



Via Conte Ruggero - CAP 94010 - Italia - Tel. +39 0935 569111 - Fax +39 0935 33426

Si ringrazia per la traduzione Rita Stivale e Margaret Murphy
Chiesa Maria SS. del monte Carmelo



In 1371 the construction of the Carmelite fathers' monastery was started. It included the present Town Hall, the parish house, the town park and the Holy Trinity Church from where the marble figures of "The Annunciation" attributed to Gagini was taken and put behind the main altar of the new church.

In 1771 the Carmelite fathers Church was built behind the old monastery. The whole unit was located outside the walls of the city, between the medieval town and the Jewish area. The gateway to the fortified city was through the Porta dell'Aquila, Door of the Eagle, located in Via Conte Ruggero, a hundred meters away. In the following century the Congregation of Our Lady of Mount Carmel was founded, their objective being the care of the chapel.

The members of the Association were responsible for each other in times of hardship when there was no social security. There was a special grain bank where farmers in difficulty could receive help.

The congregation was suppressed in 1659 and restored later in 1665. The latest information known about the monastery dates back to 1859 when there were seven friars including Brother Mariano Margiotta, from Mazzarino.

Federico II of Aragon, in 1324, proclaimed that the Jewish community were to live outside the city walls "in distinct places separated from the houses of Christians". The result of the edict is visible today in the present Piazza Umberto I, which at the time separated the two communities and gave the small town a most unusual wide central space .

The church, restored in 2007, has a single nave with the precious marble from the old church, also used for the tomb of Baron Antonio Lo Vecchio the Elder. The Church has side altars, on the first altar on the left there's a painting by Domenico Provenzana (1895), on the second one a wooden crucifix. On the right we find a niche carved in the wall where there is a marble baptismal font. A bit further on, there is the choir with a pipe organ and another altar dated 898, created and donated by Croce Sodaro and a statue of the Madonna and Child with a Carmelite Friar at her feet



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Chiesa di S.Barbara



During the 14th century the urban core of Calascibetta developed around three areas: the first within the Medieval nucleus, in the highest part of town surrounded by walls, towers and high rocks over the valley; the second, located below the present city center, near the Hospital of S. Barbara; the third was the new Jewish neighborhood outside the walls of the medieval town and far from the Christian area.

Now we want mention briefly, a particular topic about the birth of the orders of chivalry, to understand what happened to Calascibetta in 1347 with the birth of the Hospital of St. Barbara, as a branch of the Hospital of Santo Spirito in Saxia, Rome.

The orders of Alcantara and Montesa were established by the King of Aragon in 1317, after the abolition of the Templar, Knights to defend the coasts from the Saracens. These fraternities were under the protection of the order of Calatrava and benefitted from the territories and wealth of the Templars. The 'Ospitalieri' orders, were different both in origin and aim but later took on a military aspect. The Holy See first recognized them as Ospitalieri, conferring on them the rule of St. Augustine, then the pope intervened when they became a more militant force.

The most famous order was the order of Saint John in Jerusalem, now known as the Sovereign Military order of Malta. Among the documents of the notary Ambrogio Bellomo, there is the will of Father Guglielmo D'Anzelmo of 1374 where there is mention of a hospital attached to the Church of St. Barbara, which was linked to that of Santo Spirito in Rome, founded by the same priest, who also provided it with funds.



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Chiesa di S. Antonio



The church of St. Anthony is located in the lower part of the town and was built as a place of worship in 1409. Its old name was St. Anthony The Novo. For its extreme simplicity this church is a unique monument in the whole town.

A high stairway was added when the level of the road lowered (1922, the date is engraved on the step) At the height of the door there are a triangular gable and a simple rosette.

The frontage that has been restored in the early 1900s, is divided by an architrave and ends with a central loggia that is a bell tower; a clock is located in one of the two lateral rose windows.

The interior consists of a rectangular nave with side altars decorated with Sicilian Baroque stuccos. In 1925 a lightning blackened the original golden decorations.

The polygonal apse, ordered by Antonio Lo Vecchio and Andreotta Arengi, is covered with frescoes dating back to the late '700s, attributed to the local painter Gianforte Manna; they show the glory of San Michele, the sacrifice of Abraham with Isaac, Adam and Eve with the tree of the sin and, on the right wall, the Holy Trinity.

In the central part of the basin there are the magnificent painting on canvas of St. Anthony on the cair and 16 panels showing the Saint's life painted by Giuseppe Alvino in 1608 and restored in 1988 by Angelo Cristaldo.

The religious theme that prevails in the seventeenth-century artistic heritage of this church is the refusal of material goods for a gospel message accepted by the apostles represented here by 12 statues from 1600 and 1700 attributed to Giovanbattista Sberna Tusa who continued the work started in 1697 by brothers Serpotta from Palermo. The domed ceiling was eliminated and replaced with a flat roof..



