

THE NINTH NATIONAL FRANCISCAN FORUM

DYING, AS A FRANCISCAN:

Approaching our *Transitus* to Eternal Life Accompanying Others on the Way to Theirs



The two poignant scenes depicted in the famous Giotto frescoes show us the dying Francis of Assisi being cared for and mourned by brothers and sisters gathered around him during the final days of his life. These beloved friends of the saint journeyed with him, preparing him for that great *transitus* which would take him from this life through death into eternal life.

Many of us within the Franciscan Family of the 21st century – friars, sisters, seculars and all those associated in any way with the Poverello of Assisi – find ourselves surrounded by those within our own communities and families who are in need of similar accompaniment and companionship as they walk the road toward the fullness of life. And each one of us, one day, will walk the same path ourselves.



Is there a particularly *Franciscan* manner of approaching our own passage to the Lord and of helping others to do the same? Are there particular elements within the Franciscan tradition – stories, symbols, rituals, and so forth – on which we can all draw

to help us and others whom we accompany in this ultimate pilgrimage of the human journey? There are indeed!

On **June 17-20, 2010**, the Ninth National Franciscan Forum will explore both aspects of this journey through a series of talks and discussions led by a group of distinguished presenters, among whom will be:

Tom Nairn, O.F.M.; Mary Petrosky, F.M.M.; and Dan Sulmasy, O.F.M.

The Forum will be held on the scenic campus of Regis University in Denver, Colorado. Start making plans to be present for this signal event!

And watch for more detailed information on topics, presenters, registration and travel arrangements at

<http://Franciscaninstitute.sbu.edu> (tab: Franciscan Forums).