

Eremo di Sant'Onofrio al Morrone

On July 4, 2013, Bishop of Sulmona, Angelo Spina leads a group of about 200 pilgrims to the Eremo di Sant'Onofrio to which Pietro del Morrone (Celestino V) returned after he resigned from the Papacy in December 1294. The pilgrimage is to commemorate the 700th anniversary of St. Celestino's canonization in 1313. He founded the Congregazione dei Celestini dell'Ordine di San Benedetto and is considered the father of the eremitic monasticism movement of the 12th Century in the Majella mountains of Abruzzo.



The events surrounding the Papacy of Celestino V are discussed in Umberto Eco's famous novel "The Name of the Rose" which is set in the Sacra di San Michele in the 1320's only a few decades after Celestino's time.

Note earthquake bracing on column in background



Collemaggio was badly damaged in 2009 earthquake.

Celestino himself rests about 100 Km away in l'Aquila's famous Collemaggio Basilica



We start about 5:30 pm from the Badia Morrone in Sulmona



Soon we are on a steep, rocky trail for the 1,500 foot climb over 3 Km



The Eremo sits on a ledge above the Sulmona valley

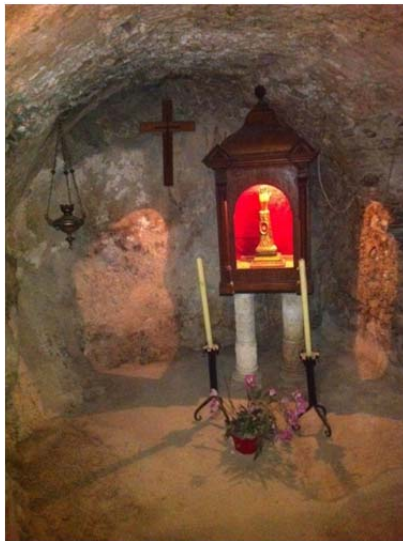


We gather for the Santa Messa with Bishop Spina in the lovely summer sunset.





Celestino's cell to which he returned in December 1294



Cell of St. Roberto da Salle (1272-1341), Procuratore Generale della Congregazione dei Celestini dell'Ordine di San Benedetto





12th Century frescos in chapel and oratorio

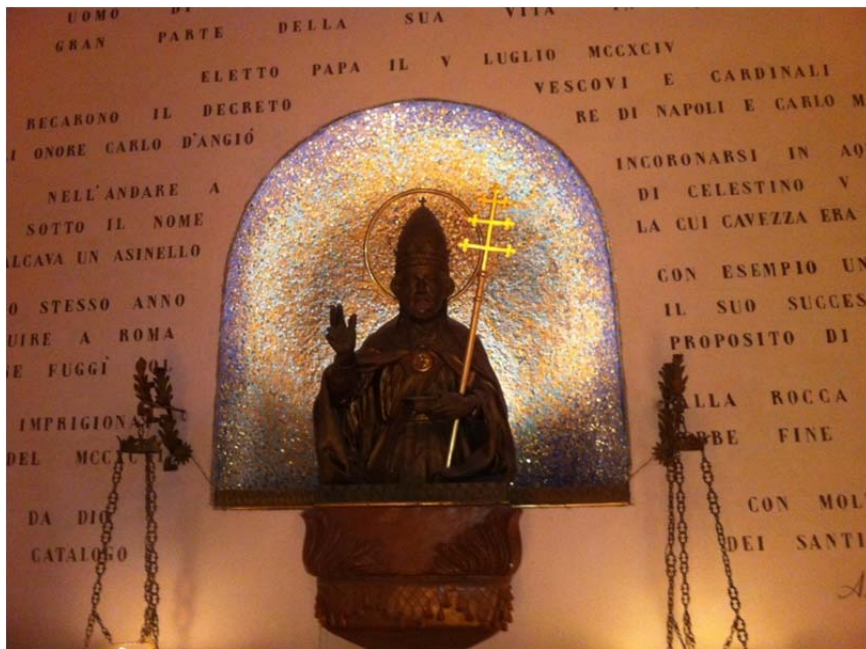




Assunzione della Beata Virgine Maria

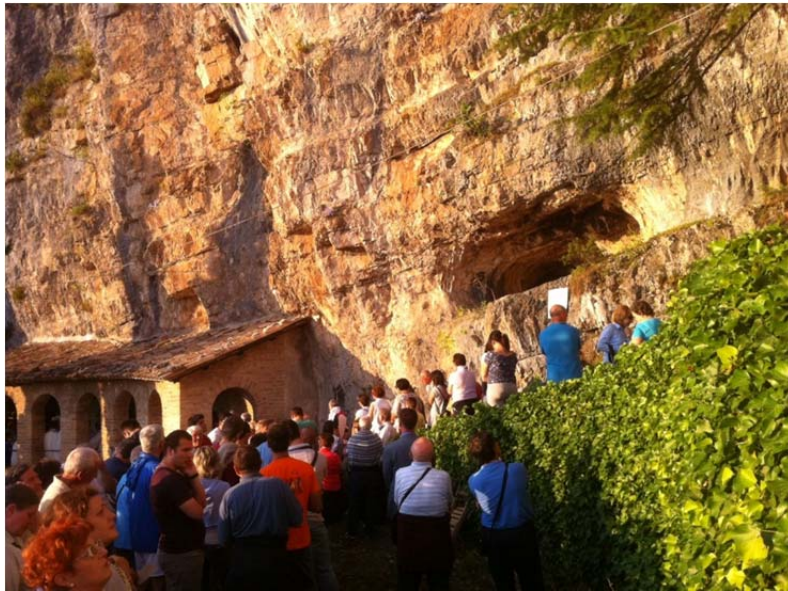


Refectory



Celestino V Shrine





Starting down at 9 pm in the luminous Italian twilight



Further Reading – Sweeney, John M., *The Pope Who Quit: A True Medieval Tale of Mystery, Death, and Salvation*, Random House, 2012. (available on Kindle)
 Micati, Edoardo, *Eremiti d'Abruzzo: Guida ai luoghi di culto rupestri*, Edizioni CARSA, Pescara, 2000.
 Petrarch, Francesco, *De vita solitaria*, Libro II, 6.
 Eco, Umberto, *The Name of the Rose*, Harcourt, 1983 (available on Kindle)