

Oratory of San Giacomo and Church of S. Francesco

Going along through via Pirro de Luca, we approach *Largo Tommaso Rossi*, which is the result of demolitions and reconstructions of ancient religious structures. Among the present buildings, our attention is drawn by the *Church of San Francesco* and the rear section of the *Abbey-Church of Santa Maria della Piazza*. The *Oratory of San Giacomo* is located under its chevet. The vaults of the *Oratory* are decorated with Baroque frescoes, making it of great artistic value. The fresco of *Santa Caterina D'Alessandria*, located at the bottom of the crypt, and some fragments on the walls, probably date back to the foundation of the *Abbey* between the 12th and 13th centuries.

The *Church of San Francesco* is one of the most important meeting house in Montefusco, due to the abundance of paintings and statues in its interior. According to tradition, *San Francesco of Assisi* established the *Church* and the *Franciscan Convent* attached to it while on his journey to Brindisi. In a private courtyard of the same *Largo*, it is still visible an ancient inscription belonging to another former place of worship: the *Oratory of San Raimondo*.