



In support of the Custody of the Holy Land

Annual Report 2017

Prospects and Priorities



Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore



This report has been produced with guidance of Dr. Piera Benaglio from ALTIS (the Postgraduate School Business & Society of the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Milan).

The report has been written with reference, where compatible, to the guidelines on drafting Annual Reports for non-profit organizations.

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This report is available on the website

www.proterritoriansancta.org

and a copy can be requested by emailing

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Archive of the Association pro Terra Sancta

Archive of the Custody of the Holy Land

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Annual Report 2017

Prospects and Priorities

Dear friends, supporters, volunteers, collaborators,
the year 2017 was particularly significant for us, because exactly 800 years ago our Order opened to a missionary and universal dimension on the occasion of the Pentecost Chapter held at Saint Mary of the Angels at the Porziuncola in Assisi. It was established to send Friars all over the known world as witnesses of peace and fraternity. It is on the same occasion that a group of Friars was sent to the Holy Land, under the guidance of Fr. Elia da Cortona, to found a Franciscan Province initially called "beyond the sea" or Province of Syria.

That was the beginning of what is today called "Custody of the Holy Land", a great international reality: we are in fact around 270 Friars of 44 different nationalities. This reality seeks to live the Franciscan life which is above all an evangelical life of prayer and fraternity at the service of the Church and of the people. From the Universal Church we received the mandate to keep the Holy Places of Christendom. We safeguard about fifty sanctuaries, where we are called to have a personal experience of the encounter with God in the first place and where pilgrims themselves can have an experience of faith and read the Word of God in the same place where this Word was announced and became flesh.

We carry out pastoral service in about thirty Latin rite parishes and take care of the "living stones", the Christians of the Middle East, that remain in the various countries at the cost of great sacrifices. We are very committed in the educational and social sector, through the 15 Franciscan Terra Santa schools that welcome around 10,000 students. We are also very committed to supporting the Christian presence in the Middle East by creating job opportunities and the renovation of apartments, about 600, that are rented to local Christians at a very symbolic price. Moreover, we also support immigrants and refugees. Our commitment to immigrants is linked to the phenomenon of globalization: in Israel, as well as in Syria and Cyprus, the migrant community, especially foreign workers coming from Asia, is significant.

Therefore I wish - through the Association pro Terra Sancta - to thank you for supporting projects that are part of this precious reality of service to the whole Church and ask you to remember us Friars in your prayers, as we try to fulfill our vocation in the Holy Land and throughout the Middle East. I ask you to pray for the people entrusted to us, especially for those that are affected by war. May the Lord give his Peace to each and every one of you, to your families and to your communities, and especially to this land that was made holy by His presence.



**Fr. Francesco
Patton**

Custos of the Holy Land
and President of the
Association
pro Terra Sancta

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. Francesco Patton".

Dear friends,

I would simply like to thank you for the work done together in 2017, aimed at bringing concrete support to many families affected by the war, and to charitable and educational works, with particular care for the children and the neediest people. I would also like to thank in a special way the many active supporters that helped us promote preservation activities of the Holy Places and cultural events with the aim of witnessing to the people around the world the richness of the land where Jesus lived. Thanks to your contribution we have tried to facilitate the understanding of History and to witness all the beauty that men from all over the world were able to leave in the Holy Land.

It is our desire to foster and strengthen bonds between the Holy Land and the world and your cooperation to preserve the Holy Places is a unique opportunity to live a special relation with this Land that we all love.

This report you are reading describes our work in numbers: the resources collected and used, together with the beneficiaries that we were able to reach. Over the last decade, our association was born and has grown constantly and we have been able to carry on several preservation, education and development projects always in cooperation with the Franciscan Friars of the Custody of the Holy Land; we intervened quickly to support humanitarian emergencies and we have promoted several initiatives, with the desire to embrace every aspect of this reality, that is controversial and fascinating at the same time.

Our projects - which you support in various ways - create spaces and opportunities for dialogue and foster the desire to share good and beauty, to witness a certainty of faith, capable of opening up to the encounter with the Christian brothers of the Eastern churches as well as with the faithful of other religions.

I renew the invitation, also on behalf of the collaborators and volunteers present in the Holy Land, to organize a trip with us, to visit us, visit the places where we work and meet the Franciscan Friars and local communities with whom we are involved in carrying out the projects we will tell you about in this report.



Tommaso Saltini

Director General
Association
pro Terra Sancta

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tommaso Saltini".





About us

I can do all this through him who gives me strength (Phil 4:13)



Mission



To foster bonds
between the Holy Land
and the world



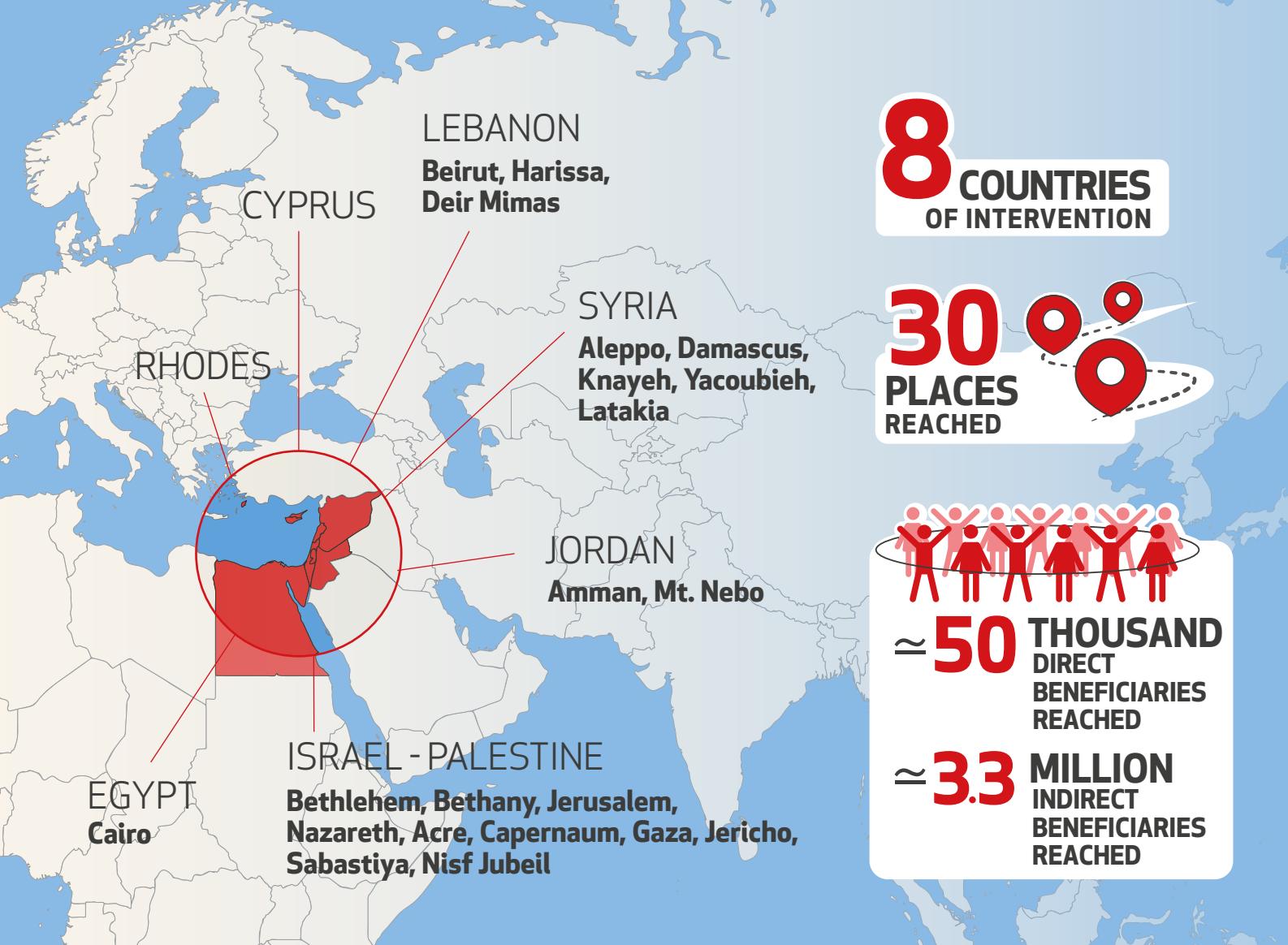
About us

We are a non profit organization that carries out projects for the preservation of the Holy Places, support to local communities and aid in humanitarian emergencies. We are present in the Middle East, in places where the Franciscan Friars of the Custody of the Holy Land reside.

Participating to the work of the Association pro Terra Sancta means to love the Holy Land in the places and people. It means living a lasting bond with the Holy Places and the ancient Christian communities by getting involved in all religious, cultural and social aspects.



