

JOSEPH PASQUALETTI

A FAMOUS PAINTER BORN IN FIUMEFREDDO

Joseph Pasqualetti was born in Fiumefreddo Bruzio on February the 25th, 1699. His parents were Diego and Angela Frangella. Joseph was the first-born of three sisters and two brothers.

His childhood and adolescent drawings, roused attention and interest of famous connoisseurs of painting, who found true talent in Joseph's personal and original way of using lines to depict forms, and foresaw for him a brilliant future in the art of painting. Lucrezia Ruffo, a cultured and good woman, "Marchesa Della Valle", a relative of Cardinal Ruffo's, held Pasqualetti in high esteem and appreciated his talent, that's the reason why she convinced him to move to Rome, city of art and of great artists. The marchioness entrusted the young painter, to Cardinal Tommaso Ruffo and solicited his support. Bishop Isidoro Pitellia, Cardinal Ruffo's friend and Pasqualetti's fellow-citizen, took a liking to the artist, too, and made his stay in Rome easier and more profitable for him. Pasqualetti followed established painters' advice, who were enjoying the favour of the papal court, and from them, Pasqualetti received artistic benefits and excellent teaching which enabled him to ameliorate his art. Pasqualetti worked for princes and for noble families. He returned to Fiumefreddo in 1744 and, on October the fifteenth 1747, he married Teresa Ponzio. Pasqualetti died in Fiumefreddo on August the 30th, 1757. As a symbol of respect he was buried inside the church of Saint Francis (see page 138). Near the Altar there is a stone marking his grave. We admire Pasqualetti's paintings in several Calabrian churches.



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Fiumefreddo Bruzio. Mother church.
An unsigned painting ascribed to Pascaletti (1)

1) *Most of the paintings attributed to Pascaletti are neither signed nor firmly documented, but they are creations of such artistry and personal, unmistakable technique, referable to his style, that a great many unsigned paintings, appeared during the period of his life, considered the most fruitful of his production (1730-1755), are universally accepted as Pasqualetti's.*

Is the painter's surname Pasqualetti or Pascaletti? The correct writing should be Pasqualetti, but the painter, when he decided to sign his paintings, signed Pascaletti. →

