

**Card.2 – “The Celebration of Celestinian Forgiveness: the Historical Parade”
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On August 28th, the historical center of the city of L'Aquila, from the Town Hall to the Basilica of Collemaggio, is crossed by the “ historical Bull Parade” (Corteo storico della Bolla) which accompanies and escorts the precious document dating back to 1294, contained in a cylindrical shell of purple velvet and brought by the Lady of the Bull.

In the parade, a first civil part (in which there are the gonfalons and representatives of all the municipalities of the province of L'Aquila, the common Italian and foreign friends, and representatives of civil society) follows a historical part with, in mind, the flag-waving group of the city of L'Aquila, which makes repeated choreographic evolutions and launches of flags to the sound of drums and clarinets. Numerous historical groups follow, practicing the ritual for decades. All the clothes worn by the members of the parade have been examined by expert historians who determine their features based on images and historical documents kept in the State archives. The historical groups precede the true protagonists of the parade: the Lady of the Bull (Dama della Bolla), who carries the “Celestinian Bull” that will be read by the Mayor in front of the Basilica of Collemaggio, The “Young Lord”, who carries the olive branch with which he will knock at the door of the Basilica to begin the rite of opening and crossing the “Holy Door”, and the “Lady of the Cross” who each year brings a different jewel, made by goldsmiths from Aquila. The three main characters close the historical parade followed by the Mayor and the representation of the Municipality of L'Aquila.

The “Corteo Storico della Bolla” solemnly passes through the applause of the bystanders along the sides of the route that are queued at the end of the procession to arrive in front of the Basilica of Collemaggio: each significant passage of the parade is announced and accompanied by roll of drums, ring of clarine and performance of flag-wavers.



**Lady of the Bull –
Hystorical Bull Parade
L’Aquila**



**Lady of the Cross – Hystorical
Bull Parade L’Aquila**



**Young Lord – Hystorical
Bull Parade L’Aquila**



**Participant in historical
costume – Hystorical Bull
Parade- L’Aquila**



Children with historical costume L’Aquila



**Flag-waving group of the city of L’Aquila – Hystorical Bull
Parade- L’Aquila**