

Foundation set up to restore dome of St Dominic's Church in Valletta

The Fondazzjoni Porto Salvo u San Duminku has been set up to collect funds and restore the dome of St Dominic's Church in Valletta.

The project is estimated to cost some €300,000 and will start when enough funds are collected.

The first phase, to cost some €150,000, will include the restoration of the dome and the roof from the outside, to stop the water which was destroying the Cali paintings on the inside from seeping in. This work had to be carried out in summer and is estimated to take about six months.

The restoration of paintings will then be embarked upon and should take about two years to be concluded.

The foundation will be seeking EU funds through the Valletta local council.

Comments

Igalea (5 days, 10 hours ago)

F. Williams

Thanks for the information re frescoes, but Mr Mark Sagona has amplified on your posting. As I said a Church had tried to get funds for the restoration of the Church which was in dire need of restoration as pieces were falling down, but according to the parish publication when they applied for eu funds they were informed that the eu does not give funds. This is one of the incoherent reasoning in the eu because if you do not protect the Church itself, how can you protect its internal assets?

As for the Foundation I wish them good luck and congratulations on your initiatives. If only we could have more such initiatives because it make one cry when we see so much heritage aband9oned and being lost for ever.

Mark Sagona (5 days, 23 hours ago)

to F. Williams

The Cali Porto Salvo ceiling paintings are NOT frescoes. Giuseppe Cali painted his works in oil on prepared stone (and not on canvas stuck to the stone, as in the case of many other painters), as he did in most other similar commission in churches all over

Malta and Gozo. That is why Cali's paintings have suffered a lot, especially in churches which, like Porto Salvo, had water seepage which was not addressed for years on end. The restoration project is indeed good news ... even though unfortunately the paintings have been left in this dilapidated state for many years now and certain damage cannot be reversed.

F.Williams (6 days, 4 hours ago)

@lgalea

There is a EU fund dedicated to the restoration of frescoes. The Cali paintings in this Basilica are all frescoes and as such they do qualify for EU funding. About three years ago, I personally asked Dr.Joseph Muscat for any info, which he very effeciently sent. Collection of funds were started years ago and must continue. One may also hope to get some help from the gov maybe through the "good causes fund". Good luck to the foundation and hope that they can realy manage in the restoration of these paintings. I also hope that many Dumnikani contribute to the project especially this coming week since we will be celebrating our Feast. For a detailed program of the feast and the basilica history pls visit www.sanduminku.com

Igalea (6 days, 7 hours ago)

A few years ago in one of the Church parish magazines in the South of Malta it was stated that when the parish had asked for eu funds due to the great expense required to repair the Church the answer from the eu was that it does not give money for such projects. The Church is now being repaired through money collected from the parishioners.

john abela (6 days, 8 hours ago)

prosit and keep it up

C.R. Taliana (6 days, 9 hours ago)

Finally some good news.
