

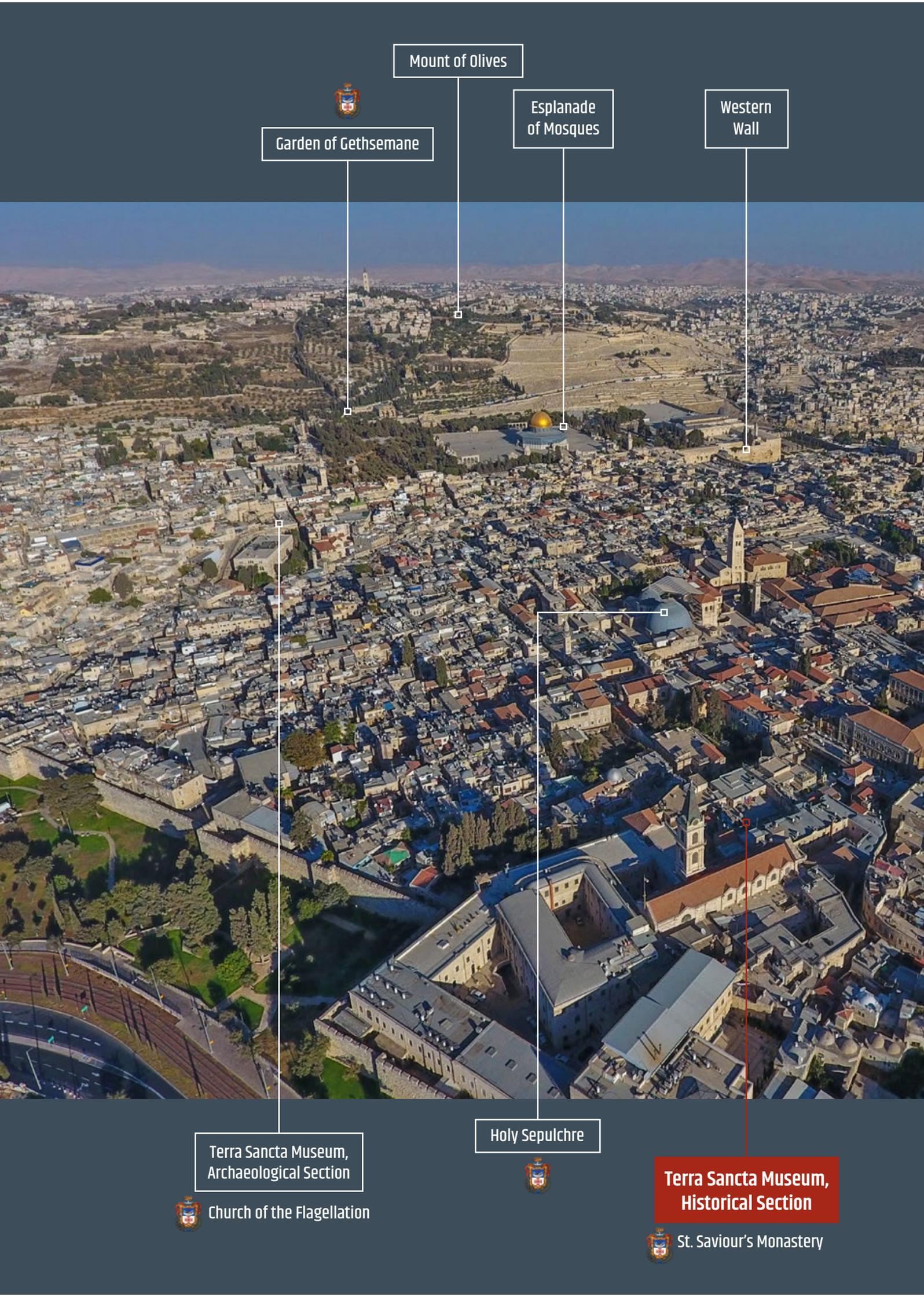


THE TERRA SANCTA MUSEUM

A unique project in the world
centered around the Treasure of
the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem

*The Terra Sancta Museum
is supported by the Mansart Foundation*





Mount of Olives

Garden of Gethsemane

Esplanade of Mosques

Western Wall

Terra Sancta Museum,
Archaeological Section

Holy Sepulchre

**Terra Sancta Museum,
Historical Section**

Church of the Flagellation

St. Saviour's Monastery



J

Jerusalem is at the root of Christianity.

