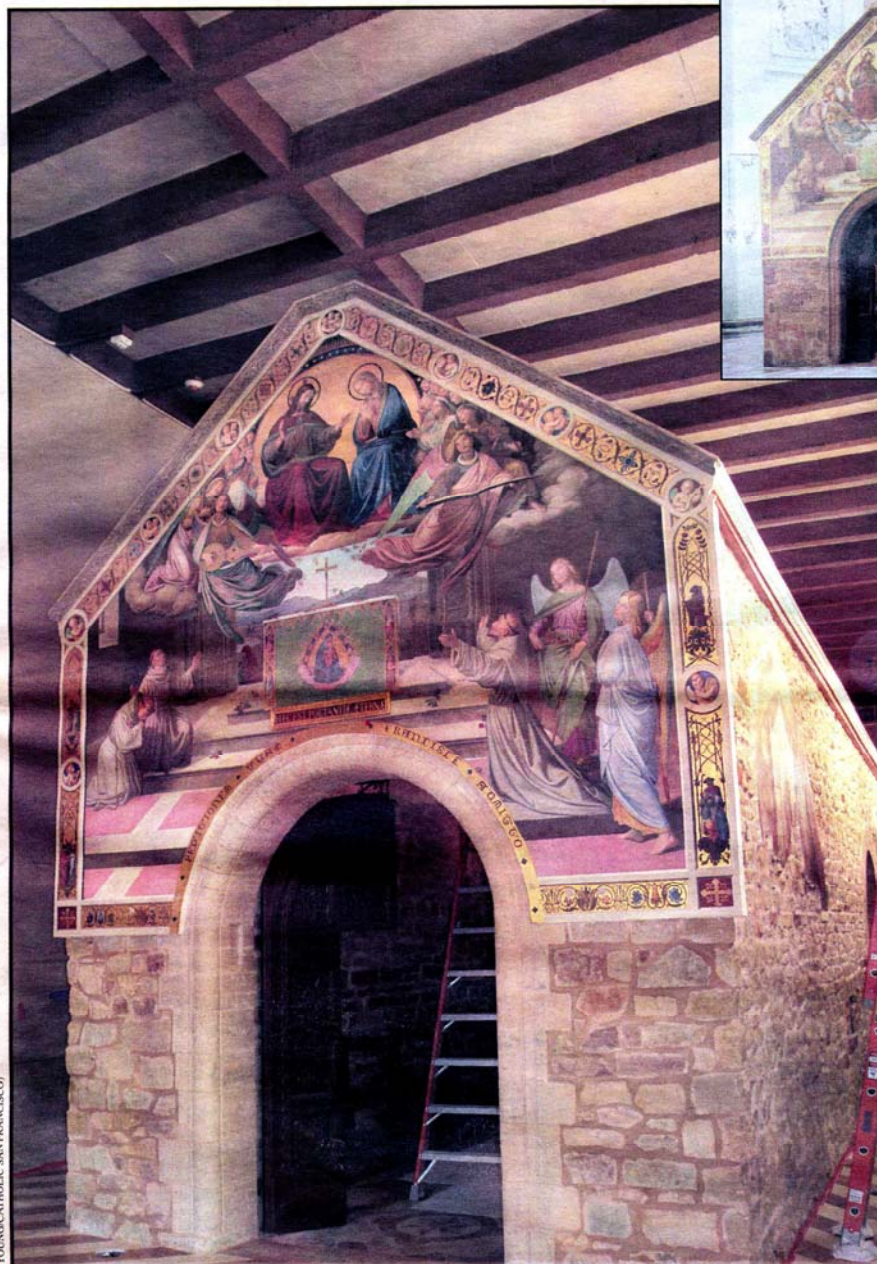
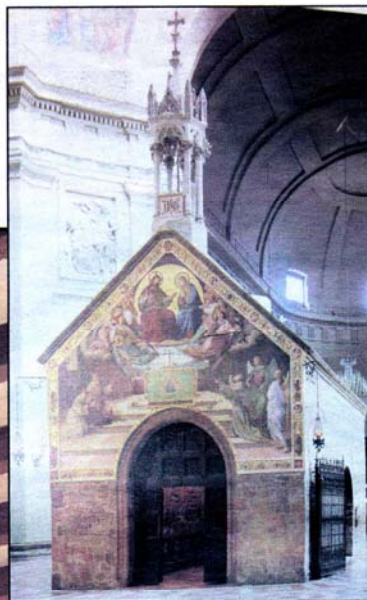


