Sun. of May up to 3rd Sat. of Sept.

** at Main Church from 3rd Mon. of May up to 3rd Sat. of Sept.

Yearly Mass

Madonna delle Grazie: Jul. 2 9,30 - 11:30 - 6:30 pm

S. Michele: May 8 and Sep. 29 11:00 - 4:00 pm

S. Lucia: Dec. 10/11/12 6:30 pm
Dec. 13 11:00 - 6:00 pm

Monthly celebrations

- **3rd Sat.** : (Oct. to May) Pilgrimage to the Sanctuary at 4:00pm
- **1st Thu.** : Worship (5:30pm Pignola - 6:30pm Pantano)
- **1st Fri.** : penitential liturgy (5:00pm Pignola - 6:00pm Pantano)
- **3rd Fri.** : 100 requiem rosary at the cemetery (4:00pm)
- **day 23** : S. Pio da Pietrelcina prayers group in S. Rocco at 6:00pm

Contacts

PRESBYTERY:

Don Antonio LAURITA – Parish priest

Don Antonio MELIANTE – Parish Vicar

Mons. Rocco PIRO – Pastor Emeritus

Giuseppe CALACE – Permanent Deacon



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CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS:



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Parrocchia S.Maria Maggiore – Pignola

IBAN code: IT 28 J 07601 04200 000013119854

Dear readers,

I decided to use this tool to communicate in real time with all of you, informing about the life of our parish community.

I feel that such a communication instrument is in step with the times, and it will replace the periodical “Maria SS. degli Angeli”, curated by don Rocco Piro during the last fifty years to inform all Pignola residents and emigrants about interesting events of our town.

Let me ask younger generations to be of some help to less experienced people in using this tool, maybe printing for them the pages concerning news and event of the parish, to keep them informed on what the parish is promoting in terms of faith and aggregation.

The Second Vatican Council wants that “all of the faithful have to be trained to a complete, conscious and active participation to liturgical celebrations”, and this participation “internal and external, has to be implemented according to their age, state, lifestyle, and religious culture”.

To do this, the Church made the Liturgy more flexible, simple, and various. Although this implementation would not be easy to achieve, I would invite whoever wants to cooperate with the parish activities (choir, catechists, ministers, readers, etc.) to take care of these statements.

I would like to express in advance my very sincere thanks to all those who will cooperate in making our parish a joy-filled life experience, welcoming towards everybody, ready to encourage every member using its witness to the faith.

I entrust all of us and this project to the maternal protection of the Virgin Mary, that with great fidelity has accompanied Jesus from the crib in Bethlehem to Mount Calvary; has prayed with the Apostles when the Church was originated by the breath of the Holy Spirit; reconciles Eve with the Creator; brings joy to the sterile Sarah and wipes away Rachel’s tears; She is the Woman clothed in the sun with the moon under her feet, surrounded by stars, who fights the dragon defeating it forever. Her sweet face, her tender gaze, her pure mouth whose kisses heal the wounds, her hands full of mercy, her unfathomable heart telling us the love of the Redeemer, help us to switch our despairs in joy, giving us the certainty that the good Gospel life exists also for us.

Hoping that everything will happen following the heart of Christ, I bless you !



The parish priest
Antonio Laurita

PIGNOLA LIKE A GLIMPSE OF ANCIENT BETHLEHEM – Jan. 2015

On Jan. 11, 2015 the curtain has fallen on another edition of the original live nativity scene that, at the beginning of new year, enriched Pignola's Christmas.

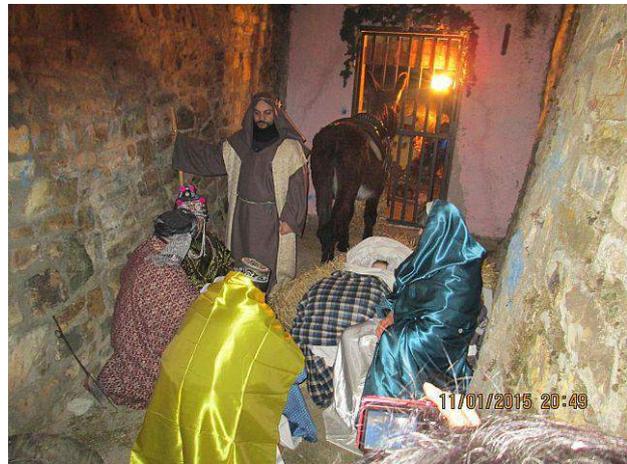
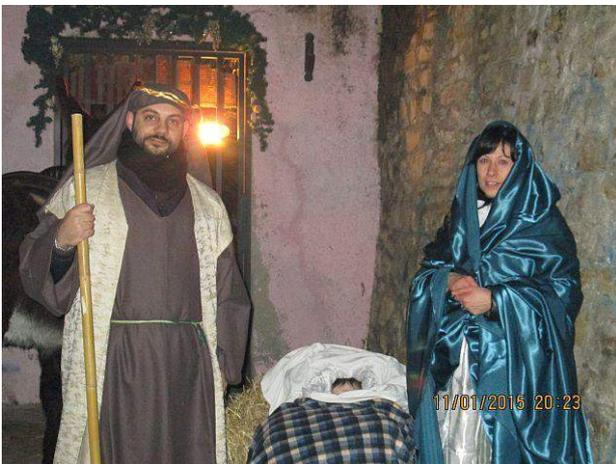
Visitors were pleased not just for the hot polenta, pancakes, and drinks, but mainly for the evocative scenario and actor's liveliness. They also polished up the historic town centre, converting each alley in an old tavern or small store; they identified themselves in famous biblical characters as well as in ordinary people like a merchant, a blacksmith, a carpenter, and so on.

This event demonstrates that also a small family-run organization can originate something that may be viewed as a new parish road or – for those really faithful – the implementation of Lord's Testament:

The rains came, the floods came and winds blew and buffeted his house. But it did not collapse; it had been set solidly on rock (Mt 7: 24-25)

"We're really satisfied" said somebody, tasting a cake; "It has been a success" murmured an old lady between spectators; well, this was the goal for the forty "crazy" people which organized the event, which I'm sure will be just the first one for 2015, and I strongly hope this new year will be more and more a Christian and community one.

Rocco Alessio Corleto



In memory of Antonio Ferretti – Jan. 2015

Dearest,

I knew with great sadness the news of the death of your dear relative, and I was also surprised because I was unaware of the deterioration of his health.

Death represents the biggest mystery; it upsets our souls, and it's like a part of ourselves that suddenly disconnects, taking out our joy of living. I absolutely share your suffering, and I'm close to you with great affection and the consideration I have for you since a long time.

Dear Antonio ! A solemn and impressive figure that nobody would believe could disappear. Last time I saw him, the day of Our Lady feast, he was on the road waiting for the arrival of Her statue, and I was struck by the worship I saw in his eyes.

As well, you could have read there his satisfaction and gratitude to have so many children that have a privileged role in our community because of their social commitments.

Thus, who leaves a so big heritage of love never really dies.

I still see him working in his little vegetable garden, made with the maximum care: whenever I was passing near there, in addition to my greetings I had to congratulate him.

Be comforted thinking that now he is in heaven, receiving the recompense for his virtuous life

Ninetta Perone

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In memory of Giuseppe Pentangelo – Jan. 2015

Dear Salvatore,

The death of your dear father really impressed me, because I knew him since when I was a teacher of your deceased brother Rosario.

He was perfectly integrated in our community, giving the example of a nice and kind person, very close to his family and devoted to work.

Recently I was meeting him at the post office where, awaiting for our turn, we were used to speak about our troubles and then about our deceased loved ones; but his last words were always addressed to his granddaughters, that he was deeply loving.

Faithful to his duty, he was also a convinced Christian, used to adopt the Gospel message in his day by day life. I'm quite sure his soul was never perturbed by rage, and that nobody can say to have received a bad answer from him.

It's really good to leave so a beautiful reminder, so God will surely receive him in the sky, as a recognition of a so good earthly life

Ninetta Perone e Bruno

The Saint Anthony Abbot race in PIGNOLA

Jan. 17, 2015

Little angels and lions, motionless stone caryatids always acting like square guardians, seem to smile: the fire lighted to celebrate saint Anthony feast is warming them too, after the last cold days.

Sparks are going up towards the sky, similar to fireflies dancing in the dark. The eyes of children chase them fascinated; the faces of aged people convey nostalgia, perhaps regret for the past youth.

Swaying on carriers' shoulders, the statue comes from the church dedicated to the patron saint of animals, followed by devotees; stopping in front of the bonfire, it receives the blessing by the priest, as per an old ritual that still today has its place in the people heart.

Looking at the sun that today is warming the town, it seems that also the weather is dressing festive clothes. The square is soon filled with donkeys, mules and horses: they and their jockeys are the protagonists of a rustic Palio that exists since centuries.

They've to run three (a sacred number) laps around the church: placidly the donkeys, irregularly the mules, while the sound of horses' hooves on pavement is booming.

