

Jerusalem, Stones of memory

Fundraising to support the poorest Christian families living in the Holy City.

"It is essential to strongly encourage and support those who choose to remain faithful to the holy land so that it does not become an archaeological site deprived of religious activity. To these people, I offer my unrelenting support to the initiatives underway, which will lend to the growing socio-economic conditions necessary to aid Christians who remain in their homeland. I urge the church to lend its heartfelt support." - Pope Benedict XVI

The old city of Jerusalem, which is classified as a UNESCO world heritage site, is subdivided into four quarters: Christian, Armenian, Jewish and Muslim. This Holy City for Christianity, Judaism and Islam has become a stage for growing tensions. The Custody of the Holy Land has owned 400 residential units that are allocated to Christian families in need, who pay the institute a symbolic rent. Many of these dwellings are run down, crumbling, insecure buildings, which provide an unsafe living environment for residents. Tensions, overpopulation, poverty and unsafe living conditions force an increasingly number of Christians to choose to move away.



Goals and activities

The main objective of this project is to **take care of a Christian Jerusalem** and to **preserve the Christian presence in the Holy Land**.

We aim to improve the quality of daily life, returning some dignity to Christian families, carrying out the **renovation work** needed for a better quality of life. This in turn will lead to less people choosing to move away, something that is leading to the extinction of Christianity in the site of the passion and resurrection of Jesus Christ. These interventions will also be useful in **reclaiming land** that sits unused today.

The most urgent problems that need to be addressed are

that of restoring the electric and heating systems and stabilizing buildings in danger of collapse. Many homes suffer from damp conditions which can be hazardous to the residents' health.



The completion of this complex schedule of works, compiled by the technical department of the Custody of the Holy Land, will allow us to action an **architecturally appropriate plan of conservation**, respecting the urban core and historical and artistic characteristics of the buildings. The activities will involve people, **creating job opportunities** for young local architects, engineers and workers.

To find out more: www.proterrasancta.org

www.jerusalemstonesofmemory.org

Email: info@proterrasancta.org

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

ATS – Holy Land Association
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<http://www.proterrasancta.org/en/help>

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.