

1. CELEBRATING THE CENTENARY AS A FRANCISCAN FAMILY

In 1235 Julian of Speyer wrote the following as the antiphon for Morning Prayer for the canonization of St. Francis of Assisi. "Three were the Orders he arrayed: The Friars Minor he called the first; and the Poor Ladies were next, becoming the middle Order. Then thirdly came the Penitents, comprising men and women."

St. Francis intended that the Franciscan Family would operate in a complimentary and a "lively reciprocal communion" (part of the Franciscan charism).

All who are "attracted to the evangelical beauty of the Poverello" should be invited to join in these centenary celebrations and to help us live out Francis' prophetic vision. From the beginning of his conversion, Francis' whole life was spent giving back, "because only the man who keeps nothing for himself, but gives all of himself, is able to walk in fraternity, guided by the desire for the Supreme Good". As faithful followers of Francis, we should "keep nothing for ourselves" but "share with all" the beauty and depth of St. Francis' vision for bringing all to a deeper relationship with our Triune God. "The centenaries invite us to live according to the concept of receiving love and transforming it into self-giving and giving back to others".

The guidelines & suggested activities for each centenary event are meant to be a *springboard* for your creativity and fit the needs of those participating. The activity should encompass one or more of the following: our being in Christ, our being brothers & sisters, our being in communion (many living and working together for the common good) and our being in the world (being called to *rebuild My Church/My Kingdom*).

N.B. Quoted phrases in above paragraphs are direct quotes from CFF Booklet/Event Document

Suggestion/Recommendation for Regional Contact persons, local contact persons & event planners: Since we have been asked to celebrate the centenaries *as the Franciscan Family*, please check with area Franciscan "Houses" and ask if they are planning an event for that year's Centenary or next year's. If "yes", ask if your group can assist with the event or at least attend the event. If "no", ask if anyone in their group/house would like to assist you in planning an event and attending it.