Before the race they try the course; the crowd behind the barriers is clapping looking at the horses (white, paint, black like a raven's wing), at the tame and humble donkeys, listening to the bell-collars of robust mules. This sound evokes old times, when caravans of mules were moving down from the mountains, spreading a resinous smell, and tired muleskinners were anxious to drink a glass of good wine.

The speaker calls the animals to receive the blessing, a request to God to protect body and soul.

Finally the race starts, and the good humor prevails. The prize for winners is just a simple bunch of flowers, but the real crown is the excitement for the participation and the people's admiration.

As always done in the past, from a balcony somebody announces the beginning of Carnival...

Erberto Stolfi



In memory of Benedetta Petrone – Feb. 2015

My dear Benedetta

I cannot believe to your sudden and fatal end, that upset my soul: you gave the image of a rock, capable to support everybody with a strong personality.

I remember you as an happy wife with your Franco, and later as the glad mother of Ciro, a smart boy that initiated the school before his time.

As a young widow, you rolled up your sleeves to give your loved ones whatever needed: none of them could deny to have received your help.

We cannot forget your courteousness: whoever wanted a suggestion or some kind of help was coming to you, sure to receive answers. As well, I cannot forget you were always active in preparing delicious disse for CESVI children.

Now on, I will no more meet you at the Church every Sunday; but you were so a special woman, that nobody would forget you.

I'm sure you'll always be near your son and his family from heaven.

Farewell, my dear Benedetta

Ninetta Perone

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION – Feb. 19-20-21

With the beginning of Lent our community had three heavenly days, because the Saint Anthony church remained open for the Ostension of the Blessed Sacrament: between candles, incense and flowers, faithful could venerate Jesus.

Entire families (parents, children, grandparents), boys and girls, old men and women could enjoy the ineffable company of our Saviour, driven by our parish priest and accompanied by the Catholic Action and the Schola Cantorum.



The topic for the first day was ***”Jesus with us until the end of the world”***.

Going back to the Father, Jesus did not leave us as orphans: during the Last Supper He established the sacrament of Eucharist; and since that time, whenever in the mass the priest consecrates the bread and wine, the Holy Spirit really converts in the body and blood of Jesus crucified. This is the main miracle, because people is carried to the Calvary at the moment of His crucifixion, while He is asking for obtaining the forgiveness of our sins.

We should be conscious of our great dignity : the King of kings, the Creator and Lord, is offering Himself as our food to fill us with His grace. Which human father would sacrifice his only-begotten on the cross? Rather, he would offer himself. So, God is really love, always love, because we are all His children. Being really aware of that, every mass should be crowded, because there is nothing bigger on the earth.

The 2nd day the subject was ***”In my flesh I complete what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions”***

Christ, through his suffering offered for each of us, means that also our suffering is not useless when it represents a free offering, like Padre Pio or Saint Francis. Jesus on the cross said *”Father, forgive them for they don’t know what they are doing”* ; we should be able to act the same: we have to pardon, to accept God’s will, and love our neighbor.

The topic of 3rd day was ***”Christ, Word of the Father”***

Nobody has ever seen the Father, but Jesus said *”Whoever sees me, sees the Father. Whoever listens to me, listens to the Father; the Father and I are one”*. The Gospel is the Word of Jesus, witnessed by the disciples that lived with Him. During each mass we hear God’s Word, and we should put its values into practice in our day by day life. In fact, who does the will of the Father is “brother and mother” to Jesus. We should follow Pope Francis suggestion, having always in our pocket a little Gospel (think to how many useless things we carry with us...), like a small treasure that we should gradually assimilate.

It’s difficult to summarize in some lines the contents of these three days; but it’s surely impossible to relate the love Jesus gave us with His words. To keep profit from these days, let’s remind that we have available three masses on each Sunday: Jesus is there, awaiting for our visit. As well, walking near a church don’t feel ashamed of greeting Him with a cross sign, and to say a prayer. We take a great care of our body; what about the soul ? Do we ensure it improves or, absorbed by material things, we forget it ? Thus, let’s live in a Christian way, and let us pray Mary to help us in following the right paths to heaven.

Maria Peluso

“If you wish to be perfect, go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you shall have a treasure in heaven; then come and follow me”

Probably time to time we should reread this sentence.

In good faith we think: I don't harm anyone, I don't swear, I always attend the mass; thus, I'm a good Christian. This reflection states that we are just NOT breaching the rules, but what about our ACTIVE part ? Maybe our behaviour is just an habit ?

We are facing hard times, similar to those we had in the period immediately after the war. When from TV news appalling figures about unemployed people or “new poor” come, some don't believe they can be true: they don't see that ! It's obvious: we normally spend time with people belonging to our social class, so who has not these problems would not “touch” such an harsh reality that –unfortunately- really exists; at the same time, who lives in such situations doesn't surely go around spreading it.

So, when available resources (their own first, from relatives or friends later) are used up, they “*don't know which saint to pray*”, as we're used to say: and in fact they turn to parish as a lifeline. Some don't have the money to pay the gas or electricity bill, so the supply is going to cease; others don't have so many dresses, and there is even who does not know if they would have something to eat in next days. And, what is worse, also innocent children are often involved.

Maybe this is why the subconscious of somebody refuses to recognize this reality, otherwise they could not sleep peacefully.

Unfortunately, financial resources of our parish are not enough to satisfy so many needs, thus often we have to bitterly deny the help request.

So, let's come back to the beginning: are we sure we cannot PERSONALLY do anything to help our neighbour ? Think to that “out-of-style” jacket sleeping in the wardrobe since a lot of time, or to that “tight suit of clothing” that we still keep just because “*it has been worn just a few times*”. Did we even think that a few things in excess to us could represent something essential for those who are less fortunate than ourselves ? And let's also speak about money, considered Satan's weapon since the “thirty pieces of silver” given to Judas; after touching it, we wash our hands, but it is also the only means to avoid somebody remains without gas or electricity.

Recently Pope Francis said “*Jesus told us how to operate (Gospel of Matthew, chap. 25):*

I was hungry and you gave me to eat, I was thirsty, and you gave me to drink, I was naked and you clothed me. Every time you do this to our brother, you do it to Jesus. Remember that after catching the compassionate eye of Jesus, Zacchaeus gave half of his possessions to the poor.”

The above is not only valid for “rich” people; whoever has more of what is needed to fulfill human necessities could contribute to alleviate the suffering of his brother.

To use a small sum for a noble purpose will make us happy, so we could attend the Sunday mass being at peace with ourselves.

After all, Zacchaeus offered to poor just AN HALF of his possessions: he didn't reduced himself in misery...

In memory of Rocco Albano - April 2015

*My dear Donatella,
I knew with great sadness about your father's loss.*

*I know how much you were united, so I understand your sorrow.
The course of the disease was not indicating such a sad epilogue; I remember the happiness in your face while you were telling me that he was again able to eat and to move his arms: after the heart opens to hope, it becomes really hard to accept the cruel reality.*

*Your father was a complaisant man, dedicated to work for his family's wealth.
The death of his wife certainly shocked him, as it was well visible; anyway, he continued his life with a calm resignation.
Every Saturday I met him during the shopping, and he was always greeting people with extreme kindness.
Just this morning Maria told me how everybody appreciated the good manners of each one of the ten children you were; well, this is the result of the good education he was able to teach to all of you.*

Now he is in front of our Creator, who has surely recognised his values, thus giving him the eternal rewards.

*With affection,
Ninetta Perone*

April 25

La speranza oltre il reticolato (The hope beyond the wire fence)

Is the title of a book written by Pasquale Locuratolo.

It is a diary that narrates the true story of a young man during last war, when he was in various prison camps. It is permeated by an intense religiousness, that helps the author to overcome very difficult moments, when humans become like beasts.

There are also drawings that illustrate the most touching events, as well as poems expressing sufferings in a sublime way that enters the reader's heart, letting him understand the fortitude needed to survive. His soul did not demean, and he could see some beauty also where it was absent: spider's web are seen like laces, an heater like wellness; and when bombs were falling, he was gripping a little sandbag containing some of the terrain kept from the tombs of the friends that had been with him before. His endurance was coming from his love to God and his mother, that he had always in mind, hoping to be able to embrace her again. The book gives a representation of last war events that would surely be useful for young generations; it underlines the freedom and peace values, and promotes the love to neighbor

Ninetta Perone

EASTER 2015

“As Christ was entering the holy town, the Jews crowd was shaking branches of palm, acclaiming hosanna”

Times of liturgical year are strictly related each other, and that's why the Easter announcement happens on the Epiphany day.

As told by St Leo the Great *“Christmas represents the Easter exordium, the beginning of our redemption that culminates in the Holy Week”*

Celebrations of this week are a theological walk, the last steps of a trip that begins with Lent up to Pentecost, fifty days later.

