

At Christmas Time a Return to the Beginning: ATS pro Terra Sancta and The Sun join together to support the most fragile “living stones” in Bethlehem

The fundraising campaign “At Christmas Time a Return to the Beginning” promoted by ATS pro Terra Sancta, the NGO of the Custody of the Holy Land, and now officially under way, will allow the Franciscans of the Holy Land to help meet the most urgent needs of the children, young families and elderly in Bethlehem. And this year the campaign will benefit from a very special endorsement from The Sun, a young Italian rock band.

For the fourth year in succession ATS pro Terra Sancta, the non-profit association of the Custody of the Holy Land, is launching a Christmas fund-raising campaign in support of the most fragile and needy “living stones” in the city of Jesus’ birth: children, young families and the elderly.

These are in fact the groups that suffer the most from the difficult political and economic situation in which Bethlehem currently finds itself. The Franciscan friars of the Custody of the Holy Land are doing their utmost to assist the population, seeking to respond to the most immediate needs of the weakest elements, principally those arising from the lack of public medical care, through its support of the activities of the Franciscan Social Service Office and the charitable Società Antoniana.

It was in fact their direct experience with the situation of Bethlehem which led The Sun, an Italian rock band, to support the campaign “At Christmas Time a Return to the Beginning”. The band’s spokesperson Francesco Lorenzi explains that “during our stay in Bethlehem, we lived in very close contact with the local community, as we were lodging with several families, and we came to understand even better the difficult reality of the situation in Bethlehem. In this city, which should represent a sign of hope and peace for the entire world, there continues to be great poverty and indifference. We therefore decided to make ourselves available to give voice to the weakest elements – children, families and the elderly. By associating ourselves with this campaign we are also supporting the projects that ATS pro Terra Sancta is carrying out in Bethlehem.”

The band, which was formed in 1997, has had a contract for the past two years with Sony Music Entertainment, with two albums already released. The group is motivated by its strong link with the Holy Land, which the youths have visited both as pilgrims and musicians (their most recent tour was in October 2012, with performances in Nablus, Taybeh, Bethlehem and Beit Sahour).

Joining the campaign “**At Christmas Time a Return to the Beginning**” also provides an opportunity to commemorate the “Fact” that occurred 2,000 years ago, changing the history of the world and that of so many people. All proceeds from the campaign will be used to support the “living stones” of Bethlehem. Those wishing to support the campaign can do so via online donation or bank transfer.

For further information

Online: www.proterrasancta.org; www.thesun.it

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