

## Chapels and altars of the Papal Apostolic and Principal Cathedrals of the Catholic Pilgrimage in the Vatican

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### Summary:

Rome and the Vatican: In the era of the Republic, people used to hear voices there, so they gave the hill the name Vaticina, and this is the origin of the Vatican, and it all began in the gardens of Circus Nero at the base of the obelisk - which still exists today. Martyrs, as Emperor Caligula (37-41 AD) carried out matches and acts of violence against Christians, and thus cemeteries became on vast areas to bury the victims of execution and martyrdom in the centuries of persecutions of the first centuries. The first Christians dug graves for their sisters under the same ground on which they confessed their Christian faith. From that time onwards this spot became sacred and a destination for pilgrims. When the emperors abandoned it and left it barren, the Christians brought the remains of S. Paul, which were buried on the road to Ostia /Appia, known as Ostiense, as well as the remains of St. Peter, which his disciples had hidden for 24 years before burial in the cathedral that was built by Emperor Constantine in the Vatican (formerly Rome), as well as the martyrs of the first persecution.

The Papal chapels have a special importance among the Christian chapels of different denominations, as they are in complete agreement with the Eastern Church in the practice of the seven ecclesiastical and liturgical sacraments, but they differ from them and are unique in beliefs such as: (Purgatory - Papal infallibility - Immaculate Conception - Theotokos Mother of God). Therefore, it becomes clear to us the importance of studying the chapels and altars of the main Papal Apostolic cathedrals in the Vatican, to complement the series of pilgrimage churches and cathedrals in the Christian world, and to know the importance of the chapels and altars of the main Papal Apostolic cathedrals in the Vatican.

Research problem: What is the importance of the chapels and altars of the main Papal Apostolic cathedrals in the Vatican? Did the chapels differ with the difference of the eastern church from the western one?

### Research objectives:

- 1- Introducing the chapel, the altar, the seven sacraments of the Church, ecclesiastical practices, and an overview of the Catholic Church.
- 2- Studying the role and importance of the chapels and altars of the main Papal Apostolic cathedrals in the Vatican.
- 3- Describing and analysing the architecture and arts of the chapels and altars of the Papal Apostolic and Catholic cathedrals in the Vatican and comparing each other to elicit the aesthetic values of these arts over the ages since their inception in the Middle Ages and their reconstruction, development and completion through the Renaissance, Baroque and neoclassical eras to our time and their area, dimensions, planning, art and history such as columns sculptures, murals, icons, and sacred relics.

4- A review of the works of the artists and architects of the cathedral who contributed to its construction, implementation, development and restoration.

5- A historical study of the most important popes, bishops, cardinals, priests, emperors, kings and nobles and their role as patrons of art, construction and finance 6- A study of the religious, political, social, economic and cultural situation in the former Vatican / Rome.

Research method: historical, descriptive-analytical, and comparative.

The importance of the research: a study of the chapels of the Papal cathedrals to complement the series of integrated pilgrimage churches and cathedrals in the Christian world that had previously been published.

### **Keywords:**

chapel - altar - church mysteries – papal

The research begins with a historical introduction about the birth of the church in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost, the house of the Lord and the bride of Christ, who came out of his side at the moment of his stabbing on the cross, just as Eve came out from Adam's side. And the cathedrals, and some of these chapels were named after those secrets. The chapels were known as the Cappellantine, which is the common name for it, namely: the sacrament of baptism, the chrism, the Eucharist, the confession, the anointing, the priesthood, and marriage. - St. Paul's Basilica outside the Walls - St. John Lateran Cathedral - the Cathedral of Mary the Great, better known as St. Maggiore). The following are located in the Vatican State, the smallest country in the world: such as the sanctification of Christ and the practice of the seven sacraments founded by Christ - sanctifying the Virgin and asking for her intercession and reciting hymns Mary's Mass, prayer (written and improvised), worship, meditation, and veneration - to celebrate the liturgy - to accommodate the largest number of visitors and pilgrims (Catholic pilgrimages) - sanctifying angels - containing tombs of saints, saints, martyrs and martyrs as relics, evaluating them for icons and celebrations and interceding for them, healing the saints and warding off pestilence and blessing icons, relics and holy relics - a scene for the coronation and papal election (after the papal election) Cardinals to the Pope - glorifying and honouring popes, cardinals, patriarchs, bishops and priests and glorifying the victory of the papacy over the rule of the laity - Coronation of kings and emperors - containing tombs / shrines of popes, patriarchs, cardinals, artists, memorials with chapels and catacombs - consecration.

