



Comune di Guardia Sanframondi
Provincia di Benevento



Titolo: History of the Riti Settennali

*Emblems, Soul, Identity, Territory, Community, Sacred Feeling, Faith are the typical elements of every tradition and particular of the **Riti Settennali di Penitenza in Onore della Vergine Assunta in Guardia Sanframondi**. Every seven years (see section “To Know More..”), this event offers processions of penance that attract thousands of worshippers and faithful, pilgrims and scholars. On this occasion, the popular feeling reaches a deep and spiritual level and, whilst, the Medieval Town of Guardia Sanframondi becomes, in a sign of a strong tradition, the “scenario”, of a unique event of its kind, within a context that becomes a new and valued force.*



To date the origins of the Riti Settennali di Penitenza are unsure because there are no certain sources. However, there are different legends about the Riti Settennali.

The most famous tells that:

[...]while some farmers ploughed the land with two oxen, they were surprised to hear the sound of bells underground, where once upon a time there was the Church of S.M. Limata. Digging down deep, they found two bells and a statue of a Madonna.



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This news fast reached the people of Castelvenere, Paupisi and Vitulano. They needed to be certain and went there and wanting to dig up the statue that, however appear very heavy to lift. In the end the people of Guardia Sanframondi organized a procession of penance and they carried the statue on their shoulders, which had become lighter. They took the statue to Guardia and ever since then it has been preserved in the most important of the churches of town. [...]

That story gave birth to the procession of penance and to the Battenti. These events are repeated every seven years in Guardia Sanframondi.

Thanks to this legend and to historical documents, the origins of the devotion for the Assunta, should be placed between 1400 and 158. She has been, is and forever will be “The Mother” of the people of Guardia.



La statua lignea dell'Assunta
Foto di Padre Giuseppe Lando 1980

