

800th ANNIVERSARIES

Franciscans are celebrating significant anniversaries over the next four years:

The Later Rule (Regula Bullata)	(29 November 2023)
Christmas in Greccio – The Crib	(December 2023)
The Stigmata	(17 September 2024)
The Canticle of the Creatures	(2025)
The Death of St Francis	(October 2026)

On January 7, 2023, the official opening of the Franciscan Centenary took place in Greccio, Italy. In the presence of the six Minister Generals of the Franciscan Family, the Franciscan Centenary was inaugurated. This will be a series of events retracing the last stages of the life of St Francis of Assisi, leading to the 800th anniversary of the Passover of the Seraphic Father.

... The celebration of the centenaries has the basic aim and purpose of fixing our gaze toward the future and charismatically strengthening our Franciscan identity...

THE RULE – A WAY OF LIFE 29 November 2023



The Franciscan Order is a living institution both in its material elements (legal, administrative structure, etc.) and in its spiritual elements (path of holiness, theological thinking, etc.) because its founder, Saint Francis of Assisi, gave it a Rule which, for eight centuries, has never ceased to inspire its members to actively live the Gospel life.

Our Seraphic father, Saint Francis of Assisi had great esteem for the Rule because he knew it leads to holiness and happiness as well. Just before passing away, in his Testament, he says: "...this is a remembrance, admonition, exhortation, and my testament, which I, little brother Francis, make for you, my blessed brothers, that we might observe the Rule we have promised in a more Catholic way. (...) And whoever observes these things, let him be blessed in heaven with the blessing of the Most High Father, and on earth with the blessing of His Beloved Son with the Most Holy Spirit, the Paraclete, and all the powers of heaven and with all the saints. 'And, as far as I can, I, little brother Francis, your servant, confirm for you, both within and without, this most holy blessing'" (Test 34-41).

THE CRIB December 2023



Celebrating the centenary of Christmas in Greccio as a Franciscan Family is an invitation to pause before the mystery of the Incarnation to contemplate the greatness of divine love for humanity. The Son of God also becomes the Son of man, he becomes one of us, our brother (cf. Letter to the faithful, 2nd edition 56). Our faith in the Incarnation drives us to discover the seeds of the Word (semina Verbi) present in all cultures and in contemporary society, so that the seeds of humanity found there may flourish. In addition, it urges us

not only to defend life, but also to become instruments of life and humanity in our families and fraternities, to reach out to those who are no longer considered human but are disposable members of society. The concreteness with which Francis of Assisi celebrated the mystery of the Incarnation in Greccio invites us to recover the awareness that "we are keepers of a good that humanizes, that helps to lead a new life. There is nothing better to transmit to others" (Evangeliium gaudium 264)... (Centennial Franciscan Family Conference 2022).