The **Terra Sancta Museum** was missing from the Holy City, which already has a Jewish Museum and a Museum for Islamic Art.

The first section devoted to archaeology, inaugurated in 2017, immerses visitors in the places where the Christian faith was born. On October 2025, the Franciscans of the Holy Land will inaugurate the Historical Section of the Terra Sancta Museum.

With your generosity.

Christian Information
Center



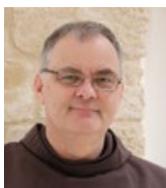
THREE MAJOR OBJECTIVES

We want to support the Christian presence in Jerusalem by creating a **unique museum of international scope**, which presents the roots of Christianity and the Treasure of the Holy Sepulchre.

We want an **exceptional place** that allows residents, tourists and pilgrims from all over the world to discover, understand and sustain the Christian dimension of Jerusalem.

As Franciscans and guardians of the Holy Places, we want to maintain the dialogue between cultures and religions in the spirit of openness and service that has motivated us for 800 years.





“The Terra Sancta Museum aims to welcome 150,000 visitors per year.”

Fr. Stéphane Milovitch OFM,
Director of the Cultural Heritage Office of the Custody
of the Holy Land

THE PROJECT LEADERS

The Terra Sancta Museum is supported by the **Custody of the Holy Land**, the Franciscan community established in Jerusalem for the past 800 years.

The friars received the Guard of the Holy Places in the name of the Catholic Church in 1342. Their mission is threefold: to pray in the Holy Places, to welcome pilgrims from the Universal Church and to serve the local Church in the Holy Land.



KEY DATES OF THE ORDER OF FRIARS MINOR

- 1209** — Saint Francis founds the Order of Friars Minor
- 1217** — Arrival of the first Franciscans in the Holy Land
- 1219** — Saint Francis in the East, meeting with the Sultan of Egypt Malek el-Kamel, permission to settle in the Holy Land
- 1229** — The Franciscans settle in Jerusalem near the 5th station of the Way of the Cross
- 1333** — The Friars Minor acquire the Cenacle and obtain the right to reside in the Holy Sepulchre

- 1342** — Pope Clement VI entrusts the Guard of the Holy Places in the name of the Catholic Church to the Franciscans
- 1347** — The Franciscans obtain custody of the Grotto of the Nativity and the right to enjoy the basilica
- 1550** — Opening of a parish school at Bethlehem, followed by those in Jerusalem and Nazareth
- 1557** — The Custody headquarters moves to the St. Saviour's Monastery in Jerusalem
- 1623** — The Custody of the Holy Land acquires the monasteries of Saint John of Acre, Antioch, Sidon, Tyre and Jaffa

- 1902** — Opening of the first Franciscan archaeological museum, predecessor of the Terra Sancta Museum
- 1923** — Opening of the Studium Biblicum Franciscanum (SBF), established in 2001 as a Faculty of Biblical and Archaeological Sciences
- 2002** — Creation of the Franciscan NGO, the Association *Pro Terra Sancta* (ATS)
- 2010** — Creation of the Cultural Heritage Office
- 2017** — Inauguration of the Archaeological Section of the Terra Sancta Museum
- 2022** — 300 Franciscans working in Israel, Palestine, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, and the Greek islands of Cyprus and Rhodes. 90 of them live in Jerusalem at the St. Saviour's Monastery



“The objective is to create a museum of international renown, through both the exceptional quality of the objects and the scenography.”

