

## **Annex Documentation**

### Evidence of the inventory

#### *National Inventory of the Intangible Cultural Heritage/ 2003 UNESCO Convention: The Celestinian Forgiveness Celebration*

The inventory of the element "The Celestinian Forgiveness Celebration" as an intangible cultural heritage to date consists of 4 Card-MODI (informative form) to which are attached photographic documentation and reference bibliography:

Currently, the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities and Tourism uses the inventory criteria established by the ICCD - Central Institute for Cataloging and Documentation for the Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage Elements - UNESCO Convention 2003. MODI (1.06) provides for the inclusion of different data in pre-established fields in the SIGECWEB system and marked by a specific identification code. The contents are inserted by the community represented by the "Celestinian Forgiveness Committee", with the support of experts. To the original card in Italian language, as it appears consulting the link of the site of the ICCD, it produces him following an extract of the compiled fields and his/her translation in English language.

The Cards-MODI are published on the site ICCD and accessible to the address link: <http://paci.iccd.beniculturali.it/paciSito/>, then the following run:

1. "Inventari del patrimonio culturale immateriale"
2. "Consulta gli inventari del PCI"
3. Nella pagina di ricerca inserire la stringa "LA FESTA DELLA PERDONANZA CELESTINIANA" nel campo "Elemento/Progetto".

The version in Italian language of the Cards-MODI and of their translation in English language is published on the site of the Perdonanza Celestiniana to the link: [www.perdonanza-celestiniana.it](http://www.perdonanza-celestiniana.it)

The inventory can be updated any time upon request of the community involved.

## **General track of Card-MODI 1.06-Iccd**

<b>CD – IDENTIFICATION</b>	
<b>TSK - Type of inventory form</b>	
<b>CDR – Regional location code</b>	
<b>CDM - Reference number of the inventory form</b>	
<b>ESC – Inventorying Institution</b>	
<b>ECP - Competent institution for the inventory</b>	
<b>OGM - Modality of identification</b>	
<b>G – SPECIFIC ASPECTS</b>	
<b>AMB - MIBACT safeguarding field</b>	
<b>AMA - Purpose of the inventory</b>	
<b>CTG – Domain of the element</b>	
<b>OGD – Name of the contents of the card</b>	
<b>LC - GEOGRAPHIC LOCALIZATION</b>	
<b>LCS - State</b>	
<b>LCR - Region</b>	

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LCP – Province	
LCC - Municipality	
<b>DT – CHRONOLOGY</b>	
DTR - Chronological reference	
<b>CM – VALIDATION AND DATA MANAGEMENT</b>	
CMR – Responsible for contents	
CMC - Responsible for research and editing	
CMA - Drafting year	
CMM – Reason for the drafting of inventory forms	
ADP - Access profile	
<b>DA - CONTENT OF THE FORM</b>	
DES – Description of the content of the form	
NSC – Historical references related to the contents of the form	
<b>RI - DATA DETECTION MODE</b>	
RIM - Fieldwork	
CAO - Occasion	
CAOD - Title	
<b>DO – DOCUMENTATION</b>	
FTA - Photo documentation	
FTAN – Identification code	
FTAX – Genre	
FTAP – Type	
FTAF - Format	
FTAM - Title/caption	
FTAD - Chronological reference	
FTAE - Owner body	
FTAK - Digital file name	
<b>FNT – SOURCES AND DOCUMENTS</b>	
FNTX - Kind	
FNTT – Name/title	
FNTN – Archive name	
<b>BIB – BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	

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<b>BIBR - Abbreviation</b>	
<b>BIBX - Genre</b>	
<b>BIBF - Type</b>	
<b>BIBM- Bibliographic reference</b>	

**Name of the element: The Celestinian Forgiveness Celebration**

**Card 1 – “The Celebration of Celestinian Forgiveness as an Intangible Cultural Heritage”**  
ICCD\_MODI\_2036014790251

**Historical References**

The lighting of the fire of the Morrone is ideally placed in the place where the Benedictine Peter Angelierius, before going up to the papal throne, had spent many years of eremitical life, a cave on Mount Morrone, above Sulmona, receiving from his devotees the appellation by Pietro del Morrone. It was July 5, 1294 when he was designated by the conclave meeting in Perugia as successor to Pope Nicholas IV, whose death (1292) had left the seat vacant for more than two years. From the Hermitage of Sant'Onofrio to the Morrone in which he had retired, Pietro, on the back of a donkey and having as grooms king Carlo II d'Angiò and his son Carlo Martello, moved to L'Aquila: this is the itinerary that traces the so-called "Cammino del Perdono”.

