St Hannibal Pilgrimages Useful Information for Pilgrims

Practical information

for St Hannibal Pilgrims visiting St Hannibal Sacred Sites in

Oria, Altamura, Corato and Messina

ALL WELCOME

THE DOORS ARE OPEN

in Rogationists Fathers

&

Daughters of Divine Zeal

Houses

Link to Mother Eli Superior of Daughters of Divine Zeal welcome message to St Hannibal Pilgrims

LINK: https://www.divinewillfamily.org/sainthannibal

For more information contact

https://www.divinewillfamily.org/sainthannibal

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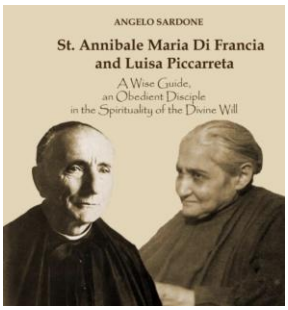
OVERVIEW MAP FOR ORIA ALTAMURA & CORATA (Puglia Italy)

The map above is intended to help pilgrims visualise the geography of the pilgrimage locations in Puglia Region of Italy. Brindisi is shown to the east, with Oria clearly marked. Altamura, Matera, and Corato are also highlighted, forming an approximate triangle.

Fr Angelo Sardone rcj lives in Matera and who wrote the Book on the relationship between St Hannibal and Luisa.



Listen to his presentation **Link to Fr Angelo Sardone's Presentation / Teaching**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jgfLdl1T6QM

To request copies of this book, please contact: Villaggio del Fanciullo S. Antonio, Viale C. Levi 2, 75100 Matera, or email vilfanmatera@rcj.org or an.sardone@rcj.org. They can be mailed for a fee of €10.00, including postage.

Travel options to Puglia?

One good travel option would be to fly into Brindisi, rent a car, and drive to Oria, ideally finding accommodation there (unless a different base is preferred). On the second day, when visiting Altamura, one could either stay overnight there or choose to stay in Matera instead. Matera is where The Passion of the Christ was filmed and where the most recent series of The Chosen (the Crucifixion scenes) was filmed last June. It is a very characteristic place, with many B&B options.

The car journey from Matera to Altamura is about 15 minutes; from Matera to Corato, approximately one hour; and from Matera to Oria, also around one hour. For the return journey, one suggestion is to fly back from Bari, which is closer to Corato (around 30 minutes). The main consideration with this option is car rental logistics, as it would require returning the car to a different airport.

Another option is to fly into Bari first, then drive to Oria, followed by Altamura, and finally Corato, returning the car to Bari Airport. Alternatively, you could fly in and out of the same airport (either Brindisi or Bari) and adjust the driving route accordingly.

The trip can be done independently and extended over three days if you would like to make it more of a holiday as well.

ORIA ITALY

Pilgrim sites to visit:

1) **Rogationist Fathers, Oria Church, Community St Hannibal Museum & Tomb of Servant of God Fr Pantaleone Palma** (right hand man of St Hannibal and second Superior general of the Rogationist Order). This house was established by St Hannibal in 1909 after 1908 earthquake in

Messina. This Church and House are open to all pilgrims to visit and stay at any time. Fr Palma suffered greatly and for more information on his life click on his biography Link: https://73cf4618-090e-4e50-955a-fa60c9279053.filesusr.com/ugd/285516_60d10db0773a42c89f6293c449f5d9ef.pdf. or https://www.divinewillfamily.org/sainthannibal where the link to Fr Palma's biography is available.

Beautiful testimony by Fr Chirulli rcj on 1 June 2026 in Oria, 95 year old and expert on Fr Palma Link **Link to Fr Antonio Chiruli's rcj Testimony** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xozBgnhd4Ec

Link to PDF version which is a translation of Fr Chirulli's testimony.

Address: Santuario Sant'Antonio Di Padova, Via Annibale Maria Di Francia, 30 Oria,72024 Italy

Local Contact: Fr Phillip Golez rcj phil@rcj.org WhatsApp +39 380 1940733 email: phil@rcj.org (English speaking) to arrange accommodation and / or visits to Sanctuary Sant'Antonio, St Hannibal Museum.

