

## **The Papon house and the 16<sup>th</sup> century house**

If you look closely at the facade of no.14, 7 metres from street level you can discern a recess which shelters **the bust of Jean-Pierre Papon (1734-1803)** who was born in this house on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January 1734. After commencing his studies in Nice, then studying philosophy in Turin, in 1752 he enters the congregation of The Oratory of Aix-en-Provence. He becomes a professor and teaches successively in Marseille, Riom, Nantes and Lyon.... During this period he writes “ The Art of the poet and the orator”. **In 1780 he is appointed as the curator of the Marseille library where he finishes “A General History of Provence”** which Maribeaun qualifies as the “leaden history of Reverend Father Papon”! He is also the author of one of the first touristic guide books: “A Literary journey in Provence”. Fleeing the period of the Terror, he undertakes a history of the Revolution in France.

Rue Papon ends at no.16 by a corner house displaying a series of archivolt openings with overhanging eaves and an antique portico dating from 1569. One of these opens onto an elegant square staircase dating from the Renaissance. Due to its dating, this house cannot have been the property of the Knights of the Templar whose order was abolished in 1307. However, we do know that the House of the Temple of Rigaud, cited in 1269, owned property in the town.

## **The vaulted passage-way of rue de Verdun**

In this passage-way in 2011, Lionel Monges painted a knight, spectator of the Crucifixion and a servant of Herod's palace, the first was inspired by the work of Louis Bréa for the Franciscain convent in Nice (1512) and the second by the Torment of Christ, painted by Jean Canavesio for Notre-Dame-des-Fontaines in la Brigue (1492). The composition for the vault carries an eight-rayed star, frequent in medieval art.