In 1294, after the coronation in the Basilica of Santa Maria di Collemaggio, Pope Celestine V issued the Bull of Forgiveness (Bolla Celestiniana). The papal document was entrusted to the people of L'Aquila and kept inside the municipal archives because the citizens wanted it to be the civil authority to hold the Festa del Perdono, even if it respected the dictation of Pope Celestino V. Already in 1295 the Celestinian Bull was brought in the parade up to the Basilica of Santa Maria di Collemaggio where it was shown to the faithful. From this moment on 28 August it constituted a fundamental appointment for the pilgrims and the merchants who arrived in the city. In 1983 it was decided to have the Bull accompanied by a specific character, the Lady of the Bull, who in historical costume, brings the Bull of Forgiveness accompanied by a procession to the Basilica of Santa Maria di Collemaggio, just outside the walls of the city of L'Aquila. The Basilica, founded in 1288 at the behest of Pietro da Morrone, is representative of an architecture stratified over time and considered one of the most significant monuments of central Italy.

**Description of the Element**

The Celestinian Perdonanza, as a living intangible cultural heritage, is a traditional celebration of the province of L'Aquila that has been handed down without interruption for centuries.

The different ritual and festive moments that characterize it take place every year between August 16th and 29th. It begins with the lighting of a symbolic fire near the Hermitage of Morrone, 10 km from Sulmona, in the presence of numerous citizens. From the fire, which represents the unifying peace among the peoples, the torch lights of the “Celestine Movement” are lit, with which they will travel all the way from the Morrone to L'Aquila, the so-called "Forgiveness Walk". Among tortuous mountain paths and busy roads, to the torch bearers carrying the “Fire of Forgiveness”, numerous citizens are queued up. From Sulmona you pass through several adjacent villages: Bagnaturo, Pratola

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Peligna, Raiano, Goriano Sicoli, Castel di Ieri, Castelvecchio Subequo, Molina Aterno, Acciano, Fontecchio, Fagnano Alto, Prata D'Ansidonia, Villa Sant'Angelo, San Demetrio or Vestini , Sant'Eusanio, Fossa, before reaching the city of L'Aquila, in the fractions of Monticchio, Onna, Paganica and reaching L'Aquila.

At each stop a new tripod lights up, which remains burning for a day to witness that even in that village has passed and has been accepted the message of peace coming from Mount Morrone.

In each resting place of the torch a parchment is read, which is signed by every civil authority of the countries affected by the passage of the "Fire of the Morrone", as a symbol of adherence to the values of peace, hospitality and solidarity.

The " Forgiveness Walk" ends at the historic center of the city of L'Aquila, on the evening of 23 August, when, in an atmosphere of profound collective emotion, the torch comes preceded by the roll of the drums, the sound of the clarions and performance of flag-wavers. The Mayor of the city of L'Aquila reads the parchment signed by the mayors, outside his citizenship his thoughts and his wish for peace and solidarity addressed to everyone and lights up the last tripod of the path that remains burning until the end of the celebration cycle , that illuminates and dominates all those who approach the city to participate in the subsequent rites of the element.

