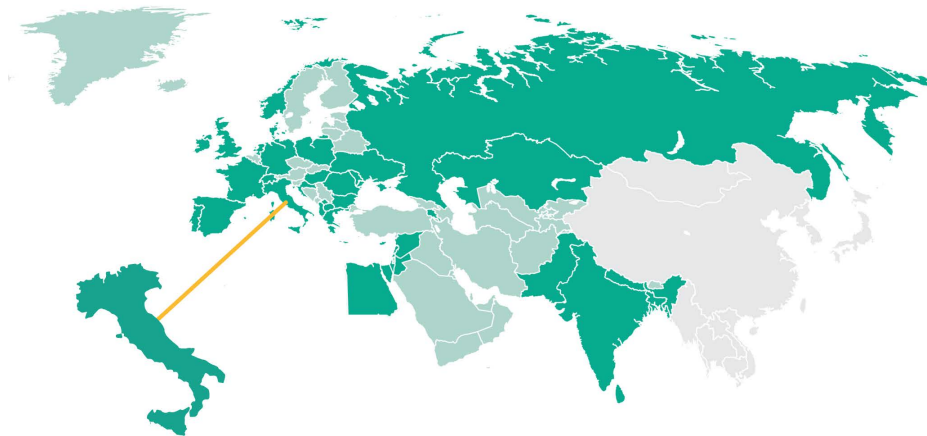


# NMI Central

NAZARENE MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL

6 September 2023

## Eurasia Region



## Italy

Italy has always been important in the European geographic landscape, because of its central location in the southern part of Europe. For nearly 800 years, the Roman Empire ruled much of the known world, but fell in the 5th century to the invasions of many of the neighbors it had once ruled. For centuries it was a puzzle of small independent kingdoms or city-states, but in 1861, it became a nation when its states were united. In World War I, Italy fought on the side of the Allied powers to restore order in Europe, but in World War II, it waged war against the Allied forces in the promotion of a fascist regime under the leadership of Benito Mussolini. Defeated, Italy began to emerge economically and socially, and politically became a democratic republic in 1946. Just two years later, the Church of the Nazarene entered Italy to officially begin its work there in 1948. A predominantly Roman Catholic country, the work of evangelical protestant denominations has been slow to develop. Yet, the Church of the Nazarene is not only present, but purposeful in its efforts to share the Good News of Jesus and spread the message of scriptural holiness. Presence is often only legitimized by buildings that represent our intention to stay, whatever the ups and downs of social history. In the story that follows, you will read of the importance of buildings in Italy, and the commitment of Italian Nazarenes of all ages to Alabaster giving.



337 Members



6 Fully Organized  
Churches



8 District Licensed and 4  
Ordained Ministers

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## PRAYER



- Pray for new EuNC students to prepare for and engage in ministry in Italy.
- Pray for the Lord to intervene and provide solutions to resolve outstanding problems related to several of Italy's church buildings.
- Pray for a new pastor for the church in Campi Bisenzio (near Florence). The current pastor is retired.
- Pray for wisdom and vision for future missionaries for the work in Italy.

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## PRAISE



- We praise God for the four district licensed ministers, actively involved in local and district ministries, and who will soon be ordained (3 as elders, and 1 as a deacon at the next district assembly).
- We rejoice that God is still calling young men and women for ministry, who are engaged in EuNC studies.
- We give thanks for the blessing of having three Work and Witness groups who helped in projects in Florence (Firenze), Campi Bisenzio, and Civitavecchia.
- We praise God for the enthusiastic reports from our delegates to the Global Conventions and General Assembly, and for their renewed vision and strength.



## Kids Kaleidoscope

NMI is committed to engage children and youth, providing missions information and activities, designed to awaken and nurture a spirit of missions in the hearts of children. Click [here](#) to access Kids Kaleidoscope, a monthly addition to NMI Central to awaken and nurture a spirit of missions in everyone.



Italy is active in promoting the Alabaster Offering two times a year (February and September). Italian Nazarenes are very grateful for the Alabaster funds that have helped the Italy District to obtain most of their church buildings.



The churches in Florence and in Catania have fine craftsmen who built larger Alabaster boxes resembling a church. In these wooden boxes the churches collected their Alabaster offerings.





This year, in February, the District NMI suggested that the offering be collected in a very creative way using the motto: “Alabaster - One coffee cup a time!” NMI district president, Vania Fink tells us, “We gave each member of the churches a container where they could put, every day, the amount of money they saved in giving up a cup of coffee.” From 1 - 26 February, the Italy District invited everyone to give up the luxury of a cup of coffee a day and set aside that amount of money for the Alabaster offering. The motto was “One coffee a day to build around” (in Italian it is a rhyme).





A couple of churches handed out little jute bags that look like bales of coffee, another church handed out paper envelopes with coffee beans glued on the outside. In the Italian culture, coffee is a very important thing. Italians drink a lot of coffee with colleagues, with the family after their main meal, or just to have a break at work or at home and, many of them like to drink good coffee at the Café which costs 1-1.20 Euro for a small cup of espresso.



The Italy District NMI tries to involve and promote missionary activities also in Sunday school. In these photographs, the children have colored various types of buildings financed by the Alabaster fund.

### Could You Serve?

Is God calling you to participate in His mission? For more information, click [here](#).



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