PALM SUNDAY opens the Holy week celebrations. The triumphant entrance of Jesus in Jerusalem was represented by our people as a live performance through the streets, giving us moments of great emotion: it makes us aware that only through the Cross we can approach Christ the saviour.

He is entering a town that joyfully welcomes Him, but later will condemn Him to the torture of crucifixion.

On the Holy Thursday begins the liturgy which culminates in the Easter Vigil, with the Mass in *Coena Domini* that introduces the Paschal Mystery. Benedict XVI said:

“In the Holy Thursday we remember the Last Supper when Jesus established the Eucharist and the priesthood. In that night Jesus has left us the “mandatum novum”, the fraternal love.

The Eucharist must represent the Viaticum for all Christians”

Thus, let's celebrate the Paschal Mystery with the same belief of the Apostles sitting at the Last Supper; and when the most beautiful moment, the **Eucharistic Adoration** comes, we kneel, because we are in front of the Lord

Good Friday: the day when the Cross goes to people and people goes to the Cross.

Faithful stay in recollection to meditate the high

mystery of evil and sin that oppresses human beings and to recall the sufferings of our Lord

And in this sufferings day, let's remind those Christians that are persecuted in the world because of their faith: let us pray for our brothers that are suffering martyrdom as two thousand years ago.



Moreover, this is also the **Via Crucis** day : also this year it has been performed through the streets of the town. Participating to this event, each Christian links to the Passion of Christ, and being under the Cross receives the last words of Jesus and the gift of His life for saving the world.

The Holy Saturday

This is a silence, awaiting day. The King sleeps until His victory over death comes: it's time for joy, so we sing the *Exultet* , because He has crushed the power of evil. As per an old tradition, catechumen receive the baptism during Easter Vigil to underline the Christian's involvement to the death and resurrection of Christ.

Easter Sunday : "This is the day Jesus made!"

Mass on Easter day is an hymn of thanksgiving to the Father.

As per St.Peter "*the Father's love has awoken the Son from death. Love is the yeast of relationships between God and us*"

Anna Maria Candela

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Azione Cattolica Italiana

The torchlight procession on April 26

The association "Together for Kenya" has organized a torchlight procession on Sunday 26 in memory of the 148 students killed in Kenya because they stated their Christian faith.

In addition to Pignola's people there were some of the immigrants currently hosted in Rifreddo and a big group of Catholic Action representatives; all of them wanted to share the sorrow of Kenya's community for the death of their teenagers. Hereafter some of the words from Antonietta Truppa, representing the organizing association:



"The attack's location has been a place of culture and education that represents also an emancipation place for Kenyans; these 148 students are just a little percentage of the world population, but represent anyway a success in a world where the education for at least the 70% of people is only a dream. Thus, it has been not only an attack to Kenyans, but also to the human rights that a democratic system wants to safeguard.

The first article of the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** states that "all humans are born free and with equal rights"; so they are free to profess the religion chosen. These rights have been overrun at the moment the first guerrilla entered the campus.

These 148 boys gave us a shining witness of faithfulness to God, being aware that their declaration to be Christians would have resulted in their death.

Thus, the today's torchlight procession wants to remember the dignity of such a choice: we're here to remember them all together."

Mara Azzarino

First Confession

On Friday May the 1st don Don Antonio celebrated in the Main Church the Reconciliation to 35 kids which finished the 3rd year of Catechesis.

This has been an important year: they participated for the first time to the Absolution Feast. .

Their highest commitment? To imitate the Infant Jesus, that was growing in kindness and grace. Reconciliation is the Peace Sacrament allowing to forgive sins done after the Baptism.

To follow children in discovering God's loving kindness has represented a difficult and fascinating challenge at the same time, that allowed us to rediscover the children's candour which Jesus loved "Let the children come to me".

During the celebration we had songs, renewal of baptismal promises, the community request for absolution, individual confessions, ... and songs again.

Our hope is that children will continue to be thirsty and to hanger for Jesus.

And, now that season is changing, remember that Jesus does not make holidays; rather, he will continue to knock the heart's door also in the middle of summer...

The catechists *Pina e Margherita*

May the 1st:

**AQUINO Luca, BOFFA Mariangela,
BOLETTIERI Antonio, CLAPS Barbara,
CORLETO Francesco Matteo, DARIMINI Saverio,
DE BIASE Martina, FARALDO Michele,
GALGANO Samuele, GERARDI Francesco,
GRUOSSO Rocco, IANNIELLI Giusy,
LAGROTTA Rosanna, LASALVIA Lorianna,
LAURINO Antonio, LAURINO Giusy, LUONGO Maria,
MECCA Giada, MELCORE Martina,
NAPOLITANO Maria, OLITA Ilaria, PACE Aurora,
PIETRAFESA Michele Pio, PETRAGLIA Carolina,
PETRAGLIA Maria, ROSA Luigi,
ROSSANO Pierangelo, TROTTA Erica,
SEVERINO Paolo, SEVERINO Rocco,
SEVERINO Vincenzo Pio, SUMMA Giuseppe,
PANTULIANO Damiano, VENTURA Asia,
VISTA Domenico.**



May the 2nd:

**Bandino Francesco, Coronato Samuel,
Corrado Cristian, Debonis Federico, De Stefano Angelo, De stefano Salvatore, Laturra Stefano ,
Lonato Luigi, Lonato Francesca , Mecca Mattia Pio, Mellillo Pasquale, Miele Sofia,
Onorato Lucio, Picerno Rossella, Roma Carmen, Roma Raffaele, Rosa Giuseppe, Rosa Rocco,
Sabia Nicola, Santarsiero Donato, Varlotta Lidia , Vignola Manuela , Santangelo Martina,
Logiodice Cristian, Galantucci Andrea, Gordia Samuele, De Leo Luigi**

"Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit"

On May the 3rd twentyfive boys and girls received the Confirmation from Monsignor Agostino Superbo: it has been a moment of sincere commotion not only for them, but also for parents and mainly for godparents.

An intense walk for these 25 teenagers, sometime distracted by the various daylife events; anyway, they've shown passion and good willness to begin and to continue this path, lighted by the Holy Spirit.

They understood why this sacrament is named Confirmation: it confirms the strength and grace received with the Baptism.



Bishop's words underlined how the Holy Spirit acts within our heart, linking the Christian to Jesus and to the Church, driven by the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit itself.

Young people appeared ready to receive their "mission" in this special day; emotion and timidity were into their eyes, together with godparents that have the duty to act as a guide to guarantee they'll become true witnesses of Christ. Today does not represent the end, but the beginning of a new road.

the catechists

To Carlo Gerardi -

May 2015

Dear dad,

only one year has passed without you, but the last smile you gave us feels like yesterday. In spite of death that took you away so young, and silently, you're in us. Yes, you're in us, dad; we live on what you gave us about life and the values you taught us. We see you in our dreams, and this is great because it's the only way to meet you, until we stay on earth.

We are missing the sound of your steps through the entrance, your serene smile when we were sitting at the desk, the smell of your cigarette; everything gave us a sense of union, presence, and affection. Your seat is now empty and sad, but every day we speak about you, also weaknesses; sometime we smile recalling some peculiarities. That's how we live your absence, and we'll continue for the rest of our lives. You'll be always in our memories and in our thoughts

**We love you, daddy
Pietro**

May 2015 – The “UGLIA” seen by foreign eyes

If, on 3rd Saturday of May, somebody would be in Pignola, a little town 6 km far away from Potenza, climbed up at 900 m. on the Sellata mountain, he would assist to the **UGLIA** performance. UGLIA is the translation in local dialect of the Italian word *GUGLIA* (Steeple), and is used to indicate a structure made of wood and canvas, that has on one side the effigy of *Mary most Holy of the Angels*, patron of the town.
(see the annexed photos for a better comprehension)

Because the word STEEPLE normally indicates a very extended pyramidal architectural element, in our case it could seem to be misused; but let's remember that the steeple has always been the symbol of the **union between earth and sky**.



The patron's statue normally is hosted in the Pantano shrine (Pantano = morass) that is very near to the town, and every Maj it is carried in procession to the Main Church (coming back in September).

Well, it's just in the evening before this procession that they do the Uglia ritual: while bearers carry on their shoulders the canopy named Uglia, they've to dance following the band and –moreover- at each district's border they must pass through a bonfire, obtained using broom branches.
(somebody says they're supported by some sips of the good wine available during the walk...)

The ritual, apart from the Virgin Mary's effigy, is absolutely secular: no priests attend, no religious objects or chants are present. Nobody knows exactly its origins and meaning; most probably, the patron's pass through the bonfires represents how temporal difficulties can be overcome thanks to the heavenly assistance. Anyway, people is closely linked to this event, and it seems that to be one of the porter is a much sought role.



Therefore, although formally extraneous to religious celebrations, this event is really their background and at the same time part of them, also considering that illuminations and decorations arranged for the religious feast surround the Uglia path.

