This lecture describes the conflict of ideas and moralities at San Vincenzo al Volturno in AD 783 and in the past 15 years. Using a new interpretation of these major excavations, it looks at the dispute over the Rule of St. Benedict between the monks who favored the Carolingian (Frankish) reforms and the abbot who wished to sustain the Lombard reform. Then, having analyzed the outcome, illustrating the first major topographic study of a carolingian monastery, sacked in 881, the lecture examines the dispute about the management of the site on the advent of European funding. The present illustration explains much about the state of cultural heritage in Italy today.

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