

Le Celle Di Cortona

In 1211, Francis arrives for the first time at Le Celle seeking a place of solitude. The name Le Celle appears to be in existence before Francis ever came here. It is tucked away in a gorge.



Le Celle Di Cortona



The frescos are a much later addition. When Francis arrived, he found solitude in a cave like structure adjacent to a room which served as the dormitory for the brothers. This room has been turned into a small chapel..

Le Celle Di Cortona



Prior to 1231, a small chapel was erected on a higher level. St. Anthony of Padua celebrated Eucharist there.

Le Celle Di Cortona



Le Celle Di Cortona

In 1232 Brother Elias renovated and strengthened the existing structures and added a third level. He lived at Le Celle in 1247 and during his final illness in 1253.

In 1587, the Capuchins moved there. They extended the buildings and opened a novitiate. Antonio Barberini, brother of Urban VIII was a novice here in 1594.



Currently there is a small community of 5 friars living there.

Le Celle Di Cortona

The gardens



St. Anthony of Padua as well as St. Lawrence of Brindisi came to Le Celle. These men, while leaders of their provinces, made time for solitude to seek a more intense union with God.

What part does silence, solitude and contemplation play in the daily rhythm of your life?