

At Naples, in May of 1656, a terrible epidemic of the plague broke out because of the invasion by Spanish soldiers from Sardinia. The epidemic spread quite rapidly in the villages and in the surrounding countryside, arriving also in the small town of Cava dei Tirreni. There were thousands of victims, both in the city and in the countryside. Father Paolo Franco, one of the few spared by the plague, inspired from on high, and defying every danger, called the people together and directed that a procession of reparation be made to Mount Castello, situated at a distance of a few kilometers. When they arrived at the top of the mountain, Fr. Franco blessed Cava dei Tirreni with the Blessed Sacrament. The plague miraculously ended and even today, each year in the month of June, the people of Cava march in solemn procession in commemoration of the miracle.