

San Giuliano dei Fiamminghi



The church of **San Giuliano dei Fiamminghi** (St. Julian of the Flemings) is a titular church of Rome in rione Sant'Eustachio, in the Sudario. It is the Belgian national church, dedicated to St [Julian the Hospitaller](#).

History

The church has an ancient, and seems to date back to the time of [Gregory II](#) (8th century), when Flanders was converted to Christianity.

Beside the church there was a hospital for the Flemish, a tradition that says [Robert II, Count of Flanders](#), who came to Rome in 1094 for the crusade, stayed in that place, who had it restored. However, the first historical mention of this church are late and dates back to the 15th century. Namely, in 1444 one of the oldest writings on San Giuliano that has come down to us through a copy of the statutes and regulations of the hospice for pilgrims. The regulations provide a detailed picture of the foundation, where it seemed to also lent assistance to the sick and the dead. The Flemish poorest could stay free for three days.

From 1624, the hospice of St Julian carefully kept records of Dutch pilgrims who visited Rome. From 1624 to 1790 21,213 were given shelter, mainly from Flanders, but also from Artois, Namur, Hainaut, Tournai and Cambrai.

The hospice was thoroughly renovated in 1681-1682. Inspired by Bernini's Sant'Andrea al Quirinale, the church got its octagonal oval shape of the early 18th century. **Antonio Maria Borioni** designed and coordinated the construction of the new church, assisted by his brother **Asdrubal Borioni**.

The hospice was suppressed during the French occupation between 1798 and 1814, and not re-founded, because the Austrian Netherlands was annexed to the Calvinist Kingdom of the Netherlands in 1815. The Catholic natives hated that, so they finally declared independence as Belgium in 1830. Then the church was transferred to the Kingdom of Belgium, then re-named San Giuliano dei Belgi, but the historical title was restored in 1975. The church is for both Walloon and Flemish Belgians, despite its name.

Exterior

The little church is inserted into a larger building, with a frontage painted in a pinkish orange and architectural details in white. It does not have its own roof. The ornate Baroque entrance is flanked by four windows, a pair of circular ones over a pair of rectangular ones.

The doorcase has pilasters topped by swags and lions' masks inside curlicues, and on the lintel is a carving of the lion rampant from the shield of the County of Flanders. To either side is a pilaster without a capital, beyond a panel painted in orange, and these and the lintel support an entablature.

Above this is an large arched niche with frame, containing a 17th century statue of *St Julian the Hospitaller*. The shields of the Four Members (Bruges and the Franc of Bruges, Ghent and Ypres) surround the niche. At the bottom corners of this niche is a pair of Baroque curlicues ending in volutes, looking a little like two cobra hoods facing each other.

On top is a triangular pediment, supported by a pair of pilasters which continue the ones flanking the doorway but which have plinths and capitals in the Doric style.

Interior

Inside the a single nave, most works of art still visible in the church date from the early 18th century, when the great influx of Flemishs into Rome reached its peak. Most artworks date from the early 18th century.

The central medallion, painted from **William Kent** (future creator of landscaped gardens), which represents the *Apotheosis of San Giuliano*, surrounded by four allegorical figures representing Flanders, Bruges and the Brugse Vrije, Ghent and Ypres. The painting was completed in 1717.

The main altarpiece was painted by **Theodor Helmbreker** in 1695, commissioned by Nicholas Haringhe from Ypres.

Again in 1743 the **Maximiliaan Dhaese** from Brussels painted a canvas, over one side of the altar, representing the apostles *Peter and Paul*.

Memorials

A short but very touching inscription in the church. In 1501 Livinus en Johannes Nilis, two canons in the chapter of the Antwerp church of Our Lady, who were in Rome as members of the papal curia, placed this memorial in commemoration of their three brothers who had died not long before. A simple testimony of their sorrow.

Another inscription in the church is for Livinus Pels, a young Dutchman, who died in his 20th year was buried in the church. His tombstone, with a remarkable epigram, is one of the most beautiful of the existing ancient stones of this church. A lot of emotion is hidden in the formal language of this inscription.

A tombstone for Joannes Auriga(e) who was a prefect of the hospice of San Giuliano dei Fiamminghi in Rome. He died from the plague, possibly because of his devotion to the sick.

Artists and Architects:

Theodor [Helmbreker](#) (1633-1696), Dutch painter
 Mattieu [Kessels](#) (1784-1836), Dutch Neoclassical sculptor
 William [Kent](#) (1685-1748), English architect and **painter**
 Antonio Maria Borioni (d. 1727), Italian architect
 Asdrubal Borioni (18th cent), Italian architect
 Maximiliaan Dhaese (18th cent), Belgian painter from Brussels

Burials

Jan Pieter Cardinal [SCHOTTE](#), C.I.C.M., (1928-2005) [also see [here](#)]
 Louise de Timbrune-Valence, Contesse de Celles (d. 1828)
 Joannes Auriga
 Livinus Pels

Location:

40 Via del Sudario, 00186 Roma

Open: from 9.00 am to 12.30 pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

Coordinates: [41°53'45"N 12°28'32"E](#)

Info:

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The church can be visited only on request, calling the Tel. 0039 066872550 (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from 9.00am to 12.00am) or by fax 0039 066873854 or via e-mail.

Links:

1. http://romanchurches.wikia.com/wiki/San_Giuliano_dei_Fiamminghi
2. http://www.info.roma.it/monumenti_dettaglio.asp?ID_schede=1064
3. <http://www.060608.it/en/cultura-e-svago/luoghi-di-culto-di-interesse-storico-artistico/chiese-cattoliche/san-giuliano-dei-fiamminghi.html>
4. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chiesa_di_San_Giuliano_dei_Fiamminghi

http://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&sl=it&u=http://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chiesa_di_San_Giuliano_dei_Fiamminghi

<http://users.telenet.be/leopold.winckelmans/inscript/inscripts.htm>