

**Milvia Bollati**

**Another Image of *Gloria*: Saint Francis of Montefalco**

Benozzo Gozzoli's finished the decoration of the *cappella maggiore* in the church of San Francis in Montefalco in October of 1452. The commissioner and probably the conceptualist of the frescoes was Jacopo da Montefalco. The stories of St Francis are arranged in a double register within the apse and the four lunettes which conclude the walls. The life of Francis is summarized in twelve panels which often synthesize two episodes, while on the vault is presented *Glorification of St Francis* among the figures of Saint Anthony of Padua, Saint Clare, Saint Bernardino of Siena, St Elizabeth of Hungary and St Louis of Anjou. The essay focuses in particular on iconography of the frescoes of the vault and discusses the theme of the glory of Saint Francis with references to the hagiographic tradition of *Legenda Maior* of St Bonaventure. The discussion starts with the inscription which reads clearly in the codex presented by St Francis: EGO ENIM STIGMATA DOMINI IESU IN CORPORE MEO PORTO, a quotation from the Epistle of St Paul to the Galatians (6:17) The essay focuses in particular on the meaning attributed to the *stigmata*, as the image of 'martyrdom', a reading which from Bonaventure reached the Observants and Bernardino of Siena in particular. It is not implausible that the commissioner of the cycle, fra Jacopo da Montefalco, devoted precisely to the saint of Siena, influenced the choice of the iconographic program of the chapel.