

# San Francisco Chronicle



## Pope offering his blessings

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**God save the city:** San Francisco's replica of the St. Francis Porziuncola chapel opens next week with an extra kick: a blessing from the pope himself granting a special forgiveness of sins.

Mayor Newsom said he intends to be first in line.

The Porziuncola is a pet project of **Angela Alioto**, who has spent two years trying to re-create the original stone chapel that was home to St. Francis (San Francisco's very own patron saint, of course) in Assisi, Italy. The mayor and the media got a sneak peek of the near-finished Porziuncola this week; it opens to the public at 2 p.m. Sept. 27.

The blessing from **Pope Benedict XVI** allows Catholics to obtain a plenary indulgence, which basically means they're cleared of sin right away instead of waiting for purgatory. The indulgence will be available every day from Sept. 27 to Dec. 27, and after that on special dates throughout the year.

Not that we're marking our calendars or anything.

— *Erin Allday*

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SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE  
SEPTEMBER 20, 2008