



6. ROYAL COLLEGE- CORPUS CHRISTI SEMINARY

HOLY GRAIL URBAN ROUTE

GENERAL ROUTE PLAN

1. The clock-keeper's house
2. Royal Monastery of the Holy Trinity
3. Museum of fine arts of València
4. Del Real Gardens
5. Convent of Saint Dominic
6. **Royal College-Corpus Christi Seminary**
7. Silk Exchange
8. Serranos Towers
9. Palau dels Borja
10. The Basilica of Our Lady of the Forsaken
11. L'Arquebisbe Square
12. Cathedral



Royal College-Corpus Christi Seminary (Colegio del Patriarca): Counter-reformation in Stone

One of the most harmonious Spanish Renaissance sites can be found in the tranquil El Col·legi del Patriarca Square: the Royal College-Corpus Christi Seminary, commonly known as *Colegio del Patriarca*. This space was conceived in the late 16th century as a stone depiction of the ideals of the Counter-reformation.

Its founder, Saint Juan de Ribera —patriarch of Antioquía and archbishop of València— was the driving force behind this project to teach priests according to the principles of the Council of Trent. The result is a building of great balance and serenity, with clear Italian influences, where each architectural element conveys order, spirituality and contemplation.

Devotion for the Holy Grail

The link between the Holy Grail and this spot is its founder. Saint Juan de Ribera was one of the great forces behind devotion for this relic. A handwritten note in his personal bible states

that the chalice kept at València Cathedral was the one used by Jesus Christ at the Last Supper, a statement that reinforced its spiritual and symbolic value.

His commitment went far beyond theory. During a visit by King Philip II to València, the saint was behind a solemn procession to bring the Holy Grail before the monarch. He was also a patron of artists who included an image of the relic in their work, helping to disseminate its iconography.

These artists include Francisco Ribalta and Bartolomé Matarana, along with others from the school of València. Their creations reflect the significance of the Eucharist and consolidate the presence of the Holy Grail as a key symbol in religious art at the time.

The seminary itself can be seen as a great monument dedicated to the Eucharist. Its spaces, decorations and artwork feature constant allusions to the grail, reinforcing the spiritual message Saint Juan de Ribera wanted to convey.

Today, the *Colegio del Patriarca* is an invitation to discover how architecture, art and faith combine in a single language, offering a new perspective on the relevance of the Holy Grail in the religious and cultural history of València.

