

Sant'Egidio – Eremo – Scanno (Aquila)

Sant'Egidio is first mentioned in historical records in 1612 when it was noted in church documents that there were Franciscan eremiti (hermits) in residence. (Sant'Egidio visible at very top of hill)



Sant'Egidio at hill-top

Though visible from places in Scanno, it is not easy to find the trail to the hilltop. The trail continues past Sant'Egidio and reaches the southern end of Lago di Scanno near Madonna del Lago. (about 12 km r/t)





The ridges of Mt. Argatone in the Parco Nazionale d'Abruzzo loom behind us, snow covered even in June.



Looking South, the village of Scanno with Mt. Godi in the distance.



Inscription on architrave above church entrance reads:

AD 1657 TEMPORE PESTIS / S EGIDIO ORA PRO NOBIS BIASO D'ANGELO

"a.d. 1657 time of the plague, Sant'Egidio pray for us" (Biaso D'Angelo - name of local person)

Though the Black Death of 1347 and the Plague of Justinian (6th Century) were the most serious epidemics, there were countless local outbreaks of *Yersinia pestis* over more than 1,000 years of Italian history.





NE view from Sant'Egidio – Mt. Genzana



SE view – towards Paso Godi



Along the lovely trail to Samt'Egidio



The Mass of St. Egidio in the presence of Charles Martel,
National Gallery of London

Unlike many early Saints whose history is somewhat obscure, Sant'Egidio is well documented in French history as the Confessor of Charles Martel (St. Gilles 650-710). He began as a Benedictine Hermit and founded the Abbey of St. Gilles du Gard which is an important stop on the "Way of St James" to Santiago de Compostella.



Detail of *Saint Giles and the Hind*, by the Master of Saint Giles c. 1500

Note on Italian: un Eremo – hermitage; gli Eremi, plural; un Eremita – hermit; gli Eremiti – hermits, plural