

## Rocca Maggiore

Towering over the city of Assisi stands the imperial fortress called the Rocca Maggiore. This was the seat of imperial power for the Holy Roman Empire in the vicinity during Francis' and Clare's early years.



## Rocca Maggiore



The Rocca Maggiore was reduced to ruins by the people of Assisi in 1198. Francis was, most likely, part of the assault. He was about 16 at this time. Afterwards the citizens used the stones to build a wall around the city. Below is part of the wall.

## Rocca Maggiore



The present cemetery of Assisi. Note the Cypress trees they are a tree of cemeteries.

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The city of Assisi from Rocca Maggiore.

Rocca Maggiore



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## Rocca Maggiore

The views.



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Rocca Maggiore reminds us of our call to be peacemakers and ambassadors of reconciliation. Francis at first pursued a life of war and violence, and together with the people he used the stones of the fortress to build walls to keep people out. Following his conversion, he would spend the rest of his life breaking down walls to bring people in.

### Reflection

Consider Francis' ministry of peace and reconciliation and our own contemporary call to the same. We are to be women and men dedicated to the cause of justice and peace.

The castle symbolizes the rivalries between pope and emperor, Assisi and Perugia, Maiores and Minores. visiting this place might give one pause to reflect on Francis' ministry of peace and our own call to be peacemakers. Tomorrow there will be an international peace rally that will end at the Rocca Maggiore.

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