

S. MARCELLINO AND S. PIETRO CHURCH



The church of Saints Marcellino and Pietro was built in the seventeenth century in Baroque style, together with the annexed college, seat of the Compagnia di Gesù in Cremona.

The foundation of the Jesuit college in Cremona took place in the year 1600 by the will of the Archbishop Cesare Speciano, who for this purpose bought the areas where the church and the college were built, and at his death in 1607 he appointed the college heir of his possessions for allow the completion of the factory.

The church was commissioned in 1602 to the architect Francesco Bigallo, who was inspired by the models of the Roman Baroque such as the church of Gesù by Vignola. The facade was built in giant order, with Corinthian pilasters in marble and large niches, while the tympanum was never completed. The interior has a single hall with side. The classical decoration consists of a colossal entablature densely decorated with stuccos, supported by Corinthian pilasters that reflect the facade.

To the left of the entrance there is a confessional with a cymatium decorated by a blessed bishop attributed to Genovesino; the confessional on the opposite side is attributed to Giacomo Bertesi. At the third altar on the right is represented *Saint Joseph and the Child Jesus* by Angelo Massarotti.

At the main altar there is the colossal Baroque altarpiece by Bertesi, built to house the altarpiece by Gervasio Gatti with *Saints Marcellino and Pietro the exorcist who baptized the jailer's daughter*. The critics praise the order and the balance of the composition of this altarpiece, which give the work a tone of silent and calm recollection, accentuated by the very limited chromatic range, reduced to variations of silver and golden shades. A particular study is dedicated to the luministic effects arising from the divine light at the center of the angelic choir, which illuminates the whole scene with metallic reflections and silky luster. The unusual ancona was built to give the opportunity to unroll the canvas with the *Crucifixion* by Bonisoli on particular occasions, above the painting by Gatti. Other remarkable works are the *Stories of Saints Marcellino and Pietro* by Massarotti and *the Stories of Saint Ursula and the Presentation of Mary at the Temple* by Genovesino.