



## APOSTOLIC LETTER

### WHEREIN

His Holiness Benedict XV, Pope, on the occasion of the seventh Centennial of the visit of St. Francis to Palestine, praises the task accomplished by the Friars Minor, guardians of the Holy Places, and confirms all the rights, privileges and indulgences entrusted to them by the Holy See.

### POPE BENEDICT XV.

#### IN PERPETUAL REMEMBRANCE OF THE EVENT.

That the glorious Founder of the Friars Minor, St. Francis of Assisi, journeyed to Palestine and there visited the Sepulchre of our Lord, is a fact proven by such strong and clear arguments that it may no longer be called in doubt. Historians are no less unanimous in stating that he made this journey in the year 1219 although nearly two years before, St. Francis had sent some of his disciples into Syria, there to preach and propagate the Gospel of Jesus Christ where first its message had been heard. From that time on, until the present day the Friars Minor have remained there uninterruptedly. They formed the province of the Holy Land, the most glorious of all Provinces in the Franciscan Order, founded by the holy patriarch, St. Francis himself.

By providential guidance of the Most High, it happened that the venerable monuments of religion in Palestine hallowed by the divine Author of Christianity both passed into the hands of the