The Rule of the Friars Minor 1209-2009: Historical Perspectives, Lived Realities

April 17-19, 2009

To commemorate the 800th anniversary of the traditional date of the approval by Innocent III of the *propositum vitae* of Francis and his early friars (16 April 1209), the Franciscan Institute is organizing a conference that will gather together medieval historians as well as contemporary practitioners of the Franciscan Rule in a three-day event of presentations and discussion between 17-19 April 2009. This is the only major formal event in North America celebrating the approval of the *Early Rule* of the Friars Minor.

The conference aims to bring together both the finest scholars in North America working on Franciscan history and its sources as well as 10 representative voices of those attempting to live out the Franciscan Rule in vastly different cultural contexts across the globe today.

The gathering will feature major papers on the dynamics of Rule-making and Rule-living by the following scholars:

Dominic V. Monti: "Deservedly Approved by the Roman Church":
The Context for Papal Recognition of Francis' *forma vitae*"

William Short: "Revising the Earlier Rule: Carlo Paolazzi and the Work of Kajetan Esser"

David Flood: "The Early Franciscans at Work as a State-of-Nature Argument"

Michael F. Cusato: "Alms-asking and Alms-giving as Social Commentary"

Jean François Godet-Calogeras: "Clare and the Defense of Franciscan Identity"

Michael W. Blastic: "Minorite Life in the *Regula Bullata*: A Comparison with the *Regula non bullata*"

During the second part of the gathering, we will be honored with 10 prepared reflections and lively discussion by Franciscans who will be coming to us from India, South Africa, Ethiopia, Peru, Philippines, Australia, continental Europe, England and North America. This will be a unique opportunity to hear how the Rule is read, interpreted, lived and struggled with in different cultural contexts across the globe today.

A third and final part of the symposium will bring scholars and practitioners of the Rule together for a unique conversation on what each has learned from the other: how the findings of scholarship can enlighten contemporary praxis of the Rule; and how contemporary praxis can illuminate our understanding of the original dynamics of rule-making and rule-living.

All members of the Franciscan Family are invited, most especially those who profess the Rule of the Friars Minor. We are hoping for an active and lively participation especially by the younger members of the Order. Registration for the conference can be done either at the Franciscan Institute website (www.franciscaninstitute.sbu.edu) or by calling the Franciscan Institute secretary, Tami Attwell at 716-375-2595 or email tattwell@sbu.edu.