The research reviews the reasons for building papal chapels and altars, and the researcher started at St. Peter's Cathedral - the first Pope -: The Chapel of Our Weeping Virgin Mary (The Pieta) - The Crucifix - The Monument to Christina of Sweden - The Monument to Pope Pius XI - The Chapel of the Saint Sebastian **Fig(1)** - memorial to Pope Pius XII - memorial to Pope Innocent XII - memorial to Countess Matilda Canossa - Blessed Sacrament Chapel - memorial to Pope Gregory XIII - memorial to Pope Gregory XII - memorial to Pope Gregory VI Ten - the Gregorian Chapel, which includes the altar of Our Lady of Help, the altar of St. Jerome, and the altar of St. Basil Magno. Basil Magno - The memorial to Pope Benedict XIV: Benedict XIV - Altar of St. Wenceslas - Altar of the martyrs Processus and Martinian - Altar of St. Erasmus - Altar of Navicella - Funerary monument to Pope Clement



**Fig (1) Saint Sebastian Chapel**

XIII - Altar of St. Michael's Altar Petronilla - The Altar of St. Peter sets up Tabitha - The memorial to Pope Alexander VIII - The Altar of St. Peter heals the crippled - Our Lady of the Column Chapel - The Altar of St. Leo the Great - The Sacred Heart - The Chapel and Altar of St. Thomas - The Altar The Crucifixion of Saint Peter - The memorial to Pope Pius VIII - The Cappella Clementina - The Altar of St. Gregor the Great in the Clementine Chapel - The monument to Pope Pius VII - The Altar of the Transfiguration - The memorial to Pope Leo XI - The memorial to Pope Innocent XI - Chapel of the Choir - Altar of the Immaculate Conception -Presentation Chapel - Monument to Pope Innocent VIII - Monument to Pope John XXIII - Monument to Maria Clementina Sobieski - Monument to James III Stuart - Chapel of Petronilla - Chapel of the Holy Trinity.



**Fig(2) Lateran baptismal chapel**

Then the research reviews the chapels and altars of the main cathedral of St. John the Papal Apostolic Principal (John Lateran), which are: Lateran baptismal chapel **Fig(2)** - mausoleum/ tomb of Pope Martin V - Lorenzo Valla's tomb - Capella Corsini chapel - tomb/ mausoleum/ Gerardo Bianchida Parma Da Parma - Chapel of Antonelli - Chapel of Cappella Santori - Chapel of Francesco (Lancelotti Chapel - Chapel of San Ilario - Chapel of Colonna - Chapel of John the Baptist and Saint Anna - Chapel of the Holy Cross - Chapel of San Giovanni - Tomb of Pope Sergius Fourth - Chapel Torlonia - Orsini Chapel - Monument to Cardinal Ranuccio Faranese - Tomb of Cardinal Clusiano Casate - Chapel of Massino.

Then the chapels and altars, the chapels and baptisms of Mary the Great, Papal Apostolic Principal (Saint Maggiore), they are as follows: The Monument to the noble Fabio Sergardi - The Monument to Cardinal Pier Francesco Ferrero - The Monument to Cardinal Francisco de Toledo Herrera - Monument to Augustino Favoriti - Monument to Cardinal Mariano Pier Benedtti - Monument to Antonio Maria Traversi - Chapel of Cesi - Chapel of Sforza - Chapel of Paolina - Tomb of Bernini - Chapel of Saint Carlo Borromeo - Chapel of Saint Francisca Romana - France /Capella Sistina **Fig(3)** : To the right of the high altar, Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament (chapel of the Holy Spirit) - Chapel of St. Lucy and the Holy Innocents - Chapel of the Holy Relics **Fig(4)** - Chapel of St. Jerome **Fig(5)** - Chapel of St. Lucy and the Holy Innocents **Fig(6)** - Chapel of the Baptistry of Santa Maggiore - Chapel of the Treasury - Chapel and tomb of Pope Sixtus V Sixtus V Perettidi Montalto - Chapel of St. Francis of Assisi - Mausoleum of Pope St. Pius V Geisleri.



