



# Travels of Romuald

## According to Peter Damian's *Vita Romualdi*

### Introduction

Saint Romuald, the hermit from Ravenna, had a life filled with troubles and travels. In his efforts to serve Christ, he travelled frequently throughout the first and second centuries AD. He opened monasteries and hermitages; however, he was constantly on the move. Our research was conducted with a goal of analyzing Romuald's documented travels, as written by Peter Damian in *Vita Romualdi*, to determine if he was an example of a traveling monk or a hermit. Also, our research project desired to find the specific reason why he was traveling throughout Europe, with whom and when it occurred. Saint Francis receives most of the recognition as the iconic traveling monk; however, our research is aimed to test the validity of this belief.

### Research Objectives

In our research, we tried to find evidence to prove that St. Francis of Assisi was not the first travelling monk, but that there was already a tradition of wandering monks by his time. The use of ArcGIS Online provided a quick, simple way to show that St. Romuald the "Hermit" travelled across Italy.

### Method

To answer our research questions, the three of us divided the already translated (by Henrietta Leyser) chapters of the *Life of St. Romuald* by Peter Damian into three pieces. We scanned the book so that each of us could access it at any time, and then proceeded to read through our section of the book looking for names of places, people, or events that we could draw a link to, using a Google search if necessary. We chose this because it would be the simplest way of finding the necessary details as the text we used was so short.

### Results

The goal for our project was to build a strong foundation for future researchers to come. Since our group was not fluent in Latin we did not want to plot the locations if we did not understand each chapter as a whole. Although difficult sometimes, we were able to plot all 20 locations from the chapters that were translated to English. Our research has taught us a lot about the process of mapping and has us visually understanding how significant the travels of Romuald are. We are excited for the future researchers to take on our project and further complete the map of the travels of St. Romuald.

### Conclusion

Although the Map of St. Romuald travel is incomplete there are already significant conclusions we can make. The first is that Romuald traveled a significant amount. He built monasteries left and right and had a clear network of connections all around Italy and in neighboring territories. For this reason our group can confidently argue that St. Romuald should be credited for being one of the first Saints to travel in mass numbers. The second conclusion we have made from this project is the importance of mapping every chapter. What we wanted to do was draw lines from point to point, however since we had to skip the chapters we didn't assume any information. We are looking forward to what our future Latin speaking researchers find from this research.

<https://arcg.is/ePfi4>



24	Tivoli	There do to the previous circumstances. Holy man named <b>Venerius</b> was in solitude and Romulus set him on the right path, by suggesting his goes back to the monastery he left a	
25	Tivoli	Remained in Tivoli, Converted Tammus. <b>Tammus</b> , man very close to king Crescentius.	
26	1. Leaving Tivoli, to St. Benedicts Monast	They had back to Pereum due to his death experience?	Accompanies by Tammus, amd Boniface
27	Entirely about Boniface...	worth charting?	
28	Still in Pereum	requested to get monks for King Boleslav	
30	still in Pereum, Parenzo	Taught monks at the new monastarey in honor of St. Adalbert, then took a ship and crossed over to Parenzo	
31	Parenzo	year 1: Built a monastarey. The next two he lived as Recluse.	3 years in Parenzo
35	Formerly Val di Castro	eager for a place where his work may be more fruitful	
37	Orvieto	To build another monastery	
39	Hungary, but stopped at Pannonia, return	To shed his blood for christ like Boniface, got sick and went home to orverito, because the abbot had a "de two disciples, 24 monks, to Poggio 7 disciples approxiamtely	
40	STill in Poggio	tries to repay protector Rainer, but wont accept his gifts and says how great romuald is	

## Abstract:

Peter Damian penned the *Vita Romualdi* to portray the life of Saint Romuald, including all of his travels. Given that Romuald was traveling across vast areas, despite the Benedictine tradition of monks living in solitude, his actions were indicative of a trend that took place for quite some time. Romuald's tendency to relocate and establish monasteries throughout Italy debunks the common conception that St. Francis was the first to engage in the practice. Before Francis travelled, Saint Romuald and other holy men had done the same, sometimes even fulfilling a pastoral mission throughout the rural areas of Italy. Exploring these documented accounts of Romuald's travels reveal the truth about the movement that monks engaged in prior to the time of Saint Francis.