

Nostra Signora del Santissimo Sacramento e Santi Martiri Canadesi



Our Lady of the Most Holy Sacrament and the Canadian Martyrs is the Canadian national church, located at Via Giovanni Battista de Rossi 46 in the Nomentano district north-west of the Bologna metro station. It is dedicated to Our Lady of the Eucharist and to the Canadian Protomartyrs, eight Jesuits who were martyred in the 17th century.

History

In 1948 an order of priests called the [Congregation of the Most Blessed Sacrament](#) bought the Villa Massimo and grounds near Piazza Bologna for their international headquarters. The Catholic Diocese of Rome asked the priests to include a church building that would be open to the public for adoration of the Eucharist. At the same time an idea developed to also make this church the [Canadian National Church](#), dedicated to the [Canadian Martyrs](#), 17th century Jesuit missionaries who were killed by Mohawk Indians.

The church was built in 1955 to the design of architect Bruno Maria Apollinij Ghetti.

It was made a parish church by Pope Pius XII, and is served by the Congregation of Priests of the Most Holy Sacrament. The General Curia for this congregation is here.

Exterior

The church is a rectangular edifice in the Modernist style, placed parallel to the street. The entrance frontage is a monumental rectangular block in white stone with a horizontal roofline. The entrance is unadorned and has no porch, and above it the facade is divided into three vertical zones of equal width. The flanking ones each have four thin vertical rectangular pilasters, giving a corrugated effect, while the central zone is occupied by a very large mosaic in a figurative style, designed by Fr. Marko Ivan Rupnik, SJ. There are three scenes, being from bottom to top the *Crucifixion*, the *Resurrection* and *Christ in glory accompanied by the eight Canadian martyrs*. The nave of the church has five bays, and these

are indicated on the streetside wall by large red brick panels with crenellated vertical edges and separated by thinner recessed panels in stone. Each bay has a parabolic window at the top, and sits on a stone plinth with a very low archway over a slit window lighting the crypt. The crypt wall below the windows is of rough masonry in blocks of varying sizes. The presbytery is marked by another zone of vertical pilasters in the same style as appears on the entrance frontage.

Interior

It is said that the architect had in mind the giant pines of Canada's forests. A series of tapering concrete arches form the nave and lead the eye to a towering canopy over the tabernacle against a wall flooded in natural light.

The high altar of the main church was designed by Francesco Nagni.

The canopy is decorated with reliefs in painted and glazed terracotta, including a fine crucifix, were designed by Angelo Biancini

The pulpit has terracotta images of the Last Supper and the Madonna.

The stained glass windows are by János Hajnal and Marcello Avenali, and feature Biblical scenes and symbols relating to the Eucharist; Hajnal also made the mosaics in the church, and the engraved glass door for the confessional. This depicts Biblical scenes relevant to the doctrine of the Sacrament of Penance.

From the entrance hall, a flight of stairs leads to the crypt which contains the baptistery. In the crypt are murals painted by Kiko Argüello.

Artists and Architects:

Bruno Apollini [Ghetti](#) (1905-1989), Italian architect and archaeologist

Francesco [Nagni](#) (1897-1977), Italian sculptor

Angelo Biancini (20th cent), Italian sculptor

Marko Ivan [Rupnik](#), SJ (20th cent), Mosaic artist

János [Hajnal](#) (1913-2010), Hungarian Stained glass window designer

Marcello Avenali (1912-1981), Stained glass window designer

Kiko [Argüello](#) (b. 1939), Spanish painter

Location:

Address: 46 Via Giovanni Battista de Rossi, (Piazza Bologna) 00161 Roma

Coord: [41° 55' 3.3"N 12° 31' 8.5"E](#)

Info:

Contacts

Phone #: 06 44 23 79 84

Links:

[Roman Churches Wiki](#)

[AmoRoma blog](#)

[AmoRoma blog](#)