Béatrix Saule,
President of the International Scientific Committee



THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Béatrix Saule, *Honorary General Director and Curator of the Château de Versailles*

George Al’Ama, *Palestinian art collector and Director of the Michele Piccirillo Centre*

Michèle Bimbenet-Privat, *General Curator of the Department of Decorative Arts at the Louvre Museum*

Jacques Charles-Gaffiot, *art historian, iconography expert*

Benoit Constensoux, *art historian*

Andreina Contessa, *General Director of the Museo Storico di Miramare in Trieste*

José Manuel Cruz Valdovinos, *Professor of art history, Complutense University of Madrid*

Anne Dion, *General Curator of the Department of Decorative Arts at the Louvre Museum*

Thomas Gaetgens, *art historian, Honorary Director of the Getty Research Institute of Los Angeles*

Gael de Guichen, *consultant for the General Director of ICCROM*

Barbara Jatta, *art historian, General Director of the Vatican Museums*

Przemyslaw Mrozowski, *General Director of the Royal Castle of Warsaw*

Marina Pia Pettinau Vescina, *art historian, ancient textiles expert*

Paulus Rainer, *Curator of the Kunsthistorisches Museum of Vienna, Director Emeritus of the Kammer*

Silvia Roman, *Head of the Exhibitions Department at the Château de Versailles*

Teresa Leonor Vale, *Professor of art history, University of Lisbon*

Danièle Véron-Denise, *Chief Curator of Heritage, liturgical and secular textiles expert*

Raphaëlle Ziadé, *Director of the Department of Byzantine Art at the Petit Palais, Paris Museum of Fine Arts*

THE FRANCISCAN CHARISMA AT THE SERVICE OF DIALOGUE

“The friars who go to the Infidels will not make any accusations or disputes and will be subservient to every human creature in the name of God, they will simply confess that they are Christians,” writes Saint Francis in his First Rule.

The Franciscans –despite the conquests and successions of Muslim powers– remained **present in the Holy Land without interruption.**

They are dedicated to dialogue with the other religions, not just in their daily lives, but also through educational and cultural activities such as the Terra Sancta Museum. The first section of the museum already hosts many Muslim schools within the framework of the project



Muslim and Christian schools in Jerusalem are already coming to the Archaeological Section of the Terra Sancta Museum.

Lectures and symposiums are already held in the two conference rooms available at the monastery during temporary exhibitions.

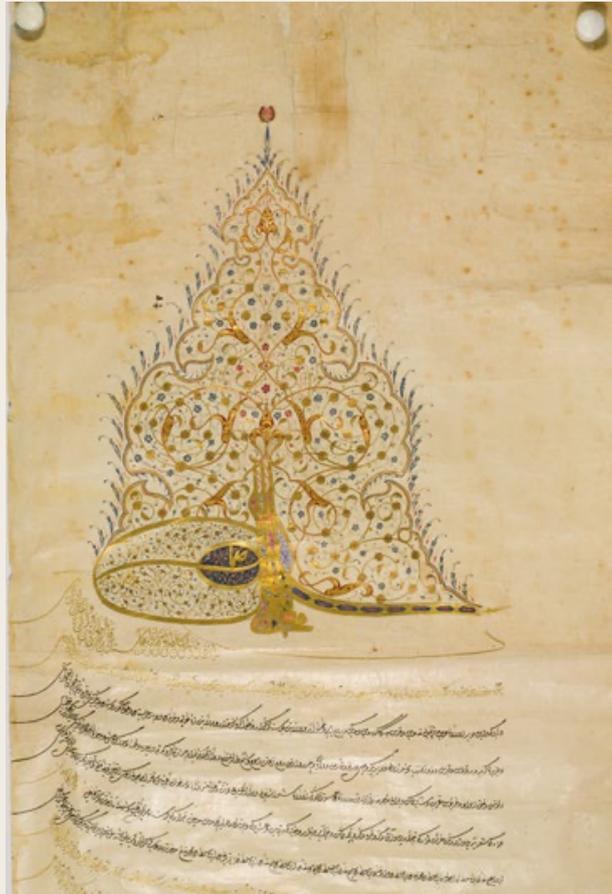


“A Community Living Museum for Palestinian Youth” funded by the European Union. Jewish and Muslim researchers frequently come to the Custody to study its artistic heritage and compare it to theirs.



“Jerusalem would lose its universality if it did not keep visible and public all the elements of its identity, including its Christian heritage.”

HB Pierbattista Pizzaballa,
Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem



The Franciscans have a long-standing agreement with the Muslims to maintain their presence. This document of the Ottoman Sultan Mehmet IV confirms the right of the Franciscans to live inside and outside of Jerusalem and the Holy Sepulchre (1673).

