

2nd International Congress

Iconography and veneration of Saints Cosmas and Damian

29th-30th September and 1st October 2006

Mercogliano, Altavilla, Nusco (Avellino) - Italy

sponsored by the

International Society for the History of Pharmacy

Académie Internationale d'Histoire de la Pharmacie

Federazione degli Ordini dei Farmacisti Italiani

Accademia Nazionale delle Scienze Lettere ed Arti di Modena

Accademia di Storia delle Arti Sanitarie

The iconography of Cosmas and Damian, patron saints of medicine and pharmacy, has a great value for pharmaceutical historians everywhere in the world. In fact on one hand it symbolises the complementary nature of the two disciplines and on the other hand it shows the clothing, the tools and the utensils used by the two professions.

General information

English translation by Isabella C. Grima

Scientific Secretariat:

François Ledermann francois.ledermann@bluewin.ch

Patrizia Catellani patcat@interview.it

Organising Secretariat:

“Miscellanea” Committee

Amelia Nevola and Rita Testa congresso@irpiniablog.org

For any further information and/or details regarding accommodation arrangements kindly contact the organising secretariat on the following days: Monday to Friday from 1000hrs up to 1300hrs, and from 1600hrs up to 1800hrs.

Tel. nos: +39-3204 572564, +39-3496 138866

Press Office:

Alessandro Graziano and Don Vitaliano Della Sala congresso@irpiniablog.org

Languages:

The languages of the presentations will be in Italian, or English, or French.

Congress Registration:

Congress registration is effected through the payment of € 80, or of € 40 for students. You are kindly asked to send a copy of the payment receipt, by not later than 31st August 2006, on fax no. +39-0825 788795, making sure that your personal details and a contact telephone number are included and visibly legible.

The banking details of the organising secretariat for subscription to the congress, being held between 29th September and 1st October 2006, are the following:

For Italian participants:

| | |
|------------|-------|
| <i>ABI</i> | 05392 |
| <i>CAB</i> | 75760 |
| <i>C/C</i> | 902 |
| <i>CIN</i> | I |

At the *Banca della Campania S.p.A. – fil. di Mercogliano AV.*

For participants from other countries:

Coordinata IBAN: IT44I053927576000000000902

Codice BIC: IRPBIT3A

Cause: *Adesione al Congresso sui “Ss. Cosma e Damiano” del 29/09 – 01/10/2006* (Adherence to the Congress of “Sts. Cosmas and Damian” being held between 29/9 – 1/10/06).

Accommodation:

Istituto Suore Benedettine di Montevergine: € 50 single room and € 45 double room on bed and breakfast basis. Address: Via Ramiro Marcone – Mercogliano AV.
Tel. no. +39-0825 787038 e-mail: benedettinemm.@virgilio.it

Green Park Hotel (4 star): € 52 single room, € 84 double room, € 109 triple room, € 124 quadruple room on bed and breakfast basis. Address: Via Loreto, 9 – Mercogliano AV.
Tel. no. +39-0825 788961 e-mail: info@hoteltitino.it – www.hoteltitino.it

Hotel Mercurio (4 star): single room € 35, double or matrimonial room € 55, triple room €75 on bed and breakfast basis. Extra cost for half-board basis is € 40 per person. Address: Viale San Modestino, 7 – Mercogliano AV.
Tel. no. +39-0825 787149 e-mail: hotelpercurio@tin.it

Introduce yourself as participants of the “Sts. Cosmas and Damian” Congress to be held between 29/09 and 01/10/2006.

Park Hotel Everest - Address: via Ramiro Marcone – Mercogliano AV
Tel. no. +39-0825 788836

Grand Hotel Irpinia – Address: Via Nazionale – Mercogliano AV
Tel. no. +39-0825 683672

Hotel Grieco – Address: Viale S. Modestino, 33 - Mercogliano AV
Tel. no. +39-0825 787005

How to arrive:

You can easily reach Mercogliano either by car or by train or air.

If you come by car: Travel on the Motorway Naples-Bari, exit at West Avellino (*Avellino Ovest*), turn right immediately and continue driving for around 2km.

If you come by train: Reach the Railway Central Station (*Stazione Centrale*) in Naples; then from the square opposite the Central Station board the pullman for Avellino (which leaves every 20mins on weekdays and every 30mins on Saturday).