Association pro Terra Sancta in numbers




28
FULL-TIME COLLABORATORS


200
VOLUNTEERS


9 MILLIONS
FUNDS COLLECTED


30,000
DONORS


25,000
FOLLOWERS ON FACEBOOK


26,000
NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIBERS



“You shall know the tree by its fruits”

The Custody of the Holy Land and the tireless efforts of the Friars Minor in the Middle East

The Custody of the Holy Land, with whom the Association pro Terra Sancta cooperates actively, has an ancient history, which dates back to more than 800 years ago. It is currently configured as a large, well structured reality in different areas: archaeological, cultural and social. First of all there is the care and preservation of the Holy Places (and the maintenance of the 55 sanctuaries connected to them), a mission received from the Universal Church in 1342, and then, of course, the pastoral activity of the Franciscans that is carried out in 24 parishes and in many churches, chapels and sanctuaries. It should be emphasized that the Custody takes care of the three largest Latin parishes throughout the Holy Land: Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Nazareth. The Friars also have a

parish presence rooted in Syria and Lebanon, in large cities as in some smaller villages. The activities taking place in these Arab speaking communities, are many and very articulated: catechesis, celebration of the sacraments, youth support activities. A new pastoral reality to which the Franciscans have recently opened is that of immigrants, especially Catholics coming from all over the world. These faithful, mostly women, are in the Middle East for work reasons, forced by the difficult economic situations in their countries. Within this pastoral ministry we should include other works and other social realities of the Custody: schools, colleges, homes for students, after-school, craft workshops, women's workshops, parish circles, homes for the elderly people, summer camps, surges-



CUSTODIA
TERRÆ
SANCTÆ

ries. The pilgrims who come to the Holy Land meet the Franciscans almost exclusively in the sanctuaries, but it is important to remember their presence in the pastoral field and their commitment to the needy and the poor, both Christian and non-Christian.

Our history...



2002

Founding of the Association pro Terra Sancta.

2006

Start of operations. The first volunteers and collaborators arrive in Jerusalem.

2007

Start of the first preservation and development projects and support activities to schools and educational works.

2008

Start of the project in Sabastiya. First emergency campaign in support of the population in Gaza.

2009

The restoration of houses in the Old City of Jerusalem begins. First Christmas campaign in support of the children in Bethlehem.

2010

Start of the project in support of the Terra Santa Schools.

2011

Start of the Terra Sancta Museum project. Support to Egypt and Syria through the opening of four reception centers.

2012

New opening of headquarters in Milan. Start of the project in support of the elderly people in Bethlehem.

2013

Launch of the campaign in support of Aleppo: health emergency and distribution of water.

2014

Start of works for the redevelopment of the archeological site in Bethany, next to the tomb of Lazarus. Launch of the campaign for the restoration of the Grotto in Nazareth.

2015

Projects in support of refugees in Jordan, Lebanon and Rhodes are strengthened.

2016

Start of the project for reconstruction of houses destroyed by the war in Syria.

2017

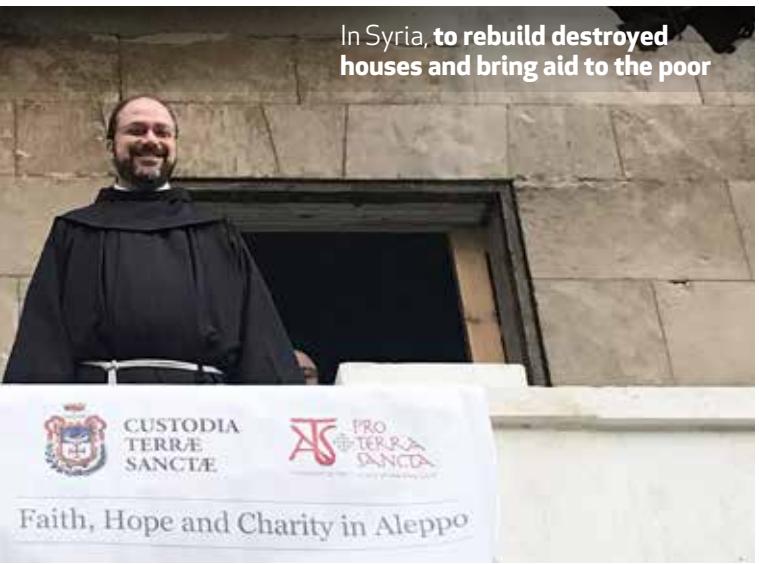
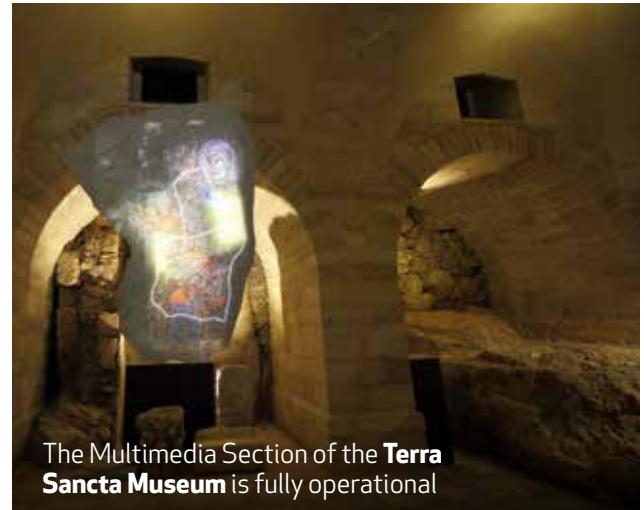
Promotion of cultural activities to foster the encounter between local communities in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Amman and Damascus.



Opening of the New Guest House in Bethlehem



...and our achievements in 2017



Areas of activities

Association pro Terra Sancta

The activities of the Association pro Terra Sancta are organized in three areas of activity:

**PRESERVATION
AND DEVELOPMENT**

**EDUCATION
AND SUPPORT**

**EMERGENCIES
IN THE MIDDLE EAST**

In this report we wish to show the areas of activities and their social impact in the Holy Land.



Preservation and Development

By contributing to the preservation of the Holy Places, the Association pro Terra Sancta is committed to raising awareness of their value in all local communities, including Jews and Muslims. The preservation and development activities are also an opportunity to train skilled workers and craftsmen, create job opportunities for young people (particularly women and people with disabilities) and generate income sources through social and cultural activities linked to sustainable tourism.

The recovery and enhancement of cultural heritage is also a way to foster meeting and coexistence among different peoples living in this land that was chosen and loved by God.

Education and Support

Education and Support projects give assistance to the poorest and neediest. They are focused on the education of new generations to build hope for a future of peace and development. Various projects have been carried out both directly and in collaboration with charitable works in the Holy Land, to assist the needy (with particular attention to disabled children and women with difficulties) and to train the new generations of young people. We support children with disabilities, elderly people, poor families, caring for women in particular.

Finally we are very committed to provide medical and health assistance to people who cannot afford to pay essential care.

Emergencies in the Middle East

The humanitarian emergencies in the Middle East are still very dramatic, particularly in the region called "Saint Paul Region" (Lebanon, Syria, Jordan). Violent fighting is still taking place within walking distance from some of the most important Holy Places of our faith.

Our projects in support of the population cover the distribution of primary needs goods (including medicines) and, where possible, the reconstruction of what has been destroyed by the war, in order to encourage the rebirth and the development of the civil society.





Places and Beneficiaries

Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me (Mt. 25:40)



Syria



Aid to the people affected by war

In the context of the war in Syria, the Association pro Terra Sancta coordinates centers for emergency, assistance and development in Damascus, Aleppo, Latakia and Knayeh, Yacoubieh.

The aid is articulated in several activities such as: **aid and support to the needy and the poor, medical assistance and distribution of medicines, help in study activities, education for children and young people, renovation of damaged buildings such as houses, monasteries and churches.**



ALEPPO

Projects

Beneficiaries



Emergency

Regular distribution of food, water, medicines and vouchers for the purchase of medicines and fuel (for electricity generators and heat).

Distribution of clothes, soap, hygiene products, diapers and milk powder for children.

Education and Support

Support to the Rosary School in Aleppo and to the school for deaf-mute children near Er Ram. The Association covers all current expenses for the year and 50% of the teachers' monthly wages.

After school activities, sport activities and playgrounds for children and their families at the Terre Sainte College.

Preservation and Development

Support for the renovation of houses damaged by war.

11,330 families

\approx 25,000 students

51 children with disabilities

500 families

KNAYEH E YACOUBIEH*

Projects

Beneficiaries



Emergency

Emergency centers were opened in the monasteries of Knayeh and Yacoubieh for the distribution of food, medicines and medical expenses, fuel vouchers for electricity and heating purposes, clothes, soap and hygiene products, diapers and milk powder for children.

