

LETTER TO THE ROMANS

Dear sisters and brothers in Saint Francis:

We, members of Romans 6, the delegates general and representatives for JPIC for the worldwide Franciscan family, want to remind you of the invitation and encouragement that we received from the Conference of the Franciscan Family to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the “spirit of Assisi” this coming October 27th, and to keep alive the values promoted in that celebration at all times.

Mindful that not everybody can travel to Assisi, we would like to inform you about some activities that will take place in the Rome area and give you the opportunity to join them and/or celebrate in your own communities:

- a) On Saturday, 22 October, MoFra of Lazio will celebrate the Spirit of Assisi at the Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul in Rome’s EUR section. The gathering will begin with prayer at 16.00 and conclude with a Eucharistic celebration scheduled to begin at 18.30.
- b) On Wednesday, 26 October in St. Peter’s Square, the Holy Father will preside over a prayer service in preparation for the Meeting for Peace in Assisi. This takes the place of the weekly General Audience and begins at 10.30.
- c) Preparations are being made for a Prayer Vigil in St. Peter’s Square on the evening of the 26th. More information should be available from the Vatican at a later date, as word has it that the Holy Father will be in attendance. The Vigil is being organized by the Comunità di Sant’Egidio.
- d) For the 27th of October we encourage each community/fraternity to celebrate the Holy Eucharist with the texts prepared for the Mass of the “spirit of Assisi”, or any other prayer initiative. Various samples or ideas for different types of prayer can be found on our blog, <http://spiritodiassisi.wordpress.com>.
- e) On 28 October at 19.00, a Prayer celebration in Italian will be held at San Marcello (Via del Corso) **on** and **for** the “spirit of Assisi”, with the presence of representatives of many of the religious congregations and orders present in Rome. This initiative is being organized by the Secretariat of JPIC-USG/UISG.

It is our fervent desire that the celebration not be a one day commemoration, but that we commit ourselves to keeping alive the “spirit of Assisi”. We encourage you to renew your commitment, possibly by having a Mass of Peace in the “spirit of Assisi” on the 27th of each month.

May the feast of St. Francis be filled with every blessing and may our celebration of the day of the “spirit of Assisi” help us to renew our Franciscan dedication to peace, justice and dialogue.

Fraternally

Your sisters and brothers in St. Francis