



Giovanni and Battista Baschenis, *Saint Romedio with fellows David and Abraham*, 1470-1500, Pavillo, St. Paul's Church (Trento, Diocesan Museum, Photo archive)



Fortunato Depero, *Encounter between Saint Vigilio and Saint Romedio and view of the Sanctuary*, 1954-1956, Trento, Building of the Autonomous Province of Trento, Depero Hall (Press Office Archive Autonomous Province of Trento – Photo Romano Magrone, 2016)

Between 2012 and 2016, through its Cultural Heritage Department and following a memorandum of understanding stipulated with the Archdiocese of Trento and local authorities, the Autonomous Province of Trento authorised and funded important restoration work to safeguard and enhance the sanctuary of San Romedio. This included consolidation of the walls and plaster, refurbishment of the roof and restoration of pictorial decorations and stone elements such as the altars and group sculptures. Finally, it promoted the restoration of seventy votive tablets, among the 120 declared to be of cultural interest following careful cataloguing. On conclusion of the major conservation and improvement work to restore this extraordinary monument to history, art, faith and popular worship, a series of exhibition spaces were planned and set up in three rooms on the ground floor. Here it was intended to present the figure of Romedius, half-way between history and legend, illustrate the iconography of the sanctuary, raise awareness of a number of archaeological findings made at the foot of the cliff and highlight a selection of votive offerings, as well as the fresco decorations detached in 1932 and applied to canvases. A permanent exhibition has been created to recount the historic, artistic, iconographic, religious and devotional features of one of the most interesting sanctuaries in the alpine region.

The Sanctuary

The intricate structure of the monumental complex is the result of the addition of various sacred and secular buildings erected in different eras, starting from the oldest nucleus (11th-13th C) – which includes the shrine containing the relics and the chapel of San Nicolò – built at the top of a rocky limestone spur, up to the chapel of Our Lady of Sorrows, renovated in 1923. In 1487 the Cles family had the chapel of San Giorgio built, while the Thun family, who were patrons of the sanctuary for three and a half centuries (1514 -1865), promoted the construction of the church of San Michele Arcangelo (1514-1516) and the main church (1536). Other living and service areas, including the entrance stairway in the upper part of the sanctuary and the loggia around two sides of the internal courtyard, were added or extended in the 17th and 18th centuries.

In 1948 spiritual care of the sanctuary was entrusted to the Franciscan order, then passing to the order of the Friars Minor Conventual, who are also responsible for the Parish of Sanzeno, in 2005.

Permanent exhibition
(Photo Emanuele Tonoli, 2017)

