

Itinerary 1

Hystory

IID-IIF Liceo Linguistico –Classico

(Version English)



The Florense Abbey

The Florense Abbey is linked to the figure of the abbot Joachim of Flore, born in Celico. With Costanza d'Aragona's consent, he built a *protocenobio* between 1189 and 1198, namely the first monastery devoted to Saint John the Evangelist, in "Jure Vetere" (near nowadays' Cuturelle). The works, after Joachim's death, were finished by the abbot Matthew. In 1214, after a great fire, the building was left by the monks who went to Faraclono (nowadays San Giovanni in Fiore) and in the following years they started building of the new Abbey, which was finished in 1230. On the right of the altar was built a stairway that led to a crypt, destined to keep the relics of Joachim and his monks. In the following centuries around the monastery were rebuilt some houses that afterwards brought to the foundation of San Giovanni in Fiore.



The Norman Arch

The Norman Arch, located in the historical centre of San Giovanni in Fiore in 'Via Archi', was built in the 13th century. It is one of the symbols of the town. The Norman Arch has the pointed arch shape typical of the Norman domination. There are no historical documents relating to this monument. It is supposed that it was a part of a series of different arches built along the walls surrounding the Abbey. This theory is based on the discovery of the remains of medieval walls in the bordering area. Almost certainly it was a defensive system that marked the border of the properties of the monastery, of which the arches were the entryways. The Arch's alley was called 'Via delle Preghiere' because it joined the Abbey's district to the Chiesa Madre's district.

Church "Santa Maria delle Grazie

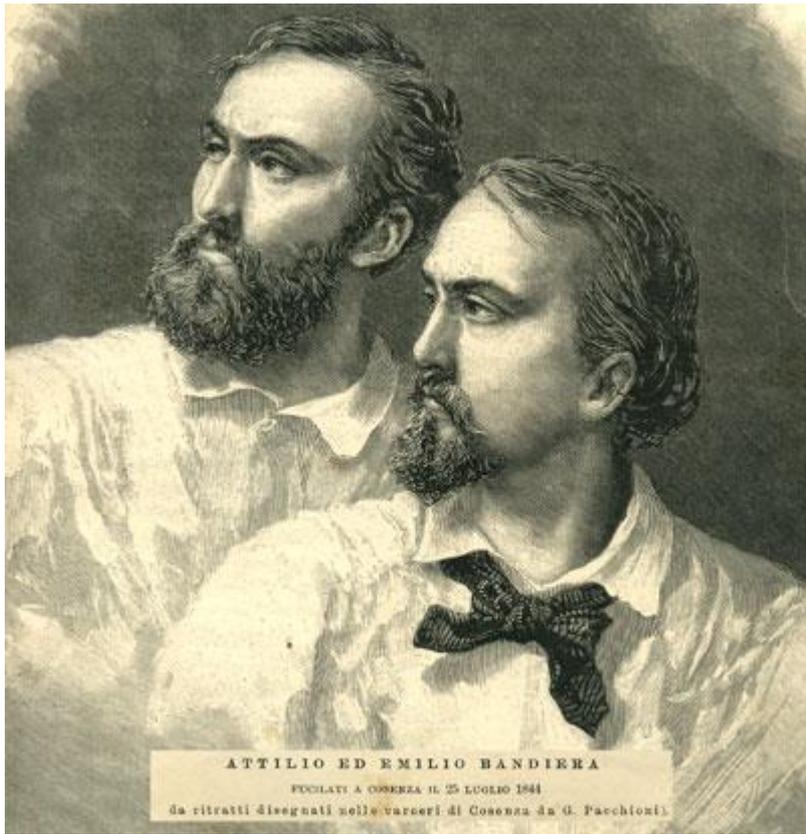
On 12th April, the "commendatario" abbot Salvatore Rota, obtained permission from Charles V to build a hamlet, bound to be inhabited by Christians "provided that they were friends and not tributaries of the Curia Regia". Afterwards, due to the overcrowding of the hamlet caused by the granting of tax exemption to the

inhabitants, the Church “Santa Maria delle Grazie” and the village’s square were built, and a new settlement originated from them. Despite the contrasts between secular clergy and the Monastery the first residential nucleus was born. It was ruled by a Mayor and three inhabitants elected by the community and approved by the abbot. Due to some expansions and various restorations made over the centuries, the Church has got an eclectic style, at the same time Renaissance and Baroque.



Lopez Palace

The building of "Palazzo Lopez" dates back to the beginning of the 18th century and its importance isn't connected to its architectural features, but to the historical events it witnessed. During the revolts of the middle years of the 19th century, the Bandiera brothers were captured by the local gendarmerie in 1844 and were led to "Palazzo Lopez", at that time used as a jail, where they were prisoners for some days. Sold to private buyers, it's now a restaurant and pub. It shows a commemorative plaque at the entrance



ATTILIO ED EMILIO BANDIERA

FUCILATI A COSENZA IL 25 LUGLIO 1848

da ritratti disegnati nelle carceri di Cosenza da G. Pacchioni