Education and Support

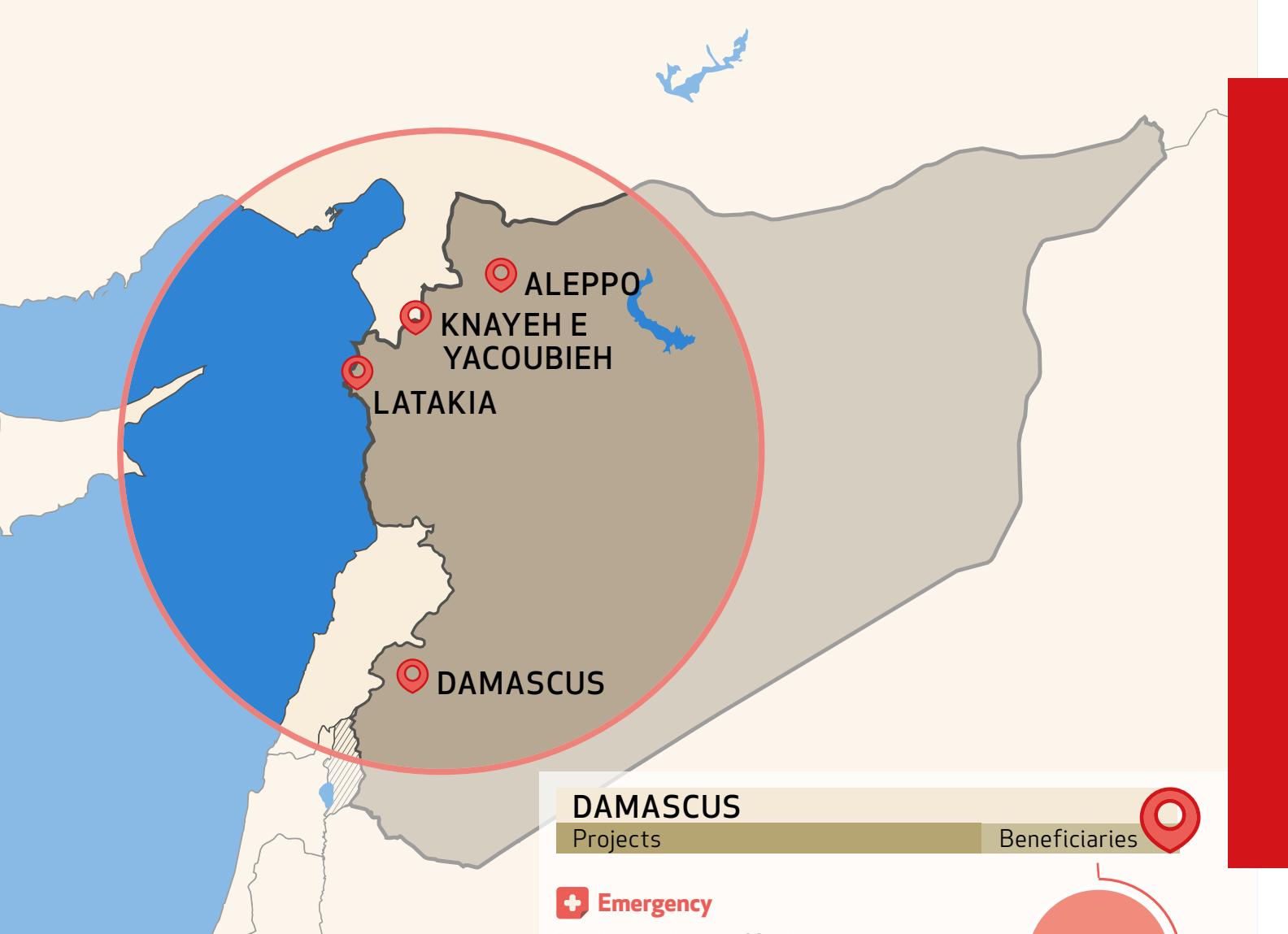
Regular school courses for children from Christian families; in this way Christian teachers are also given the opportunity to work.

240 families

42 children and their families

11 local teachers

* Since 2012 the two cities are under the control of Islamic militia that make it difficult to carry on activities.



LATAKIA

Projects

Beneficiaries

Emergency

An emergency center was established at the Franciscan monastery in Latakia for the regular distribution of food, medicines and vouchers for medicines, fuel vouchers for electricity and heating purposes, clothes, soap and hygiene products, diapers and milk powder for children.

300 families

Educazione e Assistenza

Help to students by covering the expenses of school materials (books, stationery, part of school fees).

150 students
and their families

DAMASCUS

Projects

Beneficiaries

Emergency

Regular distribution of food vouchers, medicines and medical prescriptions, fuel for electricity and heat, clothes, soap and hygiene products, diapers and milk powder for children.

Education and Support

Help and support for the kindergarten: purchase of new chairs and tables; purchase of new toys for children; purchase of new cabinets; purchase of materials for teaching; 20% of theachers monthly salary; renovation of rooms. Help for university students training.

Assistance and support for the sick people of the Franciscan reception center in Tabbaleh. Financial support of cancer patients and chronically sick people to cover with annual costs of hospital/center care. Main activities: partial coverage of expenses for medical treatment; purchase of medicines; patients reception costs; food expenses in order to grant patients at least one daily meal.

Preservation and Developement

Start of works for preservation at the Franciscan parish in Bab Touma and the center of Damascus/House of Saint Ananias.

500 families

200 babies

200 youths of the parish youth club

150 children

70 university students

42 patients
hospitalized in the cancer center

30 people
helped thanks to the distribution of medicines

≈ 25,000 visitors

Lebanon, Jordan, Greece, Egypt



Support to Iraqi and Syrian refugees

Our primary aim is to help the Iraqi and Syrian Christian refugees all over the Middle East by supporting Franciscan works and charities in the countries affected by humanitarian crisis.

With this project we want to improve the living conditions of a population that has been marginalized, often because of their faith, forced to flee their homes and who are currently in a situation of great vulnerability.



LEBANON Beirut, Harissa, Deir Mimas

Projects

Emergency

Aid to families and poor Iraqi, Syrian and Lebanese people in the Harissa area, through the distribution of food, clothes, medicines and the partial coverage of medical prescriptions, medical expenses and school supplies for children. The project supported: elderly people housed in nursing homes and others who still live in their homes; some children of the area who beg for charity; families with seriously ill people; a few families that need economic support to purchase school supplies for their children.

Education and Support

Economic support to purchase school supplies and cover school fees of young students (both high school and university students); economic support for monthly house rents. We also cover the expenses of two educators who offer entertainment, games and activities for children for two afternoons a week and Saturday, throughout the day.

Beneficiaries

90 families

67 youths
and their families

JORDAN Amman, Nebo

Projects

Education and Support

Support for Iraqi refugees in Amman through education, vocational training and social inclusion. Micro-enterprise activities were developed for women in need and new refugee families were helped through the distribution of essential goods. Children received appropriate education.

Preservation and Development

Support to preservation projects at the Memorial of Moses on Mount Nebo. From this spot the patriarch saw the Promised Land before his death. Support for the reopening of the archaeological site.



40 families

57 students

20 women

≈ 500,000 visitors



GREECE Rhodes

Projects

Emergency

Support for refugees from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan on the island of Rhodes

Weekly distribution of food and medicines for the neediest people; help to find an accomodation; recreational and pastoral activities for children and youths, such as catechism and other moments of sharing in the parish; distribution of toys and books for children.

Beneficiaries

**80
refugees**

**300
families**

EGYPT Cairo

Projects

Education and Support

Support for the poor families of the Muski quarter.

Distribution of medicines, help in house hunting and paying its rent, especially young couples.

Support to school and recreational activities for families.

Distribution of food and medicines.

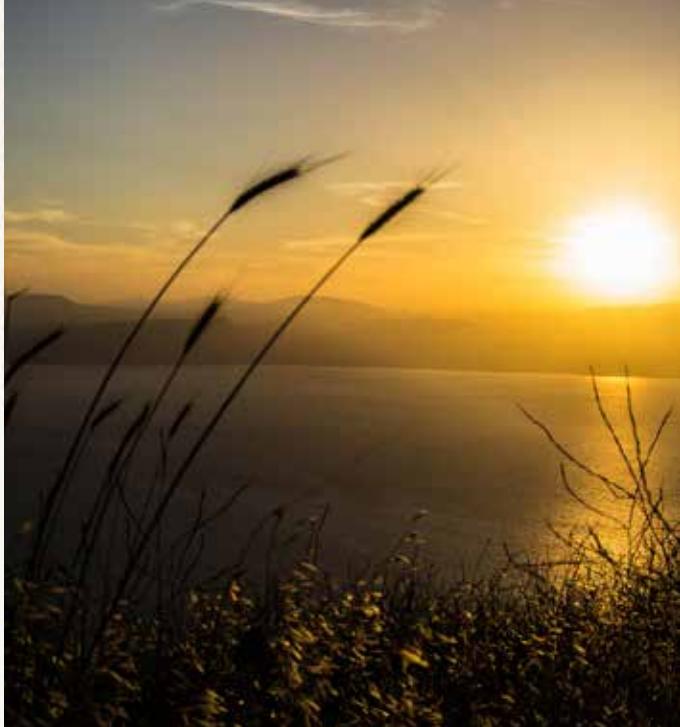
Beneficiaries

**167
families**

**52
adopted
children**

**20
students**

**10
young
couples**





Israel - Palestine

At the heart of the Holy Land

The projects of the Association pro Terra Sancta contribute to the preservation of the main Holy Places and to the development of the local communities.

