

The Church
of the **Immacolata**
in the historic centre of Crotona



Located on the outskirts of Crotoné's historic centre, on Via Vittorio Emanuele, a short distance from the Cathedral, the Church of the Immaculate Conception was built in 1554, though it did not look as it does today. Originally, in fact, it was a very modest little church with a small crypt beneath it.



On this original structure, a new and elegant building was erected in 1758, subsequently enlarged by Girolamo Cariati and consecrated by Monsignor Capocchiani. The church's facade, in the Neoclassical style, was built around 1830 and embellished a few years later with three terracotta statues by Giuseppe Maresca.



The interior has a single nave and features rich decorations and stucco work of a distinctly Baroque style, along with a series of paintings on canvas from the second half of the 18th century. Also



dating from the same period is the large polychrome marble high altar, at the centre of the chancel, the work of the marble sculptor Nicola Boccacci from Naples. At the far end of the right-hand wall stands the precious wooden sculpture of the Crucified Christ, created

between 1630 and 1640. It is one of the very few crucifixes in the world in which Christ is depicted with his eyes open, a moment before breathing his last. This work is said to be miraculous, due to the many graces received through his intercession.

On the right-hand wall, near the entrance, a small door and a few steps lead down to the crypt below, comprising the chapel (the original small church) and the cemetery, where the 490 skulls of the friars of the Confraternity lie on three steps, with the statue of Christ the Redeemer at the centre.



illustrations by Vincenzo Spagnolo



Polychrome
marble
high altar
(1757)



"The Birth
of Mary"*

"The Annunciation"*



* The presumed artist of these paintings is Romualdo Formoset and they were all created between 1765 and 1766.

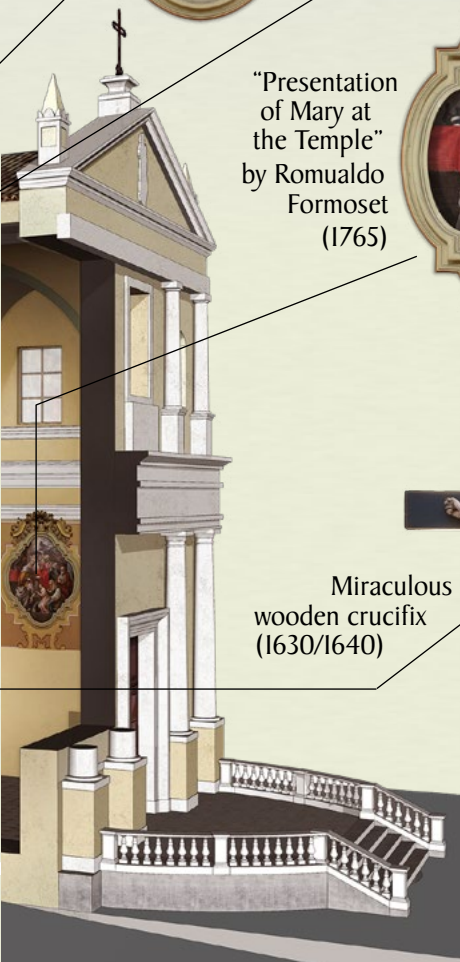
"Jesus on the cross"
by Antonio Giannelli
(1876)



"Presentation
of Mary at
the Temple"
by Romualdo
Formoset
(1765)



Miraculous
wooden crucifix
(1630/1640)





"The Assumption of Mary"*

"Mary's visit to Elizabeth"*



"The Presentation of Jesus at the Temple"*

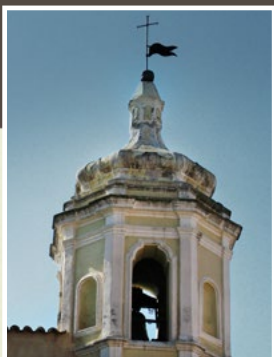


"Holy Physicians
Cosmas and
Damian"
by Vitaliano Alfì
(1763)

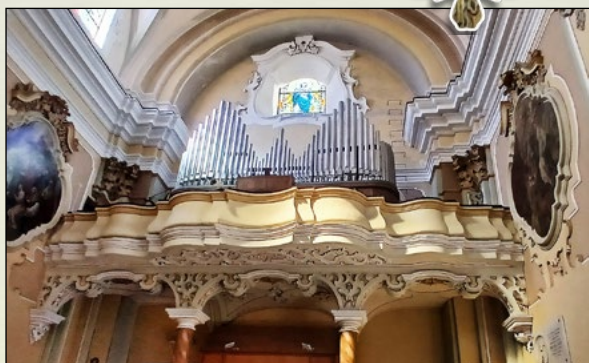




Crypt and
Cemetery of the
Confraternity



Bell tower with
three bells (the oldest
dates back to 1537,
the others are from
1715 the medium and
from 1778 the largest)



*The church is open to visitors every day from **07.00 to 12.00** and from **16.30 to 19.30**, except during times of prayer and the celebration of Holy Mass.*

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