1) **Daughters of Divine Zeal (FDZ) original House where St Hannibal celebrated Mass in old City of Oria.**

Address: Via Castello No 28, Oria. This house is now closed however it can be visited by prior arrangement with Sisters of Daughters of the Divine Zeal. It is the original house which St Hannibal set up the FDZ Convent in Oria
Local Contact: Mother Stella Superior of FDZ Convent; whats app (Italian only) 0039334 3284616 or Sr Dolores (English speaking). Telephone 0831 845128 (reception).
Current address of FDZ Convent in Oria: Instituto Figlie del Divino Zelo, Via Vela No 3, 72024 Oria BR Italy (which is the current house of Daughters of Divine Zeal) email: fdzsbenedetto@yahoo.com and direzione.oria@gmail.com

Local Airport: **Brindisi** in Italy is the nearest Airport to Oria.

Travel from Airport to Oria: 45 mins by Taxi from Brindisi Airport / public transport / car hire
Parking: download App Easy Park

Accommodation Options:

- **Priest & Pilgrims welcome- Accommodation: contact Fr** Phillip Golez rcj WhatsApp +39 380 1940733 in Rogationist Community House, Santuario Sant'Antonio Di Padova, Via Annibale Maria Di Francia, 30 Oria,72024, Italy. Full board available.
- Other options: www.booking.com and www.airbnb.ie

- Large Pilgrim Groups: Francavilla Puglia Italy nearest local big town which has hotels for bigger groups.

REVIEW FROM PILGRIM WHO STAYED AT ROGATIONIST HOUSE IN ORIA

Staying in St. Hannibal's monastery in Oria was wonderful. Fr. Philip, Fr. Christy Madathettu and Br. Joseph all have English. Everything about the monastery is fascinating. The 14th century Franciscan building. Even the cell doors from the 14th century, the reliquary, the crypt where St. Moro said Mass and where the friars were buried standing up in the walls when they died, St Hanibal's rooms. It seems they would be willing to feed a large group but would need to have sufficient warning to provide staff for same. The sleeping arrangements are in dormitories but there are lots of steps up to same which might not be suitable for people with mobility difficulties. Mass is daily at 7p.m.

ALTAMURA ITALY

Pilgrim sites to visit:

1. **Tomb of Melania Calvat -** Co-Founder of the Daughters of the Divine Zeal (FDZ) whose cause for canonisation commenced on 31.10.2025. (Click on Link to see letter). Holy Mass daily in convent church, check times with Sr Evelyn.
2. **Museum of St Hannibal, Room of Servant of God Father Pantaleone Palma, & Melania Calvat**
3. **Church of St Nicholas (Chiesa di San Nicola dei Greci)** Corso Federico II di Svevia, 70022) Altamura where this is a dedicated altar to Our Lady of La Salette and where Melania venerated).
4. **House where Melania Calvat passed**

Local Contact: Sr Evelyn Erme FDZ, Whats App +39 349 2896866 (English speaking). Responsible for Movement of Melania Calvat in Altamura. If you would like to join Melania Calvat whats app please contact Sr Evelyn.
Address: Figlie Divino Zelo, Via Annibale Di Francia, 25-70022 Altamura (BA), ITALY,
Telephone: 00 39 803115485
Website: direzionealtamurafdz@virgilio.it
Facebook: Figlie Divino Zelo Altamura

Local Airport: **Bari** in Italy is the nearest Airport to Altamura.

Travel from Airport to Altamura: Public bus / Taxi from Bari Airport car hire / bus hire (depending on the size of the group) to Altamura. **Parking: download App Easy Park**

Accommodation Options: Accommodation options for Altamura:
San Nicola Hotel in Altamura. (also see Matera if interested)
www.booking.com and www.airbnb.ie

PILGIRMS COMMENTS FDZ in Altamura

- Loved the San Nicola Hotel in Altamura.This is around the corner from the Church where Melanie venerated St Nicholas and also around the corner from where Melania lived.
- *Sr. Evelyn said she hopes to provide Bed and Breakfast in her convent but needs funding to achieve this.*
- Translate the booklet of St. Hannibal's relationship with Melanie Calvat into English. This is in progress.
- The opportunity to tour Matera (which is nearby driving distance).

