

+ Terra Sancta Museum
2015





STUDIUM
BIBLICUM
FRANCISCANUM



CUSTODIA
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SANCTÆ



The friars of the Custody of the Holy Land are a religious brotherhood who have been called by God from every corner of the world for a special mission: to watch over the places of Redemption. They belong to a religious order of the Catholic Church, the Order of Friars Minor, known as the Franciscans.

Their founder, St. Francis of Assisi, went to the Middle East at the beginning of the 13th century in order to “touch” the places which, still today, offer an irreplaceable testimony to God’s revelation and his love for mankind.

Terra Sancta Museum 2015

This publication illustrates the initiative that the Custody of the Holy Land intends to carry out in Jerusalem by opening the world's only museum, where Christianity took root and for the preservation of the Holy Places.



«It is important to preserve the Christian character of the Holy City and to make known the past and present of Christian Jerusalem... We hope that the archaeological section on the history of Christianity



can be renovated and that very soon a new museum center will be born that will recount the Christian history of this most beautiful City.» **Fra Pierbattista Pizzaballa, ofm** Custos of the Holy Land







God's chosen land

The Franciscans of the Custody of the Holy Land present TERRA SANCTA MUSEUM, located in the heart of the Old City of Jerusalem. There will be a permanent exhibition in discovering the history of the fascinating land, in which the fates of many peoples living together, in the Holy Places, from the three great monotheistic religions have been mysteriously intertwined.

The Bible, the most widely-read book in the world, recounts that in this strip of land, lying between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean coast, the divine plans intersected with the history of humanity; an apparently insignificant territory, in which God seems to have arranged a special rendezvous with man.

The TERRA SANCTA MUSEUM, through its exhibition of archaeological finds and works of extraordinary historical and artistic importance, will address the theme of Christian and Franciscan history in the Holy Land.

