

15. SAINT MARY'S CHURCH (CHIESA DO SANTA MARIA ASSUNTA (XVI CENTURY)

Address: Piazza Santa Maria

Telephone: 0121 59133 (Parish)

Opening: the Church is open to public in Mass hours

Structural description:

The Church: Baroque style church, edified in 1602, has been constructed in the inhabited part of the hamlet, in substitution of the primitive Parish Church, situated on the hill, which has been devastated by the Franks invasions taking place at the end of '500.

It consists of a rectangular plan, developing in three naves, the central one has a barrel vault, and has been frescoed in '800, and meanwhile the lateral ones have a cross vault and in every span, are completed by a lateral altar.

The vaults are sustained by pilasters and capitals, not having supporting function, and lesenes in fake pink marble; these are lightening the structure, thanks to the coloristic effects typical in Baroque architecture.

The final touch to the ornament, is given by some paintings like for example a Lorenzo Dellani painting, titled " Estasi di San Giovanni (Saint John's ecstasy), the Holy Mother by Barbavara, a "Calvario" (Calvary Scene by Marinetti and "Due Santi Ornati (two ornate Saints) by Morgari.

The bell tower, standing by side, dates back to 1828 -32, and was originally provided by a lead cusp, removed in 1860, and never substituted, due to the damages caused by the billposting of four flags.

The Baptismal font

At the end of the first span on the left, the baptismal font is placed, realized in 1699: it has an octagonal goblet made of white marble, covered by a wooden pyramid, decorated by floral motive. Near it, you can find another font, used as holy water basin.

The Major Altar

The point of maximum interest of the Church: it has a white marble painted basement, with golden elevations with leafs and fruit motives, representing traditional Bricherasio products (grapes and apples)

On the basement, there is a big hexagonal canopy, with big Solomon columns, and on its sides there are the four Evangelists figures and their evangelic symbols. Canopy's columns are "decorated" with grape shoots, and do support an architrave, with a dedication to Mara Assunta and the emblem of the hamlet.

In this solemn but airy structure there is the "Trionfo dell'Assunta" a sculpture overlooking another canopy, made of wood this time, and represents the Holy Virgin in ecstasies, crowned by angels. The whole complex has been completed in 1725 and represents a real masterpiece in Baroque scenic design.

The Pipe organ

One of the set pieces of the Church is the nineteenth pipe organ, made by the Collino brothers. It is constituted by a wooden case artistically decorated. It can combine a great resonance and a pleasant gentleness, especially in the weak ranges