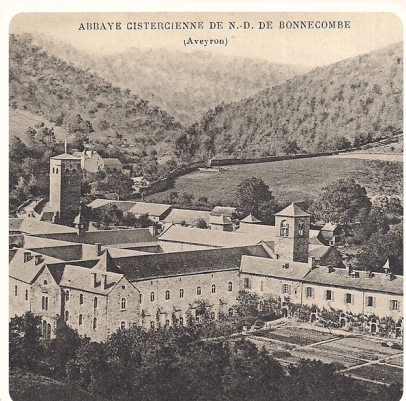
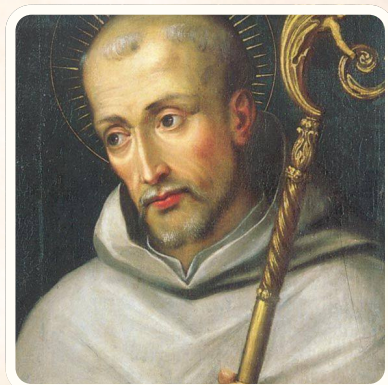


ABBAYE DE BONNECOMBE

FOUNDATION

YEAR 1167

The Bishop of Rodez, Hugues, asks the order of **Citeaux** to found a monastery in his diocese only 14 years after the death of **St. Bernard** founder of the Cistercian Order. **1163 AD** Twelve monks arrive on the wild grounds of Bonnecombe. **1167 AD** the new monastery is consecrated by the Father Abbot.



OUR LADY OF BONNECOME

300 YEARS OF HOLY MONKS

Starting with the first Abbot Metfred, the fame of the sanctity of the monks of Bonnecombe spread throughout the kingdom of France. Charity for the poor, help in the time of the pests and safety during the Hundred Years War.

HUNDRED YEARS WAR

YEAR 1462

The **tower St. Bernard** was built to protect the monks and the townsfolk during the many invasions.



DECLINE : THE COMMANDERY

YEAR 1470-1790

One of the saddest chapters in the history of monasticism. During this period, abbots were chosen from outside the monastic community itself, often driven by motives of power and avarice. This external interference led to a profound neglect of monastic discipline, plunging the monks into extreme poverty, causing a sharp decline in vocations, and resulting in the systematic plunder of the monastery's goods. Consequently, the buildings fell into disrepair. In the end, only nine monks remained at the abbey.



FRENCH REVOLUTION

YEAR 1792

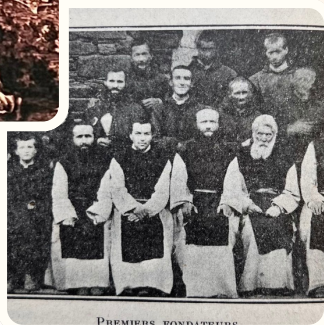
The monks were expelled and all their property seized by the state under the **reign of terror**. The buildings were used for beasts of burden; sacrilege and destruction ensued.



RETURN OF THE CISTERCIANS/TRAPPISTS

YEAR 1876

The Bishop of Rodez, the future cardinal Bourret, known for his sanctity and supernatural spirit, asked the Trappists of Aigbelle to raise up the ruins of Bonnecombe. Two monks arrived on June 29, and **handing them the keys** he prophesied:



"THESE KEYS WILL BE FOR MANY THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN!"



ANOTHER “REVOLUTION”

YEAR 1965

Because of the lack of vocations, the **Vatican decided to close the monastery of Bonnecombe.**



OUR LADY OF BONNECOMBE IN MOURNING

40 YEARS OF DESOLATION



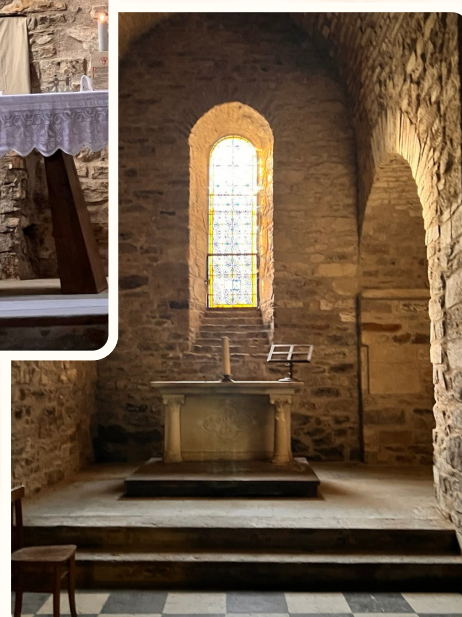
The monastery passed from the hands of the orthodox, to the community of the Beatitudes and to various other organizations.....none for which these noble buildings were founded.

HOPE REBORN

858 YEARS LATER

In 2025 a husband and wife dedicated to restoring ancient buildings, bought the monastery from the diocese with the intention of re-selling it to a community.

2026



In April of 2026 the Benedictines of the Immaculate were informed that the monastery was for sale.

With it's 130 acres, Our Lady of Bonnecombe Abbaye will provide enouph space for both communities to take root and restore to these hallowed walls their *raison d'être* :

THE WORK OF GOD

“Ergo nihil operi Dei præponatur.”

Regula cap. 43

