



ROVIGO

CHURCH OF ST. FRANCIS

In his will, Obizzo II d'Este requested the construction of a convent for the Friars Minor of St. Francis, residing in Rovigo since 1213 near the *Chiesetta della Santa Croce* (the Chapel of the Holy Cross - known today as the '*Chiesetta del Cristo*'). The complex developed around the church became sought after by the local noblemen for family graves. In 1413 the new church was enlarged of a nave and in 1520 the bell tower completed. On 7 May 1806 the parish of St. Justina (which once stood in *Piazza Garibaldi*, demolished in 1809) moved to S. Francis, hence the name Sts. Francis and Justina. Inside, noteworthy paintings from the 1500s. The *Chiesetta del Cristo* is one of Rovigo's most ancient sacred buildings. It would have been founded by St. Francis in 1213. When the feast of Christ was established in 1810, public worship moved towards the *Chiesetta's* image of the Cross, believed to be miraculous. The church was hence called '*del Cristo*' (of Christ).

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