

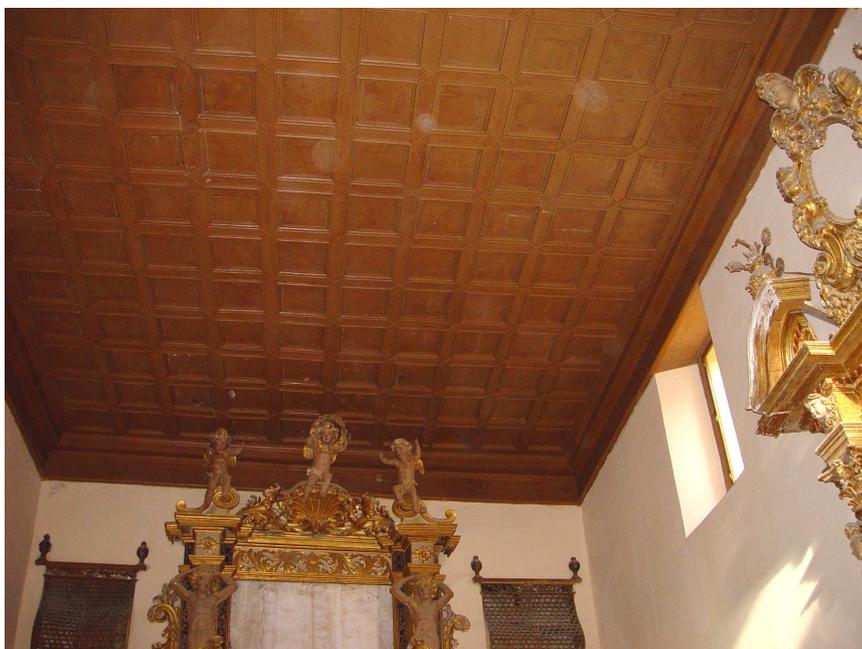
SAINT CLARE'S CHURCH

This church was built in 1552; it has one entrance and its portal is made of stones: handiwork of local artisans.

On the inside of the church we admire the beautiful floor covered with majolica tiles of the seventeenth century, three wooden and golden-plated altars in baroque style, the High Altar Piece portraying the Virgin and the Infant (1) (perhaps painted by Pasqualetti, who often omitted to sign his paintings) and Saint Clare.

Above the Altar of our Lady of Sorrows, we admire the painting portraying Saint Lucy and Saint Francis Xavier, by Pasqualetti. It's also admirable the painting by Solimena (a famous painter nicknamed "abbot Ciccio" (1657-1747)), "The miracle of Saint Nicholas of Bari". The bishop of Tropea, Thomas Calvo, founded the convent of the Clarisses which was annexed to Saint Clare's church, doing monsignor Militino's wishes, in 1628, (Militino was the bishop's vicar). The convent was suppressed in 1810 and was later bought from Giacinto Zupi.

In 1957 the church was restored inside and outside: the flight of steps was replaced and was remade the original



The coffered ceiling, at Saint Clare's.

coffered ceiling, for a long time damaged by the rain.

During some maintenance work, appeared on the surface, from under the plaster of the old walls, some frescoes which were ruined, of course. Today, the competent authorities are doing their best in order to restore all the churches of our town.

1)The paintings, which were usually kept in each church of Fiumefreddo, have been taken lately to the Soprintendenza – Cosenza. Some of them have been brought back and are now shown in the Mother Church (very well protected). As soon as the restoration work on all the churches comes to an end, the paintings will be taken back to the churches which they belong to.