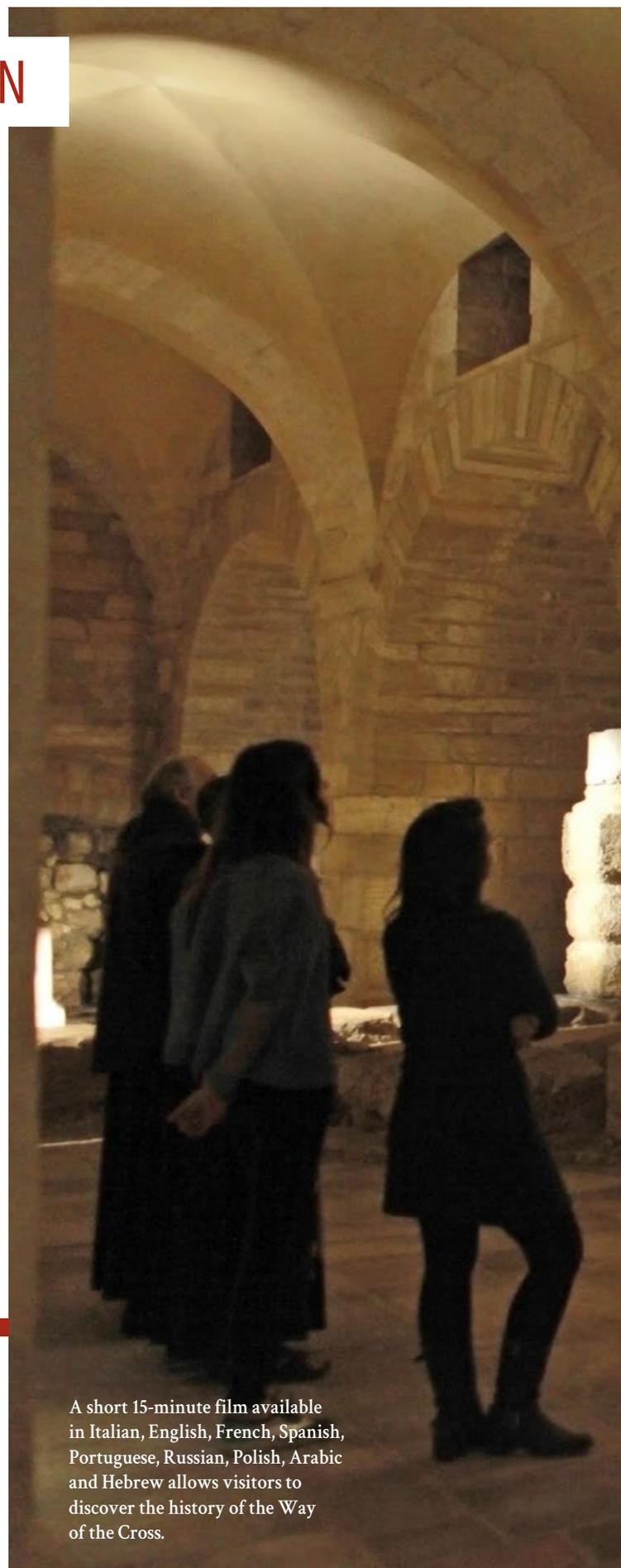


Since the creation of the Terra Sancta Museum, several exhibitions have taken place, notably in partnership with the Israel Museum, the Museum for Islamic Art, the Château de Versailles, the Metropolitan Museum in New York and the Arab World Institute in Paris.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SECTION

The Archaeological Section of the Terra Sancta Museum is located at the Church of the Flagellation, the first station of the Way of the Cross, and **was inaugurated in 2017.**

The mission of this section is **to immerse visitors in the places where the Christian faith was born.** It takes them through the history of Jerusalem and its evolution as well as through the sanctuaries which were excavated by Franciscan archaeologists during the last century. Frescos, ceramics, Byzantine mosaics, coins, Crusader capitals, vases from Bronze Age tombs, sarcophagi, jewelry, lamps, ossuaries, etc.



