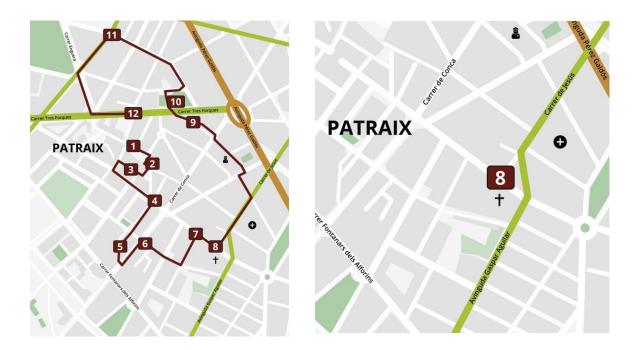
8. Santa María de Jesús church



The present parish church was once part of a Franciscan convent, under the patronage of Santa María de Jesús, founded by Alfonso the Magnanimus and his wife doña María on the 10th of May 1428. It was converted after the disentailment (1835) in a spinning mil and afterwards, in 1866, in the local asylum (please see index card 7).

The present church dates from the end of the XVIII century. Its interior, with a Latin cross plan, was renovated with a neoclassical cladding incorporating a barrel vault with lunettes and a dome with frescoes by José Camarón Bonanat, which represent biblical examples of saints: Ester, Débora, Judit and Abigail.

The dome, topped by a lantern with a cupola, is covered on the outside with blue glazed tiles.

The chapels of the east side of the temple are dedicated to Saint Joseph (sculpture by Carmelo Vicent), Virgin of the Forsaken and Virgin of El Pilar. On the west side, they are dedicated to Christ of Providence (work of Vicente Bellver) and Saint Anthony of Padua, (work of Jaime Mulet).

In the transept, the images of the Inmaculate Conception and the Sacred Heart, works of Peregrín Pérez and Federico Siurana, respectively.

The altarpiece of the high altar is also neoclassical. In its centre we can find an image of the Virgin with Baby Jesus, work of Jaime Mulet and underneath Christ on the cross.

The Communion Chapel, built in 1787, has a greek cross plan. It contains the altar presided over by the image of the blessed Nicolás Factor, who was ordained, lived and died in the Convento de Jesús.

It was decorated in 1796 with frescoes of Vicente López depicting his glorification. Also known as "camarín del beato", the chapel originally housed the mortal remains of Nicolás Factor, beatified in 1786.

His body was in a silver urn, work of the Goldsmith Pedro Valero, made in 1790 and lost in 1936. The chapel stands out externally from the building as a whole and can be seen from the street.

In the chapel dedicated to the blessed Nicolás Factor, we can see different representations of his virtues: Peace, Contemplation, Faith, Conscience, Kindness, Patience, Modesty, Chastity, Charity, Benignity, Joy and Gentleness. These paintings are the work of José Camarón y Boronat and Luis Planes.

Images close to his life are also depicted: two images for which he felt special veneration, Virgin Mary of the Steps and the Virgin with the child, and two events attributed to him: the multiplication of loaves of bread in front of hungry children and the donation of his clothes to a person in need.

The two glazed ceramic panels in the vestibule of the church are of interest. They represent two miracles also attributed to the blessed Nicolás Factor (images 12 to 15).

The quadrangular bell tower has five bells: José (1928), Blessed Nicolás Factor (1950), Santa María de Jesús (1950), Jesús (1998) and San Vicente Ferrer (2006).

Pedro Nicolás Factor was born in València, on the street known back then as Ribelles, now Luis Vives, in the parish of San Martín, on the 29th of June 1520.

He was baptized in the San Vicent font, in the parish church of San Esteban, beacuse of the devotion of his parents, Vicente y Úrsula, to San Vicente Ferrer, devotion that will be fostered and increased by Nicolás Factor. In this street there is a plaque that remembers him.

His religious life was fuelled by the counter-reformation fervours promoted by the Council of Trent (1545 to 1563).

He is one of the representatives of the mystical Spain of the Golden Age, and is compared to Santa Teresa de Jesús, San Juan de la Cruz, San Ignacio de Loyola, San Juan de Ávila, San Francisco de Borja, Santo Tomás de Villanueva y San Juan de Ribera.

He was adviser to the Patriarch Juan de Ribera and disciple of Joan de Joanes. He prophesied the battle of Lepanto, the successor of pope Gregory XXIII, the flood of Tortosa in 1582, the death of King Sebastián of Portugal, as well as the birth of the children of Felipe II and Juana de Austria.

In 1586, three years after his death, in 1583, he received the visit of King Felipe II, who had the opportunity to see the body of Nicolas Factor in the convent church. It is said that his incorrupt body gave off a soft fragrance.

The figure of Nicolás Factor is key to understanding the configuration of this ensemble and even the urban morphology of the area.

On the 18th of August 1786, Pius VI blessed Nicolás Factor, and València celebrated his blessing the next year with lights and music.

The then Archbishop of València, his brother in the habit Friar Joaquín Company, commanded in 1787 that a direct avenue be built, between fields and roads, from the front of the Santa María de Jesús Chruch to the walls of the city, which is today Jesús Street, for the remains of the franciscan frair to be moved to the Cathedral.

There it would be exposed to the veneration and devotion of the faithful, during the days of the celebrations, and it would later return to the rest of his tomb in the church of Jesús, until the body disappeared in 1936.

The proximity between Jesús and Patraix has always been so great that a Patraix baker, in the XIX century, was reproached for going to hear mass at San Antonio de Rascanya, being the Convent of Jesús so close by:

"La fornera de Patraix se'n va a missa a Sant Antoni.

Tenint a Jesús tan prop.

La fornera del dimoni."

"The baker of Patraix,

Goes to mass in San Antoni,

Having Jesús so close by,

The devil's Baker."

General information

Address: Plaza de Jesús, 9.

Opening times:

Monday to Saturday from 19:30 to 00:00

Sunday from 12:00 to 20:00

Telephone number: 963 25 16 78

Accesibility

Access: Accessible street with lowered pavement.

Mobility: Narrow pavements.

Parking: Parking space reserved for persons with reduced mobility in Av.

Gaspar Aguilar 7.