

The exposition "The round of Adelfia", inaugurated in May 2014, has opened out to the public a part of the Sector "F", dedicated to the Christian and Byzantine ages. Finds from the Catacombs of San Giovanni, in Syracuse, are exhibited, among which the sarcophagus of Adelfia and the epigraph of Euskia are remarkable. The former stands in the centre of the exhibition that, in the plan, thanks to big photos, hints at "the round", the approximately circular area in the catacombs where it was supposed to be located and where the sarcophagus was found in 1872. In the marble coffin with embossed scenes, with a double order, episodes of the Old and New Testament are depicted. In the middle, in a shell-valve-form locket/medallion the bride and the groom are shown; while on the cover there is a Latin inscription that mentions Adelfia, the dead, buried in the sepulchre in the first decades of the fifth century A.D. by the husband Valerio, official of the roman imperial administration. The sarcophagus, made in roman factories in the mid-fourth century A.D., was reused for Adelfia's burial.

In front of the sarcophagus is exhibited an inscription that mentions Euskia, a young woman who died the day of Saint Lucy's Feast; it is the first archaeological document, dating back to the fifth century A.D., that attests the cult of Saint Lucy, who later became Syracuse patron, martyred under Diocletian's empire, in 304 A.D.



Much other archaeological evidence from the same catacombs is found in the course of the exhibition: burial inscriptions and decorative items, a basin c.d. sarcophagus, fragments of other sarcophagi, of barriers or gates, and the mould of the so-called Saint's tomb, made from the original burial, in the catacombs of San Giovanni, of an unknown man who had a high rank in the Christian community.

The exposition is furnished with a didactic apparatus.