A short 15-minute film available in Italian, English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian, Polish, Arabic and Hebrew allows visitors to discover the history of the Way of the Cross.



“Shew me a penny. Whose image and superscription hath it?” They answered and said, “Caesar’s.” And he said unto them, “Render therefore unto Caesar the things which be Caesar’s, and unto God the things which be God’s.”

Luke 20, 24-25

Silver coin from the time of Christ, Terra Sancta Museum, Archaeological Section.



Oil lamp from Jesus’s time found in Capernaum, the place where Jesus preached.



Capital of the Crusader Basilica of Nazareth - 1180s.

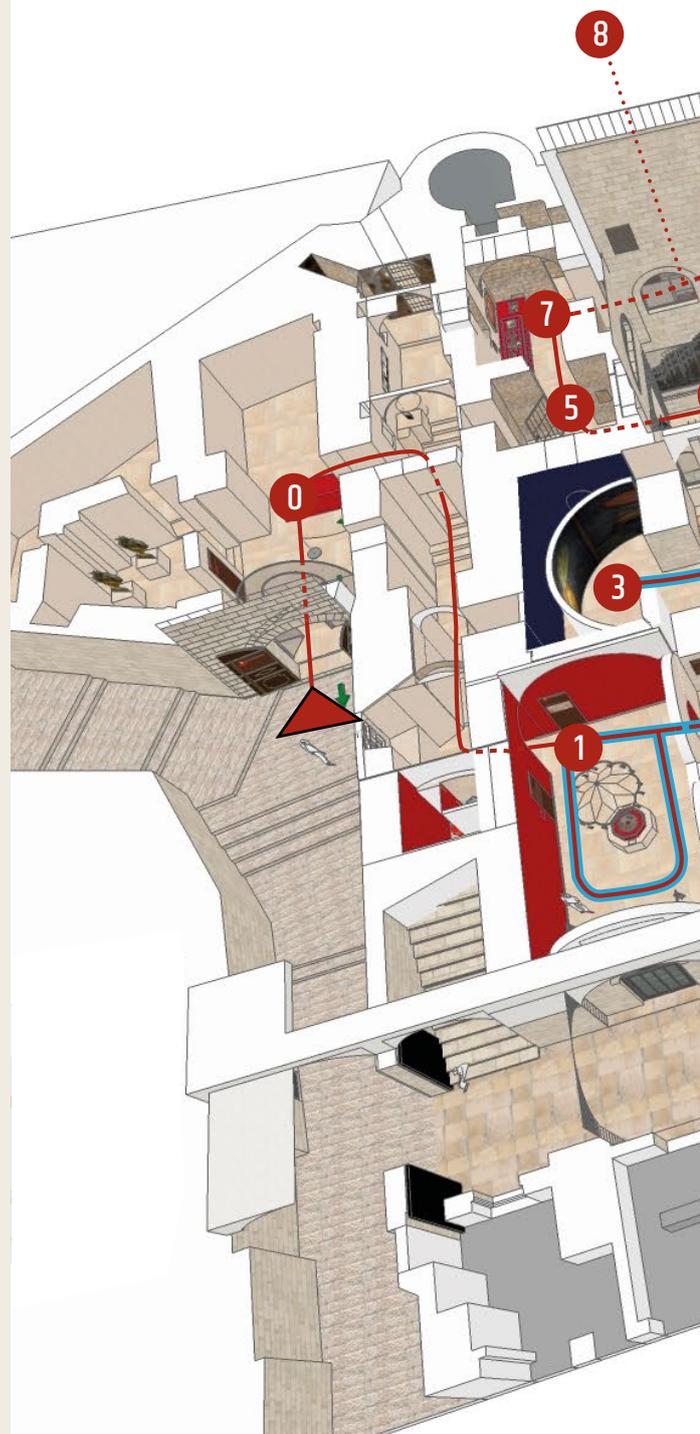


HISTORICAL SECTION: TWO MAIN PARTS