From August 23rd to 28th, the city of L'Aquila is in constant ferment with artistic and cultural events of all kinds, awaiting the historic "Parade of the Celestinian Bull". In fact, on August 28, a long and participated parade winds through the central streets of the city, from the Town Hall to the Basilica of Collemaggio, to accompany the Lady of the Bull who carries the precious document to the churchyard of the Basilica. The historical parade that precedes the Lady of the Bull, is animated by the presence of drummers and trumpeters that open the historical part of the "Bull Parade" and mark the cadence of the steps of the figures with the rhythm, with their sound. In front of the Basilica the Mayor of L'Aquila declares to the population present the text of the historical "Bull of Forgiveness", document issued in 1294 by Pope Celestino V and guarded and protected by the municipality of L'Aquila. After the reading, the opening and crossing of the so-called "Holy Door of the Basilica of Collemaggio" begins, the keys of which are owned by the authorities of the Municipality of L'Aquila who is the owner of the Basilica and the only one authorized to open the same for the Celebration of Forgiveness. All the people present and all those who arrive during the night or the following day, pass through the "Holy-Door" that remains open for 24. The following day, on 29th August, at dusk, the "Holy Door of the Basilica of Collemaggio" and the Bull are closed. The Celestinian Bull is again accompanied by a historical parade to the Municipal House: at its arrival, the Mayor of L'Aquila turns off the tripod and ends the ritual cycle of the Celestinian Forgiveness Celebration.

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1. Celestian Hermitage of Sant'Onofrio Historical (Monte Morrone- Sulmona – AQ)
2. Historical Celestian Bull
3. Basilica of Sant'Onofrio of Collemaggio (AQ)
4. Signature of mayors- Symbolic Bull (Forgiveness Walk)
5. Torchlight descent (Mount Morrone Forgiveness Walk)

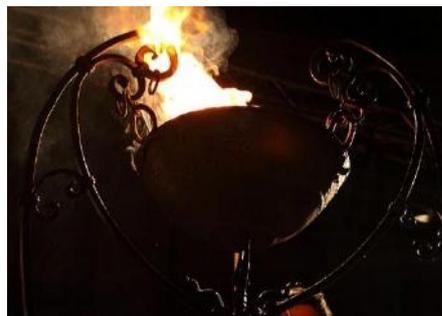
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**Parade waiting the Fire of Morrone in L'Aquila**



**Fiery tripod in L'Aquila**



**Flag-waving group- historical Bull Parade (AQ)**



**Crowd awaiting- Historical Bull Parade (in front of the Basilica of Collemaggio)**



**Historical Bull Parade (arrival in front of the Basilica of Collemaggio)**

### **Card.2 – " The Celebration of Celestinian Forgiveness: the Historical Parade" ICCD\_MODI\_9498426790251**

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.

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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**

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### **Card 3 – " The Celebration of Celestinian Forgiveness: formal and informal transmission"**

**ICCD\_MODI\_7164397790251**

The transmission of the Celestinian Forgiveness Celebration basically takes place from generation to generation within the families. These are rituals now consolidated in the local cultural tradition. The action is strengthened by involving the newest generations in the context of a project called "Perdonanza nella Scuola" (Perdonanza in the school). In schools throughout the L'Aquila area students are sensitized to discover their roots and to make drawings, sculptures, objects, but also theatrical scripts or musical compositions inspired by the Celestinian Perdonanza Festival or as the "Game of the Bull Lady", a game to table designed and created by students of the elementary school "E. De Amicis ".

The "Perdonanza nella Scuola" project is joined by the "Perdonanza Young" competition for secondary schools, which stimulates the students to create images that represent the Celestinian Perdonanza Festival according to their vision of the issues that are addressed each year and which are nevertheless always referable to the main themes of "hospitality, solidarity and peace". Among the works realized by the students, a jury of teachers and students chooses the most innovative and evocative design of the topics analyzed. This design is used to create thousands of postcards that are distributed during the celebration of Celestinian Forgiveness.

Wearing the clothes of the three main characters of the parade (Lady of the Bull, Lady of the Cross and Young Lord) has become the dream of many young of L'Aquila who want, in this way, to be even more involved and aware of the symbolic message that testify wearing these unique clothes.

The historical groups that participate in the historical parade of the Bull are composed of adults and young people who interact and transmit mutually consolidated habits and new ways of expression. Moreover, within the historical groups, courses are organized for transmitting the method used for the creation of costumes, from historical research to the choice of fabrics, up to their actual creation.