**Fig (3) Sistine Chapel**



**Fig (4) Chapel of the Holy Relics**



**Fig (5) St. Jerome's**



**Fig (6) Saint Lucy's Chapel**

The research concludes with the chapels and altars of St. Paul's Cathedral outside the main Papal Apostolic walls that are lacking in relation to the chapels and altars of the other three



cathedrals, namely: the Papal altar - St. Stephen's Chapel -- St. Benedict's Chapel **Fig (7)** - St. Lawrence's Chapel **Fig(8)** - the Eucharist Chapel **Fig(9)** - the Holy Relics Chapel.



## Results and recommendations

The Catholic faith and the ecumenical councils are the basis on which the main apostolic Papal churches in general and the Papal chapels in particular were built on. The Papal chapels have a special importance among the Christian chapels of the various denominations and are in complete agreement with the Eastern Church in the practice of the seven church and liturgical sacraments, but they differ from them and are unique in beliefs such as: Purgatory - Papal infallibility - Immaculate Conception - Theotokos, Mother of God). Catholics believed that a person must receive the penalty for the evils he did in his life in this world or after death by punishing him for a period of time, which is known as purgatory, which is what the Orthodox call heresy, and rejects it completely, as the Church rejected it.

Eastern and Protestants do not believe in the pivotal role of Saint Peter the Apostle and his apostolic privilege and do not believe that he is the successor of Jesus Christ and that he is the first pope. Confession chapels were set up in the sale of indulgences on which the religious reform movement was based. They also rejected the doctrine of His Holiness Archangel Michael that he is the patron and defender of the Catholic Church against Protestants. Most of the chapels bear the names of those mysteries and the names of the miracles of Peter the Apostle and the angel Micah Yale, infallibility and papal ordination. Rome led the architectural leadership of the Renaissance style in the late fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries because of the supervision of the popes, the clergy and the cardinals of the artists and architects, and they gave them the opportunity to reside in Rome to study its archaeology and arts, such as Paramanti, Michelangelo, Raphael, Sanglo... and others. Pope Gregory XVI adopted the feat of architect Domencino and Pope Paul V's kiss by Pietro Bernini, as well as Innocent X by the artist Algerdi, as well as Bernini, the favourite artist of Pope Urban VIII - this is just to name a few. Architects and artists are officially appointed by the Fabbrica Complex to assess the wages and cover the costs, and the chapels are not dedicated until after their wages are paid, in addition to the role of strong organized crafts unions that have religious relations with the popes, the

ruling families and their noble family, so it was the first pillar for directing private art workshops (studios / ceremonies), and from the most important of these families: The Medici family, founded by Giovanni de' Medici and his son Cosimo in 1424 AD, and succeeded by his son Piro and several grandson Lorenzo the Great, among the members of this family were two Popes Leo X and Clement VII, apart from the Malatesta, Montefeltri and Este families. The honouring of the popes and the unions reached the artists to allocate cemeteries for themselves and their family, such as the Bernini family cemetery in Sant' Maggiore. It is worth mentioning that cemeteries were dedicated to the historian, archaeologist, the Lateran canon buried in the Cathedral of John Lateran and another tomb of the scientist Lorenzo Valla Platteran as well. The repetition of the names of the chapels and their function in the four papal cathedrals, as well as the repetition of the names of their architects and artists, and the transition of artists at one stage after another. Bernini and Borromini introduced Baroque architecture and art to the cathedrals, and they were the anchor of the neo-classicism/return that Canova established in the four cathedrals, and there are private art workshops that work for them and led them to be known as masters, such as Paolo Cristofari and Domenico Pasignano, and there were whole families working in the papal cathedrals, such as Sanglo, Maderno, Fontana and Bernini. The cathedrals contain catacombs, tombs and memorials to the popes and became a burial ground for Catholic kings and princes such as Christina of Sweden, Countess Matilda Canossa, James III Stewart and others, in addition to their coronation as the door of science and the succession of the two Popes in the Vatican. - Paul's Cathedral, outside the main Apostolic Papal walls, lacks chapels and altars. It is not like the three similar ones due to its small size and area and its exposure to successive fires. It was demolished and rebuilt on the neo-classical basis. The researcher also recommends more scientific-artistic-historical studies for all Christian pilgrimage cathedrals and churches to enrich the Arabic library in the four Christian pilgrimage centres (the Holy Land - the pilgrimage routes of Sant'gio - the four main Papal Apostolic cathedrals in the Vatican), its history, architecture, arts, chapels, baptisms, relics, and group buildings, and to supplement what the researcher started in her five studies.

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