

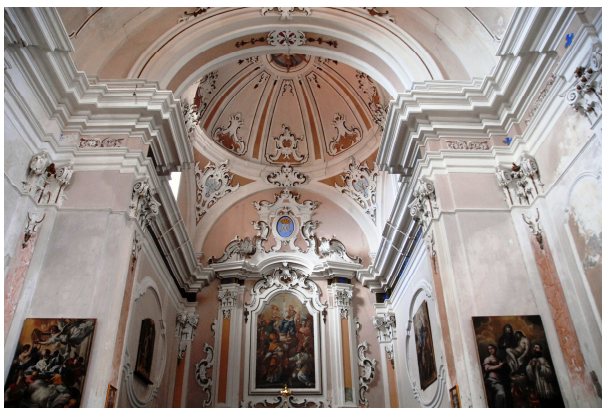
# MOTHER CHURCH ALSO KNOWN AS “SAINT IMMACULATE MARY’S CHURCH”

*The recently restored roof and external walls of the Mother Church. On the left edge of the picture, you can see the main entrance into the town. Photo 2009.*

The church was built in 1540. Fernando Ruiz de Alarcon, marquis Della Valle, is credited with its construction, in fact, he had a generous nature and a deep devotion to the



Virgin Mary. The church stands next to the old boundary walls which have gone to ruin. The 17<sup>th</sup> century main portal, is handiwork of local skilled craftsmen and the bell tower, (17<sup>th</sup> century, too) in early baroque style, is also work of Calabrian craftsmen. In this church there are many masterpieces (see page 136, note 1), among which we admire an altar piece by Pasqualetti (famous painter who was born in Fiumefreddo Bruzio on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February 1699, and died on the 30<sup>th</sup> of August 1757 – see page 144), depicting the Virgin of the “Carmine”, a wooden Cross of the ninth century and a Madonna with the Child, by Pietro Negroni (1556). The church has one big central nave. In 1638 the church was tumbling down because of a violent earthquake. It was restored but, some years later, the church was partially rebuilt, for this reason it shows different architectural styles.



**Fiumefreddo Bruzio**  
*Mother church, the magnificent dome over the high altar.*



*The choir and the old organ (which doesn't work any more) consisting of a small number of pipes supplied with compressed air from bellows.*