

Sant'Anna al Laterano



Sant'Anna al Laterano is a 20th century convent church at Via Merulana 177, near San Giovanni in Laterano in the rione Esquilino. The dedication is to St Anne, the mother of Our Lady.

History

The Daughters of St Anne is an active congregation of sisters, which was founded in Genoa in 1867 by Blessed Anna Rosa Gattorno. It is now international in scope, and has contemplative and male branches. [1]

The convent is the Generalate or central headquarters of the congregation, and was built here with the church in 1885. The church was rebuilt in 1927. [1]

Exterior

The façade is in a rather heavy-handed neo-Romanesque style, using grey stone. The recessed entrance is flanked by a pair of triply conjoined Composite pilasters which support a lintel bearing the year of rebuilding. This lintel is continued as an entablature across the width of the façade, and above it is a large recessed tympanum surrounded by four orders of decoration in the arch. The tympanum has a relief of *Our Lady being adored by angels*. Above it is a striking recessed porthole window in a dished frame which has rectangular recessed panels. Either side of tympanum and window are two pairs of shallow rectangular pilasters with no capitals, but which are continued through to the crowning entablature. There is a small pediment above this on top of the façade with a dentillate border, containing a little round window. [1]

Towering above the façade is the campanile, set slightly back from the top of the pediment. Each of the four faces has a set of soundholes formed of three high and narrow arches separated by thin pillars with capitals. Above this arcade is a row of three round windows, then an entablature with three small round windows in the frieze. The cornice projects, and is crowned by a triangular pediment on the entrance and altar sides only. [1]

Interior

The interior is richly decorated in a Classical idiom. There is a single nave with a large apse having a conch, and side chapels entered through large arches. [1]

The apse arch is supported by two pairs of square Composite columns in yellow and white patterned marble, the same stone being used for round Corinthian columns between the side chapels which support the triforium. [1]

The apse has an ambulatory with an arcade and, above that, a pillared gallery containing the organ. Both of these have columns in green marble. The gallery columns support an entablature with an inscription reading

Virga de radice Jesse, flos de radice ejus

(A shoot from the root-stock of Jesse, a flower from his root-stock)

The shoot and flower refer to Our Lady, and the root-stock to St Anne. The conch of the apse has a fresco of *St Anne with Our Lady's Presentation at the Temple in Jerusalem*. [1]

The ceiling is coffered and, very unusually, has a large skylight in the form of a cross with modern stained glass, representing the *Coronation of Our Lady*, made up of 6 panels arranged in the shape of the cross. In the central panel is the *crucifixion*. The church is completely hemmed in by other buildings, and so has no other windows. [1] [4]

At the entrance of the church is the tomb of the founder of the Congregation, Sister Anna Rosa Gattorno, who died in the attached convent on May 6 1900. She was beatified by Pope St. John Paul II on April 9, 2000. [4] [5]

Buried:

Bl. Anna Rosa Gattorno (d. 1900)

Location:

Address: Via Merulana 177, 00185 Roma

Coord: [41° 53' 26"N 12° 30' 8"E](#)

Info:

Telephone: 0039 06 7000642

Open 06:30-07:30 18:30-19:00

Links:

1. http://romanchurches.wikia.com/wiki/Sant%20%80%99Anna_al_Laterano
2. <http://www.060608.it/en/cultura-e-svago/luoghi-di-culto-di-interesse-storico-artistico/chiese-cattoliche/sant-anna-in-laterano.html>
3. http://www.info.roma.it/monumenti_dettaglio.asp?ID_schede=1568
4. http://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chiesa_di_Sant'Anna_al_Laterano
5. http://translate.google.com/translate?depth=1&hl=en&ie=UTF8&prev=t&rurl=translate.google.com&sl=it&tl=en&u=http://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anna_Rosa_Gattorno