If you come by air: arrive at the Napoli-Capodichino airport and, walk the length of the access road, cross the road and then board the pullman for Avellino (which passes every hour).

Once you have boarded the pullman for Avellino, you should get off after around 40mins at the Shopping Centre (*Centro Commerciale*) of Mercogliano (the first stop) and, after having crossed the road, board the autobus for Mercogliano (which passes every 15mins).

For more information regarding bus schedules please visit the website www.grti.av.it

PROGRAMME

Friday 29th September 2006

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| 0930hrs | Mass dedicated to Sts Cosmas and Damian, celebrated by Don Vitaliano Della Sala , at the Church of St. Francis in the Old Town Centre of Mercogliano. |
| 1030hrs | Welcome ceremony at the Church of St. Francis in the Old Town Centre of Mercogliano in the presence of civil authorities, religious and military personnel. Greetings to the participants of the congress will be made by: Tommaso Saccardo Mayor of Mercogliano François Ledermann International Society for the History of Pharmacy Wolf Dieter Müller Jahncke President of the Académie Internationale d'histoire de la Pharmacie Giacomo Leopardi President of the FOFI (Federazione Ordini Farmacisti Italiani) Ferdinando Taddei President of the Accademia Nazionale delle Scienze Lettere ed Arti di Modena Angelo Capparoni President of the Accademia di Storia dell'Arte Sanitaria |
| 1130hrs | Guided visit of the Old Town Centre and its churches. |
| 1245hrs | Rendezvous at the venue of the congress at the Institute of the Benedictine Nuns of Montevergine, and a visit to the exhibition "I Ss. anargiri Cosma e Damiano: Storia, Miti e Leggende" |
| 1300hrs | Buffet |
| 1430hrs | <i>Opening of session</i> <i>Moderators: Alessandro Graziano - Dimitris Kokinakis</i> |
| 1430hrs – 1445hrs | Pierre Julien <i>"Le miracle de la jambe noire vu par les artistes"</i> |
| 1450hrs – 1505hrs | François Ledermann <i>"Cosma e Damiano: un panorama bibliografico"</i> |
| 1510hrs – 1525hrs | Nina Aldin Thune <i>"Cosmas and Damian in Scandinavia"</i> |
| 1530hrs – 1545hrs | Wilhelm R. Dietrich <i>"Cosma e Damiano – due (dimenticati?) Santi"</i> |
| 1550hrs – 1605hrs | Wolf Dieter Müller-Jahncke <i>"Medaglie e monete dei Santi Cosma e Damiano"</i> |
| 1610hrs – 1625hrs | Dimitris Kokkinakis <i>"Introduzione nel culto e nell' iconografia Ortodossa dei Santi Cosma e Damiano dell'isola di Chios "</i> |
| 1630hrs | Coffee break |
| 1650hrs | <i>Resumption of session</i> <i>Moderators: Gabriele Peroni and Don Vitaliano Della Sala</i> |
| 1710hrs – 1725hrs | Catia Pascale and Grazia Fiore <i>"L'Irpinia ed il Sannio attraverso il culto dei Ss. Cosma e Damiano."</i> |
| 1730hrs – 1745hrs | Nunzio Longo <i>"Culto ed iconografia dei Ss. Medici in Basilicata"</i> |
| 1750hrs – 1805hrs | Patrizia Catellani <i>"L'abbigliamento dei Ss. Cosma e Damiano nelle rappresentazioni italiane"</i> |
| 1810hrs – 1825hrs | Suor Ildegarda <i>"Il culto dei Santi Medici nella Puglia"</i> |
| 1830hrs – 1845hrs | Giuseppe Salvatore <i>"Curiosando tra i "semplici": miti e attualita' degli usi"</i> Conclusion of first day of study <u>Free time for dinner</u> Recommended places where to eat: |

Osteria “I Santi” Restaurant

Via S.Francesco Capocastello – Mercogliano
AV – Tel. +39-0825 788776

€ 25 – 35 - Wine included

Pizzeria “La Tavernetta”

