

Reviews

Bergoglio, Giovanna. *L'opera assistenziale e sociale di San Giuseppe Benedetto Cottolengo* (Bra: Cassa di Risparmio di Bra, 1986), 166 pp.

Although not dealing specifically with confraternities, this volume may interest scholars working on the history of spirituality and charity in nineteenth-century Piedmont. It is a critical biography of St. Giuseppe Benedetto Cottolengo (1786-1842), a middle-class man born in Bra, who underwent a spiritual crisis in 1826-27 and emerged from it to enter the religious life and establish a "Piccola Casa della Divina Provvidenza" (1832), a hospice for ill or poor youths of both sexes, still extant.

The volume is divided into four chapters that provide a biography of the saint from 1786 to 1831 (pp. 29-58), discuss the founding of the Piccola Casa and its early history from 1832 to 1834 (pp. 59-92), its growth in 1834-1837 (pp. 93-128), and its development during Cottolengo's final years, 1837-1842 (pp. 129-162). Some final observations (pp. 163-166) bring the volume to a close.

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Musardo Talò, Vincenza. *Il monastero di S. Chiara a Grottaglie* (Lecce: Edizioni del Grifo, 1992), xxii, 249 pp. + ill.

This study commemorates the 400th anniversary of the founding of the Monastery of Santa Chiara at Grottaglie (1591), and