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SLOVENIA



OLIMJE

INFORMATION

Convent of the Conventual Franciskans - Church - Old Pharmacy

Olimje 82
SI-3254 Podcetrtek
+386 - 3 5829172
ernest.benko@rkc.si
www.olimje.com

By car:
E70 Trieste dir. Ljubljana
continue on the A1 dir.
Maribor. Exit (15) Dramlje,
cross Šentjur and continue
for about 24 km till
Podcetrtek. Then, follow the
road posts to Olimje for
about 3 Km.



SLOVENIA



OLIMJE - Church - Convent - Pharmacy

DEAR VISITORS OF THE OLIMJE CHURCH, MONASTERY AND PHARMACY

You have come to a place which is mentioned for the first time in the historical records in 1208. It is the celebrated place of the Shrine of the Assumption of Mary, an old castle which was turned into a monastery and one of the oldest pharmacies in Europe.

THE CASTLE

The castle has been here since the 11th century when it was owned by the Pilstein viceroys. St. Ema of Krka was also an owner. Throughout history the castle has had many owners. In 1550, Mr. Tattenbach remodeled it in the renaissance style. In 1658, protonotary Ivan Zakmardy of Zagreb bought the castle, later donating it in 1663 to the Pauline monks in Lepoglav.

THE PAULINE MONKS

The Pauline Monks resided here for 120 years, changing the castle into a monastery and leaving behind many lasting signs: a grand church, a monastery with a decorated pharmacy and beautifully arranged surroundings. The monastery was shut down in 1782 by Austrian King Joseph II. The monks continued on in different monasteries in Croatia.

THE PARISH

The Parish in Olimje was established in 1785. Today it has about 550 members.

THE COUNTS ATTEMMS

In 1805, the Count Attems purchased the former Pauline monastery. Taxes in those times were waged according to the area of one's roof and the number of windows one had. Since taxes were too high, the southeastern corner of the castle was demolished. The Counts Attems remained the owners of the castle up to the end of World War II. At that time it was nationalized and became general property "of the people". The process for denationalization is still underway.

THE FRIARS MINOR OF ST. FRANCIS - THE CONVENTUAL FRANCISKANS

Since 1990, the Marian shrine and parish have been taken care of by the Friars Minor of St. Francis of Assisi - The Conventual Franciskans. After 217 year, on August 15th 1999, the monastery was reinstated.

THE CHURCH

The Pauline monks began to build the baroque church in 1665. It was complete in ten years. The great altar standing in the PRESBYTERY is dedicated to the Assumption of Mary. It is one of the biggest "golden" altars in Slovenia. It was made by Pauline monks in 1680 in Lepoglava. The Altar has three levels. Above the statue of Mary, there is a picture of the Baptism of Jesus. Above it, there is the Crowning of the Virgin Mary as the queen of heaven and earth.



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OLIMJE

HOLY MASS

Sundays - 9am

Daily - 7 am

Rosary and Adoration - half an hour prior to Hl. Mass.



In addition, there are twelve statues of saints around the mentioned pictures. A statue of the Archangel Michael stands on the very top. Pauline monk Ivan Ranger decorated the area around the main altar in 1740.

THE ENTRANCE INTO THE PRESBYTERY

An altar honoring Christ's Passion stands left of the entrance into the presbytery. Above the picture of the Crucified, whose blood saves the souls in purgatory, there is an image of the Suffering Christ, a great work dalle by Franc Anton Pachmayer, a painter from Ptuj. The Altar bears the Latin script: "We beseech You, help the Olimjan's, it is for them that you sacrificed your blood."

Right of the presbytery is an altar commemorating St. Paul the Hermit, which the Pauline monks considered as their founder. The altars were lately renovated by Anton and Gregor Podkrižnik from Šentjur near Celje.

**SIDE CHAPEL**

The side chapel is dedicated to St. Francis Xavier. The Paulines added it on to the church from 1760-1766. The altar is one of the most beautiful pieces orlate baroque in Slovenija. The chapel was decorated with scenes and miracles from the life of St. Francis by Anton Lerchinger from Rogatec.

The frescos are original and well preserved.

THE NAVE CHAPELS

Along the nave are four chapels with altars: the Black Madonna of Czenstochowa, St. Thomas the Apostle, St. Catherine and St Barbara. The chapels are being renovated.

THE CHOIR LOFT

In the choir, there is the only remaining bimanual baroque organ made by the famous organ maker from Celje, John Francis Janeček. It was made in 1764. The organ's case has inscribed: "May souls follow the organ's sound". In 1999, the organ was restored by organ master, Mr. Boštjan Černe. The body was restored by Podkrižnik. A prayer choir used by the monks when they prayed in community is also preserved in the choir loft.

THE PHARMACY

Besides prayer and construction, the Pauline monks produced natural remedies. Their monastic rule prescribed that each monastery had to have a room for sick brothers, and next to it a room for medicine and remedies. In Olimje, the Pauline pharmacy was located on the ground floor of the left round tower. This is the third oldest preserved pharmacy in Europe after Paris and Dubrovnik. Unfortunately the pharmacy's instruments were not preserved but it is worth the see the frescos painted by Lerchinger in 1780. They represent biblical scenes ranging from Creation to the life of Christ, the doctor of our bodies and souls. There are also the images of the famous physicians, Aeskulapius and Paracelsus. God the Father looks down on the earth from the center of the cupola. Check our website pdf list to download a detailed guide about the frescoes. You can also download free video about the area of Olimje in different formats.

This place has long been known for its quietness and beauty, a place to gather health for the body and soul. We are pleased that you have added your part by showing your respect for these values.

For visiting the old Pharmacy, ring the bell at the monastery Porte.