Viale S. Modestino, 5 - Mercogliano AV

Tel. +39-0825 787020

€ 15 – 25

“Titino” Restaurant

P.za Attanasio, 8 – Mercogliano AV –

Tel. +39-0825 788177-788435

€ 15 - 25 – Wine included

Green Park Hotel Restaurant

Via Loreto, 9 – Mercogliano AV

Tel .+39-0825 788961

€ 15 - 25 – Wine included

Saturday 30th September 2006

- 0845hrs Rendezvous in the square opposite the funicular station of Mercogliano and departure for Altavilla Irpina in pullman*.
- 0930hrs Guided visit of the sulphur mines.
- 1030hrs Arrival at the Monastery of the Verginiani, Municipal seat, and greetings by the Mayor **Alberico Villani**. Afterwards a guided visit of Altavilla.
- 1300hrs Buffet at the St. Barbara Social Centre.
- 1430hrs *Opening of session*
Moderators: Ernesto Riva and Alessandro Graziano
- 1430hrs – 1445hrs **Adalberto, Cleo, Gabriele Peroni**
“Santi Cosma e Damiano, un’analisi storica ed iconografica, con particolare riguardo agli strumenti inerenti le professioni sanitarie”
- 1450hrs – 1505hrs **Padre Simone Baggio**
“I Santi medici di Carbonara di Nola”
- 1510hrs – 1525hrs **Arianna Zanette**
“Il trittico dei Ss. Cosma e Damiano dell’antico oratorio di S. Pietro a Ceneda (Tv)”
- 1530hrs – 1545hrs **Maria Cristina Villa**
“I Santi Cosma e Damiano”
- 1550hrs – 1605hrs **Dimitris Kokkinakis e Patrizia Catellani**
“Una rappresentazione unica del miracolo della gamba nera in Grecia”
- 1610hrs – 1625hrs **Leonardo Colapinto**
“Il Culto dei Santi Medici Cosma e Damiano e l’assistenza sanitaria a Roma nel medioevo”
- 1630hrs Coffee break
- 1710hrs *Resumption of session*
Moderators: Vitaliano Della Sala and Leonardo Colapinto
- 1710hrs – 1725hrs **Ernesto Riva**
“I Santi Cosma e Damiano nella chiesa di San Rocco a Belluno”
- 1730hrs – 1745hrs **Giampaolo Palumbo**
“Storia, miti e leggende sull’arte medica nel medioevo”.
- 1750hrs – 1805hrs **Francesca Nucera**
“Cosma e Damiano a Firenze: il polittico dell’intercessione di Gentile da Fabriano”
- 1810hrs – 1825hrs **Domenico. Monteleone**
“Il culto dei Ss. Cosma e Damiano in Calabria”
- 1830hrs – 1845hrs **Sabato Antonio Manzi e Maria Grazia Papa**
“La cura dei folli in Irpinia tra magia, demonologia le pratiche delle fatture.”
- 1900hrs Departure for Mercogliano
- 2100hrs Gala dinner, at the restaurant of Green Park Hotel, with the participation of the duo “CRISTEA”

Sunday 1st October 2006

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| 0845hrs | Rendezvous in the square opposite the funicular station of Mercogliano and departure in pullman* for the Goleto Abbey. |
| 1000hrs | Guided visit of the Abbey |
| 1115hrs | Departure for Fontigliano. |
| 1130hrs | Visit of the Fontigliano Abbey and the annexed Antiquarium |
| 1200hrs | Departure for Nusco and guided visit of the ancient town. |
| 1330hrs | Buffet at the Bishop's Palace |
| 1450hrs | Greetings from the Mayor Giuseppe Del Giudice |
| 1500hrs | <i>Opening of session</i> <i>Moderators: Luigia Melillo and Wolf Dieter Müller Jancke</i> |
| 1500hrs – 1515hrs | Gennaro Passaro <i>“Il culto dei Ss. Cosma e Damiano in Irpinia e dintorni”</i> |
| 1520hrs – 1535hrs | Petronilla Bruno e Amelia Nevola <i>“Culto dei Ss. Cosma e Damiano con particolare riferimento alla città di Napoli e alla Costiera Amalfitana”</i> |
| 1540hrs – 1555hrs | Elvira Gentile e Amelia Nevola <i>“un percorso interrotto a Napoli: dall’Istituto S. Maria Regina Coeli all’Ospedale di Santa Maria del Popolo agli Incurabili”</i> |
| 1600hrs | Coffee break |
| 1630hrs | <i>Resumption of session</i> <i>Moderators: Luigia Melillo and François Ledermann</i> |
| 1630hrs – 1645hrs | Gennaro Luongo <i>“Dalla storia alla leggenda e ritorno. La costruzione agiografica dei santi Cosma e Damiano”</i> |
| 1650hrs – 1705hrs | Ettore Novellino <i>“Il mito della sessualità”</i> |
| | Closing of congress and final farewells |
| 1800 hrs | Departure for Mercogliano |

*All transfers in pullman are taken care of by the organisers.

