

“TREVIGLIO”

CATHOLIC CENTRE FORM. ST. AUGUSTINE'S MONASTERY

Taken from “**Treviglio: storia, arte e cultura**” by Barbara Oggioni - *ed. Clessidra 2002*

The monastery, according to the nuns who once lived there, is traditionally dated back to 1070. It originally covered a vast portion of the western part of the town, but today only a part of the old cloisters and some rooms around it remain, these being used as the offices of various Catholic Associations.

The age of the buildings is obvious from the irregular shape of the cloisters and in the arches, evidence of primitive cloister construction, which was then remodelled before being partly demolished following the enlargement of the nearby Sanctuary in the 1890s. The most important event which touched the life of the monastery was that of the Miracle of the Weeping Madonna (28th february 1522): the fresco with the image of the Madonna was in fact on a wall of its bell-tower, the tower collapsed in 1658, but proof of its role is found in the paintings showing the story of the Miracle.

The part of the bell-tower wall with its fresco was moved to the Sanctuary in 1619; at that time the church used by the nuns connected the monastery to the Sanctuary via a series of rooms and galleries which were demolished after extensions to the Sanctuary and the creation of an open square in front of it.

The monastery was suppressed during 1799 and became property of the Town Council which started a school there.

Between the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century the complex was acquired by the local parish and the Catholic Associations took up their offices there.

At the same time, the liberty-style façade of the now ex-monastery was constructed in harmony with the next door Amateur Dramatic Theatre, and other remodelling and refacing work was carried out in the 1970s.

The Chapel of the Miracle, built on the supposed site of the monastery bell-tower, conserves the frescos which came from the base of the Town Tower.