In conclusion, both are inseparable, in a perfect mix of sacred and profane; but this is only the point of view of a “stranger”.

As always done in the past, when the parish priest was don Rocco Piro, a feast committee has been put in place to organize the celebrations in honor of Most Holy Mary of Angels, also considering that the 50th anniversary of Her coronation was coming; it has also cured the celebrations for S. Rocco, co-patron saint of our community.



The devotion of Pignola to the Virgin began in XVI century, when the community commissioned to the sculptor Geronimo Arnone a wooden statue covered by gold, and was enforced in 1965, when the Pope Paul VI crowned Her.

Celebrations began with the novena at Pantano shrine; cultural initiatives with a meeting on “The Pantano shrine in the story of Lucanian piety.

The day after the patron’s feast began with the old “Uglia” traditional ritual, where the Virgin effigy is carried through the historical town dancing, and time to time jumping a bonfire. The Sunday evening, after the annual procession, we had a band concert by “Città di Lecce” and fireworks. During the week there were some stand-up comedians and concerts; the last one with “Musicamanovella” group.

Another important event has been the presentation of some old (XIII century) frescos of S.Donato church , and a statue of S.Vito (sixteenth century), whose reconditioning has just been completed. Let’s mention that until June 27 there will be every day at Main Church a short prayer meeting (“Goodnight to Mary”), awaiting for Her 50th anniversary.

In June 24, quite the whole community will accompany the Virgin statue to S.Peter church in Rome, where Pope Francis will give a solemn blessing, exactly 50 years later the one given by Pope Paul VI.

We will have also the ceremony of “Maria SS degli Angeli” award, assigned every 5 years (since 1985) to somebody in Pignola because of his special merits; on Sept. 18 there will be a meeting and related exhibit about fourteenth-century scrolls that exists in the parish archive.

This year has been full of passion and emotion, and our activity wants to maintain alive our traditions with the cooperation of everybody (parish, schools, families, municipal structures): we thank all of them.

The feast committee

Nicola Nozzi, Michele Abbandonato, Arcangelo Albano, Domenico Albano, Vito Albano, Angelo Cirigliano, Pietrino Colucci, Olimpio Darimini, Rocco De Luca, Giovanni Fornarini, Donato Frontuto, Domenico Gruosso, Ciro Antonio Guglielmini, Vito La Salvia, Ferdinando Lagrotta, Michele Laino, Michele Lauria, Rocco Lauria, Saverio Lauria di Vincenzo, Saverio Lauria di Donato, Saverio Lauria di Michele, Saverio Lauria di Nicola, Rocco Laurita, Giuseppe Mancino, Vincenzo Muro, Emilio Giuseppe Olita, Gerardo Olita, Giuseppe Olita, Michele Oliveto, Luigi Paciello, Gerardo Padula, Ignazio Petrone, Carlo Piro, Leonardo Pirulli, Francesco Pisani, Luigi Riviello, Saverio Riviello, Danilo Roma, Luigi Roma, Paolo Roma, Nico Sabatella, Rocco Sabatella, Rocco Salvatore, Rocco Spagnoletta, Francesco Spagnuolo, Michelangelo Spagnuolo, Raffaello Torchia, Luigi Valentino, Dario Vista, Gerardo Vista

May 31, 2015

FIRST COMMUNION

The ceremony starts with the children's processional entry, with the parish priest awaiting near the altar; there is a particularly suggestive atmosphere, with parents and relatives that are touched as their children.

The ritual begins, enlivened by children's choir, and in his homily the priest underlines this particular day, that is also the feast of Most Holy Trinity: something difficult to understand, a mystery revealed by God that has to be contemplated being it is a communion of love concerning humankind. In his history God enters, creating him, freeing him from sin and supporting him with the Grace. And speaking about the Most Holy Trinity, we cannot forget to think of Virgin Mary, that made available Herself to God project. At the end, the parish priest invites children to love God and become his witnesses.

Then, children deliver to the altar the symbolic gifts: flowers, offerings, their own hands.

Finally, the first meeting with the Communion; whatever has been told before, now becomes reality, Jesus is into the hearts; a new path begins, although everything seems to be unchanged.

As always, photos and hugs close such an important event for the little participants, that has been really emotional for their families, but also for catechists which have driven with joy the path of these new Christians

Mariavittoria e Anna Maria



In memory of Dino

May 2015

It's with great sadness that I knew about the death of your dear relative.

Every year he was present in the main square, awaiting the arrival of Our Lady and yesterday, at the same time, his soul went to the sky. I'm sure She took him in Her arms to facilitate his trip.

It is sad to think he will no more stay in the main square, ready to greet and help everybody. At the same time, we'll never forget his ability in sewing.

Recently I met him near the gas station, and he asked me about Bruno's health, adding how he was always thinking to the good moments they lived together and hoping they will come back soon. Unfortunately, this will no more be possible.

Be comforted thinking to the great sympathy and esteem he inspired on everybody.

Ninetta Perone

In memory of Vincenzo Romano

June 2015

Although I didn't know so deeply your relative, I was fascinated by his natural courtesy. Moreover, there was a big friendship with my dear Francesco, who used to often speak about him.

Thus, you can understand that I've been shocked by that news, regarding a person that has perfectly played the role of husband, father and worker.

He wasn't borne here in Pignola, but accepted habits and customs, so was in absolute harmony with everybody.

I want to think that he has just gone before us to the sky, where one day we will meet all together.

Ninetta Perone

In memory of Rosa Limontini

June 2015

My dear aunt Rosetta,

we were more or less the same age, but I always liked to call you this way, because of my admiration and esteem for you.

You were not married (you've chosen to assist your parents), but anyway full of affects, mainly by the crowd of your nephews: when you were at the hospital, people was surprised by the number of your visitors.

Your ability in coking was well known, as your wisdom in living good suggestions.

Now you've gone to the sky, breaking an human path that time to time was not so easy, but is surely a good example for everybody.

Ninetta Perone

Good Night Mary
with Mary Queen Of Angels
“Walking Woman”

June 2015

Between the various words related to the Virgin Mary, the one I feel to be the most evocative and suitable to speak about the recent faith experience we had in our community is “Walking Woman”.

In fact the Gospel shows Mary always moving through Palestine, using a lot of times the word “climb”; so we have to think of Her efforts towards a spiritual itinerary.

Well, beginning in May people in Pignola have followed a walk that ended with the celebrations of the fiftieth anniversary since Her coronation. Every evening people met at the main Church for a moment of prayer named “Good Night Mary”; and it’s quite difficult to describe the enthusiasm and the joy contained in the voices of those walking to the church.

Every evening all voices became only one, and all hearts were pulsing with the same love.

The last day, everyone brought something, and all together we had like a feast, while children flew away some white balloons on which were the words “Good Night Mary”.

Let’s hope to be able to continue this walk in the future, “building bridges and knocking down the walls”, under the protection of Mary Queen Of Angels

Agnese Covino



Trip to Rome on June 24



So, it's true ! After several days of preparation, debates, incomprehension, the fact to be near the buses we will use to reach Rome means that the moment everybody has been waiting for is now !

It's a serene evening, but inside each one of us, and mainly for coordinators, there is some apprehension: this is the first time we organize a so "big" trip, with 800 persons !

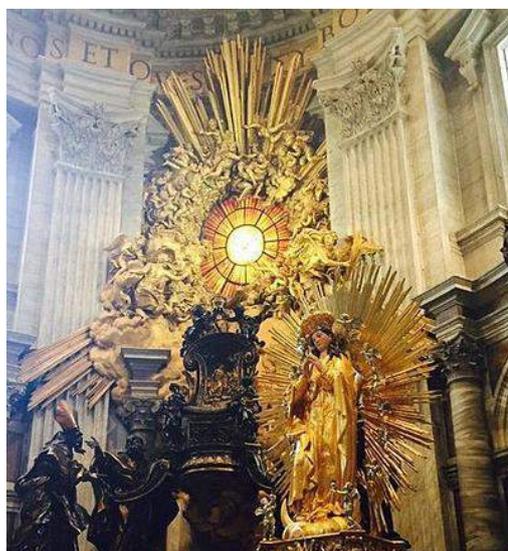
What will we do if... And these "if" are increasing in our mind.

Now that everything is done, we can laugh about: we were so distressed, not thinking that from heaven Somebody was smiling because of our little angst: how could we doubt of Her assistance and protection ?

Although comfortably seated and lulled by the bus motion, somebody will not be able to sleep. Finally, within the uncertain light of the night becoming day, here is the Big Dome. A sigh of relief comes, but is immediately stopped, thinking we are just at the beginning...

After huge security controls, we reach our sites in the parvis; now we've just to wait, and this will surely be the most boring time; but looking at the impressive temple, heart of Christianity, that is in front of us, we should use that time for some deep reflections with the help from our patron, whose statue is at the top of the stairs, quite at the entrance of S. Peter's church.