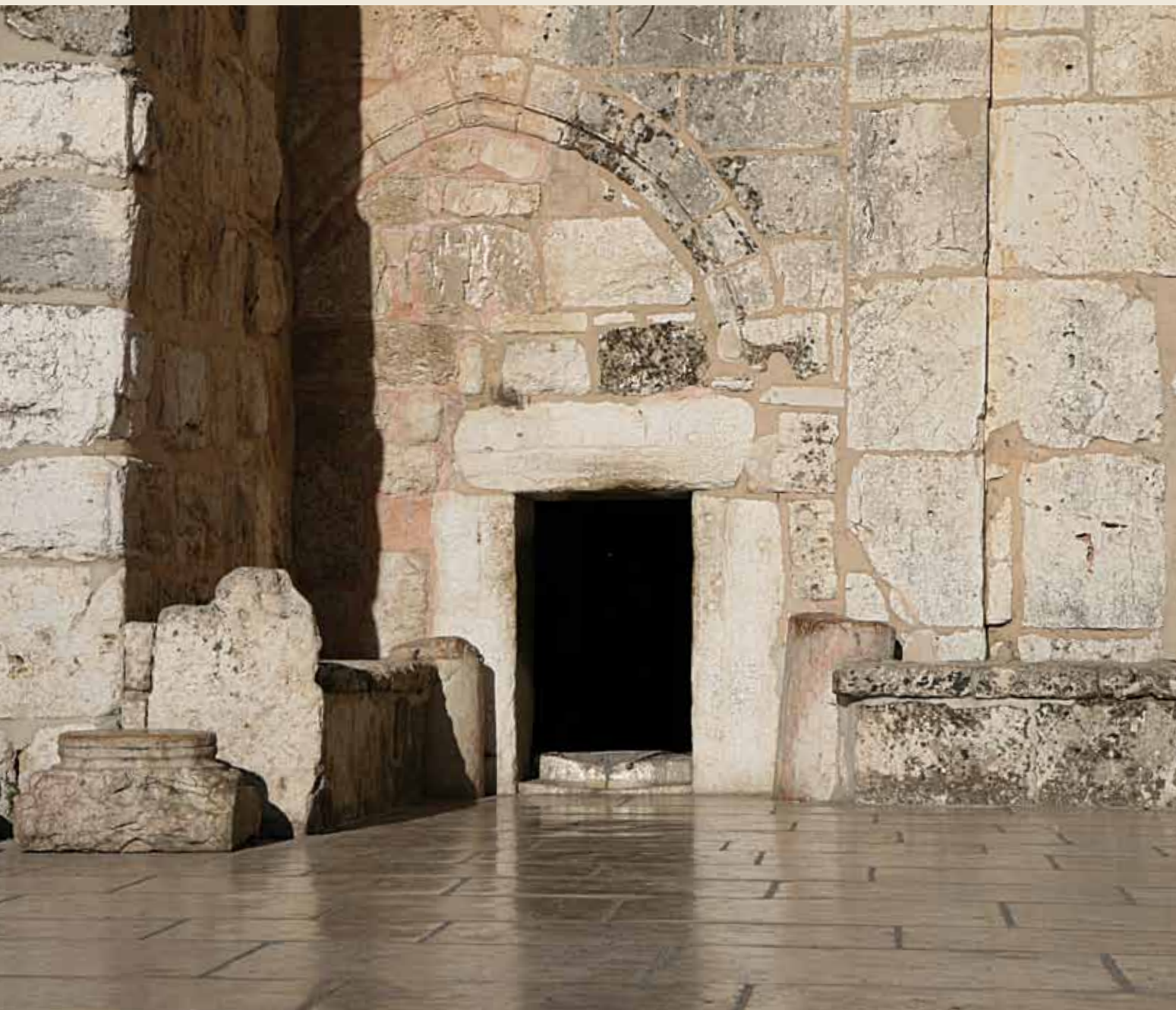


Why a museum?

Today, more than ever, it is of critical importance to let the whole world know the history of the Christian presence in the Holy Land: to foster a better understanding of our roots, to contribute to the unity of the “human family”, and to carry the message of peace to the world.



By opening to the public a modern museum center, the Franciscans of the Custody wish to enhance the artistic, archaeological and cultural heritage preserved during the eight centuries they have been in these lands looking after the Places where Jesus lived.



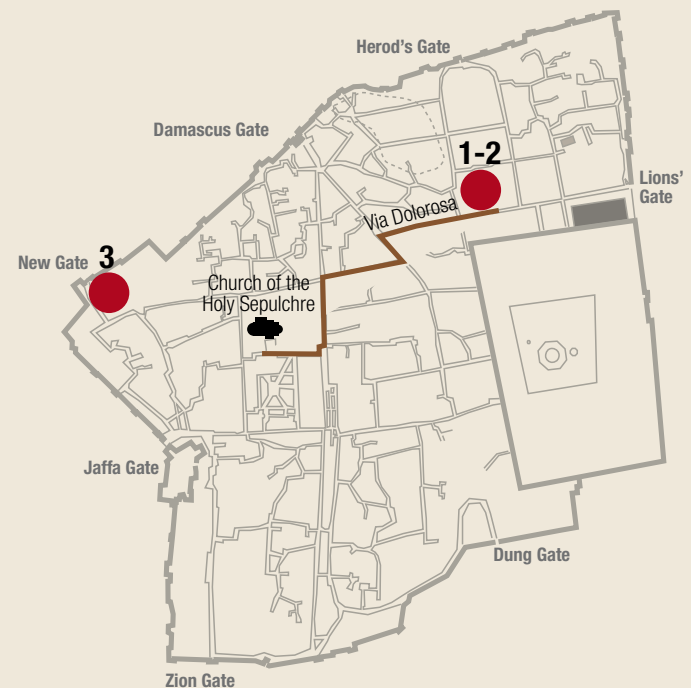


The project

An exhibition complex with two sites and three museums

The countless pilgrims and visitors from all over the world will be offered a cultural excursion which is flexible, but at the same time methodologically rigorous, divided among three separate thematic areas located in the Old City of Jerusalem and, in the future, extended to other sites in the Holy Land.

