



## **St. Francis Window**

*J & R Lamb Studios designed and constructed the St. Francis stained-glass window (nine by six feet in size). Set in the north window of St. Francis Chapel, this window depicts Francis of Assisi in happy communion with God's creatures. In medieval and contemporary art, Francis is often shown with birds. Unique to this depiction is the presence of West Texas flora and fauna. One historian of Francis writes: "Francis was not a lover of nature. He never used the word. What Francis loved were birds, flowers, fire, water, animals, and people. He was interested in the*

*concrete: he loved people, not humanity; wolves, not wildlife; Christ, not Christianity." (On the Road to Assisi, Cunningham). And so this window depicts Francis with a wolf, the Texas State mockingbird, a donkey, an armadillo, a jackrabbit and a turtle-dove lighting on his outstretched hand. In the foreground are yucca, Indian paintbrush and bluebonnets. The sun shines radiantly in this tranquil setting. There is a resonance of colors, a harmony of cold, blue tones distinguished by the brightness of reds and blues. Donald Samick, CEO of J & R Lamb Studios, personally oversaw construction of this window from start to installation in order that it be consistent with St. John's nine stained glass windows, also designed and made by J & R Lamb Studios. "Beloved let us love one another" (1 John 4:7) highlights this window, attributed to our patron saint John the Evangelist, and to draw our imaginations to Francis of Assisi, perhaps the purest example of a person striving to do what Jesus taught his disciples.*