

The **hermitage of Bellvitge** was built in the middle of the XI Century in the fields of the delta of the Llobregat River. The hermitage was a meeting point for the farmers and peasants living in the “masies” (country houses typical of Catalonia) and tending the rich fields along the river, several kilometres from the city of Barcelona. The hermitage was destroyed by repeated flooding of the river, and reconstructed in the middle of the XVIII Century.

Until 1960, the hermitage was still surrounded by orchards and fields. However, a new area of massive apartment blocks for migrants arriving from different regions of Spain to work in Barcelona was raised in the 1970s as a neighbourhood of Hospitalet de Llobregat, the rapidly growing city between the river and Barcelona. Five years later, the Hospital of Bellvitge started its history.

The hermitage of Bellvitge was in ruins, and its preservation was neglected for a long time, but now the hermitage has been restored and again looks as beautiful in its simplicity and tranquility as it appears in old pictures.

The hermitage is a symbol of welcome and peace for the inhabitants of the city as well as for interested visitors.