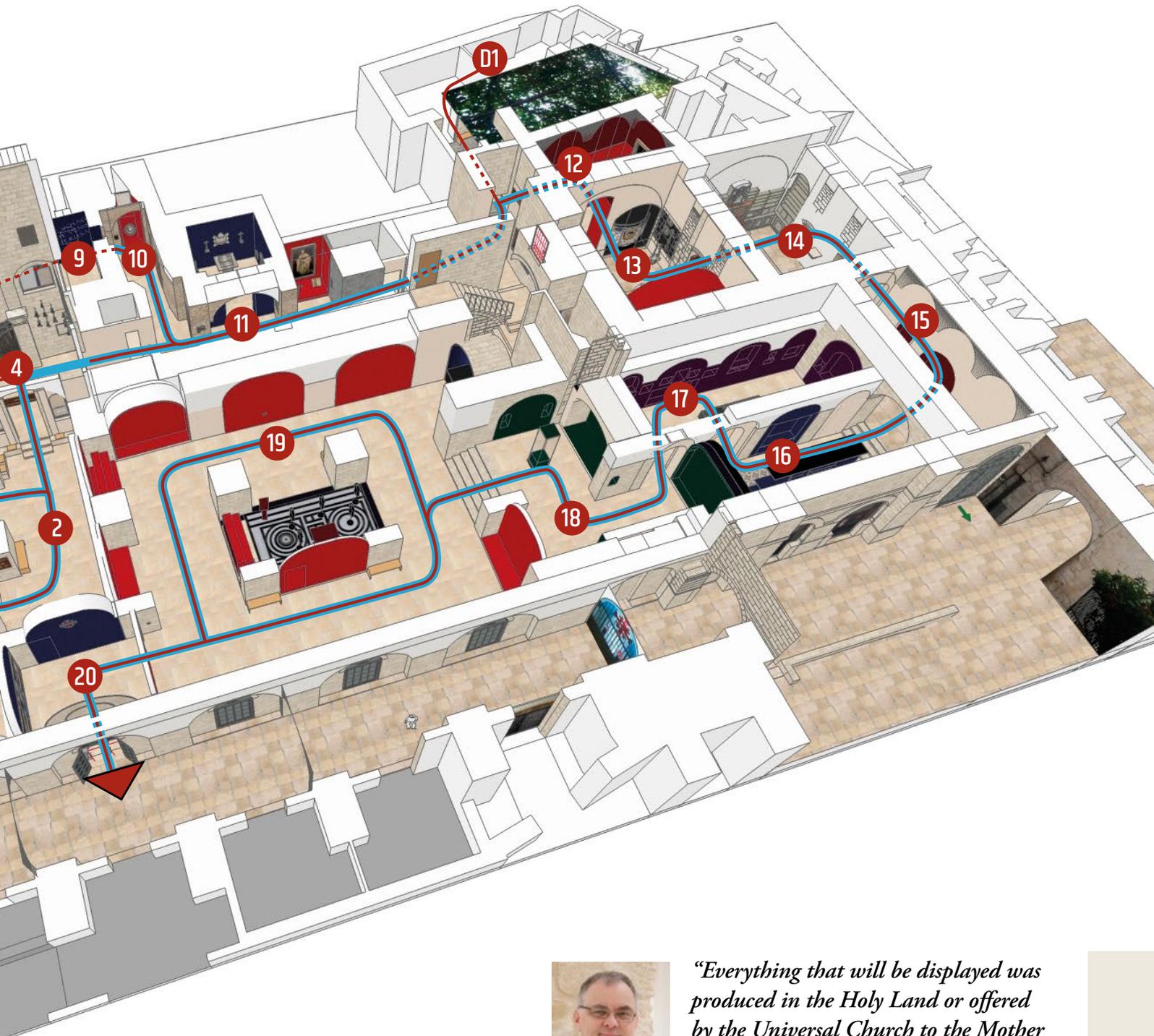
The Historical Section of the Terra Sancta Museum, **still in need of financing**, is going to be installed at the heart of the Franciscan Head Quarters at St. Saviour's Monastery in the Holy Land. The section will be divided into **two parts: the history and mission of the Custody of the Holy Land, and the Treasure of the Holy Sepulchre**. The works presented, including rare collections of paintings, sculptures, archival documents and sumptuous gifts from European courts, will testify to Jerusalem's central role and influence over the centuries. They will allow pilgrims and visitors to deepen their knowledge of the sanctuaries and discover the beauty of the liturgy in the Holy Land.

