

"This monastery is older than anything else in the New World except for the ancient ruins of the Incas, Aztecs and other indigenous people." <florida.backroads-travel.com>

It is located at 1671 West Dixie Highway, North Miami Beach, Florida. The Dixie Highway runs parallel to Biscayne Boulvard (U.S.1). The West Dixie Highway is now a local road. It is a historic highway that was created by the National Highways Association (NHA), formed in 1911. It was modeled after the Lincoln Highway. The NHA's slogan was "Good roads for everyone." It promoted economic development and became part of the federal highway system. The Dixie Highway was constructed from 1915 through 1929. It ran from Mackinaw City, Michigan to Miami, Florida. <wdl.org>

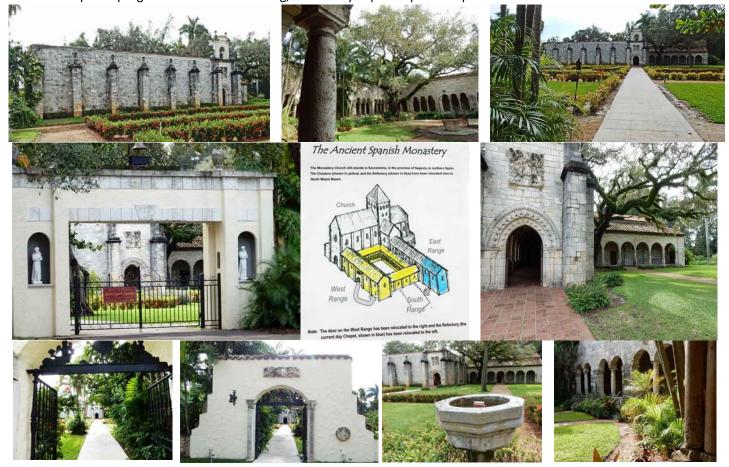
## History

"Construction of the Monastery of St. Bernard de Clairvaux was begun in the year 1133 AD in Sacramenia, near Segovia in northern Spain. Completed eight years later in 1141, the Monastery was dedicated to the Blessed Mother and was originally named 'The Monastery of Our Lady, Queen of the Angels.' Upon the canonization of Bernard of Clairvaux in 1174, the Monastery was renamed in his honor. A Cistercian monk and mystic, the founder and abbot of the Abbey of Clairvaux, Bernard was one of the most influential church leaders of his time. Cistercian monks occupied the Monastery for nearly 700 years. After a social revolution in the 1830's, the Monastery's Cloisters were seized, sold, and converted into a granary and stable.

In 1925, William Randolph Hearst purchased the Cloisters and the Monastery's outbuildings. The structures were dismantled stone by stone, bound with protective hay, packed in more than 11,000 wooden crates, numbered for identification and shipped to the United States. Soon after the shipment arrived, Hearst's financial problems forced most of his collection to be sold at auction. The massive crates remained in a warehouse in Brooklyn, New York, for 26 years. One year after Hearst's' death in 1952, they were purchased by two entrepreneurs for use as a tourist attraction. It took 19 months and the equivalent of nearly \$20 million dollars (in today's currency) to put the Monastery back together. In 1953 Time magazine called it "the biggest jigsaw puzzle in history."

In 1964, Colonel Robert Pentland, Jr, who was a multimillionaire banker, philanthropist and benefactor of many Episcopal churches, purchased the Cloisters and presented them to the Bishop of Florida. Today the parish Church of St. Bernard de Clairvaux is an active and growing congregation in the Episcopal Diocese of Southeast Florida. Services are held on Sundays and weekdays in both English and Spanish." <spanishmonastery.com/history>

This photo program visits this fascinating, beautifully kept and peaceful place.









in the seventeenth century the common man and woman were usually buried in

man and woman were usually buried in an unmarked grave and without a coffin the body perhaps wrapped in a shroud composed of woolen material if one could be afforded.

When a coffin was used for the poor it was only for the purposes of conveying he corpse from the house where the death took place to the graveside. Then he body would be removed and placed in the grave, and only by the historian shear.



## Medieval Saint

Circa 1200-1300-1300 Polychromed wood statue of a This magnificent polychromed wood statue of a local bishop came from a small church in the local bishop came from a small church in the pyrenees Mountains which form the natural border between France and Spain.

The figure was treated for worm damage and flaking paint by the Fogg Art Museum conservation department in 1976. The contemporary wood stand was also built by the Fogg.

This carved wood statue is of a local saint, a bishop venerated for his holiness. He wears a mitre and three layers of vestments. The outermost robe is a red ponch, or chasuble, ornamented with a large cross on the front which bears traces of yellow paint. A while gown, or alb, lies beneath and is embellished with a horizontal band to which a fringed border has been attached. There is one final gown, a cassock, beneath the white vestment, which reaches to the saint's feet.

which reaches to the same is recuted by the figure stands transfired and locked into a feotal pose with very little anatomical articulation. The sculptor has created strong linear patterns in the various locks of the garments and decorative foral designs in the bishop's double pointed cap.



## Hymnarium

Over 800 years old, this large hymnarium is a cilication of hymns. Hand-lettered on lembskin parchment, the juices of berries were used as ink. Manuscripts like these are among the most common items to surviving from the Middle Ages and are also the best surviving specimens of medieval parties.



the Latin for hand-written;
Parchment (also known as veillum)
was made from stretched, treated
animal skins. A large manuscript
might require one whole cow- or
sheep-skin to make a folded sheet
thick book could require the birde of

sheep-skin to make a folded sheet of two pages, and a thick book could require the hides of entire herds.

Many Missals, Bibles, and Psalters of the XII<sup>n</sup> century were written in this fine, bold Revived Carolingian script. In the absence of miniatures and decoration, it is difficult to assign a manuscript to a particular country. Some of the letters in this book, however, have been carefully compared with those known to have been ordered in Spain in 1189 AD. by a certain Abbot Gutterius. It is possible that this hymnarium was written in the same monastery. However, because of the uniformity of all scripts in the early period, many Spanish and French manuscripts present close similarities in the style of writing.















Sources: https://www.spanishmonastery.com/history, https://www.miamiandbeaches.com/things-to-do/detail/ancient-spanishmonastery/cfd05f09-2254-4ac3-b1c3-8303ea5c685a, https://www.wdl.org/en/item/11544/, https://www.smithsonianmag.com/museumday/venues/museum/ancient-spanish-monastery/,

https://travel.usnews.com/Miami\_Beach\_FL/Things\_To\_Do/Ancient\_Spanish\_Monastery\_63230/, https://www.florida-backroads-travel.com/the-ancient-spanish-monastery.html and https://www.onlyinyourstate.com/florida/monastery-hidden-near-the-ocean-fl/.

acuri.net John R. Vincenti Miami, Florida: The Ancient Spanish Monastery – Museum & Gardens