
Bulletin of the Archaeological Museum of the “Studium Biblicum Franciscanum”

- September-October 2013 -

News:

Mosaics from *Dominus Flevit*: fragments recovered and... restored!

The Studium Biblicum Franciscanum has been a hive of activity thanks to the study and cataloguing of discoveries carried out by Alessia Guidi, Francesca Di Palma and Federica Grassi from, respectively, the University of Molise, the University of Padua and the Catholic University of Milan. During the month of October they were joined by the mosaicist and restoration expert Alessandro Lugari, from the Superintendence for the Archaeological Heritage of Rome, in order to arrange the mosaic fragments coming from *Dominus Flevit*.



The fragments, investigated by Daniela Massara from the University of Milan, have recently been presented in volume XVII of the series *Museum*, entitled “Protection, Study and Enhancement of a Museum Heritage”, edited by Fulvia Ciliberto and which contains the Proceedings of the Study Day of Archaeology of the Roman Provinces, “From the Kingdom of Judaea to the Provinces of Syria and Palestine. Archaeology in the Holy Land”, held on 6 April 2011 in Isernia (Italy).

Restoration works were entrusted to the Mosaic Centre Jericho, under the supervision of architect Osama Hamdan. The youths from the Mosaic Centre – Dana, Salam, Anas, Raed and Rasmi – worked alongside Alessandro, allowing them to benefit from his ten years' experience.



After pasting gauze over the surface of the mosaic, Alessandro removed the concrete backing allowing the rear of the tiles to emerge, which were then carefully cleaned by Dana and Salam.

While the youths laid out the new layer of mortar on the floor, Alessandro and Daniela prepared the panel with the guidelines for placing the various fragments in their original positions and for fixing them permanently in place with resin.



The new home of the panel will be the new museum complex of the Custody of the Holy Land, the Terra Sancta Museum.