

Oratorio di San Celsino

(deconsecrated)



Oratorio di San Celso is a deconsecrated situated in Vicolo di San Celso between Via dei Banchi and Via di Panico among the many streets and alleys in the rione Ponte. Sometimes the oratory (small prayer chapel) is referred to as San Celsino (Italian diminutive of San Celso) to distinguish it from the church of Santi Celso e Giuliano in Via del Banco di Santo Spirito nearby. The oratory is dedicated to Saint Celsus, martyred at Antioch in 302 A.D. (1) (2)

History

In 1560 the *Confraternita del Santissimo Sacramento*, (the Brotherhood of the Most Holy Sacrament) was instituted in the church of Santi Celso e Giuliano. The Confraternita primarily dedicated itself to bring the Eucharist to the sick and indisposed. Apparently the building of the Oratorio di San Celso took place in 1571. In 1725 the cardinal Nicolò Coscia, influential patron of the Confraternita, had the oratory restored. Further restorations occurred in 1878 and after an earthquake in 1915. The oratory remained the seat of the *Confraternita del Santissimo Sacramento* until 1984, when the Confraternita was transferred to its new premises. After this the oratory was handed over to the charity organization *Caritas Diocesana di Roma* as a meeting-place. Although since 1993 the oratory has been in a state of abandon. (1) (2)

Exterior

Despite having been only an oratory, it amounts to a small free-standing church. The plan is a short rectangle, with a tiny semi-circular apse. Because of its cramped site, the church's façade cannot be viewed properly. After restoration, it is now rendered in dull orange with white stone architectural details. The doorcase is crowned by a frieze and a triangular pediment with recessed central section, and above this is a rectangular dedicatory plaque flanked by small double volutes. (1)

The two storeys of the façade are separated by an entablature, which is supported by four rectangular pilasters with swagged Ionic capitals and high plinths. In between each pair is an arched blank niche (meant to be empty, as the bottom slopes) with scallop decoration in the conch. Above this is a blank framed rectangular tablet. (1)

The second storey has a pair of Doric pilasters above the central pair of pilasters of the first storey, and these support a segmental pediment. Very dumpy pilasters occupy the outer corners, and double volutes from the tops of these connect to the pediment and have a small window under each. A recessed blank tablet in a Baroque frame occupies the centre of this storey. (1)

Interior

The small interior shows obvious signs of disrepair. The high-altar painting, *Christ and Saint Peter at the Last Supper* (1725, probably a copy of a late 16th century original), has been lost and is now replaced with a wooden Crucifix. Above it the Divine Triangle with golden rays of light can be seen. The fresco of the vault (18th century), partly ruined, depicts the *Assumption*. (2)

Location:

Vicolo di San Celso 31, Rome, Italy

Coordinates: [41°54'0"N 12°28'2"E](#)

Links:

1. http://romanchurches.wikia.com/wiki/San_Celsino
2. <http://web.comhem.se/~u13117202/oratscelso.htm>
3. http://www.vicariatusurbis.org/?page_id=188&ID=690