All the tourists that come to the Holy Land every year (3.6 millions in 2017, almost a record), benefit from the projects that aim at the preservation of the artistic heritage, in addition to the intrinsic cultural and religious value of the work; while the Education and Support activities pave the way for social improvement.



Judea Bethlehem



Bethlehem

Projects

Education and Support

Support to the Christian presence in the Holy Land and to the people in Bethlehem through the expansion and improvement of services for development, training and assistance to those who are particularly affected by the difficult political, economic and social situation.

Counseling activities and medical assistance through the supply of medicines; support of the education and training of young people in need; support to food bank for the poor with particular attention to the neediest elderly people.

Help for dropout students to find a job or through professional courses and vocational training activities. Music therapy courses for social workers encharged with care of terminal patients. Italian courses for religious people and the local youth.

Use of spaces for hospitality, workshops for starting social and cultural activities and young people and women vocational training.

Beneficiaries



934
needy families
for a total of
8,640 meals distributed

50
children with disabilities

40
teachers

80
local workers

600
students of the Terra Santa schools

188
cronically ill people

15
friars
of the Custody
of the Holy Land





Bethlehem, Beit Sahour

Projects

Beneficiaries



Preservation and Development

Start of a project for the maintenance and restoration of the Shepherd's Field, the place where the Angel announced the birth of Jesus to the shepherds. Preservation and renovation of historic buildings. Start of micro entrepreneurial activities and shops.

Management of Guest Houses to promote social and cultural tourism aimed at deepening the knowledge of the historical heritage and local traditions.*

≈
700,000
visitors

411
welcomed
guests

* Guest Houses

Dar Al-majus



Baby Jesus Guest House





Judea Bethany



Bethany

Projects

Preservation and Development

Development of the Holy Place of the Resurrection of Lazarus and where Jesus met Lazarus' two sisters Martha and Mary. Preservation activities and development of the local community that currently lives in a socially and financially deteriorated area, through the promotion of sustainable tourism, with particular care for the most vulnerable population groups such as women and young people and the involvement of civil society organizations and local institutions; development of entrepreneurial micro-activities aimed at women in difficulty (production of soap, candles, oils), realization of cultural events for the whole society.

Education and Support

Tour guides for Palestinian schools.
Student cultural training.

The project is carried out in cooperation with the **Mosaic Centre Jericho.***

Beneficiaries



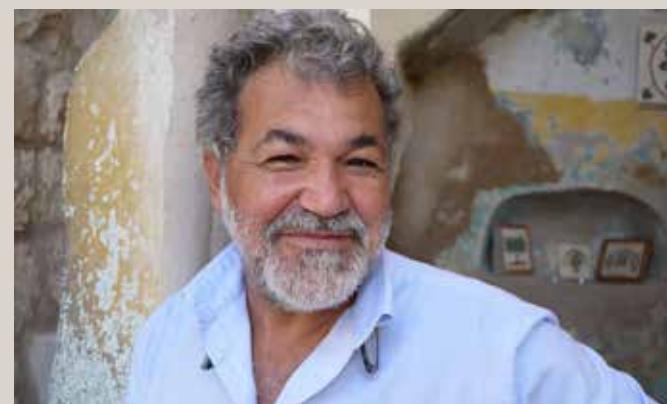
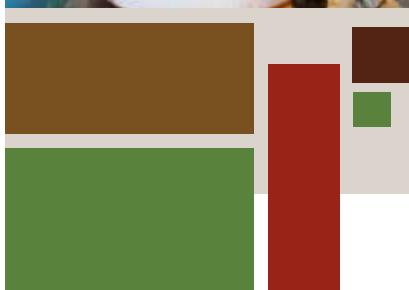


* Mosaic Centre

 Preservation and Developement

Palestinian non-profit association that operates for the protection of cultural heritage.

It carries out restoration projects of mosaics and ancient buildings, and organizes training courses aimed at preparing skilled craftsmen and restorers.





Samaria, Galilee

Sabastiya, Nisf Jubeil, Nazareth, Capernaum, Acre



Sabastiya,Nisf Jubeil

Projects

Beneficiaries



Education and Support

Aid to the local community through the creation of new job opportunities for unemployed young people and encouraging the improvement of the quality of local products to facilitate their marketing.

Preservation and Development

A substantial part of the historic center of the two villages was recovered, sustaining the economy by hiring local craftsmen and laborers in the construction site and renovating buildings for economic activities linked to tourism.

Enlargement of the guesthouse and workshop in Sabastiya/ Nisf Jubeil. All the activities are carried out in cooperation with the **Mosaic Centre Jericho**.

847
visitors
with guide

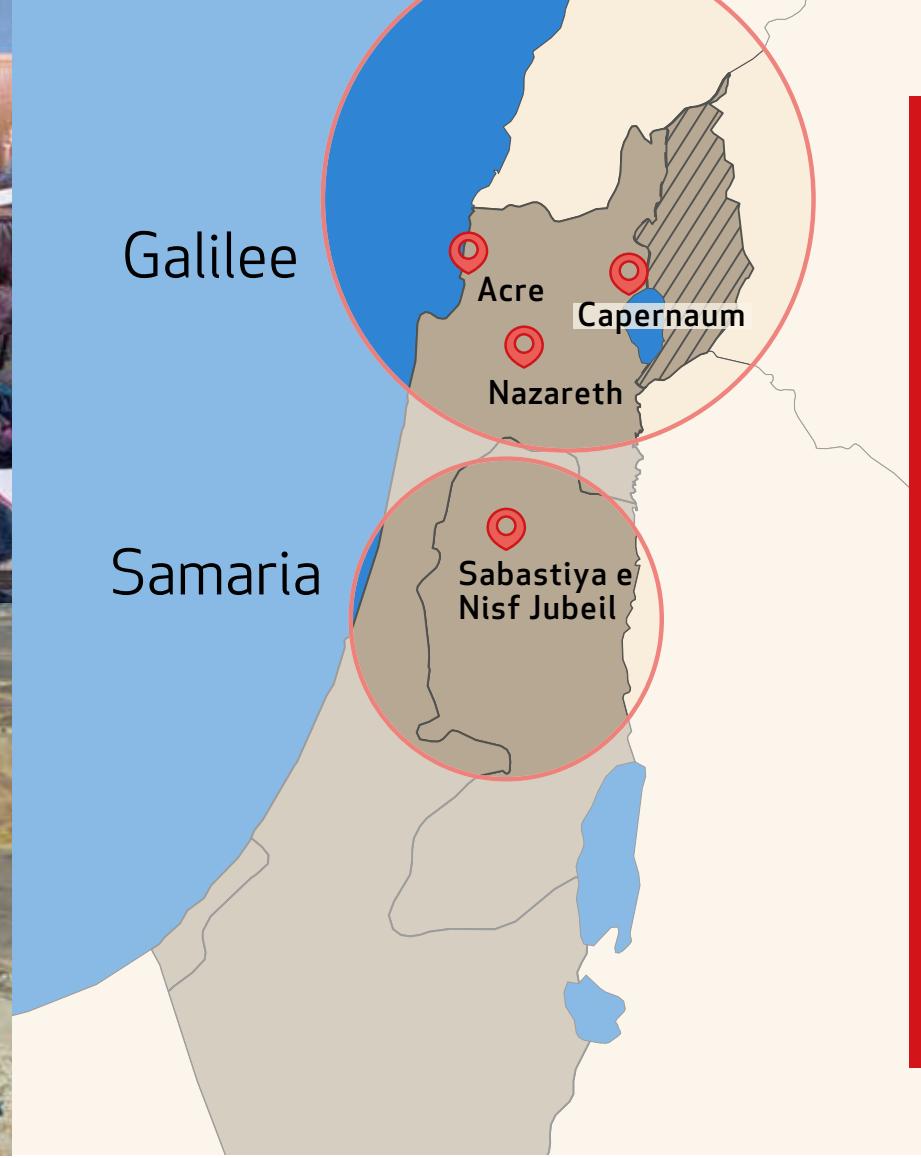
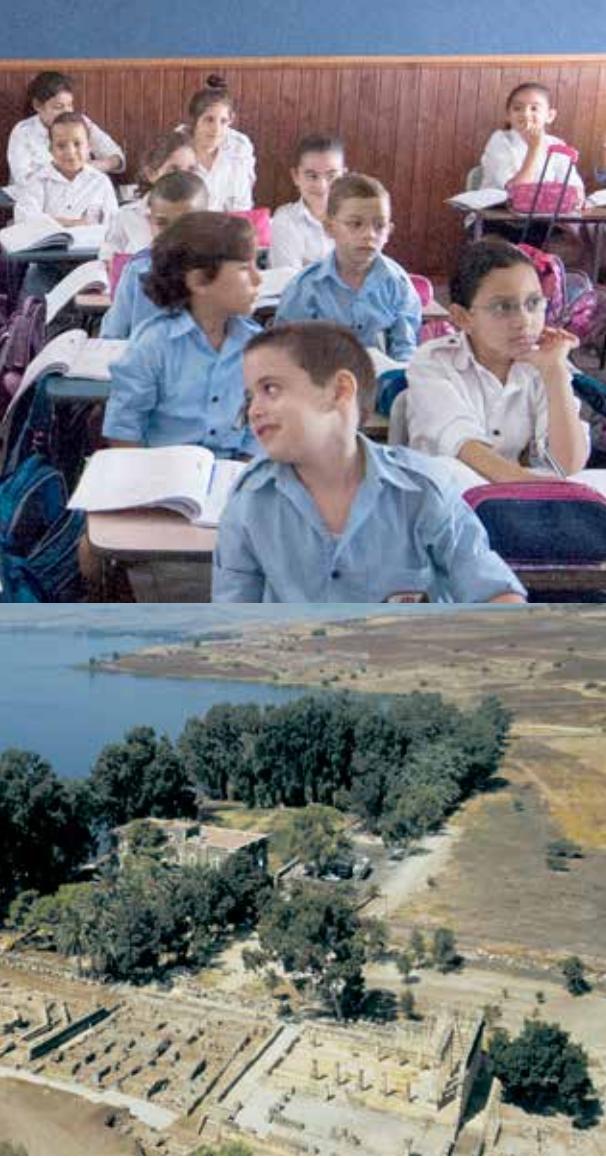
10
young
workers

