“See to it, my sons, that you never abandon this place. If you are driven out from one side, go back in from the other, for this is truly a holy place and the dwelling place of God. Here the Most High increased our numbers when we were only a few; here He enlightened the hearts of his poor ones with the light of His wisdom; here He kindled our wills with the fire of His love; here all who pray wholeheartedly will receive what they ask, while offenders will be severely punished. Therefore, my sons, hold this place, God’s dwelling, as worthy of all honor and here praise God in cries of joy and praise with your whole heart.”

Portiuncula in FUN Manual

Our Lady of the Angels of the Portiuncula, August 2

The cradle of the Franciscan Order was the Portiuncula (“The little Portion”), the poor little church outside Assisi which was dedicated to Our Lady of the Angels. It was no accident that this greatest of mothers should stand again at a poor cradle. To Francis, Portiuncula was a royal castle, such as the other one at Bethlehem, for poverty was the badge of the noble children of God. He said, “Poverty is a royal virtue, because it shone so brightly in the King and Queen” (Celano, The life of Saint Francis) [Taken from the FUN Manual: Francis and the Blessed Virgin Mary 3-23-2011 Page 13 of 16 or PDF: p. 399/460]