



## THE HOUSE OF ST. MARY OF PEACE

You can find this point of interest in Path 1 Stage 3

### INFORMATION

**Position** The house “Santa Maria della Pace” is located in the hamlet of Stimianico, Liberta’ street 3

**Paving material** The access way is paved, the backyard is made of porphyry

**Architectural Barriers** To enter the backyard there are no architectural barriers; it is possible to enter the church from 3 steps, followed by a landing and another step

**The entrance** The House of “Santa Maria della Pace” is a Nursery Home for old people; it is not possible to visit .

**Services parking** Nursery Home for old people

**Entertainment and Catering**

### DESCRIPTION

(*Silvia Fasana*)

In 1899 the rich merchant Giuseppe Gabba of Milan, at the time owner of the Villa Cicogna in Stimianico, gave a portion of his property to Father Luigi Guanella where on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December 1899 the Saint inaugurated his Casa Femminile (Home for Women’s). The sisters of the Order Guanella, the daughter of S. Maria della Provvidenza, took care of the Nursery, of the Holiday Parish, of the catechism in the nearby parishes of Stimianico and Cernobbio and they opened a Nursing home for old women left alone.

In 1914 a little Greek theatre was realized in the garden thanks to the project of Giacomo Mantegazza and it was built by the master builder Battista Mondelli, thanks also to the idea of Father Guanella who with Giacomo Mantegazza had visited the Acropolis of Athens on the 20<sup>th</sup> September 1902 during the pilgrimage in the Holy Land Palestine. The theatre, inaugurated on the 6<sup>th</sup> September 1914, was demolished during the Sixties of the previous century during the total Home renovations. In April of the year 1916 (the year after the death of the Saint) the little church dedicated to S. Maria della Pace was inaugurated. This church was desired by Father Guanella as votive monument during the war. It was realized basing on the project of Mantegazza who adorned the interior with some frescoes in the Neo- Gothic Lombard style according to the council guidelines. In the years 1967-1968 the church interior was totally renovated with the paintings of Torildo Conconi of Olgiate Comasco representing on the apse, *Maria, Regina della Pace*, and on the walls at the sides, *Don Luigi Guanella and San Giuseppe*. It is interesting to notice on the tympanum above the entrance portal, outside, the copy of the Cross of Jerusalem, probably also this to remember the journey of Father Luigi Guanella in the Holy Land Palestine. The House “S. Maria della Pace” became a Nursing Home for old people, after a century of management of the Sisters Santa Maria della Provvidenza, in the year 2006 was sold to a private company which today goes on with this project.