Guest House

Mosaic Guest House



\approx
15,000
turists



Nazareth

Projects

Beneficiaries



Preservation and Developement

Improvements of the access to the Basilica and to the Grotto where Mary received the announcement of the Angel; support for preservation and maintenance works of the great Basilica of the Annunciation built over the house of Mary; renovation of the external part of the basilica and consolidation of the Grotto.

≈
500,000 visitors

10 employees

Capernaum

Projects

Beneficiaries



Preservation and Developement

Restoration of Byzantine mosaics in the place where Jesus lived three years of his public life.

≈
600,000 visitors

Acre

Projects

Beneficiaries



Education and Support

Support of education of the students attending the Terra Santa Schools through renewal and maintenance works.

530 students

Support of cultural activities for Christians as well as for Muslims and Jews.



Judea Jericho, Jerusalem, Gaza



Jericho

Projects

Beneficiaries

Preservation and Development

Support of training of youth and promotion of cultural and social and entrepreneurial activities.

20
palestinian
youth

\approx
2,000
visitors to
the center



Jerusalem

Projects

Beneficiaries

Education and Support

Study and training support for youths.

Promotion of events, exhibitions and meetings for Jews and Muslims.

Reception of visitors who wish to meet with local communities.

Cultural visits to the Old City.
Guided tours for students from East Jerusalem to the Terra Sancta Museum, in collaboration with the Mosaic Centre.

\approx
1,000
people

1,736
students



Gaza

Projects

Beneficiaries

Emergency

Support for the people living in conditions of great poverty through the purchase of batteries to ensure access to electricity inside homes.

40
poor
families

250
latin
cristians

Cultural Projects

Jerusalem

TERRA SANCTA MUSEUM

To the discovery of the Christian origins for dialogue and peace

A project in the heart of the Old City of Jerusalem to tell the origins of Christianity in the Holy Land. We wish to enhance the Holy Places in the Holy City and deepen our knowledge of the life of the Son of God on Earth: unique archaeological and artistic collections will reveal the history of the Christian presence in the Holy Land. The Terra Sancta Museum will be a dynamic center open to visitors of all cultures and religions with the aim of encouraging mutual understanding, respect and the encounter with Christ. The Terra Sancta Museum will also show the strong bonds between the Holy City and the local and international Christian traditions from the earliest centuries to the present day.

What has been said about this project:

"The Terra Sancta Museum will thus be able to serve as a unique laboratory for dialogue and building bridges of peace."

Fr. Michael Perry, Minister General of the Order of Friars Minors

"I regard with great esteem and confidence this project promoted by Association pro Terra Sancta. It is a useful project for everyone, both pilgrims and those from the local community and is fundamental for speaking to people today, about the 2,000 years of Christian History in the Holy Land."

Mons. Pierbattista Pizzaballa, Apostolic Administrator of the Latin Patriarchate in Jerusalem

"A place where archeology and history will recount the evangelical story, the history of the Christian community and that of the Franciscan Friars in the Holy Land".

Fr. Francesco Patton, Custos of the Holy Land and President of the Association pro Terra Sancta



Beneficiaries

≈
100
tourist guides

≈
21.000
visitors

25
teachers

10
workers

10
restorers



Jerusalem - Bethlehem **OUR HOUSE**

Preservation and Development

The Our House project aims to save the Christian identity and the places of the origins and to strengthen ties between the eastern and western communities.

We have renovated 25 abandoned houses in the historic center of Bethlehem and supported maintenance work on historic buildings of the Custody of the Holy Land in Jerusalem.

Beneficiaries

25
families in
Bethlehem

72
workers



THE TERRA SANCTA ORGAN FESTIVAL

Education and Support

The project of the Terra Sancta Organ Festival (promoted by the Custody of the Holy Land in collaboration with the Association pro Terra Sancta) promotes the study of organ in those countries where they stopped the teaching of it, such as: Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Greece, Cyprus, Egypt. The initiative has the aim of encouraging the presence of qualified organists for the benefit of the musical repertoire of those countries and to meet the growing demand for organists in the churches and choirs to serve the liturgy.

It is the largest organ festival in the Middle East and the Near East, with over 40 concerts in 28 different locations.

Beneficiaries

\approx
15,000
spectators in
8 countries

Jerusalem **BOOKS BRIDGES OF PEACE**

Preservation and Development

Cataloging, reclamation of bibliographic records and creation of authors' voices, physical and virtual exhibitions, online data publication and archiving related to the scientific journals of the Studium Biblicum Franciscanum, training and tutoring of library staff.

Consultations of the online catalog

Almost 11,000 consultation sessions carried out by more than 4,000 users for a total of approximately 54,500 pages viewed.

Consultations of the library site

Approximately 6,000 sessions performed by approximately 4,000 users for a total of over 12,000 pages viewed.

Beneficiaries

150
friars
youths
students

40
scholars
of the Holy Land
both local and
international

4,000
users
of the online
library catalog



IBREVIARY PRO TERRA SANCTA

Education and Support

iBreviary is the first Liturgy of the Hours application in the world for smartphones and tablets with daily texts for Mass and Catholic prayers.

The application was created by Fr. Paolo Padrini and is promoted both by the Custody of the Holy Land and by the Association pro Terra Sancta, with the desire to offer everyone a free service for prayer in the world in connection with the Holy Land and the Mother Church of Jerusalem.

