



a cura de **Le Vie del Commercio**



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Edited by Studio Eventi & Congressi

**San Legonziano's
frescoes**

In the area below the Sanctuary of the Eucharistic Miracle at the level of the Piazza del Plebiscito, the restoration works carried out in the last two decades of some rooms used for commercial activities have made it possible to discover a vast barrel-vaulted room with stone quoins, dating back to the medieval period (XI-XII century), at the time of the settlement of the Benedictines, preexisting to the Franciscans, in 1252, identified with the church dedicated to St. Longinus, of which there are also some fragments of frescoes depicting St. Anthony Abbot and St. John the Baptist and the head of a Madonna, which was part of a Crucifixion, now lost.



On the right wall there is an access in the foundations of eighteenth-century church where, at the top, there is a fresco of the fourteenth century, depicting the Crucifixion and from which you can access an environment that preserves the archaeological traces of a Roman cistern.

On the left, however, you find a big hall square, once the headquarters of the Brotherhood of the Recommended, below the old sacristy of St. Francis, painted in the late fifteenth and early sixteenth century with scenes of the Apocalypse that were recovered with a painstaking restoration from 1990 to 2000.

They are probably celebrating the elevation of Lanciano seat of the Archbishop, in fact the date (23 May 1515) is imprinted on the front of the entrance.



The paintings, but also the structure of the building, are a constant reminder to repentance or conversion and purification of the soul of those entering the church.

Put with your back to the windows and look:



right on your head flows the hell river Phlegethon that separates the church from the outside world (in the upper left you can see the devils)

at your feet there is a baptismal font for immersion typical of the Byzantine rite (another call to purification), as it symbolized the conversion through the baptism of Jews depicted in the fresco in front (you can read the writing at the top TUTILI GIUDEI)



and finally, on top, depicts the fourteen signs that will precede the end of the world as described by S. Jerome in the Annales Hebraorum and reported by Jacopo da Varazze in the monumental work "The Golden Legend" in the thirteenth century (Jacopo da Varazze - Golden Legend - New Edition 2007 By Alessandro Vitale Vitale Brovarone and edited by Lucetta Brovarone - Giulio Einaudi Editore).

They are read starting from the right side:



the first day the sea will rise by forty cubits above the mountains and will remain stationary as the wall



the second day will sink so that it can't be seen



the third day the sea creatures appear on the surface and emit roars that go up into the sky and only God can understand their cries



the fourth day, the sea and the water will burn



on the sixth day every construction will fall and fire lightning cross the sky from west to east, against the course of the firmament



the fifth, trees and herbs will give dew of blood and all the birds of the sky will come together in the fields and will not eat or drink fearing the imminent arrival of the Judge



on the seventh day the stones beat against each other and will be broken into four parts and each part will hit each other and the man will not understand that sound, but God alone

continuing on the left side:



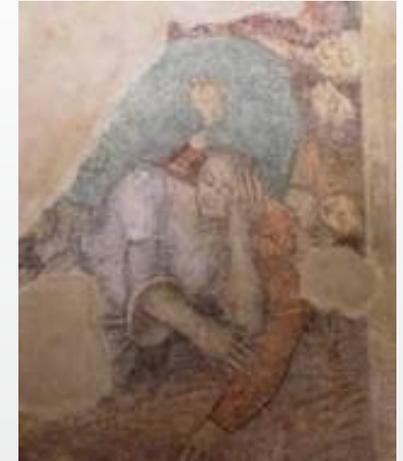
on the eighth day there will be an earthquake over all the earth, and will be so strong that no man nor animal can stand up



The ninth, the whole earth will be leveled and the hills and the mountains will be pulverized



on the twelfth day the stars will fall and all the animals will gather in the fields bellowing and will not eat or drink (note the unicorn - pure animal - which symbolizes Christ)



the thirteenth living creatures die to rise with the deads



On the tenth day men shall come forth from the caves and wander, out of their mind, and will not talk to each other



The eleventh, the bones of the dead will rise and stand on their graves



the fourteenth blaze the heavens and the earth