



A project of the  
Custody of the Holy Land



PRO TERRA SANCTA

in support of the Custody of the Holy Land

## **Studium Biblicum Franciscanum: Library**

**Restoration and enlargement of the library to improve teaching activities and biblical and archeological research in Jerusalem.**

### **The context**

The Franciscans of the Order of Friars Minor have lived in the southeast region of the Mediterranean since the Order was founded in 1209 by Saint Francis. They have had the task of protecting the Holy Sites in the Holy Land in the name of Christianity since the 13th century, a task given to it by the Church.

Jerusalem, a holy site for Christianity, Judaism and Islam, has become a stage for growing tensions. The Old city with its ancient walls is situated in the Eastern part and is classified as a UNESCO world heritage site. The Custody of the Holy Land and the Studium Biblicum Franciscanum (SBF) are located within the Old city, which represents the center of their activities.

ATS Pro Terra Sancta is the Custody's charitable NGO (Non-governmental organization) in the Holy Land which promotes the projects of the Franciscans in order to fulfill their duties of maintaining the Holy Sites of Christianity, supporting the Christian presence in the Middle East and promoting peace and dialogue.



### **The Studium Biblicum Franciscanum**

The Studium Biblicum Franciscanum of Jerusalem (SBF) is the Faculty of Biblical Sciences and Archaeology of the Pontificia Universitas Antonianum in Rome. In 1901, the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land began planning a center for biblical studies in Jerusalem and these plans led to the establishment of the SBF in 1924. Located inside the Flagellation Monastery in the Via Dolorosa, the SBF offers degree and non-degree programs of studies in biblical interpretation and in archaeology.

**The SBF conducts biblical research** under a linguistic, historical, exegetical and environmental point of view. It focuses furthermore on the biblical archeology and in particular on the excavation of sites associated with sites associated with the New Testament and early Christianity in the Middle East.

**The SBF offers courses** leading to both the licentiate (S.S.L.) and the doctoral (S.S.D.) degrees in Biblical Studies and Archaeology and to diplomas in Oriental Biblical Studies and Archaeology and in Biblical Formation. The SBF also organizes conventions and offers a program of continuing education for those who serve as guides to pilgrims.

**Attached to the SBF is a museum** housing the more significant artifacts from the excavations sponsored by the SBF. Founded in 1902, the museum is designed to serve not only students but also pilgrims and visitors to the Holy Land. Individual rooms in the museum are devoted to some of particularly important sites such as Nazareth, Capernaum, Mt. Nebo, the Herodion, and the monasteries of the Judean desert.

### **The library**

The SBF owns a library, which is open to public and specialized in holdings in archaeology, the ancient Near East, biblical studies, patristics, early Judaism, and itineraries of the Holy Land. Its collection numbers about 50,000 volumes including 420 journals.

### **The objectives**

**The main objective of this project is the Restoration and enlargement of the SBF library**

In particular it is necessary to:

- Enlarge the library's spaces by adapting new rooms;
- Restore and equip the existing space in order to improve the exhibition and conservation of books;
- Provide the library with a new electrical, heating and air conditioning system which will improve the use of the library by visitors. Security aspects will also be improved together with the installation of a fire alarm system.

**To find out more:** [www.proterrasancta.org](http://www.proterrasancta.org)

**Email:** [infoats@custodia.org](mailto:infoats@custodia.org)

**Support the Holy Places. Maintain the Christian Community in the Holy Land.**

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**According to our estimates the project will cost in total 195,000 Euros.**

**ATS Pro Terra Sancta** is the non-governmental charitable organization of the Franciscans in the Holy Land. The mission of the NGO is to serve the Custody 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.

Responsible: Fr. Claudio Bottini, ofm

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