It will take the form of an exhibition complex of 2,573 m², consisting of three museums (Archaeological, Multimedia and History) on two different sites.





Area of the Monastery of the Flagellation

1. ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM
The evangelical sites in Palestine
– The Holy Land

2. MULTIMEDIA MUSEUM
Jerusalem and the Holy
Sepulchre: from Herod to the
present day



Area of St. Saviour's Monastery

3. HISTORY MUSEUM
The Franciscan Custody
in the Holy Land

Monastery of the Flagellation

Archaeological Museum

**The evangelical sites in Palestine
The Holy Land**



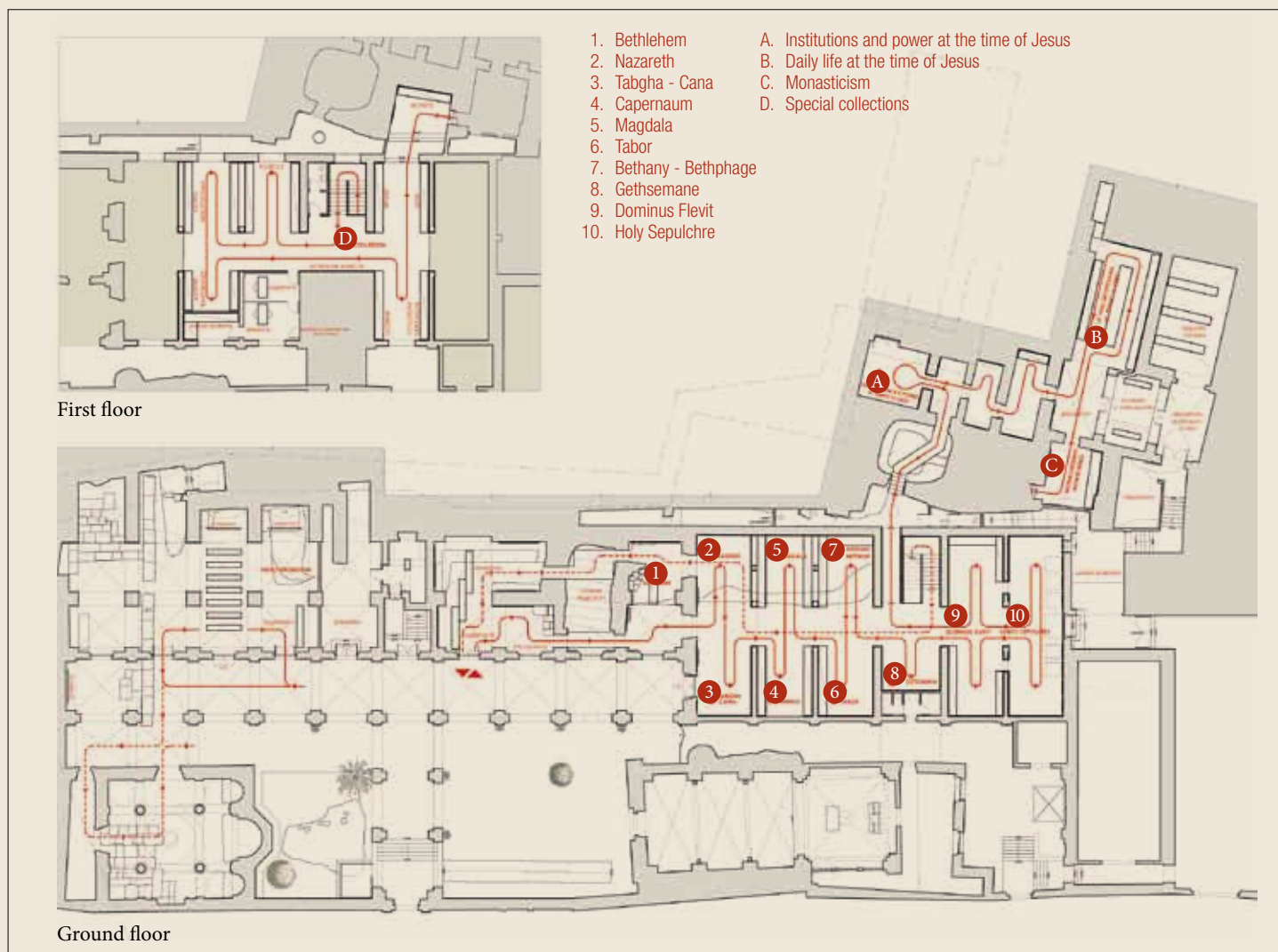


The museum will be housed in a place of great importance in terms of both history and tradition. Some of the pavements, walls and cisterns are in fact remains from ancient Jerusalem.

