

San Giacomo

The church of San Giacomo was built in the XIV century on the place of a more ancient hospice for pilgrims, which continued to operate until 1361. From 1361 to 1364 the church was given to the Lateran Canons of San Cataldo in Cremona, who erected the bell tower, with an unusual form with seven sides and decorated by windows with one light and blind arches made up of terracotta. Then, the church was given to the Dominicans and, from 1456 to 1468, the cloister was built and the apse area, the crypt and the raised presbytery were rebuilt. The inside has got a predominant baroque aspect, due to the interventions in the XVII and XVIII centuries. Starting from the entrance, on the right, we can find the chapel dedicated to the Blessed Virgin of the Agony, with a fresco portraying *Our Lady of Sorrows*. The chapel also holds the important terracotta statue group representing the *Mourning on the Dead Christ*. This work is attributed to Agostino de Fondulis (or Fondutis). Above it is located a canvas of the mannerist painter Grazio Cossali from Brescia. In the next chapel, dedicated to San Giacomo, there is a wooden statue of the saint, made up in 1917. In the following chapel, dedicated to San Tommaso d'Aquino, and restored in 1767, there is an altarpiece with a *Christ in Passion* executed by the mannerist artist Francesco Carminati. The fourth chapel is dedicated to San Vincenzo Ferrer and contains a XVIII century painting of the saint, made by the painter Antonio Dusi from Brescia. Along the side walls, there are also two paintings of St. Nicholas and St. Peter the Martyr, made by Giulio Calvi from Cremona, also known as "the Coronaro". The fifth chapel is dedicated to Sant'Antonino from Florence and it contains a big altarpiece representing the *Madonna and Child in Glory with the saints Giacomo, Francesco and Antonino* that presents the client Vincenzo Cerioli. This work was executed by Uriele Gatti from Cremona. The sixth and last chapel is dedicated to the worship of Mary of the Assumption and it holds a wooden confessional of the XVIII century. On the left, we can see traces of two frescoes dating from 1450-1460. Through a carved marble staircase, created in 1733, we enter the crypt, called "di Santa Corona", built after 1470, which contained the precious relic of the sacred thorn, now conserved in the Church of Santa Maria Assunta. The walnut choir on two orders is particularly fine and valuable and it was executed in 1507-1508 and attributed to friar Damiano Zambelli. The stained-glass windows are works of friar Ambrosino de' Tormoli. The back wall of the choir is decorated with a fresco portraying San Giacomo, a work attributed to Francesco Peruzzotti from Somma Lombardo. Through a corridor, at the end of the left aisle, we reach the Sacristy, which still keeps the original furniture of the XVIII century and a series of paintings of Dominican saints. From the cloister, a stair leads to the above area where, in the past, there were the cells of the friars. At the top of the stair there is a fresco of the painter Francesco Scanzi from Soncino, representing the Nativity. Returned inside the church, we continue towards the exit and we can admire the chapels of the left aisle. The first chapel is dedicated to San Domenico and it contains the corpse of the blessed Stefana Quinzani. The altarpiece portrays the Miracle of Soriano, the apparition of the painting of San Domenico. In the next chapel, dedicated to Child Jesus, the side walls are decorated with XVIII century frescoes representing episodes of the childhood of Jesus Christ. The following chapel is dedicated to St. Anne, whose wooden image is conserved next to the image of the Madonna. In the next chapel we can find a wooden ancon of the late XVI century and a XIX century wooden sculpture portraying the Madonna of the Rosary. The walls are decorated with paintings of Antonio Mayer dating from 1901. The last chapel but one was reformed in 1806, while the last one presents a baptismal font in Renaissance style. On the counter-façade, on the two sides of the main door, there are two paintings: the first one, on the left, represents

a *Madonna of the Sorrow and Saints* (1697), while the second one portrays *the ecstatic blessed Stefana Quinzani in front of the crucifix*, a work by Francesco Peruzzotti, executed in 1774.