

## **Alabaster Success Story**

Your Alabaster Offering makes a Kingdom difference! Just ask the Nazarene congregation in Catania, Sicily (Italy). Ten years ago, their church property was the neighborhood dump, burned annually by local firefighters in an attempt to control the ever-accumulating rubble. But the local Nazarene congregation looked at the space and saw something else—an answer to prayer.

On November 6, 2005, with General Superintendent Paul G. Cunningham in attendance, the church in Catania, Sicily, realized a decade-old dream, as more than 100 congregation members and friends packed into the sunlit sanctuary to celebrate the dedication of Italy's newest Nazarene church building. The church was built through funds from Alabaster offerings and Work & Witness teams, as well as countless hours of labor and support from the local congregation. "I feel relieved on one side," said Pastor Giovanni Cereda, who has been with the church since the project's beginning, "but on the other, I feel more responsible for all the implications of what this building brings—like evangelism, activities, and more work that needs to be done for the Lord."

The completed building enables the church in Catania to reach out to its local community beyond Sunday services. The congregation is now planning outreach through concerts, movie nights, English courses, music lessons, and sporting events each week, ministries made possible with the new structure and grounds. "We have to dream dreams, and we have to have visions, and we should not be scared about the future because God is with us and will always be with us," said Cereda.

Let's work together to help more congregations realize their dreams. Your participation in Alabaster helps churches—like Catania Church of the Nazarene—make a difference in the Kingdom of God.

*Adapted from Where Worlds Meet  
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