



THE CRACO SOCIETY

121ST SAN VINCENZO FEAST IN NEW YORK

CONTENTS CONTENUTO

- San Vincenzo Feast in New York
- San Vincenzo Celebration in Craco
- New York Celebration Photos
- Poems from Craco
- [Contact us- Contattateci](#)



The 121st celebration of the feast of San Vincenzo Martire di Craco in New York City was a wonderful event continuing our traditions.

With members and regular parishioners present, the Mass was very well attended. Live streaming by Salvatore LaRocca allowed the Mass to be viewed by individuals throughout the world.

The crowd of Cracotans in New York City at the Most Precious Blood Church gathered once again around the statues of San Vincenzo that were on display and their excitement over meeting again exploded in conversations and stories before the start of the Mass.

Participating in the Mass celebration were Michael Salomone, Tom Rinaldi and Stephen LaRocca serving as Lectors.

In keeping with the tradition of “giving San Vincenzo music and song,” we were joined by Jared Lamenza, the parish’s musical director, who extracted resounding and brilliant tones from the church’s organ while Cantor, Jackie Hayes sang beautifully and included the hymn, *Inno a San Vincenzo* that was written in Craco by Don Carlo Romano when he was a young seminarian to honor the town’s protector.

Rev. Fr. Robert Campagna, OFM, provided a homily honoring San Vincenzo that connected him and the sacrifice of the Theban Legion to our situation in today’s world.

After the Mass, the congregation continued to gather around the statue and reliquary containing bone fragments of the saint. The reliquary (shown above in the right corner of the statue’s case) was brought to Craco in 1769 and then sent to New York in 1901 to help Crachese immigrants here maintain their connection to their home, traditions, and faith.

A luncheon at DaNico Ristorante at 164 Mulberry Street gave members more chances to share stories, conversation and home made limoncello.

Our great appreciation goes out to the parish community at the Shrine Church of the Most Precious Blood for hosting us and providing a home for the statue and relic of San Vincenzo.

We look forward to a new and wonderful event next year on October 22, 2023.

Mark your calendar now and plan on joining what we hope will be an even larger celebration next year.

Viva San Vincenzo!



A NEW HOME IN CRACO—The restoration of the Madonna della Stella Chapel in Craco includes a place for the San Vincenzo relic to permanently reside there. The December newsletter will have more details about the restoration.

SAN VINCENZO CELEBRATION IN CRACO



Unveiling A Restored San Vincenzo

The feast in Craco this year featured a restored San Vincenzo processional statue. The statue (left and directly below) was displayed at the Church of San Nicola in Craco Peschiera at the feast day Mass there.

The actual relic of San Vincenzo (shown below right in the poster advertising the four day long event) will receive a new home at the restored Madonna della Stella Chapel (details about that restoration will appear in next month's Newsletter).

The procession of the new statue (right) through the streets of Craco Peschiera took place after the Mass.

Below left is the new parroco in Craco, Don Alberto Della Veneri at the lectern in San Nicola Vescovo-Craco.



Solennità di San Vincenzo Martire

Protettore di Craco



PROGRAMMA RELIGIOSO

GIOVEDÌ 20 OTTOBRE 2022

Ore 18:30: Inizio del Triduo a San Vincenzo con S. Messa e Benedizione della Statua, segue la presentazione del restauro.

VENERDÌ 21 OTTOBRE 2022

Ore 18:30: S. Messa, segue l'Adorazione Eucaristica Comunitaria.

SABATO 22 OTTOBRE 2022

Ore 17:30: S. Messa.

DOMENICA 23 OTTOBRE 2022

Ore 08:30: Questua e giro bandistico "Città di Canna CS" per le vie del paese;

Ore 18:00: S. Messa Solenne presso la Parrocchia San Nicola Vescovo, segue la processione per le vie di Craco Peschiera.

Il Parroco e il Comitato Feste organizzano la Solenne Festa a San Vincenzo con la variazione del programma tradizionale per via dei preparativi alla riapertura della Chiesa Maria SS della Stella. Pertanto, non appena sarà accessibile, si tornerà a venerare il corpo del Santo Patrono.

IMAGES OF NEW YORK CELEBRATION



Fr. Robert Campagna, OFM at the lectern (left) and the historic statuette of San Vincenzo with gifts attached, are framed by the beautiful frescos at the Shrine Church of the Most Precious Blood. Below: Stephen LaRocca (left) with Fr. Robert. Behind them are some of the historic statuary that are housed at the church. To the rear left is the Guariglia Altar that was donated by a family member and now houses the case where the San Vincenzo statue and reliquary reside.



A Day of Smiles—Jim Benedetto and Joe Rinaldi (left) are first cousins who meet for the first time on the streets of Little Italy, just like their ancestors.

Homemade limoncello is always a big hit after lunch, and it certainly adds to everyone's smiles. Shown right are Fil Francavilla, who is pouring glasses of his version of this favorite "digestivo" for Jim Benedetto and Michael Salomone.

Below is a section of the large lunch gathering at DaNico Ristorante on Mulberry Street. The scene behind Jim and Joe in the photo to the left show the same street in 1905. DaNico's meal provided a wonderful array of food and wine that gave members a chance to discover new connections and share stories of Craco and old New York.



POEMS FROM CRACO

I Calanchi (The Badlands)

I stop and look at
 This spectacular panorama
 Made of many badlands
 Bare and weary
 Made of clay
 Unsubstantial
 Its split crust
 Looks like dehydrated skin
 I look at its various forms
 Humps, domes, small and huge
 The rains have formed furrows
 That look like the wrinkles of an aged man
 They are poor in vegetation
 Because of poor nutrition
 They are very steep
 The sun has made them incohesive
 Highly erodible
 Shaping inimitable forms
 Which because of the washout
 Together with the runoff
 Have become knife blades
 Creating a beautiful landscape

Franco Tuzio



The Excursion

Fate has willed it so
 For them there is no more life here
 A landslide has reduced them to this
 Almost all of them are broken
 The state of neglect, the absence of maintenance
 Has given way to uncontrolled vegetation
 Weeds and shrubs of all kinds can be seen
 Coming to life in the walls
 They look out from the balconies
 They are now the real masters
 These abandoned remains
 Every day they are visited
 By many curious people
 Who behold this withered life in astonishment
 Many remain amazed
 Visiting these enchanted places
 At the end of the excursion
 Everyone has formed an opinion
 They certainly have something to say
 About this story the way it turned out
 I hope something remains inside
 Of this unfortunate little center
 And that they can tell others
 What's left to admire

Franco Tuzio



NEW MEMBERS

Colleen Benedetto-Hawthorne, NJ

James Benedetto-Hawthorne, NJ

HOW TO CONTACT US—COME CONTATTARCI



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



www.thecracosociety.org
 E-mail: memberservices@thecracosociety.org

