



# Irgalmasok

2010.



**Information supplement**

The Hospitaller Order, Pécs, Széchenyi Square 5. Tel./fax: (+36) 72/312-856

## **I. Retrospective**

Capuchin Friars first settled down on the ground situated on the Southern part of Széchenyi Square, and soon started to build their own church. The Baroque style church named after Saint Sebastian and was consecrated in 1727. Later a monastic cloister was also attached to the church on its eastern side and was completed in 1731 together with a closed inner cloister. In 1734, a chapel was built on the right side of the church mirroring the fashions of Western European styles. This part of the building reflects the pattern of a chapel in Passau, Germany.



After the devastation of a fire in 1744, the renovated church was further extended by the addition of a choir loft. The 100-year long operation of the Capuchin Friars was suspended by King Joseph II's measures dissolving orders. The monastery was then used intermittently for various secular purposes.

The Pécs convent of the Hospitaller Order dedicated to Saint John of God was founded in 1795 by the wealthy miller and tanner, János György Krautsack. A foundation for the construction of a future hospital was also set up at this time in order to secure the preservation and growth of the Orders corporal works charism of caring for the sick.



On the request of János Krautsack and the abbot Ádám Vizer, Emperor Francis I relinquished the empty building to the Hospitaller Order of Pécs on condition that a hospital would be built for the poor and the sick adjacent to the church and the convent. In the same year, the members of the Hospitaller Order were solemnly inaugurated ordained. They occupied their new home on 31 August 1796. The Order then – following the example of their founder, Saint John of God – commenced with the construction a 12 bed-

hospital. The huge piece of property at their disposal was used for gardening and bee-keeping in order to serve the requirements of the hospital. The one-storey pharmacy wing on the eastern side of the church was finished in 1796. Its upper-floor was built only in 1884. The church remained untouched, leaving Saint Sebastian as its patron saint. The tower of the northern façade was built in 1809. The hospital was enlarged to accommodate 40 beds. The entrance façade, still present today, was rebuilt in the eclectic style, of the then approaching Millennium according to the plans of Ágoston Kirstein. The interior part of the church remained intact. By the close of the year 1926, the hospital consisted of 100 beds and a separate wing for the care of women. The 1905 stone relief work of sculptor Ede Mayer, found on the façade of the side-chapel in Irgalmasok Street, shows the founder of the Hospitaller Order.

The ground-floor of the Pomegranate pharmacy was finished in 1928 under the supervision of Károly Hebensreit and its door to the public was opened in 1929 – when medicines were parcelled through a window, by staff members could enter via a door from an interior corridor.

Based on Károly Haraszti's plans, a two-storey hospital was erected during 1940-1941 with the help of the former hospital's remnants.

The Hospitaller Order was dissolved in 1950. The church itself could remain in the hold of the Church, but the hospital and the Pomegranate Pharmacy were nationalized. The restitution of the goods of the Hospitaller Order started in 1994. In that year, the Order had the disposal of seven rooms. In compliance with the 1996 agreement, during 1996-2006 the Order received back its former possessions in parallel with the removal of the clinical parts of the university. In 1996, the Pomegranate Pharmacy was once again firmly under the control of the Hospitalling Order.

## **II. At Present**

Currently, nursing activity is provided in rooms equipped with modern hospital devices. In the Dunántúl region the Order operates a unique hospice ward as well as both a nursing and a department of internal medicine. At the moment the establishment contains 117 beds serves a large territory. The conscientious work done by doctors, nurses, attendants and volunteers adds considerably to the quality of the Order's mission.

The hospital leases additional space to an ambulatory urological consultation, a daily surgery, a private cardiologic consultation, a rheumatologic consultation, a therapeutic masseuse, a paediatrician and four physician consultation offices. The incomes of these occupants all help to support the operation of the nursing services which the Order provides and are greatly welcomed and appreciated for the enhanced quality of care both by supporters from within the congregation as well as the relatives of the patients which the mission itself serves.

