

Bethlehem: Don't forget the elderly

Raising funds for the elderly population of Bethlehem.

"Taking charge of certain things that do not receive due attention is a trait of the Christian presence in the Holy Land, for example promoting the notion of respect and dignity of women." - P. Pizzaballa, Guardian of the Holy Land

Today's difficult political and economical situation of Bethlehem affects the weakest members of the population the most, namely children and the elderly. With many families living with no income and the weight of the world on their shoulders, they struggle to take care of their elderly, and as a result we encounter more and more cases of neglect.



Goals and activities

The Custody of the Holy Land, together with the parish priest and friars present in Bethlehem want to support and take care of Bethlehem's elderly community, a large number of whom live alone. Furthermore, the Custody wishes to work alongside Bethlehem's Antonian Charitable Society. Today, the nuns called "Gianelline", work with patience, dedication and not without difficulties, putting all of their energy into welcoming the elderly, societies forgotten members. Unfortunately, meals, medication, water and electricity don't come for free. Most of the women at the home don't have a family and so fees are rarely paid.

With the funds raised for the elderly people in Bethlehem, we wish to **deal with the most crucial emergencies** of the Holy Land, which are mainly connected to the purchasing of **medical equipment and medicines**, as well as to bear the costs of operations in hospitals and subsequent medical care. Furthermore, we aim to **complete and improve the structural extension** of the house in Bethlehem. The objective is to set up a home for the elderly men in Bethlehem, in the Holy Land. At

present, this structure is almost completely finished: in order to accommodate its first guests it is necessary to purchase some furnishings, mattresses, beds and medical and first aid equipment.



The project's success is thanks to the Custody of the Holy Land's Franciscan friars.

The project gets realized in place in collaboration with the Franciscan parish of Saint Catherine. The parish, through the young people and family centers makes every effort to give help and comfort to the population respecting the most urgent needs.

To find out more: www.proterrasancta.org

Email: info@proterrasancta.org

Support the Holy Places and maintain the Christian Community in the Holy Land!

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ATS Pro Terra Sancta is the non-governmental charitable organization at the service of the Custody of the Holy Land. The mission of the NGO is to serve the Franciscan friars of the Holy Land in its proper task of: maintaining and promoting the Holy Places, keeping up the Christian Community in the Middle East, advancing peace and dialogue.

The Franciscan friars remind in their priors the supporters of the Holy Land