Beneficiaries

\approx
2 million
users

\approx
108 k
new users

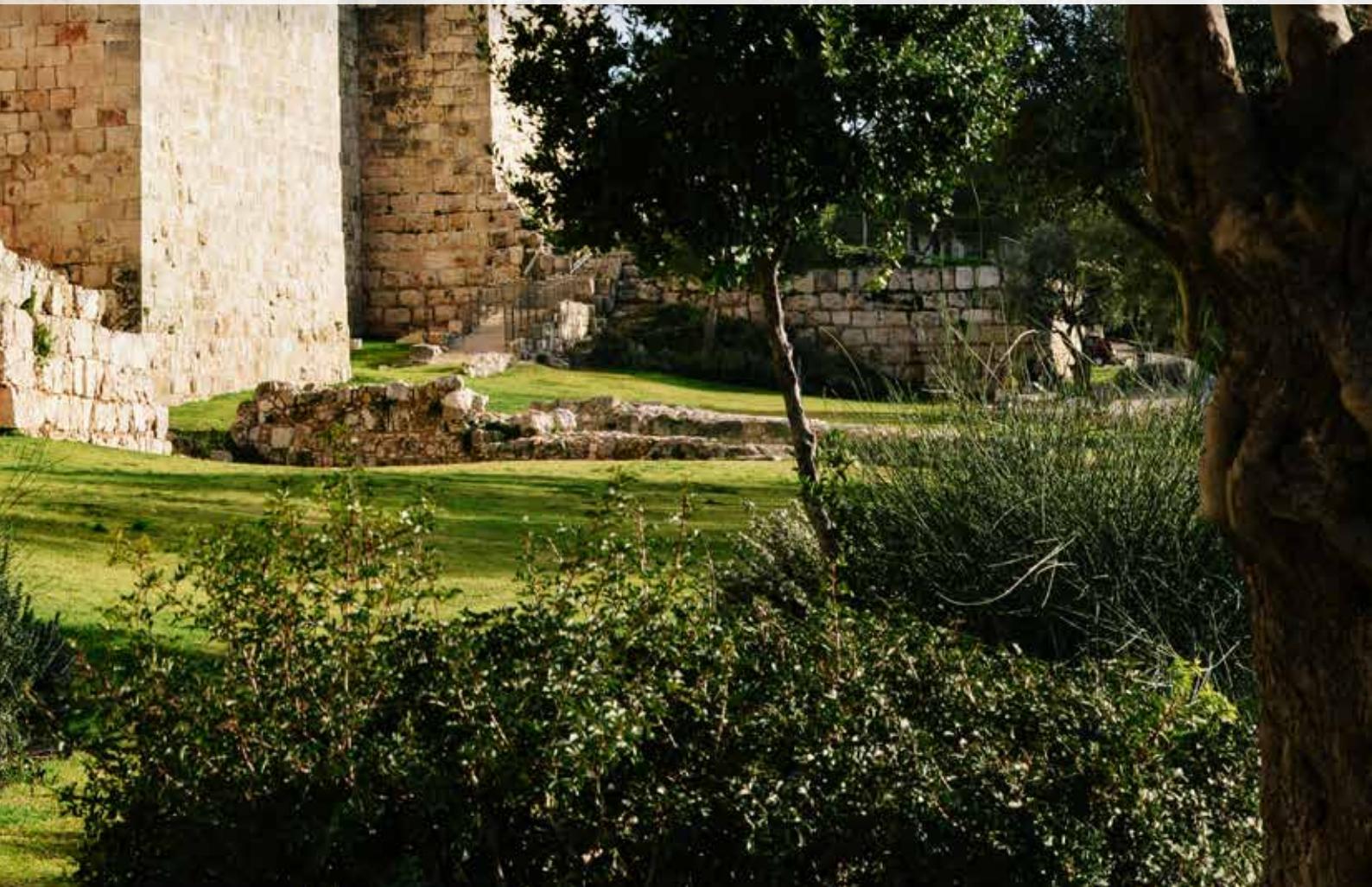






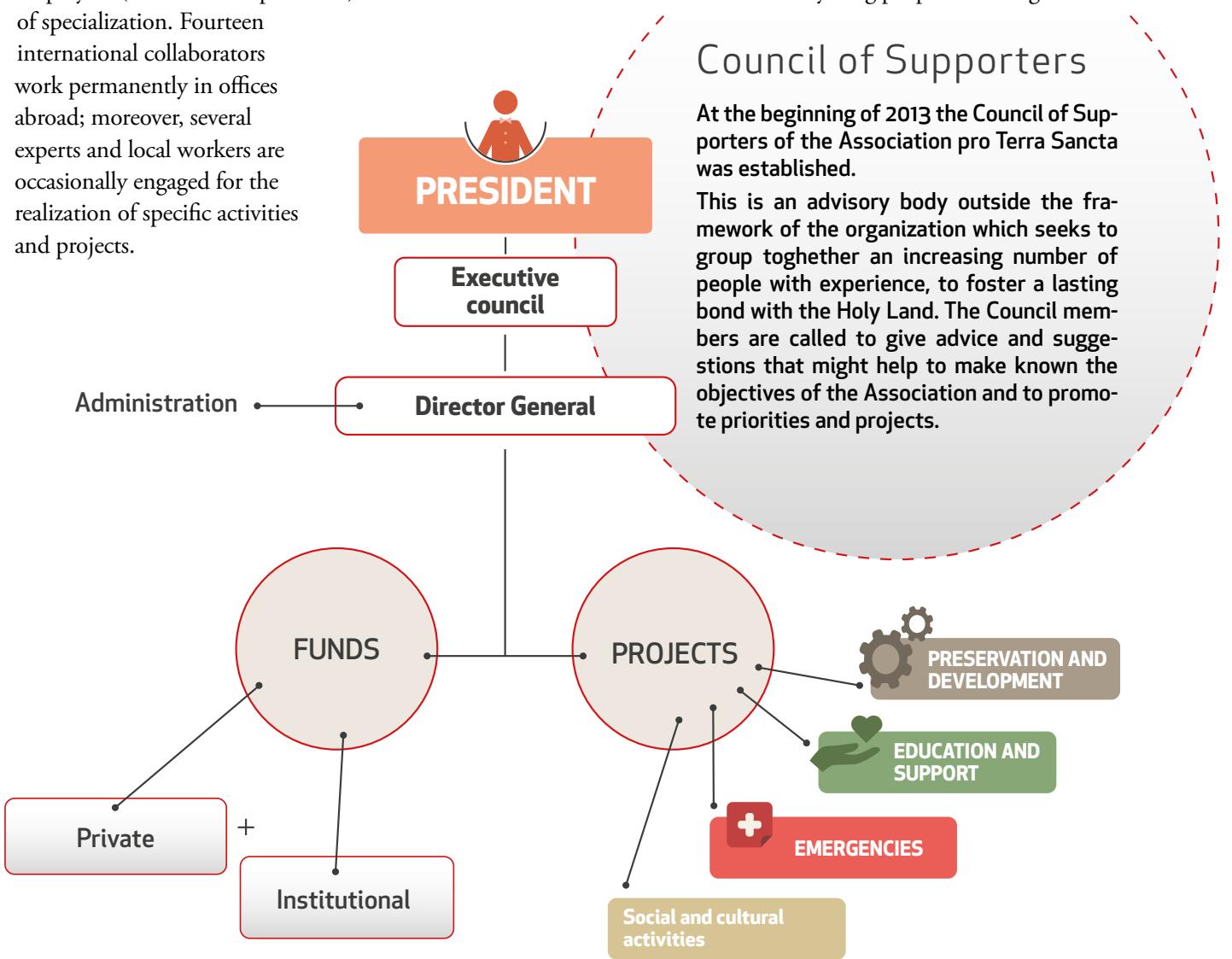
Organization and Resources

***He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor;
his righteousness endures forever (2Cor 9:9)***



Organization Chart

The significant growth of the Association pro Terra Sancta in recent years and the commitment to improve effectiveness and efficiency is due to the people who work in it. Their skills and abilities, the sharing of values and the knowledge of processes and procedures guarantee the proper functioning and action of the Organization. The activities of the Association pro Terra Sancta are granted by three functional areas: Fundraising and Administration operating at the Milan headquarters and the Projects Area for the implementation of the various activities, through the operational offices in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Beirut, Damascus, Aleppo. The staff, in addition to the General Manager, is made up of 8 employees (3 of them are part-time) and 6 full-time collaborators. Most of them are young people with a significant level of specialization. Fourteen international collaborators work permanently in offices abroad; moreover, several experts and local workers are occasionally engaged for the realization of specific activities and projects.



The volunteers

We must also underline the relevant operating impact of long-term volunteers who, in different ways, offer their professional skills to contribute to the achievement of our goals. They are mostly graduates, sometimes with very specific professional skills and related to academic university environments.



Institutional framework

Statutory organs			
General Assembly	President	Executive council	Secretary General
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliberates on the program and the activities of the Association • Appoints members of the various corporate bodies • Takes decision on the issues to be brought to the attention of the President and Executive Council • Approves financial statements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directs and coordinates the work of the General Assembly and Executive Council • Has the task of implementing the objectives of the Association and ensuring that they are met 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible for administration of the Association • Formulates views and proposals concerning the activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assists the President • Ensures the functioning of the organs of the Association • Draws up and signs the minutes
Supervisory body*			
Auditor			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversees the administrative and financial management. <p>(Furthermore, the financial statements for the year 2017 have been audited by Deloitte)</p>			

*Supervises the liability of entities for crimes committed in favor of the latter.



