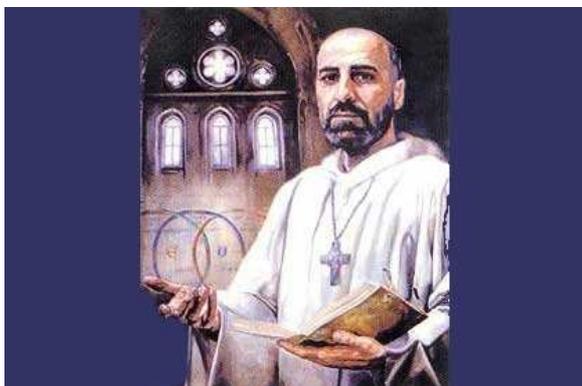


JOACHIM OF FIORE

The abbot's image released by the bishop's See of Cosenza, on the occasion of the eight-hundredth anniversary of Joachim's death, which marks the date (March 2002) of the preliminary steps of the catholic Church's process leading to his beatification.



Joachim of Fiore was born at Celico, a small town in the province of Cosenza, in 1130 and died, in the odour of sanctity, on March the 30th, 1202, at Canale, a small hamlet of Pietrafitta, near Cosenza. His mortal remains were taken to the "Florense" Abbey of San Giovanni in Fiore, in 1226. He was a Cistercian abbot of Corazzo in

1177 and of Casamari in 1182, but, a short time later, he withdrew into solitude. In 1196 he founded a new congregation in San Giovanni in Fiore, called "Florense", approved by Celestino III.

He was one of the most fecund and complex personalities of the medieval spirituality. Many, especially the extremist Spiritual Franciscans, acclaimed him as a prophet. His prophecies exerted a fascinating influence on a large number of sensible Christian minds. He prophesied a new age. In his "Age of the Spirit" the ecclesiastical organization would be replaced and the *Order of the Just* (*The Franciscan order*) would rule the Church. Joachim's works had a great vogue in the 13th and 14th centuries. Dante places him in Paradise, Divine Comedy, the twelfth canto, lines of verse 140/141: "...il calavrese abate Giovacchino / di spirito profetico dotato...". Joachim of Fiore resided for some time at the Abbey of Fonte Laurato, in Fiumefreddo Bruzio, which became the second Mother House of the "Florense" congregation. In this Abbey church, there is the chair which he used to sit on, every time he attended church services and the reading of the Book of psalms.

***In 1201, Simone Mamistra, feudal master and prince of Fiumefreddo, donated the abbey of Fonte Laurato to the famous abbot Joachim of Fiore, with solemn testamentary action.* The bishop's See of Cosenza, in 2002 started the preliminary phase of the ecclesiastical process, leading to the beatification of Joachim of Fiore.**



← Fiumefreddo Bruzio, Badia.
Church of Fonte Laurato. It is said that Joachim of Fiore sat on this chair.

Casamari, (a small hamlet of Veroli, a town in the province of Frosinone, Italy). →

The interior of the abbey church of Casamari. Joachim of Fiore was also a Cistercian abbot of Casamari abbey, where he went in 1182 and stayed for a short time, and where he received permission, from pope Lucio III, to expound and write the Scriptures.

