

“TREVIGLIO”

VIA PORTALUPPI

Taken from “**Treviglio: storia, arte e cultura**” by Barbara Oggioni - *ed. Clessidra 2002*

On the right-hand side of this street, there is a series of buildings called *Workers Houses*, a very interesting example not only of terraced construction, but also of solidarity and co-operation in promoting social development in the difficult years of the industrial boom in Lombardy at the beginning of the 20th century.

This vast residential area was started at the beginning of 1901 in response to the problem of housing for workers' and was constructed by the Workers' Housing Building Society, an offshot of the Treviglio Workers' Union with the hel of Cassa Rurale Bank.

In a side-street off Via Portaluppi is the *Cascina Redentore*, built at the beginning of the 20th century by the Cassa Rurale Bank with the intention of providing healty, comfortable housing for farm workers.

Mons. Ambrogio Portaluppi, after whom the street is named, was an outstanding person, not only in Treviglio's history: born in 1863 in Boffalora Ticino, has ordained a priest in 1886, and graduated with a degree first in philosophy and the in theology. He was appointed to the Collegiate Church of St. Martin's in Treviglio in 1890 as theological canon, and became active in the social, economic and cultural development of the lower classes.

Some of the numerous initiatives he promoted were: the Cassa Rurale Bank in 1893, the Rural Union, the Workers Union, as well as the foundation of evening classes, a girls' training centre, and organization to care for war-orphans, refugees and the poor. He was Parish Priest of Treviglio from 1913 to 1923 and founded the weekly Catholic newspaper the *Popolo Cattolico*. He died in 1923.