The staff of the Bethlehem and Jerusalem offices with Card. Leonardo Sandri

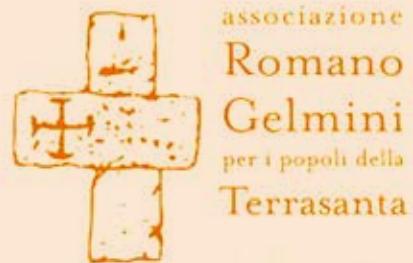


General Assembly

Association Romano Gelmini Volunteers of the Holy Land

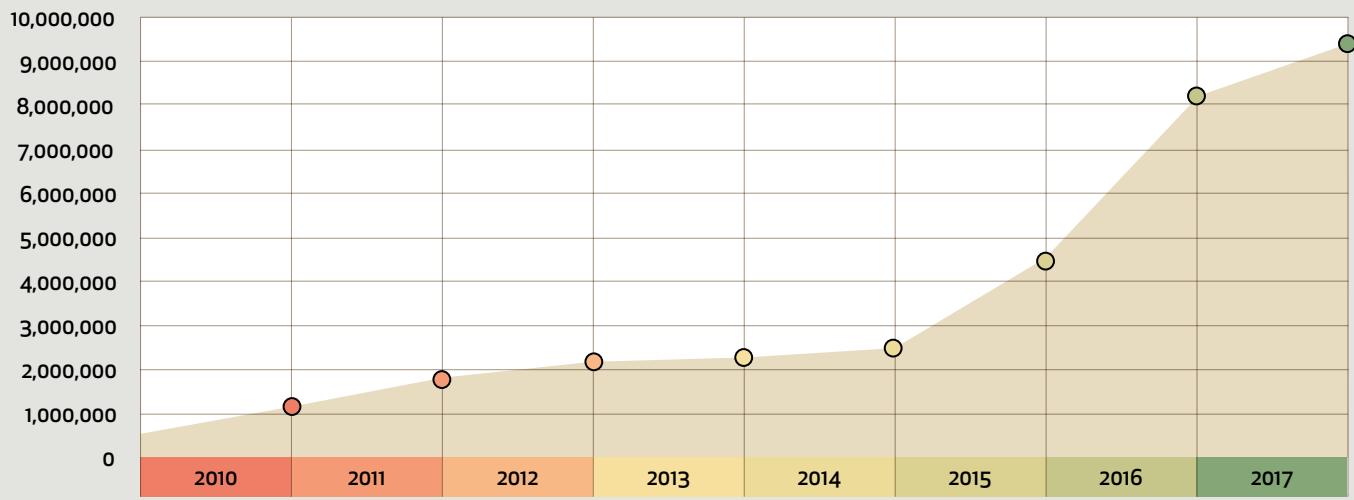
Thanks to the friendship with one of our collaborators in Jerusalem, the Association Romano Gelmini, created and 2005 and subsequently recognized as a nonprofit organization, is now assisting the Custody of the Holy Land and other Christian entities.

The volunteers, on average ten per group, go to the Holy Land eight/nine times per year to provide their energy and skills to deal directly with specific needs as they arise.



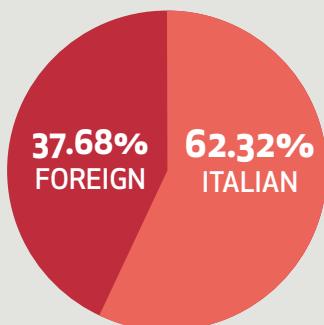
Contributions

CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED IN 2010-2017



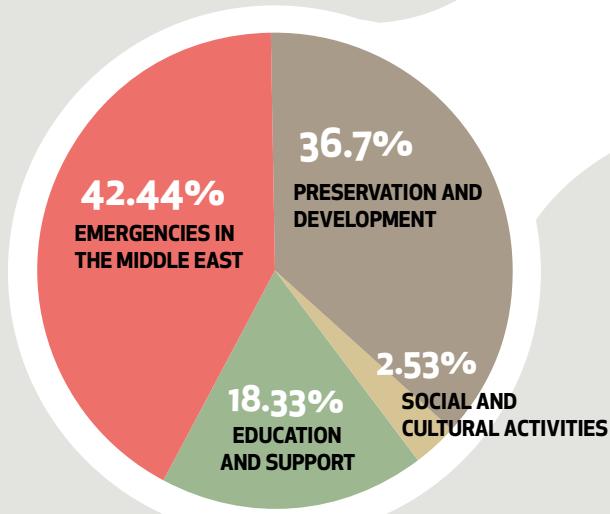
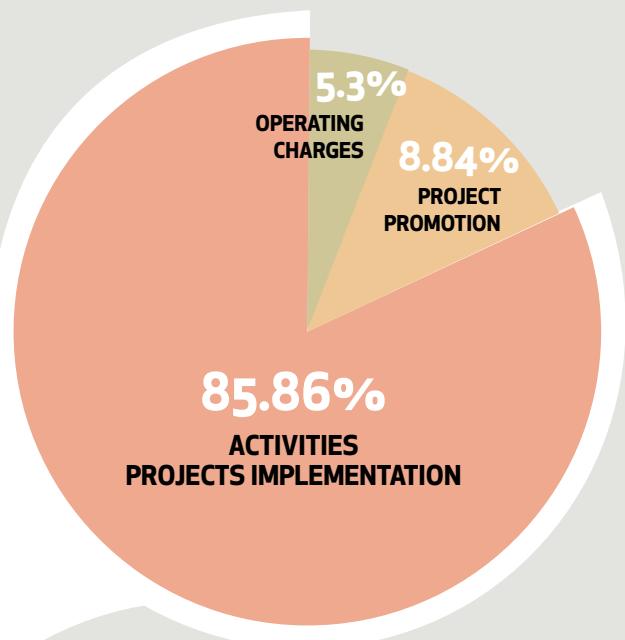
The growing trend of fundraising is a sign of the loyalty of our supporters and their growth in number

CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED BY GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS



62% of the resources collected in 2017 were raised in Italy, thanks to the consolidation of fundraising activities in recent years. The income of fundraising activities abroad is from the cooperation with local partners or private foundations and digital fundraising.

RESOURCES USE AND PROJECTS 2017



Allocations for ordinary activities, support and promotion of projects reflects the Association's attention to operate efficiently while keeping the destination of resources for statutory purposes as a priority objective. The difficult situation over the years in some areas of the Middle East has determined a prevalent use of resources for emergency aid.

Resources

The activity of the Association pro Terra Sancta is made possible thanks to the generosity of all those who continuously supported our projects over the years.

Balance sheet 01/01/2017 - 31/12/2017

ASSETS	2017	2016	LIABILITIES	2017	2016
Fixed assets			Net equity		
Intangible assets			Endowment fund	43,919	43,919
Intangible assets	28,125	-	Changes in capital and reserves		
Financial assets			Result of the year	575,119	536,439
Investments	1,725	1,725	Reserves brought forward from earlier years	1,580,977	1,044,538
Total fixed assets	29,850	1,725	Total net equity	2,200,015	1,624,896
Receivables			Employment Termination Indemnity	23,124	11,868
Credits			Payables		
From treasury	435	642	Payables to banks	1,111	1,446
Current Financial assets			Payables to suppliers	192,813	78,020
Projects Deposits	891,850	-	Payables to tax authorities	8,077	6,144
Total credits	892,285	642	Payables to employees	17,495	5,781
Cash and bank deposits			Payables to social security agencies	10,014	5,690
Bank and post office deposits	2,383,659	2,429,665	Total payables	229,510	97,080
Cash and values in hand	9,902	3,300	Deferred income	863,723	701,488
Total cash and deposits	2,393,561	2,432,965			
Accrued income	676	-			
TOTAL ASSETS	3,316,372	2,435,332	TOTAL LIABILITIES	3,316,372	2,435,332

Profit and Loss

CONTRIBUTIONS	2017	%	2016	%
From Private Donors	3,408,047	35.30%	3,165,301	37.85%
From Groups and Associations	1,825,628	18.91%	1,076,567	12.87%
From Private Institutions	3,278,351	33.96%	3,095,141	37.01%
From Public Institutions	535,651	5.55%	496,696	5.94%
From Italian Government (5xmille program)	121,127	1.25%	96,951	1.16%
From Legacies	10,000	0.10%	25,329	0.30%
From Socio-cultural activities	175,648	1.82%	152,290	1.82%
Enhancement of materials and volunteers	300,233	3.11%	255,100	3.05%
TOTAL CONTRIBUTORS	9,654,685	100%	8,363,373	100%
RESOURCE ALLOCATION	2017	%	2016	%
PROJECTS IMPLEMENTATION				
Projects of Preservation and Development	2,860,495	31.50%	3,242,446	41.43%
Projects of Education and Support	1,429,016	15.74%	712,228	9.10%
Emergency in the Middle East	3,308,720	36.44%	2,638,664	33.71%
Socio-cultural activities	197,189	2.17%	150,159	1.92%
Total Projects implementation	7,795,420	85.85%	6,743,497	86.16%
Ordinary activity of projects promotion and implementation	803,042	8.85%	755,837	9.65%
Total Projects Implementations	8,598,462	94.70%	7,499,335	95.81%
RESOURCE ALLOCATION				
Cost of staff	357,808	3.94%	246,353	3.15%
Cost of services	123,296	1.36%	81,246	1.04%
Total Staff and Organization Costs	481,104	5.30%	327,599	4.19%
TOTAL ALLOCATIONS	9,079,566	100%	7,826,934	100%
RESULT OF THE YEAR	575,119		536,439	

Deloitte Certification

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Directors of
Associazione Di Terra Santa

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Associazione Di Terra Santa, which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2017, and the statement of comprehensive income for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of Associazione Di Terra Santa as at December 31, 2017, in accordance with the accounting principles indicated in the notes to the financial statements.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISA Italia). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of Associazione Di Terra in accordance with the ethical requirements applicable under Italian law to the audit of the financial statements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other matters

This report is not issued pursuant to the law because Associazione di Terra Santa is not required to a legal audit.

