

# CHURCH OF ST. FRANCIS OF PAOLA

This church was built in 1709, to satisfy the wishes of Geronimo Alarcon de Mendoza and the charitable zeal of his wife, Lucrezia Ruffo. They were, in fact, devoted followers of the Saint of Paola and were very generous in doing good and devotional deeds.

The church, in baroque style, is next to the former monastery of the friars of Saint Francis of Paola, called Minims, who owned it up to the year 1860. Since then, the former convent has been converted into a building which houses the government of the town, its office staff and the executive personnel.

In the interior of the church there's Pietro Gonzales De Mendoza's



*Fiumefreddo Bruzio, church of Saint Francis of Paola. An altarpiece by Nicola Menzele, depicting Saint Francis of Paola, placed above the High Altar.*



*Fiumefreddo Bruzio, the interior of the church*

grave, (Pietro Gonzales De Mendoza is Geronimo's great-grand father). Near the altar, are buried Pasqualetti's (see page 149) mortal remains: a tombstone marks the place of his burial.

At Saint Francis's, till a few years ago, there was a big painting portraying Saint Francis of Paola, by Don Antonio Rotondo (see page 145); today the painting isn't there any more and nobody knows where it is; perhaps it was destroyed: that's what some elderly people have told me. The church has been restored and very soon we will be able to visit it.