

St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church, Dresden – Short Description -



Bishop Christian Schreiber laid the foundation stone on 23rd September, 1924. It is immured in the apse behind the altar. The plan was made by Robert Witte and the church was consecrated on 6th December, 1925.

Several architectural modifications were carried out after the Second Vatican Council.

Originally, the church building was planned as an aisle of a larger church. Because of the global economic crisis in the 1920s this building project was not completed. There is obviously a church spire missing. The building is composed as a unit of the church building, the parish rooms and the priest's apartment which was originally used as a monastery by Oblates.

The sanctuary is mainly dominated by the wooden crucifix and by the altar which has the shape of a book that is opened in the direction of the congregation. The crucifix with the corpus figure without arms symbolizes Jesus' words: "I have no hands but yours."

On the tabernacle, which is situated to the left of the altar, you can see four illustrations of the Lord's life combined in one cross: the breaking of the bread in Emmaus, Blessed Virgin Mary and St. John under the cross, the annunciation with the archangel Gabriel and the inscription "And the word became flesh and dwelt among us." Finally, there is John the Baptist referring to Jesus "Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

On the right side of the sanctuary there is a statue of the patron saint of our church, Paul the apostle with a sword and a book in his hands. On the left side you can find Blessed Virgin Mary with baby Jesus holding the globe in his hands. Mary is crowned and standing on a crescent moon above a snake.

The decorations on the baptismal font have the theme "the source of life". Situated on the right side of the altar it is a counterbalance to the ambo, the podium or lectern on the left from which the readings and gospel are read and the homily is given.

You are invited to follow Jesus to Calvary by the stations of the cross that are shown in 14 pictures starting on the right side near the baptismal font.

On the right side in the rear of the church there is a statue of the apostle St. Jude Thaddaeus, who was appealed to for help with lost cases by our ancestors, and in the aisle there is a picture of St. Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus Christ; and of St. Anthony, who is the patron saint associated with the return of lost things and also with poverty and hunger.

On the left side there is a statue of St. Thérèse of Lisieux, a saint whose life continues to inspire people.

The memorial for the „Blessed Martyrs of Münchner Platz“ is situated in the left aisle. They were Polish adolescents fighting as Christians against suppression in Nazi Germany and who died as heroes.

The parish priest at that time was Father Franz Bänsch (OMI) who also worked as prison minister and so cared for hundreds of men and women condemned to death. He promised to dedicate a church to them after the end of the Second World War. This promise was kept and the chapel in Kleinnaundorf near Dresden was consecrated on 14th August, 1955. The altarpiece by Friedrich Press is made of Meissen porcelain. It is a crucifixion group which also serves as a reminder of the destruction of Dresden in February 1945. The chapel in Kleinnaundorf had to be abandoned due to irreparable damage caused by mining in the early 1990s. In 2008 the crucifixion group was given to our parish. The family of one of the blessed martyrs gave us an opened envelope of the last letter received before his execution as a relic. Two more memorials for the „Blessed Martyrs of Münchner Platz“ were also built, one in our parish's garden and one in the cathedral ("Hofkirche") in Dresden.

The organ was built by Gebrüder Jehmlich from Dresden. It has two manuals and 22 ranks of pipes. Benefits are regularly organised in order to preserve the organ.

Opposite the entrance to the church there is a room dedicated to our patron St. Paul. On the left wall you can see a wooden relief showing his conversion on the way to Damascus.

You are warmly invited to join activities in our lively parish community situated near Dresden's Technical University! We can also offer disabled access for our visitors.