The tour, encompassing various rooms, will reflect the principal chronological stages in Jesus' life.

The exhibition of the discoveries, among the most important from the archaeological excavations carried out by the Franciscans of the Studium Biblicum over the past 150 years, will allow the visitor to make a *virtual archaeological pilgrimage* to the Holy Places, learning about them through the objects, the background information and historical time references.

Monastery of the Flagellation
Archaeological Museum





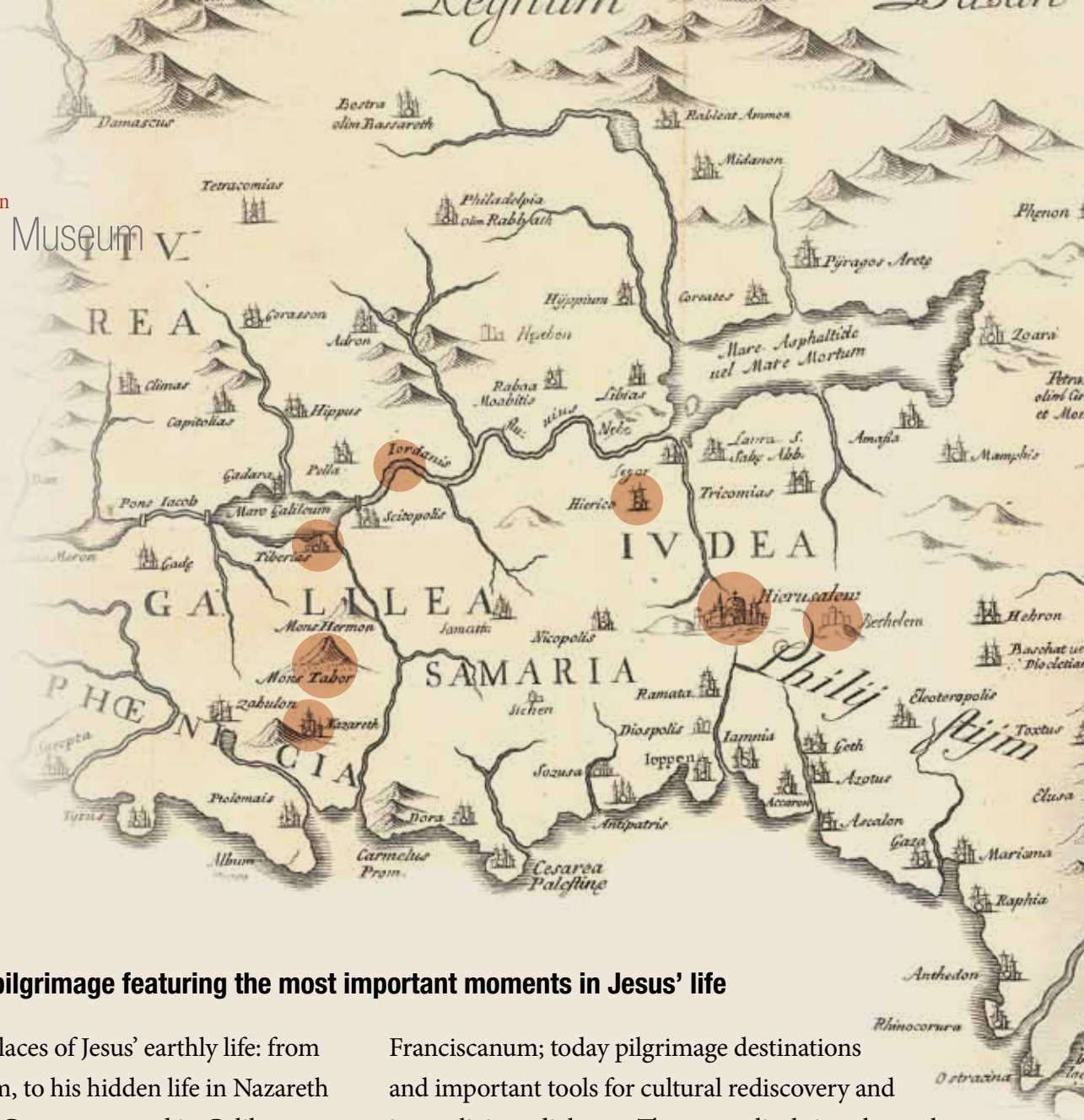
The language of archaeology, when it is well interpreted, can convey a “concrete” illustration of bygone eras.

