Paradise Square

The Paradise Square stretches in front of the basilica. It acquired its present form in the first half of the nineteenth century. It has the shape of a rectangle with sides around forty-three and thirty-seven metres long. On the western side, it is enclosed by a staircase and the façade of the basilica. The northern and southern sides of the square are enclosed by cloisters. An ornamental fence with sculptures, located on the east side of the square, faces the basilica. Two columns with statues on top rise in the square, as well as two linden trees. Most of the sculptures were made by Tomasz Gałuszczyński. The square is paved with slabs of grey stone.

A monumental staircase with grey stone steps leads into the basilica. Measured vertically from the base to the top, it is over four metres high. The two-landing staircase was built in the shape of an isosceles trapezium.

The cloisters are long, single-storey buildings with arcades. Therefore, the building opens into the square. Thirteen columns of beige sandstone support the twelve arches. Twelve wooden confessionals stand along each of the cloisters’ long corridors, one under each arch.

At the foot of the stairs, symmetrically to the right and left, there are columns with statues on top. When we face the basilica, to the left stands the statue of Saint Anthony, and to the right – that of Saint Francis. The life-size statues were sculpted in grey stone. Each of them is surrounded by a cast-iron fence and illuminated by two decorative lanterns. Saint Anthony wears a monastic habit. He holds the Christ Child in his right hand and a lily in his left hand. Saint Francis is also clad in a monastic habit. He holds a cross in his right hand, pressing it to his chest. A linden tree grows in front of each statue. The trees are encircled with benches.

The fence has three gates. It consists of a stone foundation, pedestals, and decorative cast-iron bars. Ten life-size stone statues stand on the pedestals with their backs to the basilica. When we stand in front of the fence, the statues are positioned in the following order, from left to right: Simon of Lipnica holding a tree, Antoni Padewski with the Christ Child and a lily, Bonaventure with a hat and a cardinal’s crosier, Saint Francis of Assisi with a cross, Jesus with the globe, Mary, Saint Clare with a monstrance, Louis of Toulouse with a book and a bishop’s crosier, Bernardino of Siena with a monstrance and John of Dukla with a lily.

With our backs to the fence, we are facing a charming panorama of the surrounding hills, with the distinctive Lanckorońska Mountain. The hills are covered with mixed forests.