



THE URSULINES NUNS MONASTERY

The compound of the Ursulines Monastery, inhabited by nuns until 1991, occupies the highest part of the town's historic center .

The original nucleus of the whole structure is Palazzo Ferrini, that is now the residence of the town hall and the local museum. This imposing building was built in 1606 by Demofonte Ferrini, an important notary of the Reverend Apostolic Chamber of Rome native of Calvi, by the magister Martino Melle from Lugano. In his will Ferrini stipulated that his palace at the time of the extinction of his direct descendants, should become property of the community of Calvi that should of founded in it a female monastery, which happened in 1715. Above the entrance door in ashlar still stands the emblem of this family.

In 1717 the monastery was entrusted to the Benedictines of Narni, that where promptly replaced in 1718 by the Ursuline nuns in Rome. Between 1720 and 1728 The wing connecting the palace and the old church of St. Paul (nowadays St. Bridget) with a project of the Jesuit Father Gregory and between 1731 and 1732 the wall of the big garden from a project of the Architect Raimondo Bassi by the roman master mason Antonio Guidi, where built.

The construction intervention of the Ursulines Monastery by the papal Architect Ferdinando Fuga is set between 1739 and 1743. The original project, of which the designs are still preserved at the National Institute for Graphics of Rome was for the extension of the Monastery with the construction of a large building with four wings arranged around a central courtyard, but only one wing was actually completed, the construction of the large choir with wooden stalls and the transformation of the old church of St. Paul in the new church of St. Bridget with the original façade solution that also incorporates the adjoining Oratory of St. Anthony.

Of great appeal are the kitchens of the Monastery, perfectly preserved and now included in the visit of the Museum in these broad service areas located in the basements of Palazzo Ferrini and the new wing of the Monastery, it seems that time has stopped. The large cistern for collecting rainwater connected to the washhouse, the woodshed and the coal cellar, the mill, the rooms for stowing the bread, cheese and other spices", the two large ovens with dryers, kitchen and the oil-stowing area tell us the story about the daily life of this great monastery, organised as a small self-sufficient microcosm.