Here he is ! The popemobile is going through the square full of devotees shouting his name; maybe it could appear irreverent, but it seems that they don't see that white dressed figure as the Supreme Pontiff, the Infallible: rather, you've the feeling they are here to greet a dear PERSON, a MAN of great goodness. And while He is blessing our Virgin's statue, we all feel He's blessing also each one of us, and I'm sure somebody forgot any possible inconvenience coming here.



Lather, we attended the mass at the main altar of S. Peter, an everybody noticed how “our” statue and the Holy Spirit emblem made of stained glass at the top of the altar seemed to be part of an unique scenic design !
 Going back home, we felt the stress ended but the physical fatigue coming, so we wanted to arrive as soon as possible; but at the same time the regret coming from the awareness that the event had finished was well present.

To conclude, and I’m sure I can speak for the whole participants, let’s thank our parish priest don Antonio, who conceived, planned, and made real this memorable day.

Filomena Chirieleison / DB



June 24, 2015



June 27, 2015



June 27, 1965

*...Passa la tua navicella
di petali e lumi modesti
sulla vibrante riviera
di stelle cadute dal cielo di Luglio.
Alta sul fiotto dei canti
dal monte Carmine vieni
imperscrutabile immagine
di sette dolori..
... tutta la notte
s'udra' dalla chiesa
l'infaticabile coro:
nostra Signora del Monte
aiutaci tu...*

The above poem, dedicated to the Virgin of Carmel, pops into my mind –becoming a prayer- here in S.Peters' square, while I'm looking at the statue of the Virgin of Angels, patron of Pignola for centuries.

And they are really a lot, those who came here travelling during the night like the ancient pilgrims, to offer Mary to the Pope's caress (doing that, He said "How beautiful is your Virgin").

The space occupied by people from Pignola, all dressed with the same cap, looks like a broom and poppies field, and the surrounding Bernini's colonnade seems to represent the cloister of mountains. This is a day to remember, a memento for the heart; in these hours people recognizes itself as a community.

My mind goes to exactly fifty years ago, when at the Pignola Main Church, in front of a great multitude, the cardinal Dante put on the statue the gold crown blessed by the Pope Paul VI.

Like in a black and white movie, I can see the faces of those that were there, and I feel them as present here too, so much that I would say "Let's make room for them, don't you see how many have come here and want to stay with us ?"

The golden halo of the statue absorbs the sun's rays, and becomes quite inflamed; a guiding light gets caught between clouds that are navigating in the roman sky, perhaps going to S.Donato's bell tower to carry the wake to those that remained in Pignola but are thinking to what's happening here.

This has been an appointment of faith, and also those born in Pignola but living in other towns wanted to attend; everybody felt it as its own, believer or not, because our Virgin of Angels represents a strong root: let's hope it will be so until the end of the times.

Erberto Stolfi

The Maria SS. degli Angeli's coronation 50th anniversary

The feast in honour of the Virgin is the moment that better expresses the spirit of faith of each Pignola's inhabitant.

It's really strange how that wish to pass it on to future generation is still alive nowadays.

While somebody thinks that such a feast must keep an high prestige of our town, we shouldn't forget its essential aim: to represent an event which contributes to the spiritual rebirth of the entire community.

This year the event had a much more emphasis, because around 800 pilgrims from Pignola went to Rome, thanks to our parish priest don Antonio's initiative, to attend the benediction of the Holy image given by the Pope on the 50th anniversary of Her coronation: in fact that day (June 27) in 1965 we had the coronation, thanks to don Rocco Piro actions, who was our parish priest at that time.

To remember the event some celebrations were introduced; one was the "Our Virgin award", that is given every five years to a citizen distinguished for his humanity and social commitment.

This year the award went to don Rocco Piro *"because of his activity as priest, theologian, and fine intellectual"*; and he gave another sign of his devotion through his decision to donate the prizemoney to the parish community.

Let's also remember how this year, during the Virgin's procession, we had the strange presence of both the sun and the moon; and we know that in the Christian iconography the sun is God, and the moon represents the man....

Angela Guma

Considerations on “OUR FATHER”

July 2015

How many Catholics are unable to recite from memory the “Our Father” , not reading the text ? Probably quite nobody: it’s the prayer by definition, the one we received directly, that we have learned as we did for the alphabet, that we recite every Sunday during the mass (and hopefully not only).
But how many of us recite it conscious of its deep meaning, and not just as a routine?

Look at the first words : **Our Father who art in heaven**

This could appear just as a beginning, written to state to whom the prayer is addressed.

Rather, let’s think (from a pure human perspective) to what a father is: he gave birth to son, holds him by the hand, guides and protects him, loves him and forgives his mischievous tricks. And he acts that way with all children, quite or rascal. Well, as you can see, with a simple and usual word it is summarized what He represents for us. And look: just before Father there is Our. If He is OUR, not MINE, the consequence is that all other children (that means EVERYBODY) are our brothers, so we should treat them as such.
Do we really do this ?

Not to mention when we say **...thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven...**

This is probably the most difficult part to say sincerely: when we see the malice and the barbarity, when a young relative passes away, and in thousands of other events, is it not the case that we ask ourselves why He allows that ?

Well, it’s because we are making a banal mistake: we are trying to understand that using the human mind.

Yes, we went on the moon, we know how an atom is made, we cure diseases that some time ago were lethal; but intellect and science are not enough to explain everything.

So ? The only -hard- solution is to believe, and that’s all. Blessed who is in this condition : he will go through the heartily life more easily than who just hope to reach that level and in the meantime is tormented by doubts.

Really “human” seems the sentence **...give us this day our daily bread...**

Yes, we must eat every day, so it’s correct to ask for His help so that we can have food; but let’s think to the Last Supper: maybe this request wants to ask for receiving every day the spiritual nutrition, because to have the material only would mean to be like a plant or an animal.

Finally, another binding statement: **...forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us**

We’re asking His pardon for our weaknesses; but it’s not for free: at the same time we undertake to do exactly the same. Are we really sure we want and are able to do this ?

Thus, let’s reflect : to “seriously” say this prayer we must have the help of a true faith, or at least the hope it will grow according to the will of the Lord.

“To remain with Jesus, to go along roads, to rejoice and to be glad in the Lord”

These are the teachings given by Pope Francis on May the 3rd; and they've been the basis to organize this day, dedicated to fun and harmony.

On Aug. 28, The Pignola's Catholic Action and the Bushido Karate sports association by Mimmo Vignola e Antonietta Covino organized an afternoon of games for children in Risorgimento square, to celebrate the conclusion of one year of activity for both associations.

There were team games, including an obstacle course invented by Mimmo, and some other activities prepared by ACR educators; about 30 children were the participants.

This year we must especially thank the entire community, because they composed a “local” team to friendly compete against ACR educators. As well, our thanks go to the Municipality, police forces, our parish priest don Antonio and whoever has contributed to such a nice realization.

We're going to deal with a new year full of news..

See you on September !



Daide Lauria



TRIP TO BARCELONA

I like to share the emotions experienced during the trip arranged by the Catholic Action of Pignola to visit Barcellona on the "Festes de la Mercè" last September. I want to thank the my travel companions, but also Mara Azzarino for the perfect organization and our dear parish priest don Antonio Laurita who made very pleasant our stay through his patience and competence. We've been able to admire some of the wonderful architectural structures of that town; some were the Sagrada Familia, the Batllo house, the Barrio Gotico. As well, we could appreciate some moment of the feast like the Gigantes, the Human Castles, concerts in the squares, and spectacular fireworks on the water. The shrine dedicated to the Madonna della Mercede had a strong impact on me, as well the one of Monserrat, where we saw a Black Madonna that probably was made by the same author of the Madonna del Sacro Monte in Viggiano.

I would really like to make again a similar experience, hoping to see more participants from Pignola's community.

Luigi Ferretti



In memory of Vincenzo Vista

About a month after Prof. Vincenzo Vista's death I want to remember him as a man of culture, resourceful and humble, esteemed by everybody because of his accuracy, abnegation, responsibility, respect.

His life was dedicated to his job; to be a teacher was like a mission for more than forty years, and in fact he received a Gold Medal for Merit by the Ministry of Education.

But I want to remember also some other aspects: his great humanity, and the ability to discuss with everybody on wide-ranging themes of life. Moreover, we must remind what he did in a Polish prison camp as nurse, saving many people; and about that, in one of his pieces we can see also his self-irony: he thanks to be short of stature, because it helped him to avoid beating from some soldiers, being mixed with taller people...

Thanks, Prof. Vista, to have been a Pignola's true-born, proud of his origin, to which you dedicated so many efforts to safeguard its roots, acting always with passion and a great faith in our patron Mary Most Holy of Angels.

Fiorentino Trapanese

.....

Feast of Santa Lucia

December 2015

Dear fellow citizens,

we want to express our emotion and gratitude for the high level of participation to the feast of Santa Lucia.

Although life reserves us various paths, sometime in far places, this feast is engraved in our memories where unforgettable dearest possessions reside, because of its sounds, rites, smells.