Introduction

The “**Second International Congress about the cult and iconography of Sts. Cosmas and Damian**” will be held in Irpinia, Italy, from 29th September until 1st October 2006.

The Congress is sponsored by:

- the International Society for the History of Pharmacy (www.histpharm.org), which supports a network of those Societies in the world that are concerned with matters of a pharmaceutical historical nature. The ISHP also publishes a yearly multilingual newsletter;
- the *Académie Internationale d'histoire de la Pharmacie*, which brings together the most eminent world experts in this field and publishes the review *Communications aux membres* twice a year;
- the *Federazione degli Ordini dei Farmacisti Italiani*
- the *Accademia Nazionale delle Scienze Lettere ed Arti di Modena*.
- the *Accademia di Storia dell'Arte Sanitaria*.

This Congress was strongly desired by the speakers who participated in the study day of 30th April 2005, with the theme “*La Farmacia di Loreto: storia ed evoluzione*”. The Congress will be dedicated to the late Dr. Generoso Nevolo, pharmacist for nearly 50 years at Mercogliano.

The study of the iconography of the two Saints (who are also known as *anargyroi* - “the silverless” – because they did not accept any compensation for their services) is carried out by experts in all parts of the world, and goes beyond the confines of religious cult, possibly because the twin Saints are the patrons of doctors and pharmacists, two professions which have been for centuries deeply rooted in the fabric of society of every nation.

For this reason presentations based on the theme “**History, myths and legends**” (“*Storia, miti e leggende*”) will also form part of the programme.

On the occasion of this Congress, an exhibition “**The Saints Cosmas and Damian: History, myths and legends**” (“*I Santi Cosma e Damiano: Storia, miti e leggende*”) will be set up at the Institute of the Benedictine Nuns of Montevergine in Mercogliano. This exhibition will be organised by Petronilla Bruno, Amelia Nevola, Loretta Stefanelli, and Rita Testa, and it will be inaugurated during the cultural manifestation “*Castellarte*”. The exhibition will remain open until 1st October 2006.

The congress will be similar to a journey, which, through culture, traditions, art and tourism, will touch some of the most beautiful and inspiring areas of Irpinia.

To contribute towards the discovery of green **Irpinia**, we propose the following visits:

Mercogliano : (www.comunemercogliano.it - information in Italian; <http://www.parks.it/parco.partenio/Epun.html> - information in English) rises 550metres above sea level, and is called “*the pearl of Irpinia*”. It is a land seeped in tradition, a city ready to welcome with simplicity whoever comes to discover nature, culture and art present within its territory. It lies at the foot of the Partenio Mountain (1,493m), atop of which is the famous **Benedictine Sanctuary of Montevergine**, dedicated to the Black Madonna, known as “*Mamma Schiavona*”, whose cult dates back to Saint William of Vercelli, a pilgrim who in 1124, fell in love with this uncontaminated place, and decided to stay at Montevergine living as a hermit. It is possible to reach **Campomaggiore**, a plateau with a small lake among thick woodland, from the square in front of the Sanctuary.

In 1750, the *Verginiani* Monks built the **Abbey of Loreto** at Mercogliano, with a pharmacy, now a museum, annexed to it. The Abbey is a National Monument of baroque architecture designed by Domenico Antonio Vaccaro, and within its walls one finds the Public State Library, which is an archive and library of great importance, storing 13th and 15th century Latin manuscripts, in beneventan and gothic script; 18th century manuscripts with drawings, known as *platee*, as well as *incunabula* from the 1400s, and 2,000 from the 16th century, and including the patrimony of around 200,000 books, amongst which is Pietro Mattioli's "*I Discorsi*" with splendidly coloured wood-engravings.

In 1956 Abbot Ramiro Marcone inaugurated the **Funicular** which links Mercogliano to the Sanctuary of Montevergine. From 550m it goes up to 1,200m (making it the most steep in Europe), in only 7 minutes, giving one the possibility of enjoying a panorama which is breath-taking, not only because of the beauty of the landscape but also through a sensation of giddiness.

