

Jericho: aid to Christians in need

A project to support the most fragile living stones in Jericho: children, young families and the elderly.

The Context

Jericho is a small oasis in the desert, known for the different miracles that Christ performed there. The Christian community of Jericho is the smallest of all those in the Palestinian Territories, and indeed among the smallest in all of the Middle East. The Christians, numbering about 400, are grouped principally around the Latin Parish of the Good Shepherd, where the Franciscan friars of the Custody of the Holy Land are present.

The Project

In Jericho, as in the rest of the Palestinian Autonomous Territories, in recent years unemployment has reached alarming levels. The Palestinian system is unable to guarantee support or economic subsidies to persons in need, nor is it in a position to provide even basic medical insurance. Those who suffer most severely the consequences of this are large families that, crushed by the burden of poverty and the difficult socioeconomic conditions, are unable to meet the essential needs of their own children and of the elderly within the community. The elderly live in particularly difficult conditions, especially in those cases in which their relatives have emigrated in search of a better future. The result is that many of them remain alone and abandoned, a small silent minority that unfortunately continues to increase in number.



It is the parish which must therefore respond to these situations of dire emergency, assessing the most difficult situations and trying to support the families and individuals in greatest need. In addition, the Franciscans have for many years been actively involved in the construction and management of schools and educational works in the Holy Land in order to ensure a proper education and a secure environment for all the children, in particular those coming from poor and destitute families.

The funds collected will be used to help cope with the most pressing emergency situations. In particular, with

- 100 euros per month you can cover the cost of acquiring life-saving medicines for an elderly person;

- 120 euros you can pay for the meals for a family for a month;
- 130 euros you can cover the annual cost of medical insurance for an elderly person;
- 150 euros you can cover all the expenses for parish activities for a child during an entire year (summer camp, catechism, retreats);
- 200 euros you can pay for books and school uniforms for a child for a year;
- 220 euros you will be able to cover payments for utilities (light, water, gas) for a family for a month;
- 350 euros you will be able to pay school fees for a child for a year;
- 600 euros you will be able to support the costs of dental care for a child;
- 650 euros you will be able to sponsor an elderly person, covering the costs of his or her primary needs, just as if he or she were receiving an annual pension;
- 1,000 euros you will be able to provide for the work required to carry out internal repairs in a small home.

The project is being carried out on site in collaboration with the Franciscan Parish of the Good



Shepherd in Jericho. The parish is actively involved in providing assistance to the local population, with particular attention focused on those having the most immediate needs.

To find out more: www.proterrasancta.org

Email: info@proterrasancta.org

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

ATS – Holy Land Association
Bank transfer – Ethic Bank
IBAN: IT67 W050 1812 1010 0000 0122 691
BIC: CCRTIT2T84A

Donate online: www.proterrasancta.org

Association 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.

www.proterrasancta.org

Executive Office: Gerusalemme 91140 Jaffa Gate P.O.B. 14308 TEL. +972 2 6271165 FAX +972 2 6286417 c/o Christian Information Center
Head Office: Roma 00185 Via Matteo Boiardo 16 TEL. +39 06 70495651 FAX +39 06 77207599 c/o Delegazione di Terra Santa