



**“Every feature of the Porziuncola lifts the heart and mind to God”
PADRE PIO**

Background

The Confraternity of St. Mary of the Angels (smda) was established on the 23rd of January, 1875, and many Indulgences and privileges were bestowed on it by Pope Pius IX. On 11th August of the following year, the same Pope raised it to the status of an Archconfraternity, allowing it to aggregate to itself other Marian Confraternities.

We are an Archconfraternity because we are in liaison with the Archconfraternity of Santa Maria degli Angeli whose aim is to spread devotion to Our Lady of the Angels/Porziuncola and to St. Francis of Assisi, placing its members under their effective patronage. The Archconfraternity has also instituted the *Pious Work of Perpetual Holy Masses*, celebrating these for all members who have been enrolled, both living and deceased.

This document was approved by the Bishop of Assisi and the Provincial General Bruno Ottavi of the Frairs Minor in July 2008 in Santa Maria degli Angeli, Porziuncola, Assisi. Cardinal William Levada in Rome, and Archbishop George Niederauer of San Francisco, were sent courtesy copies in August of 2008 and received their approval.

On July 17th, 2008, Rector of the National Shrine of Saint Francis of Assisi, Robert Cipriano, approved and signed the “Rules and Regulations of the Knights of Saint Francis of Assisi in re total management of the Porziuncola” to “protect, secure and financially sustain via the candles and private fundraising by the Knights of Saint Francis. Said Rules and Regs are hereby incorporated by reference and were amended in October 2008 to ensure that all services by knights, done within Luogo di Santa Chiara or the Porziuncola Nuova are to be voluntary. No monetary payment can be requested to sing, dance, recite, pray, story tell or any other activity, in Luogo Santa Chiara or La Porziuncola Nuova. All Knights are volunteers. As of December 2008, there are 125 Knights of Saint Francis, who meet on the First Friday of every month.

On August 2nd, 2008, Pope Benedict XVI named our Porziuncola the “Porziuncola Nuova” and gave the “Porziuncola Nuova” the “Pardon of San Francisco” Indulgence. San Francisco’s Archbishop George Niederauer and Cardinal William Levada opened and blessed the “San Francisco Porziuncola Nuova” on September 27th, 2008. The First Mass at the Porziuncola Nuova was said by Archbishop Niederauer on December 2nd, 2008 for the Knights of Saint Francis with the blessing and anointing of oil of the altar. The second mass will be said by Archbishop Niederauer for the Knights of Saint Francis of Assisi on December 8th, 2008.