

San Giovanni Battista de La Salle



San Giovanni Battista de La Salle alla Piazza di Spagna is a school chapel, listed by the Diocese as a church, near the Spanish Steps in the rione Campo Marzio. The dedication is to St John Baptist de La Salle.

History:

It was built in 1883 to 1885 as the chapel of the school there, which was founded in a 18th century palazzo donated by Prince Torlonia to the Brothers of the Christian Schools. The patron saint was their founder. The architect was **Ciriaco Baschieri Salvadori**.

The school is still run by the Brothers, and is now the Collegio di San Giuseppe de Merode. The church used to be listed as open to pilgrim visitors, but nowadays seems to be private.

Exterior:

There is no entrance façade, since the way in is through one of the 18th century wings of the former palazzo to the east which is arranged round an arcaded courtyard.

Interior:

This is a surprisingly large church, but is seriously hidden away. The right hand wall fronts onto the Via Alibert, which is a dead-end street off the Via Margutta, and is embellished there with Corinthian semi-columns.

The layout is rectangular, and features a nave of three bays with side aisles. There is a large polygonal apse, five-sided, as high as the nave, and also a matroneo or upper gallery.

Inside, the extensive fresco work on the side walls, apse and ceiling vault is by **Luigi Fontana**. The apse features a fresco featuring *Christ and Our Lady with St John Baptist de La Salle*. There are three side chapels, described as not having any works of art worth noting.

Location:

Address: VIA S. SEBASTIANELLO, 1 - 00187 ROMA

Coord: [41° 54' 24.4" N, 12° 28' 55.5 E](#)

Info:

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Links and sources:

1. http://romanchurches.wikia.com/wiki/San_Giovanni_Battista_de_La_Salle_alla_Piazza_Spagna
2. http://www.info.roma.it/monumenti_dettaglio.asp?ID_schede=3019&roma=Collegio%20di%20San%20Giuseppe