



For Immediate Release:

## **New book series from Franciscan Institute Publications: *Studies in Early Franciscan Sources***

ST. BONAVENTURE, N.Y., October, 1, 2011 — Franciscan Institute Publications is pleased to announce the launch of a new book series called *Studies in Early Franciscan Sources* with the publication of three titles:

**The Writings of Francis – Letters and Prayers**

**The Writings of Francis – Rules, Testament and Admonitions**

**The Writings of Clare – Letters, Form of Live, Testament and Blessing**

Three of the world's top scholars in medieval and Franciscan studies are editing this series. They are Michael J. Blastic, O.F.M., Ph.D., Jay M. Hammond, Ph.D., and Wayne Hellmann, O.F.M. Conv., S.T.L., Ph.D. In addition to their own commentaries, they have assembled an impressive list of commentaries on the Early Documents of Francis and Clare from other top scholars including Luigi Pellegrini, O.F.M., Cap., Jean-François Godet-Calogeras, Ph.D., Michael F. Cusato, O.F.M., Ph.D., Laurent Gallant, O.F.M., Ph.D., William J. Short, O.F.M., Ph.D., Ingrid Peterson, O.S.F., Ph.D., and Lezlie Knox, Ph.D. These commentaries will become "must have" reading for any scholar, student or interested lay person in the Early Documents of Francis and of Clare.

Lawrence S. Cunningham, John A O'Brien Professor of Theology, University of Notre Dame, described these volumes as "...a rich resource of understanding Francis and Clare...which stand as a complement to the earlier volumes." Jacques Dalarun, Senior Reseracher at the Institut de recherché et d'histori des textes, Paris, France, called these books, "...an exciting new collection...".

The books are being published simultaneously as hardcover and tradepaper editions. Pricing for the hardcover editions is:

**The Writings of Francis – Letters and Prayers - \$34.95 – ISBN: 9781576592939**

**The Writings of Francis – Rules, Testament and Admonitions - \$34.95 – ISBN: 9781576592946**

**The Writings of Clare – Letters, Form of Live, Testament and Blessing - \$24.95 – ISBN: 9781576592953**

Pricing for the tradepaper editions is:

**The Writings of Francis – Letters and Prayers - \$29.95 – ISBN: 978-1-57659-230-4**

**The Writings of Francis – Rules, Testament and Admonitions - \$29.95 – ISBN: 978-1-57659-232-8**

**The Writings of Clare – Letters, Form of Live, Testament and Blessing - \$19.95 – ISBN: 978-1-57659-233-5**

Books can be ordered from amazon.com, bn.com or from Franciscan Institute Publications at [www.franciscanpublications.com](http://www.franciscanpublications.com) or by phone at 716-375-2062.

### **About the Authors:**

**Michael Blastic, OFM Conv.**, a native of the Chicago area, is a member of the Province of the Most Holy Name of Jesus of the Order of Friars Minor, with headquarters in New York City. He has ministered in parishes, religious formation, and been a faculty member of the Washington Theological Union 1988-1996, and of the Franciscan Institute at St. Bonaventure University from 1996-2010. In summer 2010, he returned to the Washington Theological Union as the Director of the Franciscan Center. His major area of research, teaching and publication includes early Franciscan texts, the early Franciscan Theological tradition, and the the writings of Franciscan women between the 13th and 16th century.

**Jay M. Hammond, PhD**, is an Assistant Professor/Director of Graduate Studies at St. Louis University. He previously taught at the University of San Francisco (1998-2000) and Quincy University (1998-2002), where he received the Teacher of the Year, Excellence in Teaching Award in 2001. He has been working at SLU since 2003. He received his Ph.D. in Historical Theology from Saint Louis University. Dr. Hammond is co-editor of the series, *Studies in the Early Franciscan Documents*, and is an associate editor of the *Bonaventure Texts in Translation Series*. He contributed to *Divine and Created Order in Bonaventure's Theology*.

**J. A. Wayne Hellmann, OFM Conv.**, received his Doctorate of Theology at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität (Munich) in 1974; an S.T.L. from the Pontifical Faculty of St. Bonaventure in Rome in 1968; and a B.A. in Philosophy from the University of Dayton (Ohio) in 1964. Since 2005, he has served as Chair of the Department of Graduate Theology at St. Louis University where he has been a faculty member since 1974. His long-time interest has been Franciscan texts. Among the various positions and responsibilities he has held, Wayne has been a member of the Board of the BTTS project (*Bonaventure Texts in Translation Series*), since 2003; a senior editor for the scholarly journal, *Franciscan Studies*, since 2004; and a member of the editorial board for *Greyfriar's Review*, since 2003. Most recently he has served as the coeditor of *FA:ED* (1999-2003); editor and translator (with Joshua Benson) of a multivolume *Theological Reader*, drawn from Bonaventure's *Commentary on the Sentences* (BTTS), and co-editor of the projected seven-volume series, *Studies in the Early Franciscan Documents* (to be published by Franciscan Institute Publications, 2011).

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