

MONUMENTS AND SITES AS MESSENGERS OF PEACE

APPROVED DURING THE YEAR 2003-2004

1. The Church of Casaglia a Montesole, Marzabotto Bologna

Proposed by UNESCO Club Bologna and the Town Council of Marzabotto

In collaboration with the Archbishop of Bologna

Including signatures (petitions) of the citizens of Marzabotto

Official Ceremony for the proclamation 12 April 2003

The church was constructed in 1061 and reconstructed in 1660, and is an example of Roman style. In 1944 a community was built around the church, surrounded by an enormous space. It was enclosed by the German SS forces that, between the 29th September and the 5th of October, killed 955 people, among whom 316 were women and 216 were children. Many people took refuge in the church and were killed with machine guns even though they were inside the church. In the church cemetery Don Dossetti, one of the Fathers of the Constitution and founders of the monastic community that dedicates itself to study and to prayer for peace between peoples, was buried. This community also has a branch in Palestine, and for this reason it has a great value symbolically and a value of testimony. The effort of the community and of the civil administration is to operate in such a way to prevent this from ever happening again.

2. The Basilica of Collemaggio

Proposed by Aquila UNESCO Club

Proclamation on the 27th February 2003

The Basilica of Collemaggio is a wonderful expression of art and of history. In 1294, Pope Celestino V was ordained in the Basilica. Throughout history, the Basilica has always been an instrument of peace not only for Aquila and for Abruzzo but also for every one and there will be an effort to maintain this symbol of peace in the future. In fact, at the manifestation for the proclamation of the Basilica as a monument of peace on the 27th February 2003, many authoritative figures were present in addition to the hundreds of citizens that filled up the Basilica. During the ceremony, a telephonic connection with the use of a loudspeaker was used with the UN ambassador Steffan de Mistura, who at the time was ambassador on the frontier where mines were discovered,

who proposed to continue to work for peace thus lighting a candle in the evening in the Basilica. In this occasion the governing council of the Italian Federation of UNESCO Clubs formulated and diffused a declaration of peace of the UNESCO Italian Clubs.

3. Il Ponte Vecchio (The Old Bridge) in Ragusa

Proposed by UNESCO Club of Ragusa and Amnesty International

The Ponte Vecchio project was an idea of Father Giovanni Battista Occhipinti, also known as Father Scoppetta of the order of Capuccini Ragusa, 1770-1830.

The Ponte Vecchio was finished in 1937. The unique bridge united the two parts of Ragusa. A part of Ragusa was destroyed in the earthquake of 1693 and there was a conflict between the two parts of Ragusa. For this reason, Father Scopetta figured that this bridge could favour the meeting of and love between people more humble and much “weaker” today. Therefore this bridge represents another symbol of a culture of peace and testimony of unity for the whole city of Ragusa. And still today, the monument is illuminated every time that there is some risk of death or danger in order to increase a sense of peace.

4. The Basilica of San Lucca in Bologna

*Promoted by the UNESCO Club of Bologna and the Rector of the Basilica of San Lucca
Official Ceremony for the proclamation 15 November 2003*

This monument raises itself above the city making it possible to see it from the whole valley, from the top of the city and from all the city surroundings. For many people the fact that you can see it from so far away represents a point of safety and security. It has represented a symbol of unity and peace not only for the people of Bologna but also for all the foreigners and for all those that came to the city even for reasons of war.

Although the Basilica was nominated a messenger of peace recently, it has always been one. The Sanctuary of the Madonna of San Luca is the place where pardon is asked of from God and is obtained through the sacrament of forgiveness. In this place, each day of the year, the priests welcome all penitents, and absolve sins-, which are the root of all divisions-thus giving the forgiveness of God. People also come to entrust their hopes and expectations, as well as the request for peace in the world, the type of peace that begins with forgiveness and passes through justice, with respect for each human being.

The Basilica has its own autonomy and its Rector is responsible for all the activities that it makes an effort to continue in the future for the promotion and education of peace.

5. The Church of San Francesco in Naro (Arigento)

Proposed by the UNESCO Club of Arigento

Collection of the signatures of the citizens.

21 September 2004

The Church of Saint Francesco (San Francesco) is considered one of the most representative of the Baroque monuments in Naro, thanks to its façade in tufo stone, its rich ornamental decorations and its exuberant bas-relief and fancy carvings. It was erected in 1230 and rebuilding began on it in 1362 and rebuilding began on it in 1362. Restorations were made in 1602 and it was made notably wider in 1616 and embellished during the early six and seven hundreds. It is gathered-from local traditions, passed down through the years-that the restoration work, the widening of the church and its embellishment- all taking place in the early 17th century-were carried out in the name of peace and understanding between different populations, a message that the church of Rome wished to spread around the world, following the peace between France, England and Spain created in the previous century.

The Church makes an effort to always be a symbol of peace, it being located on the main square and near the Town Council offices. The church will be used for manifestations, cultural events and visits and other initiatives that can contribute to the promotion of peace. Furthermore, the town council is also planning and organising a great event called “The Peace Relay Race” starting from Saint Francis Church and finishing in the district of Caltabellotta, a well-known site for peace in 1302.

6. Carrara dei Marmi

29 November 2003

Ceremony for the proclamation of studies on the sculptures of Nicoli in Cararra whose site is a messenger of peace, already proclaimed so in 2000 because he created intercultural dialogue for peace through art. In the studies from 1800 to today, many works were sculptured, among which some of the most important works of Italian Sculpture.

7. Common Statutes as cultural patrimony to be preserved

Proposed by the Club UNESCO of Ascoli Piceno and Castel Lama

Proclaimed 9 September 2003

On the 9th of September 2003, the volume “Statutes of Castel di Lama: 1545-2000” was presented. Including the authors, The President of The Italian Federation of UNESCO Clubs Marialuisa Stringa, The President of The UNESCO Club Ascoli Giuseppe Marcucci, key provincial and regional authorities, and the town mayor were present.

As instruments of peace the following were presented: a monograph on the modern and ancient statutes; an critical analysis of the text and of the ancient age; a presentation to all of the whole text of the actual statutes, deliberated by the law 142 of the 8th of June 1990 and launched in 2000, to underline the importance and the specific characters of local communities, in an era in which in the world everything seems destined to fail and disappear.

8. Monument dedicated to the fallen in Piazza Manelli, Savona

Proposed by the UNESCO Clubs and the Local Authorities

About 900 original signatures of the citizens with the numbers of official identification of the citizens.

This monument in the middle of Piazza Manelli in Savona has become a place of testimony where all manifestations for peace in Savona take place. The monument was inaugurated in 1927 and is dedicated to those who died in all the wars. It is also a “meeting place” where citizens leave flowers, cards, flags and written signs every time a dramatic event that touches the conscience takes place. Every Friday, “women in black” meet at 1800hrs in front of the Bell and in silence “demonstrate” their desire for peace. Everyday, at 1800hrs traffic stops and there is a moment of silence in commemoration of the fallen.