CORATO ITALY

For more information contact
https://www.divinewillfamily.org/sainthannibal
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Pilgrim sites to visit:

1. **Luisa's Original Home,** Museum & Seat of Association Luisa Piccarreta,
   Address: Via Luisa Piccarreta, 27 Corato Website www.en.luisapiccarretaofficial.org
   Local Contact: Luisa Piccarreta Museum: Antonella Bucci info@luisapiccarretaofficial.org

2. **Museum of St Hannibal and accommodation options- Orfanotrofio Antoniano Femminile:** Convent of the Daughters of the Divine Zeal
   Address: Via Luigi Pirandello 70033 Corato Bari Italy
   Local Contact: for St Hannibal Museum and St Anthony's orphanage
   Sr Milena Quatela Superior (Italian speaking) WhatsApp 0039 340 6946357

3. **Tomb of Servant of God Luisa Piccarreta in Church of Saint Mary 'Greca'**
   Address: Corsa Garibaldi, Corato
   Website: www.santamariagreca.org

Local Airport: Bari in Italy is the nearest airport to Corato. **Travel from airport to Corato:** train from Bari to Corato / car hire/taxi / bus hire (depending on the size of the group)
Parking: download App Easy Park

Accommodation Options:

Accommodation option for Corato Pilgrims for individuals and small pilgrim groups: check out:
St Antony's orphanage/Orfanotrofio Antoniano Femminile: Convent of the Daughters of the Divine Zeal.
Contact: Sr Milena Quatela Superior (Italian speaking) WhatsApp 0039 340 6946357
Other options
www.booking.com and www.airbnd.ie
Priest Accommodation:
Orfanotrofio Antoniano Femminile: Convent of the Daughters of the Divine Zeal.
Contact: Sr Milena Quatela Superior (Italian speaking) WhatsApp 0039 340 6946357

VIEW FROM PILGRIM STAYING FDZ Corato Accomodation:-
The Daughters of Divine Zeal have many rooms but the sisters are elderly and do not have English. They do not provide food. (In our case the 5 of us were able to bring in our own food) 10 or 12 people could fit at the table they allowed us to use.
Mass daily at 7.30a.m.

MESSINA SICILY

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RyAXUzeXfbE&t=3s

Pilgrim sites to visit:

1. **St Hannibal's body in the Crypt of the Basilica of San Antonio**
   https://www.basilicaantoniana.it/webcam/cripta-santannibale/

   Basilica opens at 7 am daily. Mass in Crypt Monday to Saturday 8.30 am

2. **Museum for the Avignon quarters** within the Basilica where St Hannibal started his work with the poor

3. **Messina Cathedral and Our Lady of Letters (Bell Tower 12 noon daily)**

4. **Church of Saint Mary of the Holy Spirit, Museum and Apartment of St Hannibal.**
   Address: Istituti Figlie Del Divino Zeal, Piazza Spirito Santo, messina ME 98123

   Local Contact: Sr Barbara srbarbarafdz22@gmail.com to access Museum (English speaking)

5. **Messina St Hannibal Camino launched (walking/ driving in the sacred footsteps and places of St Hannibal)** was launched in November 2025 by Rogationist Fathers and Daughters of Divine Zeal

6. **Sanctuary of the Madonna Della Guardia**

   Address: Figlie Del Divino Zelo, Communita Orante Sancuario Madonna Della Guardia 98158 Faro Superiore Messina
   website:https://fdzguardia.wixsite.com/fdzsantuarioguardia?fbclid=IwY2xjawKqvDJleHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHliAkOYU16O7EsFvRxo-g2Dxtgm24yLvjDhEUMz5jWcvvNpMJ2PBPPdT2vtt_aem_6zn1KGKD7caQZb_-5hTkDQ

Local Contact for Madonna Della Guardia: Sr Marita Olango FDZ (English speaking)

email: sistermaritaolango@gmail.com, Museum, Church, Retreat Accommodation & Full Board

7. **Daughters of the Divine Zeal Taormina House, Church Museum of St Hannibal**

Website: **https://www.basilicaantoniana.it/luoghi-di-santannibale/casa-femminiledi-taormina-me/**

