

Conference One WHAT HAPPENED ON LA VERNA?

A. Francis regarded this event as a “great secret”

1. We have no eye witness testimony!
2. Notification of this miracle was not sent until Francis had died
3. As more biographies were written (Celano, Bonaventure, Companions) the details began to be supplied.

B. Why, then, do we feel that we know the story?

1. Art has played a major role in transmitting the story
 - a. This creates a whole “second level” source for understanding
 - b. This also contributes at times to controversy
2. With the passage of time the narrative grows
3. Modern biographies can also point to similar events:

a. Padre Pio

b. St. Gemma, etc.

C. La Verna

1. A place of “extremes” in nature

2. Eight hundred years of tradition

3. Continued human fascination with mystical events