



CUSTODIA TERRÆ SANCTÆ

Francescani missionari a servizio
della Terra Santa

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The Custody of the Holy Land launches its new site for the [Church of the Holy Sepulchre](#)

The site, with enhanced graphics, offers numerous updated materials in four languages – Italian, English, Spanish, French – along with a rich selection of images and downloadable photos of the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**.

The contents, organized thematically in a simple and intuitive manner, will accompany visitors in their discovery and understanding of the single most important place in all Christianity.

One of the highlights of the site is the **Virtual Photo Tour** of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, a fascinating tool which allows everyone to visit the church, entering into the architectural areas and the sacredness itself of the place.

Using the player on the Home Page one can follow all the events of Easter 2012 in Jerusalem, thanks to the videos produced by the Franciscan Media Center. In addition, the news box allows one to always keep up to date on the latest news from the Custody and the Holy Land.

The unveiling of the site is the first stage of a larger **Project for renovating the Internet sites of the Sanctuaries**, a project designed to assist pilgrims coming to the Holy Land, as well as all those who are simply looking for information on the Sanctuaries.

THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE FOR EVERYONE

To see and touch the very places that were themselves touched and transformed by Christ's presence is a desire shared by all Christians. Since the very beginning, Christians have come to the Holy Land to tread upon, and follow in, the footsteps of Jesus' disciples.

The [Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land](#), which has the responsibility for caring for the Sanctuaries and welcoming pilgrims, also wishes to accompany the faithful in their discovery and learning about the Holy Places via the Web. For this purpose, it is carrying out a **Project for renovating the Internet sites of the Sanctuaries** which today sees the launch of the first site, dedicated to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

The numerous contents offered on the site move through the “**History**” of the church, from its original construction at the wish of Emperor Constantine to the present-day coexistence among the Christian communities that officiate at the Tomb. One section is dedicated to a “**Tour**” of the facility, allowing the visitor to undergo a 360° learning experience by means of a virtual photo tour and the wide range of information provided. The heart of the site is the section dedicated to “**Spirituality**” which allows one to review the evangelical facts that lead to the “empty tomb” of the Risen One and the

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Christian memories safeguarded within the church. Finally, a series of passages selected from the works of both ancient and modern pilgrims is provided in the section “Testimonies”.

THE VIRTUAL TOUR

A gift that the Custody of the Holy Land is pleased to offer to all is the possibility to now visit from home, through one’s own monitor, the entire church by means of a 360° **virtual photo tour**. This enables one to move around at will within the interior of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, gaining both an overall and an in-depth view of a site whose visit in person is often quite difficult since it is the destination of so many faithful coming there from the four corners of the earth. By means of this virtual tour they can wander freely throughout the church, stopping to linger at points of particular interest and visually navigating from one viewpoint to the next.

Also, for those wishing to visit the Holy Land but not having this possibility, through the innovative photographic techniques they can now experience their own personal digital pilgrimage into the interior of the extraordinary **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**.

THE PROJECT FOR THE INTERNET SITES OF THE SANCTUARIES

Nearly ten years after the original launch of the sites of the Sanctuaries under the care of Father John Abela OFM, the Custody is undertaking a **Project for renovating the Internet sites of the Sanctuaries of the Holy Land**. The aim of the project, guided by the Custody’s Secretary Fr. Silvio Rogelio de la Fuente OFM and coordinated by Paolo Padrini, is to update the sites with quality content prepared by the Fathers of the Studium Biblicum Franciscanum, taking advantage of the most recent generation of multimedia tools to assist the visitor in his or her discovery of these places.

During the course of the next quarter we will be launching sites for the sanctuaries of Capernaum, Gethsemane, the Nativity and the Annunciation.



Fr. Silvio Rogelio de la Fuente, OFM
Secretary of the Custody

You can find the site at these addresses:

www.santosepolcro.custodia.org | www.holysepulchre.custodia.org

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