

FRANCISCAN CENTENARY

COMMITTEE OF THE FRANCISCAN FAMILY

Rome, August 2022

Dear Sisters and Brothers of the Franciscan Family,
the Lord give you peace!

We turn to you, as Committee of the Franciscan Family for the Franciscan Centenary, to continue the dialogue that our six General Ministers began on 2 October, when they announced the Centenary to you, and continued with the sending, at the beginning of May, of the *Guidelines* entitled *2023-2026 A centenary articulated and celebrated in several centenaries*.

As you know, this is a text translated into 10 languages, which presents an outline for the celebration of each of the stages of the Centenary: in 2023 the *Rule and Christmas of Greccio*, in 2024 the *Stigmata*, in 2025 the *Canticle of Brother Sun* and in 2026 the *Transitus* or, perhaps better, the *Easter of Francis*. This text will be the fundamental aid for the celebration of the Centenary.

Those of you who have already tried to read these *Guidelines* have certainly grasped the richness of this proposal. We are now sending you a very short tool (only two pages) to better "enter" the *Guidelines* and to grasp, with an overall view, the connection and articulation of the various themes proposed. It is a sort of table that shows, year after year, the various themes linked to each centenary, showing their structure, divided into four fundamental dimensions. It is a simple proposal that aims to show a possible use of the guidelines and thus stimulate creativity.

In this way we also have the purpose of inviting you again, if you have not already done so, to read the *Guidelines*, which you can find on the Site <http://francescanitor.org/>

It seems to us very beautiful and significant that all of us, belonging to the one Franciscan Family, can retrace together, in the different countries and cultures of the world, the important stages of the last years of the life of "our" Francis of Assisi.

The leaders of the four sectors of Communication, Formation, Evangelization and JPIC of the various Orders and Institutes of the Franciscan Family have also begun a work of coordination for the Centenary. Communications managers are already working on a single Centenary website for the Franciscan Family.

If at the end of these four years we could say that we have celebrated the centenaries together as a Franciscan Family, we would have already obtained a good result of mutual knowledge and above all of communion.

Lord, accompany us on this common journey and allow us to live the centenary as an opportunity to decisively direct our gaze towards the future and charismatically strengthen our Franciscan identity.

Fraternally

The Franciscan Family Committee for the Franciscan Centenary