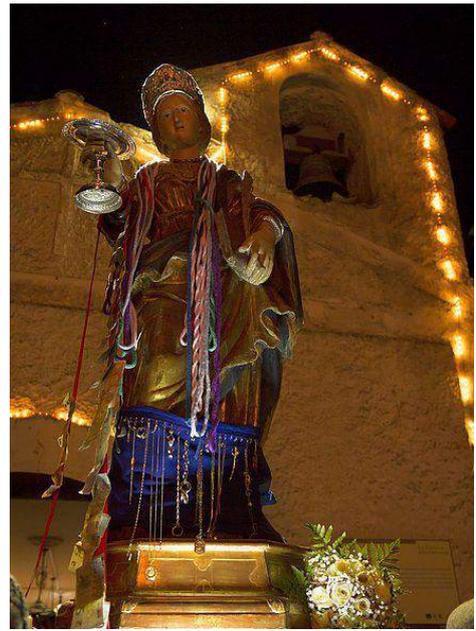
So, thanks to our mayor, which always supports initiatives addressed to the perpetuation of our traditions; thanks to our parish priest don Antonio, always responsive to the whole community needs; thanks to the carriers of the statue, thanks to the schools for their participation to the "Laccio" game, and thanks to Vincenzo Calace, whose presence makes everything easier.

Obviously the greatest appreciation goes to the entire community, that made possible to realize the feast also this year, not only from an economic point of view, but also because of their exhortation to continue the tradition also in the future.

We sincerely hope that the feast met your expectations, and thanks once more for the massive attendance.

The feast committee

Filomena Chirieleison, Angelina Montagna, Carolina Vista, Adriana Pietrafesa,
Nina Coiro, Gina Fusco, Anna Vista, Gerardina Belarte





FOOD COLLECTION

Dec.19

“A small sacrifice for you may represent a great help for somebody else”

This was the sentence written in the sign visible near the volunteers that on Saturday 19 were present at the entrance of PickUp supermarket to collect food for the poor.

Do you remember the Gospel passage:

He sat down opposite the treasury and observed how the crowd put money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums.

A poor widow also came and put in two small coins worth a few cents.

Calling his disciples to himself, he said to them, "Amen, I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the other contributors to the treasury.

For they have all contributed from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has contributed all she had, her whole livelihood."

Well, the sentence in the sign did not want to ask people to act as the poor widow; it wanted to be just a call to make a little sacrifice in favour of people less fortunate than us, thus depriving ourselves of something we can consider redundant, but can be essential for somebody.

Looking at the results, really many people understood its meaning; once again, Pignola's citizens revealed their great heart.

So, we are very pleased mainly for the recipients, that will have some happy moments, but also for donors, because doing good for others helps to feel at peace with themselves.

Thanks to everybody, regardless of how much you've offered: it is not important the quantity, but the willingness. And we're sure that the real thanks to donors will come from the face of a boy that has breakfast eating the biscuits just received as a gift.

TOMBOLA at the CARITAS center in PIGNOLA

It's Christmas, a magic moment when everything is possible: for instance, also to extract from the tombola's bag a smile rather than a number.

That's what happened yesterday evening at the Caritas center in Pignola, where the Parish organized an event to give a smile to some boys hosted in the family home after they escaped from war and looking for a "normal" life.

As well, I've seen extracted from the bag some other things:

The solidarity, through simple acts like many citizens did, bringing something to eat; the integration between our children and those black boys, that we should begin to name as friend or brothers, rather than guests, being we all human, despite race, language or culture; the sense of community, that means the pleasure to meet to each other to share moments of joy.

So to really make Bingo the entire community has to rediscovery the pleasure to stay together to build the peace; as pope Giovanni Paolo II said: "peace requires four basic elements: truth, justice, love, and freedom"

Pasquale De Luise





A happy evening all together

Last Dec.23 a lot of people (or better, many families) met at the Caritas location to have a nice evening. No special effects were used: the main components were just the love in preparing it and the attendees contribution. This is valid not only for the food (a lot of, and of high quality, having been prepared by some of the participant ladies) but mainly for the palpable sense of affinity that was perceived.

So, everything was done according to tradition: the old fashioned tombola, sack race, piñata, and so on: demonstrating the validity of simple but true things. As always, children were very happy, having the possibility to run around the big room

without reproaches; they appreciated very much some balloons shaped like animals, in spite of modern devilish technologies.

A touch of colour (we beg your pardon for the affectionate play on word) has been given by the presence of a group of young black Africans, currently hosted in the home/family handled by dr. Calace. Initially they were clumsy and cautious (can you imagine yourself in their dresses?) but at the end they were fully part of the evening, having understood that the climate was absolutely not hostile.

We tried to explain to them the Tombola's mechanism (to be honest, we are not sure to have been successful ...) and they began to play; just one seemed to be not interested, giving time to time a distracted look to his card. But when he noticed that, if one of the numbers written on it was extracted from the bag, the lady sitting near him was marking that number on his behalf without saying a word because of the language difficulties, he also began to participate...

It is written:

"Come, blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world, because I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and I you have something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me. "

Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and we fed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and visit thee? ". And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did to the least of these my brethren, you did it to me".

Thus, in this evening we had a work of mercy (we are in its Jubilee); not just a corporal one, although they appreciated very much pizza, frappe, panettone, and drinks, but mainly on a spiritual perspective, making them feel closer to us and less alone.

And when, as standard practice for such happenings, the last samba began, with people going like a little train, it was really the expression of a big happiness.

Finally, even though we know that the meeting was not put in place to receive approvals, we cannot miss to express, on behalf of all, black and white, our gratitude to the promoter and her partners: many thanks !



“Let’s mutually enrich through our differences” *(Paul Valery)*

I came to Basilicata several years ago, initially in Potenza, and since eight years now I live in Pignola, where I immediately found a familiar environment, confirming it was a good choice of life.

A few days before Christmas, I’ve participated with my family and neighbors to an event that I found really captivating: a tombola at the Caritas center. Once there, I noticed that there were adults, children, elderly, and some colored boys.

They were minors. I saw in their eyes the emotions of people living in an extraneous world, which feels watched and therefore enters a new stranger reality on tiptoe, fearing to disturb.

This made me think to my children, and I was frightened imagining them in a similar situation, without the protection of their family; so I felt closer to them, and my hope is that they will find the needed human warmth on their road.

Thanks to the tombola, sack-race, pinata, and dances, everybody including these boys became familiar each other, thus able to have fun in harmony and light heartedness.

Who has always lived in his native village will barely understand the difficulties that new inhabitants have: they must accept the new social behavior, avoiding to conflict with their own, so preventing to appear intrusive. They also feel observed, and sometime quite judged just because “new” for the place and consequentially “different”.

Having experienced several times the problems related to social inclusion, I know how difficult can be to acclimate if you’re not prepared to open yourself to others; but at the same time others have to be willing and open to accept you. Well, I must affirm to have found such positive attitude in all the people I knew here in Pignola.

I really think that events like this one on Dec. 23 should be held more frequently, in order to facilitate the social inclusion to everybody, thus allowing to broaden the horizons of both native and new inhabitants.

Thanks for the welcome I received.

Brigida Tardino

Crooked notes

On Dec. 27 evening, in our Main Church a concert was held, titled "Crooked notes of Christmas", organized by the Cultural Circle Pro Loco "The Portal".

Such title, as explained by the President Nicola Sabatella during his introduction to the concert, was also given to the one held in Vittorio Emanuele square last Sept. the 4th, and wants to underline its peculiarity. So, the idea is to adopt the same name as a brand for similar future events.

The concert included performances by two groups: Clasic Melodies Ensemble, with soprano Teresa Del Mastro, baritone Saverio Sangiacomo, pianist Giovanni Antonio Strangio, and violinist Luca Gaeta; the other one named Gruppo Vocale Accordo Libero, was made by tenor Luigi Manzo, bass Leandro D'Alessio, contralto Cinzia D'Apice, and sopranos Daniela D'Apice e Federica Cammarano.

Both groups performed italian Christmas songs like "Tu scendi dalle stelle", "Gli angeli nelle campagne", "Adeste Fideles", some american traditional songs like "White Christmas", and some others not strictly linked to Christmas.

At the end, the two groups song together "Oh happy days", while attendees where clapping along the music. They gave us cheerfulness and a moment of light heartedness, really hard to have nowadays, but needed mainly during holidays also to underline the harmony in our community.

