



The Message of St. Francis: with Frescoes from the Basilica of St. Francis at Assisi

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St. Francis was great in the thirteenth century, but we can say that he has become even more important since," said Pope John Paul II on a 1993 visit to the saint's tomb at Assisi, in Umbria. Only four years later, in that very place of pilgrimage, a devastating earthquake rocked the Basilica of St. Francis, utterly damaging the structure and destroying some of the decorations. Giotto's famous twenty-eight frescoes of St. Francis's life miraculously escaped with only minor damage. In *The Message of St. Francis* stunning images and details from this fresco cycle illuminate the defining moments of the great saint's life: from his worldly beginnings as a dashing scion of privileged society to his embrace of poverty, simplicity, and humility. Extracts from biographies, ancient and modern, and his own writings--from canticles of praise to spare, incisive admonitions on the gifts of the spirit--convey the heart of his beliefs. Here we see the patron saint of animals and the natural world; the man who has emerged in our times as a major spiritual figure and a symbol of peace, love, and religious diversity--as depicted by Giotto, the "father of the Renaissance." The frescoes are printed on uncoated, textured paper reflecting the rich surface of the original frescoes themselves. In the tradition of *Vision*, this is an exquisite giftbook for art lovers and for Christians and seekers of every stripe--for Easter, First Communions, and all spiritual occasions.

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