At present, in addition to the mission's hospital care, orderly tasks, and congregation life, a total renovation of the interior and the exterior of the building is taking place.

### III. The Hospitalling Church of Pécs of Saint Sebastian

#### Exterior depiction:

The entrance in the eclectic style received its current face during the 1887-1891 rebuilding project. Among the rich decorations of note are the upper attic, the statue of Our Lady in an arched housing made by György Kis, the stone-framed entrance door and the Capuchin coat of arms. The brick set tower, raised to the same level as the roof and covered by an open belfry consisting of 8 columns, is locked-up by a cupola and decorated with a spatial cross which rises above its surroundings.



#### Interior depiction:

The architectural design of the interior is simple. Its ceiling is drawered and annular-vaulted. Its frescoes, painted by Ede Graits, are based on the copies of the Italian painter Giovanni Tiepolo. The triumphal arch separating the shrine depicts Crucifixion scenes at Mount Golgotha. The center ceiling frescoes include both The Ascension of Jesus and the death of Saint John of God, whereas above the choir loft viewers may enjoy pondering the miracle of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the symbols representing the four Gospels. The interior woodwork of the church is original. The high altar and the two side-altars are unique within Hungary, as they are handcrafted, inlaid and masterpieces of the Capuchin Friars. The simple and moderate pulpit is also a rare and original



masterpiece made by Capuchin Monks. The high altar's canvass painting represents the martyrdom of Saints Sebastian, Stephen and Ladislaus as the Holy Trinity hovers majestically above.

The Sacred Altar together with the ambo, at which the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is Offered by the priest, was

made in 1969, and was planned by Ferenc Árvay. The flooring of the church was renovated in the same year with marble slabs from Siklós.

The side-altars are decorated with the images of the founder of the Hospitalling Order, Saint John of God (depicted with a carrier-bag on his shoulder begging for his church next to him) and Saint Anthony of Padua.

Recent additions to the church's interior include the rococo style side-altar containing the tabernacle and embellished with the copy of a devotional image of Our Lady of „Mariahilf” depicted at its namesake chapel in Passau. Saint Pio's portrait between the tabernacle and the image of Our Lady, a devotional relic of the same saint embedded into to the prayer-stool in front of the altar, and the statues of the Guardian of angels at its side. The ears of the assembly are treated to the pleasing sounds of its most prominent long time resident its organ manufactured in the 18<sup>th</sup> century by Angster Organ of Pécs.

#### **IV. The Hospitaller Nursing Order**

The Hospitaller Order, whose charism is the merciful corporal works associated with nursing care, was founded by Saint John of God (1495-1550) in 1540. The Order was officially recognized by Pope Pius V in 1572. Its rule of life was made public in 1586, Saint John of God was born on 8 March 1495, in Portugal. During his adventurous life (shepherd, servant, and soldier), by the influence of John of Avila's sermons, Saint John of God established his first hospital around 1540. He founded the Hospitaller Order and built a hospital for the treatment of the poor and sick. John, who lived a strict and ascetic life, maintained the hospital from his own earnings: the material goods and donations that he collected as a mendicant. His loving and heroic commitment to God and neighbour was accompanied by miraculous recoveries and apparitions. He was beatified in 1630 and canonized in 1691. The Hospitaller Order is all over the world.



We are pleased to welcome in our church all those who are interested in arts, religion, and human values, and those faithful who enter the opened gates of the house of God aspiring for spiritual absorption, and patients looking for physical-spiritual harmony in our pharmacy and hospital as well. As for those who feel disposed to nursing and seek for an absorbed spiritual life, which is the mission of our Order, we encourage them to contact us so that we can nurse their vocation.

For more information please visit: [www.irgalmasokpecs.hu](http://www.irgalmasokpecs.hu)

P. Morvay Imre Pio, OH Pécs Convent

P. Kozma Imre, OH representative of the Budapest Convent