Local Contact for Taormina: Sr Virginia's WhatsApp + 39 3342138797(English & Italian speaking)

Local Contact for Messina for all pilgrims' queries:
Fr Unny WhatsApp +39 388 6239369, English and Italian speaker, based in Basilica

Local Airport: Messina is Cantania in Sicily

Travel from Airport to Messina: 1.5 – 2-hour bus trip from Airport to Messina €8 single; tickets on line https://www.saisautolinee.it/en/linee-tpl-sicilia-tratte/catania-messina
Taxi is expensive, one-way trip €180.
Travel by road from Oria to Messina (420 KM) plus ferry crossing from Villa S Giovanni Port to Messina (25 mins crossing).
Parking: download App Easy Park

Accommodation Options

1. **Family Run Hotel very local to Basilica - Individuals and small pilgrim group option:**

Hotel Messenion, Via Francesco Faranda 7, 98123 Messina www.hotelmessenion.it

Email with precise dates and number of rooms required info@hotelmessenion.it
In email ref for the attention of 'Giovanna' and ref Fr Unny rcj for pilgrim price of room

2. **Big Hotel (up to 85 rooms) more suitable for bigger pilgrim groups:**

Royal Palace Hotel, Via T Cannizzaro 3, 98123 Messina Sicily www.royalpalacemessina.it
Email with precise dates and number of rooms required reservation.rph@framonhotels.it
ref for the attention of 'Melanie' and ref Fr Unny rcj for pilgrim price of room.

3. **Santuario della Madonna della Guardia,**

Via Annibale M Di Francai, 10, 98158 Faro Superiore ME Italy

for pilgrims with transport only (30 mins drive outside of Messina) you need car or taxi or bus to access it

Web address: https://www.basilicaantoniana.it/luoghi-di-santannibale/santuariomadonna-della-guardia-faro-superiore-me/

Email: Sr Marita Olango sistermaritaolango@gmail.com excellent English

to book accommodation in this Sanctuary or visit or spend time on retreat in this very special place where St Hannibal spent his last 22 days on earth.

4. **Priest Accommodation: contact** Fr Unny WhatsApp +39 388 6239369
5. **Other options**: www.booking.com or www.airbnb.ie

6. **Future accommodation option in Messina:** The Daughters of the Divine Zeal are currently working on pilgrim accommodation in Messina, but this is not expected to be available until 2027 at the earliest.

St Hannibal Feast Day celebrations

in

Messina v Rest of the world (for consideration)

Q. What date is St Hannibal's Feast Day celebrated?

A. Worldwide 1 June except in Messina only: 16th May annually. The reason being is that on 3 June Messina has an official holiday and Feast Day for Our Lady of the Letters, who is known as the Patroness of Messina. https://www.messinarte.it/the-cathedral-of-messina/

Q. What is the actual date of St Hannibal centenary?

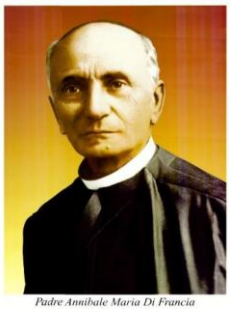
A. 1 June 2027

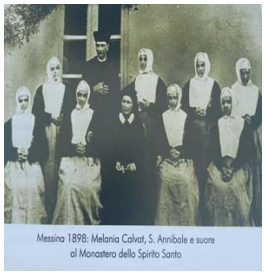
however, the St Hannibal centenary celebrations are being treated as a three-year event which commenced on 1 June 2025. There are many events running for the three-year period including 1 2 3 June 2026 in Oria, Altamura and Corato Italy see below.

