San Bonaventura al Palatino



San Bonaventura al Palatino is a Friary dedicated to St Bonaventura, Doctor of the Church.

History:

The friary was founded in 1625 by Blessed Bonaventura da Bagnoreggio (1221-1274), a Franciscan father who later became the general minister of the order. The church was built in 1675 for cardinal Francesco Barberini on top of an ancient tanker of the aqueduct of emperor Claudius (41-54). A small convent was annexed and given to the order of the Spanish Barefoot Franciscans.

Restored in 1839-40, it was known as "alla Polveriera" for the vicinity in the sixteenth century of a gun powder factory.

The interior has a single nave and on the sides of the main altar are two small chapels with smaller altars on the walls. In the church are kept the bodies of the blessed Bonaventura and of San Leonardo from Porto Maurizio.

Exterior:

On its simple facade there is a portal with two lateral niches, on top of which stands the statue of San Bonaventura dating back to the 18th century.

Interior:

The interior has a single nave and on the sides of the main altar are two small chapels with smaller altars on the walls.

The mortal remains of Blessed Bonaventura of Barcelona rests under an altar on the left-hand side. Under the high altar lies the relics of St Leonard of Port Maurice, an 18th century Fransiscan. It was St Leonard who began the practice of making the Stations of the Cross in the Colosseum, and this custom is maintained by the Holy Father on Good Friday evening. A Way of the Cross by St Leonard is passed on the way to the church. A painted Madonna and a crucifix which he used on his missions are preserved here, respectively to the right and left of the sanctuary. St Leonard died here in 1751, and you may visit the rooms he occupied.

Special notes:

Visiting the church is a nice opportunity to see an Italian friary, and a welcome escape from the crowds in the Forum. It's in the archaeological area of the Palatine hill, and there is an entrance fee.

Burials:

St. Leonardo di Porto Maurizio (1676-1751)
Bl. Bonaventura of Barcelona
Silvio Cardinal VALENTI GONZAGA, (1690-1756) Buried in the tomb he had built for himself
Cesare Cardinal GUERRIERI GONZAGA, (1749-1832) Buried next to the tomb of his uncle Cardinal Valenti Gonzaga
Antonio Maria Cardinal FROSINI, (1751-1834) Buried next to the urn containing the ashes of St. Leonardo di Porto Maurizio

Location:

Via San Bonaventura, 7 Coordinates: <u>41°53'19"N 12°29'18"E</u>

Info: Telephone: 0039 06 6780331 - 06 6783187 Email: <u>fratipalatino@alice.it</u>

Please note: the monument is closed until further notice.

Links:

http://romanchurches.wikia.com/wiki/San_Bonaventura_al_Palatino

http://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&sl=it&u=http://www.romecity.it/Sansebastianoalpalatino.htm