Antonella Falce Carmelina Muro Antonietta Rosa



Parish events



Baptism

- 04/01/2015 – *Jacopo Antonio Fasanella di Gianna e Rocco*
06/01/2015 – *Daniele Ruggero*
25/01/2015 – *Gaia Di Mare di Lina e Luigi*
08/03/2015 – *Giovanni Marano*
05/04/2015 – *Anna Buono*
11/04/2015 – *Julie Marie Jana Chiapella di Margherita e Diego*
19/04/2015 – *Davide Di Giovanni*
25/04/2015 – *Domenico Francesco Vaccaro di Teresita e Rocco*
26/04/2015 – *Natalia Cirigliano di Maria Antonietta e Armando*
26/04/2015 – *Angela Altera*
03/05/2015 – *Greta Braidiche*
10/05/2015 – *Vincenzo Pio Riviezzi di Nataskia e Vito*
10/05/2015 – *Grazia Pia Lisco di Maria Assunta e Lorenzo*
20/05/2015 – *Mia Anna Cannelli*
02/06/2015 - *Simone Mecca di Maria Cristina e Emiliano*
06/06/2015 - *Gerardo Pacilio di Debora e Leonardo*
07/06/2015 - *Valentina Piro di Rocchina e Vincenzo*
07/06/2015 - *Francesco Laurita*
20/06/2015 - *Alessandra La Notte*
21/06/2015 - *Andrea Fortarezza di Caterina e Mauro Valentino*
21/06/2015 - *Manuela Sangiacomo*
21/06/2015 - *Senja Laguardia di Manuela e Raffele*
04/07/2015 - *Laura Giordano di Teresa e Giuseppe*
04/07/2015 - *Annaluce Ladik di Miriam*
11/07/2015 - *Francesco Miele di Annamaria e Cristian*
12/07/2015 - *Francesca Martoccia di Antonia e Francesco*
12/07/2015 - *Simona Cazetta*
26/07/2015 - *Angelo Lo Re di Sara e Ivan*
01/08/2015 - *Angelo Raffaele Marino di Rosanna e Carmine*
09/08/2015 - *Chiara Dolce*
09/08/2015 - *Francesca e Marianenza Bochicchio di Maria Cristina e Raffaele*

09/08/2015 - *Monica Marino di Angela e Saverio*
09/08/2015 - *Mariagrazia Miele di Rossella e Graziano*
15/08/2015 - *Alessandro Rosa di Doriana e Michele*
22/08/2015 - *Salvatore Diceste di Mariangela e Alberto*
22/08/2015 - *Domenica Calcagno*
23/08/2015 - *Giulia Buonansegna di Emanuela e Pasquale*
30/08/2015 - *Valentina Cunsolo*
30/08/2015 - *Miriam Luce*
06/09/2015 - *Michele Giuzio*
06/09/2015 - *Daniele Femia*
13/09/2015 - *Valeria Lotito*
19/09/2015 - *Ilary Teresa Calvello di Lucia e Gianluca*
19/09/2015 - *Angelica Telesca*
19/09/2015 - *Samira Pia Sabia*
20/09/2015 - *Carmelita Balzano*
20/09/2015 - *Chiara Strada di Mafalda e Claudio*
21/09/2015 - *Vincenzo Buonansegna di Mariarosa e Antonio*
27/09/2015 - *Mara Chiara Stigliani*
04/10/2015 - *Francesca Rosa Maradei*
11/10/2015 - *Sophia Pacilio di Simona e Laviero*
18/10/2015 - *Sofia Fiore di Michele e Rocchina*
18/10/2015 - *Gabriella Ostuni*
23/10/2015 - *Angelica Falce*
06/12/2015 - *Beatrice Nolè di Maria Rosaria e Nicola*
08/12/2015 - *Clarissa Dolce*
08/12/2015 - *Vincenzo e Gaetano Ciliberti*
13/12/2015 - *Chiara Salvatore*
13/12/2015 - *Angela Imibrogo*
26/12/2015 - *Matilde De Luca di Dtefania e Antonio*
27/12/2015 - *Simone Savino Antonio Albano di Fabiana e Paolo*
27/12/2015 - *Carminè Saverio Scavone di Stefania e Pasquale*



First Communion

May 31, 2015

*Elisa Agatiello, Sophia Albano, Camilla Bonelli, Glaria Candela,
Anna Lucia Comminiello, Michael Coviello, Francesca Cuccarese,
Chiara De Bonis, Giuseppe De Bonis, Massimiliano De Biase,
Nicolo' De Luise, Valeria Di Santo, Simona Faraldo,
Isabella Fierro, Paolo Giordano, Antonietta Marino,
Vito Marsico, Milena Nole', Camilla Paciello, Giada Perrone,
Benito Pisani, Rocco Pio Primavera, Maria Teresa Riviezzi,
Michael Riviezzi, Margherita Rosa, Vincenzo Rosa,
Gianluigi Rubino, Silvia Salvati, Elisabetta Sarli, Nicola Scavone,
Camilla Nicola Spagnuolo, Tanya Tempone, Gaia Ventura,
Donato Vignola, Simone Vignola, Chiara Vista*

June 14, 2015

*Giovanna Brienza, Melania Cantore, Gerardo Damiano,
Maria Pina Damiano, Dario Destefano,
Maria Lucia Dolce, Ludovica Doronzo, Elisabetta Lapetina,
Miriam Mallano, Giovanni Picerni, Antonella Riviezzi, Stella Rosa,
Alessia Sangiacomo, Gabriele Scocuzzo, Marco Summa*



Confirmation

April 12, 2015

Postiglione Ubaldo, Di Stefano Rosa Stefania, Falce Rossana Immacolata, Falce Vincenzo, Falce Antonella, Falce Lucia, Falce Giada, Falce Ylenia, Laurino Alessandra, Albano Fabiana, Albano Roberta, Lovaglio Giuseppe, Albano Antonella, Riviezzi Angela, Mancusi Antonio, Riviezzi Rocco, Santangelo Andrea, Dolce Michele, Albano Potito, Carleo Maria Paola, Mecca Ivan, Diamante Domenico, Franco Antonio, Balsamo Alessia, Rosa Francesca, Corleto Asia Pia, Lisco Valeria, Acierno Aldo, Bruno Sofia, Pieroni Ivano, Rosa Pasquale, Laurita Gianmichele, Scavone Carmen Claudia, Scavone Antonio, Muscillo Emilio, Muscillo Gabriella

May 3, 2015

ALBANO ALESSANDRO, CAPECE GENNARO, COLUCCI MARTINA, CORLETO DOMENICO, CORLETO GIORGIA, DEL GIGLIO ALESSIA, IACOVELLI GIUSEPPE, LAMA ANTONIO, LAURINO MARIA PIA, LOSCALZO MICHELE, MANCINO ANTONIO, MAUTONE MARTINA, MINICI VERONICA, NOLE' RAFFAELE, OLITA ERIKA, OLITA GERARDO, PETRONE ADELE, PETRONE GIULIA, PETRUZZI ANGELA, PINTO ALESSANDRA, PIRO MONICA, ROSA GERARDO, TROTTA IVANA, VISTA EMMA, VISTA MARIANGELA

May 22, 2015 – adults

Angela Arlotto, Claudio Arlotto, Milena Arlotto, Valeria Biuolo, Gianpiero Calciano, Rita Calciano, Antonio Conte, Nadia Corleto, Sonia Corleto, Giovanni Corleto, Rosa Vincenza Fortunato, Maria La Notte, Giuseppe La Notte, Roberta Laurita, Luca Pacilio, Giuseppe Petraglia, Davide Pio Petrino, Filomena Smaldone, Valeria Smaldone, Katia Smaldone, Gerardo Smaldone, Silvia Stanco, Marianna Torino, Federica Vista



DEGREE

Angela Santangelo

Pharmacy

March 26, 2015 – University of Basilicata

Maria Grazia Vista

Business Administration

September 23, 2015 – University of Basilicata



Matrimony

<i>Rossella Falce e Graziano Miele</i>	<i>Jan. 3</i>
<i>Maristella Dolce e Giuseppe Patitucci</i>	<i>Feb. 14</i>
<i>Catia Muro e Valerio Morrone</i>	<i>July 4</i>
<i>Maria Antonietta Laurita e Giuseppe Petagine</i>	<i>July 23</i>
<i>Stefania Albano e Francesco Michele Riviezzi</i>	<i>July 25</i>
<i>Carmela Rosa e Vito Guglielmi</i>	<i>July 25</i>
<i>Simona Cerroni e Giuseppe Pelosi</i>	<i>Aug. 21</i>
<i>Daniela Claps e Vito De Bonis</i>	<i>Sept. 2</i>
<i>Maria La Notte e Davide Pio Petrino</i>	<i>Sept. 5</i>
<i>Valeria Falciano e Massimiliano Pace</i>	<i>Sept. 11</i>
<i>Antonella Bianconi e Antonio Buoninsegna</i>	<i>Oct. 1</i>
<i>Rosa Piro e Vincenzo Roberto Rossignoli</i>	<i>Oct. 10</i>
<i>Annamaria Mancusi e Cristian Rosario Miele</i>	<i>Oct. 10</i>