Here Jesus of Nazareth’s life is placed in historical and cultural context, both in terms of what preceded it (the Jewish people and biblical cultures) and what followed (the establishment of Christian civilization in Palestine and its coexistence over the centuries with other historical civilizations).

The Museum’s contents will be of great interest not only for Christians, but also for the lay public, the resident communities, and Jewish and Muslim pilgrims.



Monastery of the Flagellation
Archaeological Museum



First part

An archaeological pilgrimage featuring the most important moments in Jesus' life

A pilgrimage to the places of Jesus' earthly life: from his birth in Bethlehem, to his hidden life in Nazareth and his public one in Capernaum and in Galilee, and concluding with his Passion in Jerusalem.

The tour passes through the places discovered and studied during the systematic excavations campaigns of the archaeologists from the Studium Biblicum

Franciscanum; today pilgrimage destinations and important tools for cultural rediscovery and interreligious dialogue. The evangelical sites themselves, where churches and monasteries succeeded one another, have provided extremely important evidence regarding the earliest buildings of Christian devotion, here presented for the benefit of the general public.



Second part

Entering into a simple and fascinating narrative

The second part of the archaeological tour takes place in ancient and evocative architectural spaces. The researchers of the Studium Biblicum have made available to the Museum important and rare collections gathered over the years. Roman glass and Palestinian jars, coins, inscriptions in all of the ancient Eastern languages,

and local ceramics from the Egyptian

and Mycenaean cultures allow one

to better understand the various

cultures in this land that, over

thousands of years, have met and

clashed.



Monastery of the Flagellation

Multimedia Museum

The multimedia section, planned for the spacious *Lapidarium* of the Studium Biblicum Franciscanum at the Monastery of the Flagellation, has the advantage of being located at the departure point for the Way of the Cross inspired by Christian devotion. From this courtyard it is estimated that more than a million pilgrims each year begin the route leading them to the Holy Sepulchre.

The multimedia room will constitute a useful tool for experiencing, with greater understanding, the

Jerusalem and the Holy Sepulchre

places along the Way of the Cross, notably the Holy Sepulchre, which today many find difficult to comprehend. The video aids, projected continuously, can easily be added to the programs of organized pilgrimages and enjoyed, each year, by hundreds of thousands of visitors.

Starting from the present, the presentation will lead one back to the time of Jesus retracing the changing urban landscape of the Holy City, according to the most recent interpretations.