Mercogliano forms part of the *Comunita' Montana* (Mountain Community) and lies within the Naturalistic Regional Park of Partenio, and is the crossroads for ancient places such as Summonte, Pietrastornina, Sant'Angelo a Scala, Roccabascerana, San Martino Valle Caudina, Cervinara, Rotondi, Torrioni, Capriglia Irpina, Altavilla Irpina, Tufo, Prata Principato Ultra, and others.

Capocastello is the medieval old town of Mercogliano; climbing its winding steps and its steep streets, through evocative shortcuts, one can admire antique churches, the walls and the medieval doors, until one reaches the plain of St. Anne and the cool springs of Acqua Fidia. The woods that line the road, are mainly made up of chestnut and beech trees, and towards the valley include hazelnut trees and vineyards.

The strategic geographical position of Mercogliano enables the tourist to reach and visit towns and well known places in **Campania**, such as Naples and Caserta, Pompeii and Ercolano, Salerno and the Amalfi and the Sorrento coast, Benevento and the Sannio, all regions which can be reached in a short time.

Altavilla Irpina: (www.altavilla-biblioteca.it) is situated on the road "of the two principates", which from Avellino leads to Benevento. According to a number of scholars, this site arose upon the ancient *Altacauda*, in a zone that was inhabited even during pre-history: this is demonstrated through the archaeological remains found and kept in the Municipal Museum. It is known that it was called "Scandiano" before it became a fiefdom of Louis of Capua, who gave it its present name in honour of the Norman Hauteville dynasty, the line from which his family descended.

On the right bank of the Sabato river lie the famous **Sulphur Mines**: the seam was discovered in 1866. Nowadays the extraction of sulphur is no longer carried out, but processing of sulphur on the surface continues. Parts of the old mining structures, the large sheds, the turbines, and the hydroelectric plant are still in existence, and thus a visit to the mining plant offers an interesting experience. The Altavilla mines represent an important example of "industrial archaeology".

The **Centro Storico** (the old town) (11th century): it is the medieval part that developed around the ancient *Castrum*, it was surrounded in the past by walls and towers. One can still observe the medieval town planning of the oldest inhabited part.

The **Palazzo Comitale** (15th – 16th century): its origin goes back to the Aragonese era, and is considered to be one of the most beautiful examples of Campania "Renaissance". The feudatory Andrea de Capua ordered its construction, and it was completed in the second half of the 16th century. The palace has a rectangular plan, with a wide entrance portal, courtyard and a double staircase, which leads to the *piano nobile*.

The **Collegial Church of Sta. Maria Assunta** (18th century): built on the site of an older 12th century church, is in the form of a Latin cross, with four rows of columns, three long naves and a central dome. The main altar has a beautiful 17th century *paliotto* (altar-piece). The relics of St. Pellegrino, a 2nd century martyr, are preserved on a lateral altar. The **Museo Civico “della gente senza storia”** (of people without history) is found in the **crypt**. Besides archaeological remains, there are exhibited a unique set of antique folk costumes, collected through the study and restoration of clothes originating from the ossuary: antique traditional textiles, shoes, hairnets, etc.

The **Church of the Santissima Annunziata** (14th – 15th century): within this church are two precious 17th century wooden statues representing Sts. Cosmas and Damian. Annexed to this church was a hospital, which was the only shelter in the old town for the sick and the orphans, and it was used also by pilgrims.

The **Monastery of the Verginiani**: its construction started in the 16th century, but was completed only by the end of the next century as a result of the interest shown by Cardinal Orsini. The coat of arms on the entrance door indicates that the building belongs to the Congregation of Montevergine. Nowadays it is the Municipal building.

The **Caruso Palace**: This is an 19th century building, which houses the **Municipal Library**; founded in 1977, it has over 12,000 volumes.

At Altavilla the famous white wine “Greco di Tufo” DOCG is produced.

Nusco: (www.mionusco.it - information in Italian, www.borghitalia.it/index_en.php - information in English) surrounded by the Picentini mountains, it is a rock amongst rocks. Nusco is testimony to a farming community that is continuously evolving. At 914m above sea level it is one of the highest Municipalities in the province of Avellino.

Lying on an isolated sharp projection, which marks the watershed between the valley of the Ofanto river and that of the Calore river, Nusco is known as the “*Balcony of Irpinia*” for the vast panorama which one can admire, stretching from Massiccio del Vulture to Mount Terminio, from the Matese mountains to the Appennino Dauno.

