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**U.S.**

**'Stone-for-stone' Porziuncola reproduction erected in San Francisco**

SAN FRANCISCO (CNS) -- A rock-for-rock, stone-for-stone, fresco-for-fresco replica of St. Francis of Assisi's tiny Porziuncola church near Assisi, Italy, now graces a building adjoining the National Shrine of St. Francis of Assisi in San Francisco. A Sept. 27 dedication of the structure will cap a nearly 15-month construction effort that has pulled together the efforts of a team of international artists, stone masons, metalsmiths, muralists, tile experts and others -- including students earning their master's degree of fine arts at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco. U.S. Cardinal William J. Levada, prefect of the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and former archbishop of San Francisco, was scheduled to preside and Archbishop George H. Niederauer of San Francisco to be principal celebrant at the morning dedication rite. Housed within what was formerly the gymnasium of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, the Porziuncola Chapel will be designated an archdiocesan shrine in its own right.