



PROVOST HOUSE OF S. PAOLO (ST. PAUL)

You can find this point of interest in Cantù - Path 2 - Stage 1
Cantù – Path 1 – Stage 2 also passes by this point of interest

INFORMATION

Location: the Provost House of S. Paolo (St. Paul) is at the foot of via Carlo Annoni, facing the oratory.

Access: access to the Secretary's Office of the Parish is from the entrance on via Carlo Annoni at number 3. A few metres before this entrance (when following the direction of our path) another entrance leads to the Museum.

Paving: via Annoni is cobbled, with a stone tile strip (to the right when walking downwards); the steps of the two entrances are in stone slabs.

Architectural barriers: to access the Secretary's Office of the Parish one must climb a step, the height of which varies according to the road's slope. Please mind the small metal thresholds placed at each entrance.

Services: bus stops for urban and suburban routes in Piazza Parini; automated teller machines in Piazza Garibaldi and via Corbetta; Chemist's in via Ariberto da Intimiano and via Matteotti;

Leisure and food: bars, cafes and shops in the area; municipal gardens in via Dante (Parco Argenti) and via Roma (Parco Martiri delle Foibe).

Other information: the Secretary's Office of the Parish of S. Paolo (St. Paul) is open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:30 to 11:30; Tuesdays from 17:30 to 19:00; Thursdays from 16:00 to 18:00.

DESCRIPTION

The Provost House of S. Paolo (St. Paul)'s building is of ancient origin, but has been the subject of many alterations over the centuries. It appears nowadays as a city palace of the late 18th - early 19th century, with a large Renaissance style entrance portal and an internal portico that recalls 16th century Spanish style courtyards. During the latest restorations, completed in 2014, the lower part of a medieval tower made of large blocks of squared stone with brick inserts emerged on the corner between via Annoni and via Cimarosa, confirming the antiquity of the core of the building.

After the restoration, a small museum collection was set up in the palace to preserve the history of faith and art of an entire parish. Precious cassocks, liturgical vestments, lace, tapestries, chalices, monstrances, reliquaries are exhibited. And so are rare missals, antiphonaries, prints, paintings and other objects of precious craftsmanship, as well as a relic of Saint Apollonia, the patron saint of Cantù.

In the context of the restoration work carried out in the Palace of the Provost of S. Paolo, the new location of the Provost's Archive gained considerable importance. «*The documentary value of the papers contained in the Archive is certainly not inferior to the numerous Papers of the Religion Fund of the Milan State Archive and of the Spiritual Archive of the Diocese of Milan. Due to the many documents that also refer to the history of the various religious buildings in the course of the last centuries of their life, the Archive of the Provost of San Paolo is a truly unique place of history and culture. Among the objectives that are to be vigorously pursued is the safeguard of this remarkable documentary heritage, the consistency of which amounts to at least three hundred envelopes and folders, with the presence of thousands of papers and documents that extend over a time span of at least 700 years*» (G. Montorfano in <http://sanvincenzocantu.it/museobeni-artistici/archivi-storici/>).