

FRANCISCAN CENTENARY

COMMITTEE OF THE FRANCISCAN FAMILY

Rome, August 2022

Dear sisters and brothers of the Franciscan Family
may the Lord give you peace!

We turn to you, as the Committee of the Franciscan Family for the Franciscan Centenary, to continue the dialogue that our six General Ministers began on 2 October last, when they announced the Centenary, 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, it 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 the *Christmas at 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, at a glance, the connection and articulation of the various themes proposed. It is a kind of table showing, year by year, the various themes related to each centenary, showing the structure of each centenary, articulated on four fundamental dimensions. It is a simple proposal that aims to show a possible use of the guidelines and thus stimulate creativity.

In doing so, we also aim to invite you once again, if you have not already done so, to read the *Guidelines*, which you can find on the Website <https://ciofs.info>.

It seems to us very beautiful and meaningful 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 life of 'our' Francis of Assis.

Those in charge of the four sectors of Communication, Formation, Evangelisation and JPIC of the various Orders and Institutes of the Franciscan Family have also begun coordination work for the Centenary. Those responsible for Communication 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 had celebrated the centenaries together as a Franciscan Family, we would already have achieved a good result in terms of mutual acquaintance and, above all, communion.

May the Lord accompany us on this common journey and enable 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.

Annex: Summary sheet of the Guidelines route.