CATHOLIC SAN FRANCISCO

Northern California's Weekly Catholic Newspaper



The Porziuncola Chapel at the National Shrine of St. Francis of Assisi in San Francisco (left) will be completed by its formal blessing day, Sept. 27. It is a scaled-down replica of the small church near Assisi Italy which St. Francis himself helped renovate and which today (above) sits within the Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli, about three miles from Assisi.

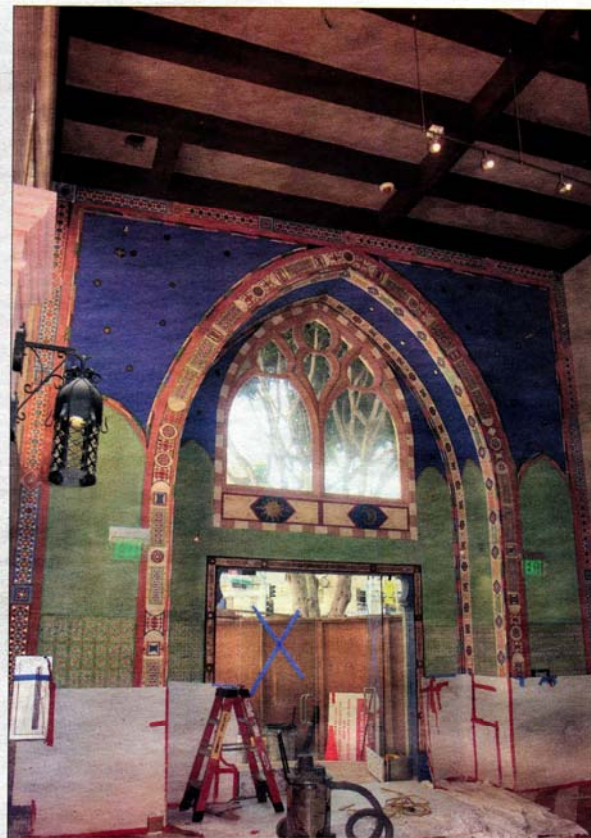
PHOTO BY DAN MORRIS, YOUNG CATHOLIC, SAN FRANCISCO

*BLESSING OF THE PORZIUNCOLA SHRINE
AT THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI
SAN FRANCISCO – SEPTEMBER 27, 2008*

*Archbishop George H. Niederauer, principal celebrant
Cardinal William J. Levada, presiding*



With the scaffolding taken down, the mural on the inside of the front entry hall of the building housing the Porziuncola is exposed, right. Above, muralist Angela Tirrell takes an overall look at the project progress as does, left, student artist Manmar Laham in July.



OS BY DAN MORRIS-YOUNG/CATHOLIC SAN FRANCISCO

Wall mural created for building housing Porziuncola Shrine

Under the leadership of master muralist Angela Tirrell and the director of the Academy of Art University's graduate fine art and illustration program, Mark Tennant, a team including master of fine arts painting students met a rigorous deadline and created an original mural for the inside entrance wall of the building that now houses the Porziuncola chapel.

Formerly the gymnasium for St. Francis of Assisi Parish which was closed as a parish in 1992, the host structure adjacent to National Shrine of St. Francis of Assisi Church is called *Luogo di Santa Chiara* and located on the corner of Columbus Avenue and Vallejo Street.

The mural represents the Medieval Giotto-esque style, according to a fact sheet provided by The Renaissance Project.

"The greatest satisfaction about our mural," Tirrell told *Catholic San Francisco*, "is that we've paid homage to the decorative genius of Giotto's fresco cycle of the life of St. Francis while we've breathed life and beauty onto a simple white wall, framing the humble simplicity of the Porziuncola."

"I felt honored," she added, "when the scaffolding came down and one of the student muralists whispered in admiration of our work, 'I want to bring my children to look at this.'"



Muralist Angela Tirrell put a finishing touch on a segment of the mural which covers the inside wall of the building which houses the Porziuncola.