

From thè right:

1° Chapel Olier Lady with Child and Angels by Camillo Procaccini, recently restored.

2° Chapel Dedicated to St. Andrea Avelline. The aitar piece represents thè fainting of thè Saint painted by Francesco Cairo 1632.

3° Chapel Dedicated to thè Virgin. On thè aitar there re two sculptures by Rusnati (from thè contiguous Oratory) "Madonna col Bambino" and "Cristo morto"; on thè sides thè paintings of "Madonna con il Bambino e Santi" by Bernardino Campi and "Natività della Vergine " by Antonio Pigino (thè last given to thè church in 1637).

Transept The Ascension. It was built in 1610 in thè transept and was frescoed by Tanzio daVarallo. On thè aitar "Ascensione" by Giovan Battista Trottì (nicknamed Molosso) and on he sides "Ressurrezione" by Giovan Battista Crespi (nicknamed Cerano) ad "Venuta dello Spirito Santo" by Vajani. In thè transept tvvo big paintings "Adorazione dei pastori" by Ludovico Carracci and "Adorazione dei Magi" by Francesco Mazzucchelli (nicknamed Morazzone).

On thè wall of thè presbytery two paintings by Carlo cane representing thè stories of St. Nicolo and on thè bottom "Tentazione di Sant Antonio" by Camillo Procaccini.

On thè left:

In thè **transept** there is thè chapel of relies in which are thè relies of Holy Cross given by Teatini. These relies are hidden by alter piece "Salita al Calvario" a 18* century copy of a painting by Palma il Giovane

1° Chapel "Annunciarne". It was terminated in 1612 and ali thè paintings are by Giulio Cesare Procaccini: on thè aitar thè "Annunciazione" on thè sides "La Visitazione" and "La fuga in Egitto"; on thè vault "Eterno in Gloria" and above thè aitar piece "Tre Angeli".

2° Chapel Dedicated to St. Gaetano da Thiene, founder of thè Teatini Congregation. The aitar piece of thè XVII century represents thè "Estasi di San Gaetano" by Cerano. What is more important are thè rich sculptures, relieves and inlaid marbles by Rusnati which show thè life of thè Saint and his religiosity



St. Antony in Milan

The whole complex of St: Antonio Abate was created when thè Antoniani (a monastic order born in France in thè XI century to fight some diseases and especially thè St. Antonio fire) carne to Italy to manage thè hospital which had been founded in thè area of thè present church due to a legacy of Ruggero del Cerro in 1127. The first church was built in 1438 by thè Antoniani. Now only thè tower remains and perhaps some part of thè marble high aitar. When Francesco Sforza founded thè Ospedale Maggiore (Ca Granda), ali thè hospitals of thè town and its suburbs had to be gathered. The St. Antonio Hospital was closed and thè monks carne back to France. The administration of thè church and its ownership was given first to Trivulzio Family and then to thè Landriano Family by decree of Pope Nicola V in 1452.

The Trivulzio Family in the XVI century ordered the renewal of the building and of the two cloisters, according to the Bramante style, the frescoes with the stories of the Old Testament (now in Sforza Castle) and a painting of Our Lady by Bernardino Campi (now in the 3° right chapel).

In 1577 Cardinal Carlo Borromeo asked the Teatini (a religious congregation founded in 1524 by St. Gaetano da Thiene) to come in Milan and gave them the church and the convent.

In 1584 the architect Dionigi Campazzo built a new church on the old one and made it as large as now we can admire it. In the XVII century, the best period for Teatini Order, the inside decorations were realized by the most important artists in Lombardy. The Teatini had a special worship for the Virgin and the Holy Cross and this can be seen in many works in the church.

The consecration of the church was officiated by Alessandro Porro, Bishop of Bobbio and member of the Teatini order.

In 1798 the church was closed owing to the abolition of the religious orders made by Napoleone and became a military store. The convent became the residence of the National Guard. When the Austrians came back they installed here their Court of Army and the Police Station. The church was opened again as a subsidiary church of the near parish church of St. Nazzaro. In that case many works were done to restore the church and the facade was rebuilt by Giuseppe Tazzini, according to the neoclassical style (1832).

In 1903 the first general restore of the church and of the convent were made under the direction of Luca Beltrami and Cesare Nava. In 1930 the Bishop's Court became the owner of the whole complex. Now it is the residence of Azione Cattolica.

Next to the church there is the Oratorio of the Virgin. It was built between 1683 and 1686 by the architect Andrea Biffi, according to a very classical style, for the Brotherhood of the Immacolata, founded by Gerolamo Mazza of the Teatini Order.

In 1788 it was profaned and for a century it was used for civil service. It keeps some paintings which belong to the church of St. Antonio and that now is always open for cult.

The church has a simple and austere architecture, a single vaulted naïve with three chapels on every side, a transept and a great chorus in a rectangular apse. The architect Dionigi Campazzo followed the rules for the churches ordered by the Concilio di Trento. The inside decoration was done between 1548 and 1632 and it is particularly homogeneous with the art in Milan of the time of Borromeo. In the vault of the naïve and of the transept the "Storie della Santa Croce" (The Saint Cross Stories) are represented as they are a typical iconography of the Teatini. They were frescoed by the brothers Giovanni e Giovan Battista Carloni in 1631/32.

The chapels were built by a legacy of the most important people in Milan in that time and they have precious paintings, sculptures, marble decorations and altar frontals made in scagliola. Nothing remains of the ancient hospital dated 1127.

The church tower beli with a typical structure of the XV century is covered by bricks and it was restored by architect Beltrami who preserved its style. On the top of the tower there is still the Antoniani badge, the Greek T, and in the frame it is alternated with the heraldic coat of arms of Visconti.

The cloisters were restored in XVI century thanks to Trivulzio Family we can see again the arcade in bricks with terracotta decorations according to Bramante style (XVI century).