

Franciscan Festival 2026

The 18th edition of the Franciscan Festival has just come to a close. It was dedicated to a theme that is as delicate as it is, in some respects, unsettling: *'Sister Death'*, marking the 800th anniversary of the death of St Francis.

Despite the theme – or perhaps precisely because of it – over 70,000 people took part in more than a hundred events held in the square and at various places across the Festival. A truly significant figure, which speaks volumes about the relevance of a subject that our society often tends to avoid.

Several guests and speakers described us as courageous for choosing to tackle a theme that is so topical and, at the same time, so often rejected and feared. We did so by seeking to view death through the lens of hope and faith, just as St Francis did.

These have been intense days packed with events: conferences, round-table discussions, book launches, performances, workshops, a 'living library' and many other activities designed to engage people of all ages.

It is difficult to single out any one event in particular, as each one offered interesting insights and opportunities for reflection. To get an idea of the Festival's richness, one need only take a look at the programme.

One element that certainly enriched this year's festival was the display of a relic of St Francis: a cloth soaked in the blood from his side, kept in the Chapel of St Anthony within the Basilica of San Petronio and made available for the faithful to pay before and venerate.



giovanni allevi
guidalberto bormolini
giovanna botteri
luigi ciotti
javier cercas
nando dalla chiesa
concita de gregorio
gio evan

christian greco
matteo lancini
vito mancuso
stefano nazzi
michelangelo pistoletto
pierbattista pizzaballa
gaia tortora
matteo maria zuppi



sorella morte

bologna, piazza maggiore
24 - 27 settembre 2026

The Franciscan Festival, however, does not end here. You can continue to follow it via social media and the website: over the coming days, the events will be revisited and new content will be published.

www.festivalfrancescano.it

Sr. Lorella Chiaruzzi