

fresco representing the Saviour between Angels), the right apse was closed and the left apse was transformed in sacristy. At least the church had a Baroque look thanks to the new inside decoration, with stuccoes, plasters and frescos, visible nowadays.

In 1884 the church was restored again: a pipe organ was placed in the counter façade, two white marble altars were placed in the aisles, a bell gable was realized on the right apse.

Around the middle of XX century, when the parish was moved in St. Sofia church and after the restoration works in it, the altar of St. Giovenale with its statue of 1793, and Virgin's statue (both the statues made by the Neapolitan artist Gennaro Ceraso) were moved in St. Salvatore.

After the earthquake of 21st August 1962 the church was closed and opened up again on 14th April 2002.

The main altar and St. Giovenale's altar preserve relics of saints, some coming from St. Sofia, and collected in medieval period.



CHURCH OF SANTISSIMO SALVATORE

BENEVENTO

The Church of "Santissimo Salvatore", in Stefano Borgia road, can be considered one of the most ancient churches of Benevento, despite its Baroque look.

In the past it was called "*Ecclesia S. Salvatoris de Porta Somma*", and it was certainly founded by Longobards. A document, dated 22nd February 926, mentions the "*monasterio Domini Salvatoris*" and shows its location, too.

Moreover, the excavations done between 1997 and 1999, when the church was under repair, located parts of Longobard walls dating back to VII century and then to the most ancient parts of the church in the VIII-IX centuries. At that time the Church had a quadrangular form, probably with an apse. The floor was a metre under the present floor. The excavations

also dug out some interesting Longobard graves: one called "*bisoma*", that is for two places, another "*alogette*" with a place for



dead's head, which has a rare inscription dedicated to presbyter Auderisio.



Different elements of spoliation (eight columns in granite, probably coming from Isis's local temple, capitals, two Roman epigraphs), one element of the original floor and the ancient door next to the left aisle testify the church's first structural phases.

In 1161, after restoration works, Archbishop Enrico reconsacrated the church. With these works some pointed arches were placed in the



church and nowadays they are visible on the inside walls, (on the sacristy door and on the arches between the left aisle and the central nave), but also on the front, where the portal of the church is still visible in part.

In 1650 the right aisle and the high altar were realized.

After the earthquake of 5th June 1688 Cardinal Vincenzo Maria Orsini, the future pope Benedetto XIII, financed important restoration works: on the front the pronao was realized, inside the wooden truss was hidden by a vault (later painted with a