St. Saviour's Monastery

History Museum

The Franciscan Custody in the Holy Land

In this section the historical tour dedicated to the Custody of the Holy Land will be laid out, recounting in an informative manner the Franciscan presence in the Holy Land beginning with St. Francis' journey at the beginning of the 13th century.

The exhibition of the historical, documentary and artistic heritage will make the museum a valuable tool for understanding the meaning of pilgrimage to the Holy Land and the role the Franciscans have played in its history, in the name of the Universal Church.

The artistic heritage of the Custody consists of sculptures, paintings, goldsmith's work, rare pharmacy jars, illuminated manuscripts, liturgical vestments and valuable archival documents.





et in cathedra

ad...

St. Saviour's Monastery
History Museum



At left:
Bull "Gratias Agimus" of Pope Clement VI, 1342 (certified copy 1363), parchment from the archives of the Custody of the Holy Land;

Firman from 1690 in which the Sultan acceded to the demands transmitted by Venice that the Holy Places, usurped by the Greeks, be restored to the Franciscans.



Eight hundred years of passionate events

The Franciscan presence in Jerusalem officially dates from the beginning of the 14th century. With his papal bull in 1342 Clement VI gave legal recognition to the Custody of the Holy Land. This recognition was acknowledged in 1347, in the earliest Mameluke document preserved in the archives. Since then the "friars of the cord" have ceaselessly aided pilgrims and watched over the Holy Places, providing a continuous testimony up to the present day, frequently under dramatic conditions.



Sicut erat

Domine saluum me

St. Saviour's Monastery
History Museum

1. Francis and the Crusades
2. The Custody
3. Pilgrims
4. The resident community
5. Gifts from Europe
6. Popes in the Holy Land





The historical tour in the Museum, organized in 4 sections and presented in 20 rooms, will follow a logical order based on the “missions” of the Franciscans in the Holy Land:

- Guardianship: presence at the Holy Places (liturgy, remembrance, study).
- Welcoming: hospitality, promotion of pilgrimages and aid to pilgrims.
- Charity: service to the local Christian community (spiritual and pastoral assistance, instruction, employment).
- International nature of the Custody and its centuries-long relationship with Christian Europe.

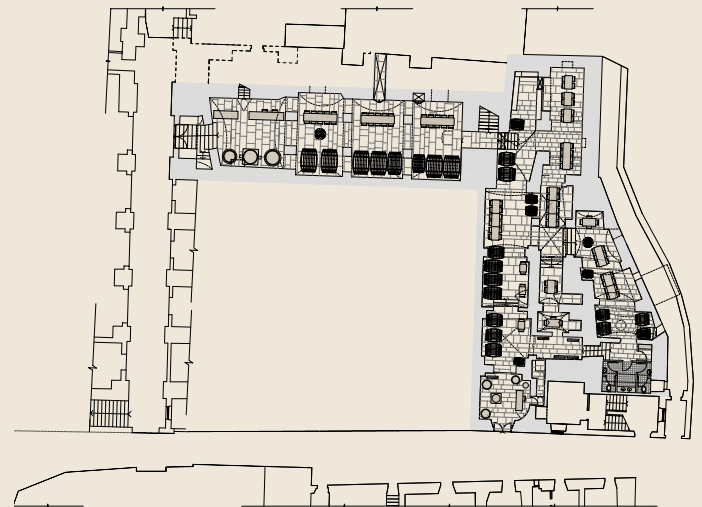


St. Saviour's Monastery
History Museum

Wine cellar

The area to be restored, within the ancient wine cellar at St. Saviour's Monastery, will provide for 100-150 places. The furnishings, simple and functional, will be accompanied by an informative display using materials from the wine cellar, recounting its history.

The reuse of a number of the wine barrels and other implements used for making wine will further illustrate this activity that was carried out by the friars for many years.

