



THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC

This is the room in which the President of the Republic holds his official meetings with the invited Heads of State and consults with party secretaries before forming the Government.

At the time when the Quirinale Palace was the seat of the Pontiffs, this room was the summertime bedroom of the Pope. During the Napoleonic restyling of the Palace, the room was turned into the Emperor's dining room and, at the end of the 19th Century, King Umberto I used it as his private office.

The ceiling was decorated at this time, in neo-Renaissance style. The frieze, painted with pairs of angels upholding knightly "enterprises", dates back to the same period.

The room is decorated with furniture of the 18th and 19th Centuries. More specifically, the President's desk was made in France in the middle of the 18th Century and was brought to Rome from the Reggia of Parma.

The painting hanging on the wall behind the desk was painted by 17th Century French painter Jacques Courtois, who was known in Italy with the name of "the Bourguignon". It represents the martyrdom of forty Jesuit priests who were assaulted on their ship by a group of pirates.

The other two paintings displayed in the room are by Angelo Maria Crivelli nicknamed "il Crivellone", an 18th Century painter specialised in paintings portraying animals and still lifes. The two large paintings in this room come from the art collection of the House of Savoy and

are dedicated to barnyard animals.