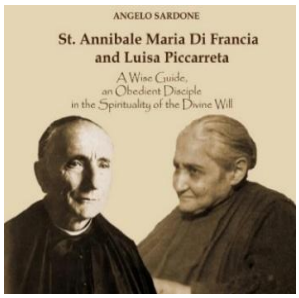
St Hannibal Pilgrimages Useful Information for Pilgrims

SCHEDULE 1

SAMPLE OF PREVIOUS: St Hannibal 3 days Pilgrimage 1, 2 & 3 June 2026 V 6 MAY 2026


Padre Annibale Maria Di Francia





ORIA 1 JUNE 2026 Santuario Sant'Antonio Di Padova, Via Annibale Maria Di Francia, 30 Oria,72024, ITALY

- **13:00** lunch in Rogationists House (RSVP if you are attending in person: ict@divinewillfamily.org)
- **14:00** Visit St Hannibal Museum & Garden
- **16:00 -17:30** (TBC) Original FDZ Convent, Via Castello, No 8 Old City of Oria
- **19:00** Holy Mass on the Feast Day of St Hannibal; Main Celebrant Arch Bishop of Brindisi Giovanni Intini

ALTAMURA 2 JUNE 2026 **Figlie Divino Zelo, Via Annibale Di Francia, 25-70022 Altamura (BA), ITALY,**

- **11:00-17:00** Visit Museum of St Hannibal & Melanie Calvat Tomb
- **12:30-13:45** Lunch – S. ANTONIO PIZZARIA Via Niccolo Machiavelli 2, Altamura (RSVP to: ict@divinewillfamily.org)
- **14:00-14:30** Confessions
- **15:00** Holy Mass in Convent Church next to Tomb of Melania Calvat Co-Founder of the Daughters of the Divine Zeal (canonization cause commenced 31.10.2025); Main Celebrant: Rev. Theophie Hostie.

CORATO 3 JUNE 2026 Luisa Piccarreta House Via Luisa Piccarreta, 27 Corato, ITALY

- **09:30** Presentation by Fr Angelo Sardone rcj new book on St Hannibal & Servant of God Luisa Piccarreta & Visit Luisa's Museum
- **11:00** Holy Mass Church of Saint Mary 'Greca'. Main Celebrant: Fr Sergio Pellgrini Vicar General Trani, & Fr Angelo Sardone rcj, Fr Vincenzo Bovino PP, Fr Theophie Hostie;
- **12:00-13:00** (TBC) Visit Museum of St Hannibal Antoniano Girls' Orphanage, Corato

SCHEDULE 2

Message received from Mother Eli (Mother Superior of Daughters of Divine Zeal) to St Hannibal Pilgrims (dated 7 May 2026)

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,
It is with great joy that I am here with you to speak to you about something that is deeply close to my heart.
By the design of God's love, we belong to a single Christian family of baptized people chosen for a very special mission. Saint Hannibal Mary, founder of my Institute, spiritual father of Luisa Piccarreta and Melanie Calvat, patron of your movement of the Mystical Mothers of Priests under the sign of the Divine Will, unites us in a single project of love and zeal.
In this context, we are all part of the same spiritual family of Saint Hannibal Mary, which we call the "Family of the Rogate," for it is inspired by Jesus' commandment: "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send holy laborers into his harvest!" (Cf. Mt 9:35-38 and Lk 10:2).
You are about to embark on a great pilgrimage to visit and experience firsthand the sacred places that have been the geographical space of life that inspired our spirituality: Corato, Oria, Altamura, and Messina.
These homes of the Daughters of Divine Zeal (FDZ) preserve in their memory all the charismatic strength of our Holy Founder and of the people who lived with him: Luisa Piccarreta, Melanie Calvat, Mother Nazarena (our co-founder), and many FDZ of the Heart of Jesus and Rogationist Fathers of the Heart of Jesus, as well as hundreds of children, young people, and families.
Over the years, these places have acquired a spiritual depth that enriches all who come there to find God's mercy and the strength to live their Christian life to the full.
Thank you for your dedication and for the life you have given to the Church and for the sanctification of the clergy and families. Thank you for your lives of holiness and for visiting our communities.
In these places, may you find inspiration and strength to continue the mission God has entrusted to you. God bless you. May Our Lady guide you, and may you have an excellent experience in the Spirit, for your own sanctification and that of all those God has entrusted to your spiritual care.
Have a safe journey, enjoy your stay, and in love for the Divine Will, I wish you all the best.
I bless you wholeheartedly and accompany you with my prayers and affection.

Mother Maria Eli
Superior General of the FDZ