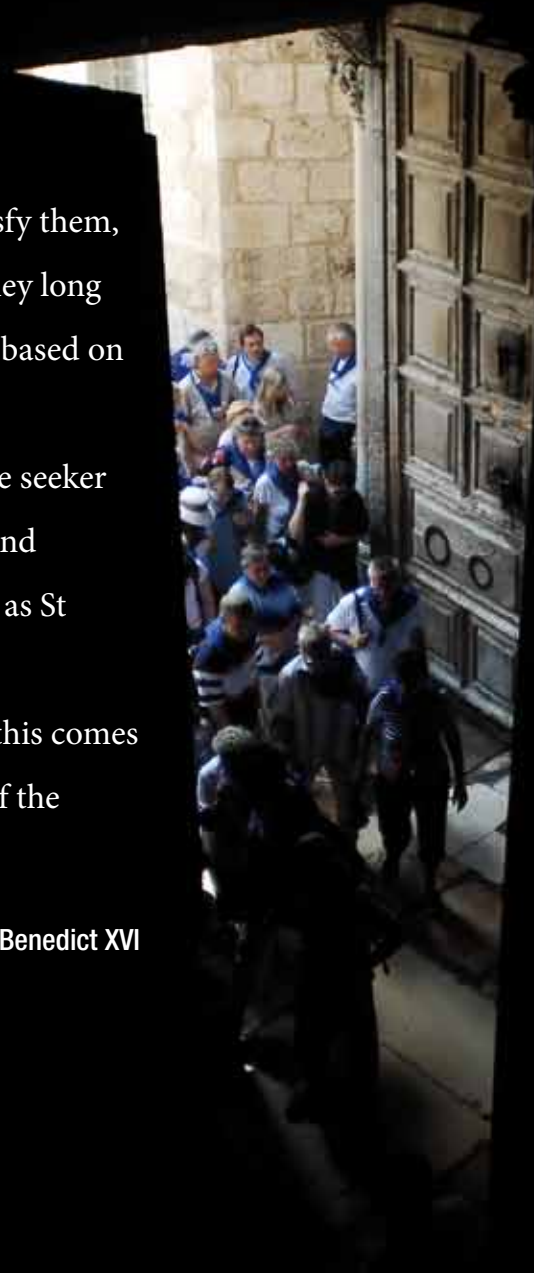


Men and women, after all, know well what does not satisfy them, but they cannot imagine or define what the happiness they long for in their hearts would be like. One cannot know God based on human desire alone.

From this point of view he remains a mystery: man is the seeker of the Absolute, seeking with small and hesitant steps. And yet, already the experience of desire, of a “restless heart” as St Augustine called it, is very meaningful.

Eyes recognize things when they are illuminated. From this comes a desire to know the light itself, what makes the things of the world shine and with them ignites the sense of beauty.

Benedict XVI



A photograph of a church with several large domes, silhouetted against a bright sky. A single ray of sunlight cuts through the clouds from the top right. The foreground shows a stone wall and a tiled roof.

Your name in history

A ray of sunlight is sufficient to sweep away many shadows.

St. Francis of Assisi



The commitment of supporters

We are seeking supporters to underwrite this unique project and establish a solid and durable link with the Holy City of Jerusalem. It is possible for their name (family or institution) to be linked to a section or an individual room in the Museum.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT
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ASSOCIAZIONE PRO TERRA SANCTA
CUSTODY OF THE HOLY LAND

Bank Transfer

Banca Etica

Account Name: Terra Sancta Museum

IBAN IT35X 05018 01600 000000144474

BIC CCRTIT2T84A



Inauguration: 2015
www.terrasanctamuseum.org

FOUNDING INSTITUTIONS



The friars of the Custody of the Holy Land are a religious brotherhood who have been called by God from every corner of the world for a special mission: to watch over the places of the Redemption. They belong to a religious order of the Catholic Church, the Order of Friars Minor, known as the Franciscans. Their founder, St. Francis of Assisi, went to the Middle East at the beginning of the 13th century to "touch" the places which, still today, offer an irreplaceable testimony to God's revelation and his love for mankind.



