



# THE CRACO SOCIETY

## AUGUST IN CRACO VECCHIO—FEASTING

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This will be a very special August in Craco. Many expatriate Cracotans return to visit and now they will be able to see the newly restored statue of the Madonna della Stella.

In Craco, the feast of the Madonna della Stella is celebrated on the second Sunday of August. The following week, many Crachesi travel to Pisticci to join that town's celebration of San Rocco. There is a connection between these celebrations going back centuries in Italy.

During the fourteenth and subsequent centuries the region was exposed to repeated outbreaks of plague.

This was a natural consequence of the region's geographic location along the trade route of the ancient Appian Way. During this period, Marian devotion as well as devotion to St. Rocco, a figure associated with miraculous recoveries from the plague became quite common in the region.

Every town and village in the region has a church and/or statue of St. Rocco and a Marian statue which is posed in a maternal rendering... Statues of Mary in this pose generally are referred to by the title Our Lady of Good Succor or Our Lady of Perpetual Care reflecting the image's historic connection as protector from disease.

With immigration to America, many of those who arrived at the port of New York settled, at least for a time, in the Lower East Side. The area consisted of crowded largely substandard housing and poor sanitation even for the norms of its day. As a result there were unusual levels of disease. As an example, during this period the child mortality rate among the Italian population in the area was about fifty per cent, twice the rate of the rest of the city... With the above as background it is not surprising that the oldest Italian American religious "street" festival is the St Rocco festival of Little Italy which began in the late 1880's and continues to be celebrated to this day.

On August 22 the [132<sup>nd</sup> Feast of San Rocco](#) will be celebrated in Lower Manhattan (see pg. 3)



NEWLY RESTORED MADONNA DELLA STELLA — CRACO

Photograph of Barbaro Palma

This background is important in understanding the history, culture, and traditions of the Crachesi.

Our 120th anniversary of the statue of San Vincenzo Martire, the patron saint of Craco, donated by the Crachesi immigrants that were in New York City then, will be celebrated this year on October 24th. Mark your calendars to join the celebration.

**Evviva Madonna della Stella!**

**Evviva San Rocco!**

**Evviva San Vincenzo!**

**Evviva i Crachesi!**

**CRACO AERIAL PHOTOS**

Craco Vecchio has been photographed, filmed, and painted by artists over the years due to its striking beauty. Since it became an abandoned “ghost town” there is an aura about it that has drawn even more artistic interest. Among the latest are aerial images that are available on the APT Basilicata website showing Craco Vecchio and its surrounding area in stunning views. The 18 images Craco on the APT Basilicata website can be seen at: [APT Basilicata: Craco - Foto Aeree](#)

**120th CELEBRATION OF THE FEAST OF SAN VINCENZO  
IN NEW YORK****OCTOBER 24, 2021****AT THE CHURCH OF THE MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD****ALTHOUGH PLANS FOR THE FEAST DAY EVENTS ARE  
STILL BEING MADE PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR  
FOR THE DATE**

# 132nd Feast of St. Rocco

## Sunday, August 22nd, 2021

### MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD CHURCH

113 Baxter Street • New York, NY 10013 • (212) 226-6427

DOMENICA 22

AGOSTO

AD INIZIATIVA

DELLA SOCIETA

SAN ROCCO

CHE RIUNISCE

ORIUNDI DI

POTENZA

(BASILICATA)

SI CELEBRERA

LA FESTA DEL

PATRONO NELLA

CHIESA DEL

PREZIOSISSIMO SANGUE

SUNDAY, AUGUST 22nd, 2021

YOU ARE INVITED

BY THE ST. ROCCO

SOCIETY OF

POTENZA, INC.

TO CELEBRATE

132 YEARS OF

FAITH IN

GLORIOUS

ST. ROCCO.

MASS IS

AT 11:30

AND PROCESSION

TO FOLLOW.



**ALL ARE WELCOME RAIN OR SHINE!**

### Program

11:30 A.M.- Mass in honor of St. Rocco

1:00 P.M.- Procession of St. Rocco through the streets of Little Italy

Come join us to honor the

Patron Saint of the Sick and Against Contagious Disease

Gli Organizzatori invitano i Lucani e tutta la communita Italiana ad intervenire

*For more information, call (646) 734-8354 or visit our web site at [www.stroccosociety.com](http://www.stroccosociety.com)*

*Proceeds to benefit Most Precious Blood Church*

*Stephen S. LaRocca, Esq., President*

**Help the San Rocco Society Celebrate the 132nd Feast**

Online donations can be made [Here](#)

Send checks to:

The San Rocco Society of Potenza, Inc.

P.O. Box 280323

Brooklyn, NY 11228

All donations are tax deductible.

## SUPPORT SAVING THE MADONNA DELLA STELLA



Saving the historic Madonna della Stella Chapel and statue, which are important parts of Craco Vecchio's history, culture, and traditions is a significant and worthwhile objective for all members. The Board of Directors encourages members to contribute to the Madonna della Stella Restoration. All funds collected will be sent to Craco for use in preserving the chapel and statue.

Generations of Crachesi will thank you for your donation.

### PLEASE SEND YOUR DONATIONS TO:

The Craco Society  
14 Earl Road  
East Sandwich, MA 02537

Or by

PayPal to: [memberservices@thecracosociety.org](mailto:memberservices@thecracosociety.org)  
Questions: contact us at 774-269-6611 or by email at:  
[memberservices@thecracosociety.org](mailto:memberservices@thecracosociety.org)

Those supporting the preservation effort by contributing so far are:

- Karen Bennett
- Patrick Colabella
- Marilyn Stella Congedo
- Domenico DeCesare Family
- Leonard Francavilla Family
- Salvatore Francavilla Family
- Angela Gallo
- Richard Gorgoglione
- Damiano Greci

- Alfred Grieco
- Isabelle Grieco
- Janis Grieco
- Maria Guariglia
- Joy Hodson
- Lee Anne Infantino
- James Mastronardy
- Leonardo Modena
- Isabella Pause
- Ann Pirozzi
- Rinaldi Family (Canada)
- Prospero & Sue Rivielli
- John Sarubbi
- Spero Family
- Ugenti Family
- Anna O. Veeder

## NEW MEMBERS

Emil (DeCesare) Albanese-Northport, NY

### HOW TO CONTACT US—COME CONTATTARCI



The Craco Society  
14 Earl Road  
East Sandwich, MA 02537 USA



[www.thecracosociety.org](http://www.thecracosociety.org)  
E-mail: [memberservices@thecracosociety.org](mailto:memberservices@thecracosociety.org)

