SAINT AGATHA'S CATHEDRAL

ORIGINS OF THE CATHEDRAL

The Cathedral of Saint Agatha was built in 1092 by architects Giovanni Battista Vaccarini, Antonio Battaglia and Carmelo Sciuto Patti.



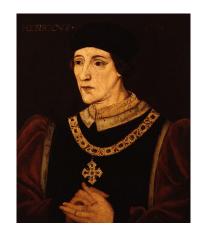
Giovanni Battista Vaccarini



Carmelo Sciuto Patti



Count Ruggero



Henry VI

It was built on the initiative of Count Ruggero: Angerio abbot arrived from the monastery of Saint Eufemia Benedectine

Order in Calabria.

The Norman concessions and privileges were recognized and confirmed by Henry VI, Federick II, Corrado IV and Manfredi.

Pietro Galletti promoted the definition of the prospective.

In 1734 he removed the primitive portal which was definitively transferred and remodeled in the elevation of the church of Saint Agatha «al Carcere».

INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE

The internal part of the Church of Saint Agatha in Catania is an impressive testimony of Sicilian Baroque art.

The presbytery



The walls are frescoed with religious scenes and floral decorations, while the side altars are adorned with sculptures and paintings that narrate the deeds of Saint Agatha, the patron saint of the city. The ceiling is finely decorated.

The presbytery, at the center of the church, is dominated by the high altar, a masterpiece of sculpture and carving, enriched by columns and gilding.

The seiling



In the side of the chapels there are further works of art, including paintings and sculptures of great artistic value, which tell about the devotion and veneration towards Saint Agatha.

The corridor



The Saint

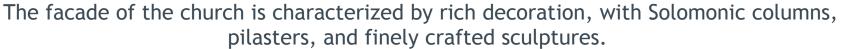


EXTERIOR ARCHITECTURE

The church of Sant'Agata in Catania stands out for its majestic external architecture, which reflects the typical Baroque style of the 17th century.



Some picture of Saint Agatha's Cathedral



At the center of the facade, there is an imposing entrance portal, surmounted by a balcony and a large window.



Behind the Cathedral



The sculptures adorning the facade depict scenes from the life of Sant'Agata and religious allegories.

The facade of the church of Sant'Agata in Catania is a superb example of Sicilian Baroque architecture, striking for its beauty and sumptuousness.

SAINT AGATHA'S LIFE

Saint Agatha of Sicily is one of the most venerated Saint of the Catholic Church and one of the most famous

around the world.



The Saint Agatha's Statue

Born around in the 231 A.C. to a rich and noble family, Agatha dedicated her entire life to God, becoming a consacrated virgin. Quintianus, governor of Sicily, became deeply in love of her; but she rejected all of his advances. The constant refusals greatly annoyed the proconsul, who ordered her to be taken to a brothel as punishment.



Saint Agatha in the prison

At dawn, when the guards realized that the woman had recovered, the executioners resumed the tortures and Agatha gave up her life. It was the fifth day of the second month of the year 251.



Saint Agatha, the martyr



A picture of Saint Agatha

SAINT AGATHA'S CELEBRATION

The feast of Saint Agatha has always been a very important tradition for the people of Catania.

During the days of the feast, Catania is filled with devotes and tourists who follow the procession with the relics. The devotes wave a white handkerchief and shout: "Cittadini, semu tutti divoti tutti e chiamamula cu tuttu u cori Viva Sant'Aita".



Saint Agatha's «Ceri»

On the evening of February 3rd there are fireworks in front of the cathedral, then on 4th

and 5th the procession crosses the entire city.



Saint Agatha's «Devoti»

The Saint retraces the places of her martydrom, from the church of S. Biagio to the church of Saint Agatha «Al Carcere» and finally reaches the church of S. Agatha «la Vetere».

The streets are illuminated by beautiful lights and spetacular fireworks are set off.

Saint Agatha's fireworks



Thank you all for listening to us