Academic institution for research and teaching of the Holy Scriptures and the archaeology of the Bible Lands. In 1901 the Custody of the Holy Land began plans for such a center, and the SBF has been in continuous operation since 1924. In 2001 it became the Faculty of Biblical Sciences and Archaeology. It offers courses leading to both the licentiate and doctoral degrees in Biblical Studies and Archaeology in its facilities at the Monastery of the Flagellation. The SBF will provide scientific and technical consulting services for the project.

SCIENTIFIC COMMISSION TERRA SANCTA MUSEUM

Eugenio Alliata, Director Archaeological Museum,
 Studium Biblicum Franciscanum

Ibrahim Nahib, Guardian Monastery of the Flagellation
 and Professor of New Testament Exegesis

Tomislav Vuk, Professor of Near Eastern Biblical Philology

Stephane Milovitch, Discreet of the Holy Land, Guardian
 St. Catherine's Convent

Massimo Pazzini, Dean SBF and Professor of Biblical
 Hebrew and Syriac

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE TERRA SANCTA MUSEUM

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Massimo Capuani, **Elena Croci**, **Guido della Frera**,
Doni Ferrari, **Marco Galateri di Genola**,
Monica Masolo, **Tommaso Saltini**

PROJECT MANAGER AND SPONSOR



Nonprofit NGO recognized by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, an association serving the Custody of the Holy Land, charged with carrying out the project and coordinating fundraising activities.

Tommaso Saltini, Director

Carla Benelli, Curator of Artistic and Cultural Heritage

Anna Colombi, Secretary

www.proterrasancta.org

Deloitte.

Deloitte, one of the largest professional services firms in Italy and the world, has supplied its own professionals to carry out a feasibility study for the project based on information supplied by the project promoters, with the aim of providing guidance regarding the economic-financial evolution of the initiatives related to the project.

SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR

Eugenio Alliata

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Simone Facchinetti

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Staff involved in the project

Alessandro Polo

Gianni Naoni

Daniele De Santis

Davide Piazza

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Artistic management, supervision of layout

GTRF Tortelli e Frassoni Architetti Associati

Supervision of construction and reinforced concrete calculations, supervision of plant installation

Ettore Soranzo, Technical Office, Custody of the Holy Land

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**TO SUPPORT THE PROJECT,
DEDICATED BANK ACCOUNT:**

**Associazione pro Terra Sancta
Custody of the Holy Land**

Bank Transfer – Banca Etica

Account Name: Terra Sancta Museum

IBAN Code: IT35X 05018 01600 000000144474

BIC Code: CCRIT2T84A

Pictures:

Cover: Carillon bells from the Crusader period (12th-13th c.) found in 1863 during the renovation and consolidation of the Franciscan monastery in Bethlehem

Page 3: Gilded bronze crucifix from the Crusader period

Page 6: Model of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in wood and mother-of-pearl

Page 7: Choral codex on parchment, gift of King Henry IV of England to the friars of the Monastery of Mount Zion (late 14th c.)

Page 8: Byzantine-era capital decorated with cross (6th c.)

Page 9: Entrance to the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem

Pages 12-13: Lamps found during excavation of the "House of Peter" in Capernaum (1st c. BC – 1st c. AD)

Page 17: Precious objects from the Archaeological Museum, evidence of the different eras and cultures that have succeeded one another in the lands of the Bible

Page 20: Albarello (majolica pharmacy jar), Venetian manufacture (late 18th c.)

Page 21: Miniature with St. Francis receiving the Stigmata, from *Psalterium cum notis (musicis)* 14 (15th c.)

Page 23: Friedrich Pacher, *Jesus walking on the water* (c. 1485), oil on panel, detail

Page 29: Sarcophagi from the Herodian necropolis at *Dominus flevit*, Jerusalem (1st c. AD)

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In support of the Custody of the Holy Land