Silver wedding celebrations

Carmela Azzarino e Vincenzo Russo

June 2

Donata Pippa e Luciano Lacaspi

September 5

Golden wedding celebrations

Rosa Sabatella e Rocco La Salvia

January 21

Teresa Buonansegna e Luigi Iannelli

February 4



Deceased

Rosa Pietrafesa	11/05/1933	06/01/2015
Giuseppe Pentangelo	06/04/1922	10/01/2015
Carmela Vaccaro	06/04/1937	12/01/2015
Giovanna Veroli	13/06/1920	17/01/2015
Giuseppe Rosa	12/01/1934	18/01/2015
Lucia Torino	17/03/1928	24/01/2015
Marietta Postiglione	19/04/1929	25/01/2015
Antonio Ferretti	11/11/1933	30/01/2015
Caterina Faraldo	07/03/1930	02/02/2015
Gerardo Santoro	01/08/1955	05/02/2015
Maria Vittoria Paciello	25/11/1922	07/02/2015
Pasquale Baldantoni	31/01/1929	14/02/2015
Benedetta Petrone	19/02/1929	16/02/2015
Nicola Corleto	22/03/1937	16/02/2015
Pompeo Lisco	24/11/1927	18/02/2015
Rocco Colucci	17/01/1940	21/02/2015
Maria Laino	11/09/1922	25/02/2015
Maria Masi	16/05/1924	26/02/2015
Caterina Sabia	27/10/1921	18/03/2015
Maria Marchese	14/05/1930	19/03/2015

Rosaria Angela Pinterpe	07/07/1923	24/03/2015
Caterina Marsico	16/03/1931	27/03/2015
Rocco Albano	28/01/1934	01/04/2015
Maria Giuseppa Rosa	13/01/1915	11/04/2015
Carolina Datena	13/04/1930	13/04/2015
Luigi Palermo	13/09/1930	17/04/2015
Maria Rosa Di Vietri	18/12/1917	27/04/2015
Canio Saluzzi	22/03/1950	05/05/2015
Berardino Torchia	08/03/1937	17/05/2015
Celestina Palermo	16/02/1927	19/05/2015
Vincenzo Romano	15/03/1935	03/06/2015
Maria Domenica Albano	06/09/1927	05/06/2015
Salvatore Bianconi	12/06/1937	08/06/2015
Carmela Latorre	14/03/1963	14/06/2015
Rosa Albano	22/05/1928	16/06/2015
Rosa Limontini	06/03/1937	18/06/2015
Antonietta Capece	15/11/1928	22/06/2015
Vincenzo Paciello	23/10/1963	30/06/2015
Saverio Pacilio	11/12/1929	01/07/2015
Giuseppe Ligrani	28/02/1952	02/07/2015
Maria Felicia Faraldi	20/05/1925	16/07/2015
Carmelo Fagone	08/02/1921	22/07/2015
Antonia Dolce	23/09/1927	03/08/2015

Vincenzo Vista	14/07/1918	18/08/2015
Antonio Ardito	14/09/1947	22/08/2015
Nicola Amoruso	16/06/1938	31/08/2015
Maria Giuseppa Brienza	09/10/1927	16/09/2015
Elisabetta Fiore	14/02/1926	18/09/2015
Raffaele Roma	29/05/1935	13/10/2015
Felice Antonio Cammarota	07/05/1932	26/10/2015
Giuseppe Maria Paciello	29/06/1917	29/10/2015
Rocco Corleto	23/04/1939	31/10/2015
Canio Ciampi	21/05/1925	02/11/2015
Rosa Petraglia	10/06/1926	03/11/2015
Carmela Gerardi	06/10/1954	17/11/2015
Maria C. Tortorelli	21/12/1926	25/11/2015
Alessia Telesca	15/10/2013	13/12/2015
Francesca Tortorella	02/02/1928	14/12/2015
Domenica Maria Nardoza	15/04/1935	14/12/2015
Vincenza Destefano	15/06/1930	16/12/2015
Rocca Filomena Marsico	30/04/1920	23/12/2015
Donato Antonio Romano	28/11/1931	23/12/2015

MARIA SS. DEGLI ANGELI CONGREGATION

To remember the opening of the Main Church in Pignola twelve years after the 1980 earthquake, in May '92 the **Congregazione Universale Maria SS. degli Angeli** was created.

The Congregation is a free association of devotees that want to promote the devotion to Virgin Mary, whose statue is venerated in the Pantano shrine, contributing in taking care of the shrine itself, the Main Church and related infrastructures. In addition, the Congregation will celebrate a solemn Mass for all members, dead or alive, every month on the 3rd Saturday, and every year on November the 2nd for all deceased members.

Enrolment rules

Send a letter to:

CONGREGAZIONE UNIVERSALE MARIA SS. DEGLI ANGELI

Via Dante, 23 - 85010 PIGNOLA

containing name, surname, date and place of birth, profession, address and paying the membership fee (yearly or lifetime).

The members can be live or deceased, single or families, and also children

The participation to spiritual goods is eternal for deceased, while for living people is related to the subscription duration. There are no particular commitments, unless to live as Christians.

We recommend:

- to attend every Holy Mass, mainly those in honour of Maria SS degli Angeli;
- to recite the prayer to Maria SS. degli Angeli;
- to pray the Rosary;
- to attend the celebration on every 3rd Saturday, and to take part in the pilgrimage to Pantano shrine;
- to participate in Processions and other religious events wearing the Congregation badge

Information:

CONGREGAZIONE UNIVERSALE MARIA SS. DEGLI ANGELI

Via Dante, 23 - 85010 PIGNOLA (Italy)

Phone +39 0971420319

Historical notes about churches in Pignola

MAIN CHURCH

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 lightning seriously damaged the cusp, that had to be removed (as of today, people is still waiting for the rebuilding).

The church has a latin cross plant, with a single nave with barrel vaulting , interrupted by nails 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).

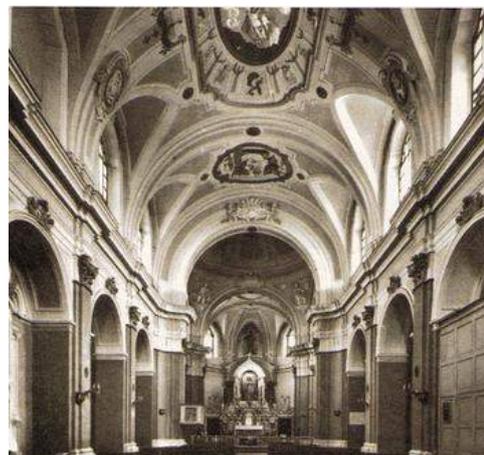
Inside the church you can find wonderful works of art: paintings depicting S. Pietro Apostolo by Carlo Sellitto, S. Antonio da Padova e S. Diego by Filiberto Guma, the Madonna dei Martiri by Vincenzo Lombardo, Crocifissione and Madonna del Rosario (Pietrafesa school), S. Francesco di Paola by Feliciano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



1858



TODAY



S. ANTONIO ABATE

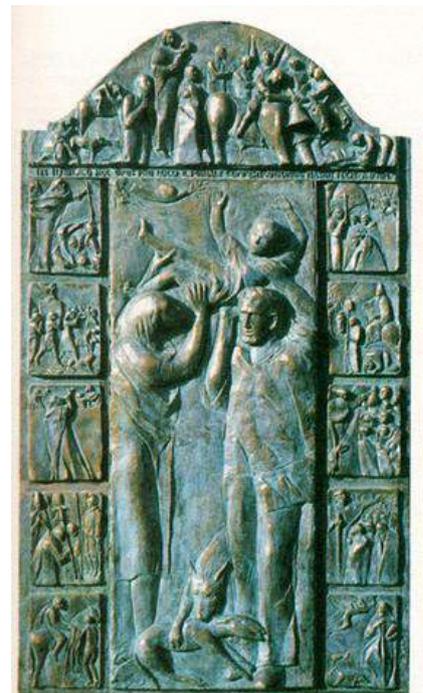
Today only the main structures and the monumental entrance are left from the original church made in '400; the rest is the result of several parts added in different times.

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



S. ROCCO

This church was included in a convent of Capucins, when they abandoned the S.Michele convent to build this 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 Montpelier, 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.



MARIA SANTISSIMA DEGLI ANGELI SHRINE IN PANTANO

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 ecclesiastics 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 an 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 only every July the 2nd

S.Michele's church is in the countryside, at the foot of San Bernardino mount, over a cave that is also dedicated to the cult of the Archangel Michael. Behind the chapel there are the ruins of the ancient convent of the Capuchins, built in XVI century and later abandoned to go in the new one near S.Rocco church, in the town. The church has been rebuilt around 80s, and has not particular architectural elements. In 1996 the S.Michele's statue (XV cent.) was stolen, so today there is a copy made in Ortisei. The church is open just on May the 8th and Sept. 29th , for the S.Michele feast. There are some folk legends about this site: one says that a donkey refused to carry the S.Michele statue to follow the friars that were abandoning the convent.



In Rifreddo there is the 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..