

Contents

Abbreviations, xi

Introduction: The Myth of the Medieval View of Nature, 3

1 The Ascetic Tradition and the Early Franciscan Outlook, 9

2 Traditional Elements in Francis' Interpretation
of Creation, 39

3 Francis' Transcendence of Tradition and Its First Major Impact
on His Attitude Toward Creation: The Sermon to the Birds, 55

4 Francis' Special Regard for Creation, 69

5 Tradition and Its Impact on the *Canticle*, 98

6 The Controversy over the *Canticle's* Meaning, 115

7 The *Canticle*: Francis' Ideal Vision of Creation, 125

8 Francis: Reality and Legacy, 138

Appendix I: Francis and Catharism, 147

Appendix II: Analysis of the Early Franciscan Sources, 149

Appendix III: The Sermon to the Birds in the Early Sources, 152

Notes, 159

Bibliography, 185

Index, 195