The flag-wavers organize courses to learn the technique of "flag waving" teaching the techniques refined over the years and creating new choreography. The Group of Flag-Wavers Città dell'Aquila has reached such a level of preparation and virtuosity that counts as many as 9 boys-flag-wavers in the ranks of the "Italian National Flag-throwers".

**HISTORICAL REFERENCES:** The transmission is contemporary with the birth of the Celestinian Forgiveness. Already in 1294, from one generation to the next, the use of perpetuating the rite of the procession that accompanies the Celestinian Bull from the historical center to the churchyard of the Basilica of Collemaggio accompanied the parade with solemnity and importance.

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1.The Forgiveness in the School - L'Aquila, 19 and 20 May 2017

Little girl wearing Bull lady's gown made in the school lab.

2.The Forgiveness in the School - L'Aquila, 19 and 20 May 2017

Children playing with "The Game of the Bull Lady" made by the students of the Elementary School "E. De Amicis".

3. Waving Group of the City of L'Aquila  
Course of flag-wavers aimed at children – L'Aquila, 2017.

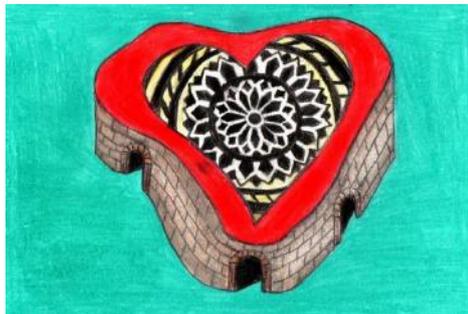
4.Postcard made with the winning design of the "Perdonanza Young" competition for secondary school students. L'Aquila 2017



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**Card.4 - " The Celebration of Celestinian Forgiveness, safeguarding: documentation, research, promotion"**

**Numero di Riferimento: ICCD\_MODI\_3613738790251**

The documentation relating to the “The Celestinian Forgiveness Celebration” starts from its origins, born from the emanation of the Papal Bull occurred in 1294. The first historical document is the precious parchment kept by the municipality of L'Aquila. Over the centuries, the Celestinian Forgiveness has been followed and transcribed in historical documents that certify its origin (e.g. "L'Aquila chronicle" of Buccio di Ranallo- State Archives of L'Aquila) and its uninterrupted duration over the years (724) written by chroniclers who had succeeded over time. Research activities are constantly undertaken in collaboration with the University of L'Aquila (Department of Human Sciences) in order to keep the vital memory of the element, also through the elaboration of a university thesis and scientific documentation. Numerous publications speak of the Celestinian Forgiveness Celebration through the ages, its promotion takes place with numerous events organized by the

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Celestinian Forgiveness Committee during the festive cycle period (from 16 to 29 August). These events call together local and national communities.

During the year there are several initiatives that bring the Celestinian Forgiveness Celebration to the attention of the media. The Celestinian Bull, restored in the early months of 2017, is granted on display only in the very rare cases where the environment is suitable and the organization ensures the proper promotion and visibility of the precious parchment.

Also the chronicle of the different editions of the Celestinian Forgiveness Celebration has its dissemination and importance thanks also to the collection work carried out by the journalist and scholar of the subject "Angelo De Nicola".

The promotion of the festival is carried out through cultural activities that take place throughout the year and which draw attention to the origins of traditions, layered over the centuries, which make up the skeleton of the Celestinian Perdonanza Festival.

Great public interest aroused the concerts that the Committee of Perdonanza and the Municipality of L'Aquila program for the period from 23 to 28 August in L'Aquila. Important artists who, with their performances, call attention to the festival and help to promote it even outside the territory traditionally concerned.

Brochure with the history of the Festival of Perdonanza Celestiniana and with the program by the events that characterize it, are made each year by the Celestinian Forgiveness Committee and distributed nationally. Particular attention is also paid to guides (Italian and English text) that promote the territory through the development of sites and routes that are distributed in paper form, but which can be consulted through a link on the institutional site of the L'Aquila Municipality:

[http://www.comune.laquila.gov.it/pagina414\\_i-percorsi-del-perdono.html](http://www.comune.laquila.gov.it/pagina414_i-percorsi-del-perdono.html)

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