

LET'S SAVE THE KALENA ABBEY

Peschici, (Foggia), ITALY



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The most ancient abbey of the Gargano area (Apulia, southern Italy) is falling down. A few weeks ago the roof partly broke down. We have to rush in order to save what's still to be saved.

Please, sign up this petition to solicit the immediate expropriation of this important monument and urge the necessary intervention to restore it.

Only if many people sign this petition we will make it:

LET'S SAVE KALENA!

HISTORICAL OUTLINE:

In the heart of the green plain of Peschici has its seat a very ancient Abbey: it's Kalena.

It was built most likely in the year 872 a. D.

A formal act of donation from the Bishop of Siponto to the Abbey of Tremiti Islands dated 1023 a. D. proves the early existence of a sacred building there where Kalena today is.

In 1058 a. D. it became a powerful Abbey thanks to the privileges given to it by Popes and Emperors.

A lot of churches all over a territory which extended from Gargano area to Molise region and the Tavoliere plain were depending from the Kalena Abbey.

At that time it was so powerful that it was even contended between the Monastery of Tremiti Islands and the one in Montecassino but somehow it succeeded in being independent till the year 1445 a. D., when it was annexed to the Abbey of Tremiti Islands. Even after that date, Kalena Abbey never lost its prestige and power and it kept being a must stop for all the pilgrims going to the sacred mountain of the Archangel Michael (Monte Sant'Angelo).

It represents a jewel in the architecture of the Gargano area. It's made up of two Churches.

The first called the Old Church is a classic example of an architectural style typical of Apulia of "dome in apse".

The second church, called the New Church because more recent, represents a mixture of building styles coming from all over Europe and witnesses the presence of many foreign visitors in this sacred place.

Kalena has always been a symbol of the Gargano area and it's proved by the presence of various legends and tales about its history.

For example it was narrated there was an underground walkway which led to the Jalillo cove that was used by the monks in order to escape to the Saracens attacks.

A legend says that the sound of the sea is audible by a holy water font situated at the back in the left aisle of the New Church.

A popular Petition

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