Situated in a region which was inhabited even in ancient times, as can be seen from numerous archaeological finds, during the Longobard rule it developed around the Castle, where the bishop St. Amato gathered the inhabitants of the surrounding villages in the 11th century.

The area is subject to frequent tremors, and its population was decimated by the plague in 1656. The dialectal word “*nusco*” derives from “*muschio*” – moss – which grows in abundance in the surrounding area.

The **Centro Storico** is made up of picturesque old houses with their stone portals, the **Bishop’s Seminary**, and the **Astrominica, Barbone, Ciciretti, Calabrese, D’Aversa, De Donatis, De Paola, Del Sordo, Pepe, Imparato** and **Saponara Palaces**.

The **Church of the Holy Trinity**, which is also the parish church, is a 14th century building and preserves medieval frescoes depicting *Christ the Redeemer* and the *Coronation of the Virgin*. In the niche behind the main altar is a fresco depicting the *Deposition of Sts Cosmas and Damian*.

The **Cathedral of St. Amato** (18th century), has a stone portal, and within the building are the frescoes depicting the *Nativity* (13th century), the wooden pulpit and the treasure of St. Amato.

Only parts of the walls and the ruined massive tower of the old **Castello** (Castle) have survived.

The **Archiepiscopal ecclesiastical Palace** nowadays houses the **Archive**, and the **Seminary Palace** houses a library, while the **Municipal Library** is found in municipal buildings.

A visit to the **Fontigliano Abbey** should not be missed. It is renowned for its architecture and the attached **Antiquarium**, which has Roman archaeological artifacts on display.

The **Goletto Abbey** (www.goletto.it) is situated in the territory of the municipality of Sant'Angelo dei Lombardi. It was founded by St. William of Vercelli in 1133 as a female monastery and, under the rule of celebrated abbesses - Febronia, Marina I and II, Agnese and Scolastica – the community grew and became famous all over Southern Italy.

With the end of the female goletan community (the last abbess died in 1515) the monastery was united with the one of Montevergine, and from where some monks were sent.

Between 1807 and 1973 the monastery remained abandoned. Thieves and vandals carried off portals and stones: the roofs and the walls crumbled, and the brambles and animals of all types became masters of the place. Only the peasants' hamlet, opposite the monastery, continued with its secular life.

Notwithstanding the passage of time, the vandalism by man and the frequent earthquakes, to this day one can still admire some of the artistic treasures that made the Goletto Abbey famous.

The **Febronia Tower** takes the name of the abbess who in 1152 made provisions for its construction to defend the monastery. A masterpiece of Romanesque art, it also has bas-reliefs incorporated in the masonry originating from a Roman mausoleum.

At the center of the monastic complex are two small churches, one on top of the other, which mark the passage from Romanesque art (lower church, est. 1200AD), to Gothic Art (upper church, finished in 1255). The **Lower church** was designed as a funerary chapel. It has a two-nave plan, the naves are separated from one another by two monolithic columns that end with low capitals, from which the arches that support the transepts start to reach the semi-columns coming out of the side walls.

It is in the Pugliese Romanesque manner, which would have been accentuated in the apses, which have been long lost.

The **Chapel of St. Luke** or the **Upper church** is the gem of the abbey. It can be reached through an external staircase whose parapet ends in a handrail in the shape of a snake holding a knob in its mouth. The entrance portal is surmounted by a pointed arch and by a small six-wheel-window (a variety of a rose-window). On the front of the arch some inscriptions remind the visitor that the church was built by Marina II to receive St. Luke's mortal remains. The interior is made up of a small two-nave hall, covered with pointed transepts resting upon two central columns and upon ten half-columns planted in the external walls.

The plurality of different artistic forms that are fused together - the Pugliese Gothic architecture, the Cistercian forms, the Irpinian-Samnitic sculpture - make St. Luke's Chapel one of the most precious monuments in Southern Italy.

The **Big Church** or the **Vaccaro Church** is named after the famous Neapolitan architect Domenico Antonio Vaccaro, who built it between 1735 and 1745. Even if today it lacks the roof and other important parts, it nonetheless preserves an immense appeal. Its plan is in the shape of a Greek cross, which was originally surmounted by a central dome. Inside, only some stuccoes have been preserved, but we can still admire the floor pattern in all its beauty.