The financial statements of Associazione Di Terra Santa as at December 31, 2016 have been audited by another auditor who, on March 30, 2017 expressed an opinion without modification on the financial statements.

Responsibilities of the Board of Directors for the Financial Statements

The Directors are responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with notes to the financial statements and for such internal control as the Directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Directors are responsible for assessing Associazione Di Terra Santa's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless they have identified the existence of the conditions for the liquidation of Associazione Di Terra Santa or for the termination of the operations or have no realistic alternative to such choices.

Ancona Bari Bergamo Bologna Brescia Cagliari Firenze Genova Milano Napoli Padova Palermo Parma Roma Torino Treviso Verona
Sede Legale: Via Tortona, 25 - 20144 Milano | Capitale Sociale: Euro 10.328.220,00 i.v.

Codice Fiscale/Registro delle Imprese Milano n. 03049560166 - R.E.A. Milano n. 1720239 | Partita IVA: IT 03049560166

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Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISA Italia) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISA Italia), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Associazione di Terra Santa's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on Associazione Di Terra Santa's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause Associazione Di Terra Santa to cease to continue as a going concern.

We communicate with those charged with governance, identified at an appropriate level as required by ISA Italia, regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

DELOITTE & TOUCHE S.p.A.

Signed by
Giovanni Cherubini
Partner

Milan, May 10, 2018

This report has been translated into the English language solely for the convenience of international readers.

To live forever in the Holy Land

**By making a legacy in favor of the Franciscan Friars
you will forever remain a custodian of the Holy Places.**

The Franciscan Order of Friars Minor has been present in Jerusalem since the early days of the order itself, which was found by St. Francis in 1209.

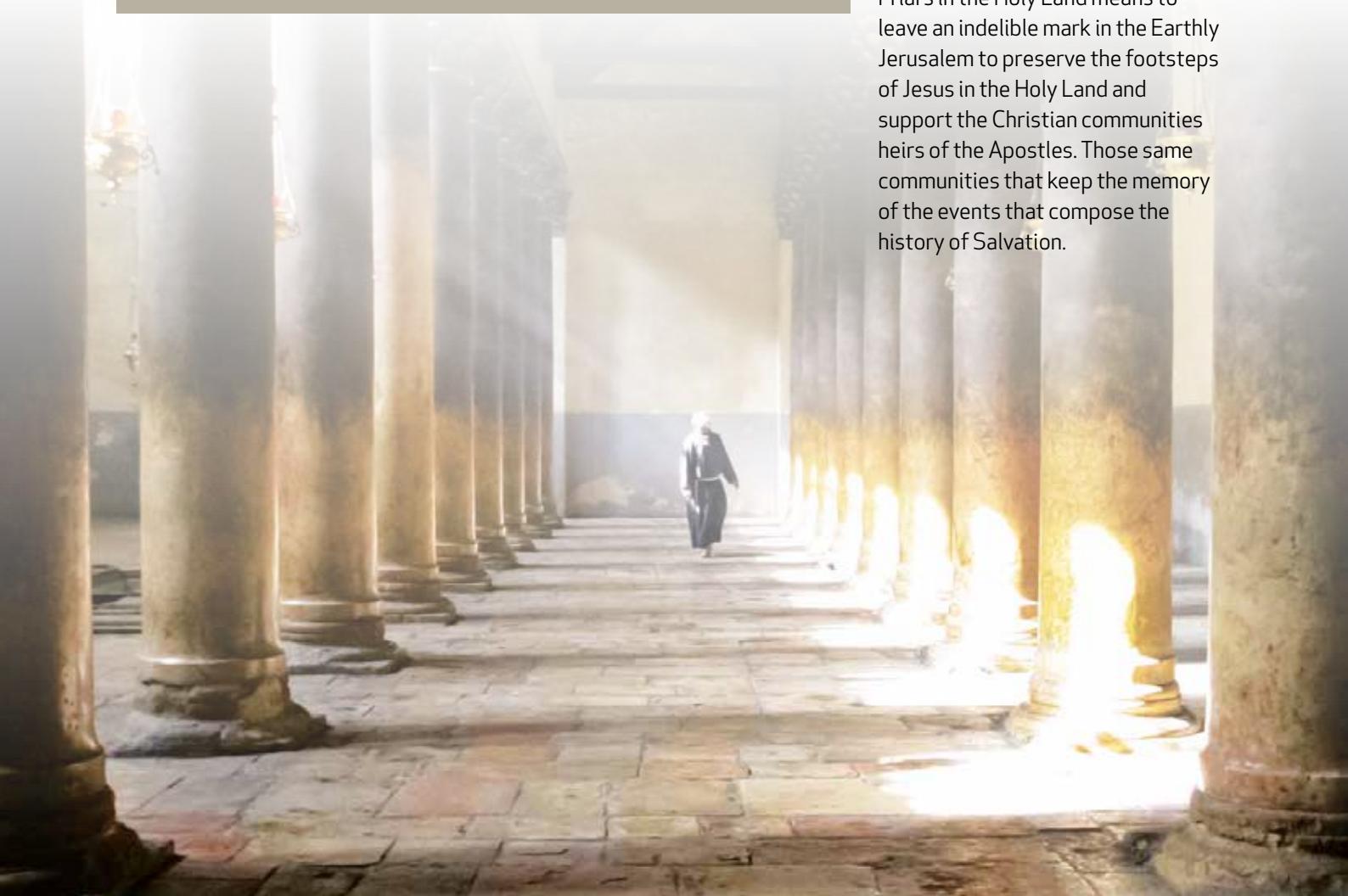
Custodians of the Holy Places by the will and mandate of the Universal Church, the Friars are also at the service of the poor, including the local Christian communities who live in difficult conditions in the Holy Land and in the countries of the Middle East.

Disposing a part of one's own legacy to the Franciscan Friars of the Holy Land means imprinting an unfading mark on temporal Jerusalem, helping the preservation of the Holy Places and - at the same time- of the local communities living in hard conditions.

**To find out more on the procedures to endow
please contact: lasciti@proterrasancta.org**

"Don't turn your face away from any poor person, and God's face will never turn away from you,"
(Tobt, 4:7)

Giving away one's money to the poorest in the community, is an act at the very roots of human life and of the Christian life. The legacy is a valuable tool that puts us in a condition to freely decide on the use of resources for the future and allows us to make a significant gesture that will make history. To make a legacy for the Holy Land, means to live forever in the land that we loved so much in life. To leave part of our inheritance to the Franciscan Friars in the Holy Land means to leave an indelible mark in the Earthly Jerusalem to preserve the footsteps of Jesus in the Holy Land and support the Christian communities heirs of the Apostles. Those same communities that keep the memory of the events that compose the history of Salvation.





In support of the Custody of the Holy Land

Annual Report 2017

Prospects and Priorities

A copy can be requested by emailing:
info@proterrasancta.org





In support of the Custody of the Holy Land

We are a non profit organization that carries out projects for the preservation of the Holy Places, support to local communities and help in humanitarian emergency,

We are present in the Middle East, in places where the Franciscan Friars of the Custody of the Holy Land reside.

OUR OFFICES



www.proterrasancta.org - sostenitori@proterrasancta.org

WAYS TO HELP

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Banca Popolare Etica

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BIC CODE: CCRTIT2T84A

MAKE A LEGACY FOR THE HOLY LAND

Support the Holy Land for ever.
Contact us to receive our Legacies guide at:

lasciti@proterrasancta.org
or call: **+39 02.65.72.453**

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