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Chiesa di S.Giuseppe



This is a small church located in Via Conte Rugger, just 100 m. from the main square. It is decorated with golden stucco bas-reliefs and contains a statue of S. Joseph

Chiesa di S.Domenico



In the year 1573 was built on the ruins of the door of the Eagle the Dominican Convent with the adjoining church of San Domenico . In recent times was adapted and used for other purposes



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Chiesa Maria SS. della Catena



Along the main street, Via Conte Ruggero, in the upper left corner there is the church dedicated to Our Lady of the Chains. It is located in the old quarter of Via Soprana, next to Baron Li Destri's palace and was originally the Jewish synagogue, and was converted when the local Jews were expelled from Sicily (1943). The Jews had sold it to nobleman Bernardo Andrea Grimaldi from Enna, but the townspeople bought it back and made it a catholic place of worship

Father Sante Bellomo carried out the restoration. Outside the church there is the portal of "cutu", a kind of local stone and a decorated wooden door carved by the master carpenter Rigatuso.

The bell tower was rebuilt in 1930 in the same architectural style as the external altar just below a little square beside the church.

The tower has got three very old bells (one of which is dated 1600), a large cross next to the main bell and the Greek letters Alpha and Omega

It is one of the most beloved churches of local emigrants who return every year to celebrate the feast of Our Lady of the Chains with their relatives.

Chiesa di S.Giovanni (detta di S.Lucia)



This Church is annexed to the Collegio di Maria where the Figlie di Sant'Anna sisters used look after orphan girls teaching them and other young schoolgirls literature, religion, music, physical education and embroidery. The college was under the jurisdiction of the royal delegation of the King of Sicily.



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Chiesa di S.Pietro



Situated on the summit of the mount Xibet towering over the surrounding valleys, the Church of San Pietro, commissioned by the Norman king Pietro of Aragon in honour of the Christian faith and in full sight of the envious and intimidated inhabitants of Castrogiovanni, who followed the Muslim faith until 1901.

It is a basilica with a nave and four aisles and monolithic columns made of local stone "cutu" severely damaged by the violent earthquake of 11 January 1693. Next to the Church there's the Norman tower.

It was the first large building for collective use of the period and it would remain unmatched for many centuries. It was said to be visible from the surrounding valleys, many miles away.

The width of this church gave the city a unique appearance and a role of great importance and power that lasted for a long time.

Chiesa Madre (detta di San Pietro e Santa Maria Maggiore)



King Pietro II D'Aragona built the church on the ruins of a castle called Castello Marco on top of the hill facing North. It was one of the most important castles in Sicily and had a paleo-christian rupestre church inside, that today can be partly seen through a window in the floor. The king dedicated it to S. Maria Maggiore in 1340. Two years later he appointed it as Regia Cappella Palatina (Royal Palatine Chapel).

The Church has the same features as the major cathedrals of Sicily. Today, after many restorations it has 3 naves and it can be considered one of the best expressions of Catalan art in the Enna area.

The majesty of the Catalan church with its columns carved with bas reliefs are witness to the military and civilian history of this land. The building of the castle goes back to the Arabic domination: Arabs settled on top of Mount Xibet and added the prefix "Qal'a" that means castle or natural fortification, which is exactly what the town of Calascibetta is).



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Chiesa Maria SS. dell'Itria



The Church of Santa Maria dell'Itria is in via Monastero. Inside there are paintings of the Madonna del Trono e S. Ambrogio e S. Nicola dated 1540, Madonna dell'Itria dated 1890 and a fresco on stone from the Byzantine era.

Chiesa SS.Salvatore



This Church of the XVI century, was formerly a Monastery of Benedictine nuns.

Chiesa di San Francesco D'Assisi (Convento dei Frati Cappuccini)



The Cappuccini Monastery is situated at the end of Via Giudea, once called both "Greeks' Hill" and "Judea Street", because 25 Jewish families used to live there. The first monastery was built in 1534 in the valley between Enna and Calascibetta but it was abandoned in 1589 when the new one was founded.

Between '600 and '700 30 Cappuccini fathers lived in the monastery and benefitted from bequests of the faithful. The Church has a nave with side-chapels where there is, in one, a Crucifix with Our Lady of Sorrows and a relic of Father Simone da Napoli, and in another, statues of S. Francis of Assisi, the Immaculate Conception and S. Pio. But the most precious artwork is a painting of the Magi by Filippo Paladini.



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Santuario Madonna del Buon Riposo



Chiesa S.Vincenzo



Chiesa S.Paolo