Overview of the Historical Section
created by Jérôme Dumoux, scenographer
of the Terra Sancta Museum

- Surface area of over 1,000 square meters
- More than 1,000 works on display
- 23 exhibition rooms, 17 of which are accessible to people with reduced mobility



— Visitor's trail
 — Visitor's trail 



“Everything that will be displayed was produced in the Holy Land or offered by the Universal Church to the Mother Church of Jerusalem.”

Fr. Stéphane Milovitch OFM,
 Director of the Cultural Heritage Office of the Custody of the Holy Land

A MUSEUM IN A UNIQUE PLACE

Expelled by the Turks of Mount Zion in **1557**, the Franciscans found refuge in a **former Georgian monastery** situated at the heart of Jerusalem. The monastery, in a typical Oriental configuration, possessed a church intended only for the use of nuns. During the same period, the Council of Trent (1545-1563) gave new pastoral directives to the Church. It is from this monastery that the local Catholic Church was reborn in Jerusalem. Hence, the last section of the Terra Sancta Museum will be **in the first Catholic parish of Jerusalem**.



The installation of the Historical Section requires considerable work for creating and reinforcing the spaces.

In 1664, sources counted 68 faithful, whereas today the St. Saviour parish has roughly 6,000! The monastery is home to **around 100 friars** and the International Seminary of the Custody.



“It’s a real challenge to ensure that respect for the communal life of the friars, architecture, and the need to preserve the works are compatible with the requirements of an international museum. All of this is not naturally present in a building with such complex historical stratification.”

Vincenzo Zuppardo,
Architect of the Terra Sancta Museum



THE SCENOGRAPHY PROJECT



Jérôme Dumoux,
Scenographer

“I am in favour of a refined and sober scenography prioritizing the play of light, different angles, perspectives and the softness of colour suitable for these exceptional works. A “successful” scenography is one that cannot be guessed! One of the great challenges

will be the conservation and preservation of the works. For example, the liturgical vestments must be rotated. Some of them have been protected from dust and light for centuries, we must not damage them. Other works, still used for worship, must be temporarily removed from the museum for certain Feast days. We also want visitors to understand the purpose of these objects, not just their history so multimedia will immerse visitors in the liturgies of the Holy Land.”



Historical replica of the most famous pharmacy in the Middle East

The first doctor sent by Pope Pius II in 1460 was Brother Baptist of Lubeck. For centuries, the main pharmacists and doctors were friars of the Custody of the Holy Land. Their pharmacy, comprising 450 earthenware pots from the 17th and 18th centuries, bears witness to this. The period décor of the pharmacy will be reconstructed and the entire collection displayed in the Terra Sancta Museum.





Birth of the Church, the Apostolic Predication by Friedrich Pacher, 15th century Austrian painter.



A museum to discover liturgy

A reenactment of a liturgical procession will take place in the room of the gifts from the states of the Italian peninsula.



The Terra Sancta Museum will feature three multimedia presentations

The first multimedia presentation will trace the history of the Christian presence in Jerusalem in the first millennium.

The second, immersive, will plunge the visitor into the human and spiritual odyssey represented by the pilgrimage from Venice to Jerusalem in the 15th century.

The last one will present in a didactic way the liturgical objects and their use: chalice, paten, stole, chasuble...



12th-century basin engraved with the history of Saint Thomas

Two similar versions from the same workshop, but in a poorer state, are in the collections of the Louvre Museum and the British Museum. They were used for the liturgy during the Crusades.

The oldest organ of Christianity

All 221 copper pipes of this organ dating to the 12th century will be housed in the museum. It speaks to the importance of the liturgy in the sanctuaries at a time when it was difficult to enter them. A fundamental object for the knowledge of the history of music.



The crosier of the Bishop of Bethlehem

In the 13th century, pilgrims going to Bethlehem were welcomed by Bishop Godefroy de Prefetti holding this gilded copper crosier with blue enamel in his hand.

The enduring presence of the Franciscans in the Holy Land and their efforts to evangelize and promote Christian values were decisive for the development of the local Arab Church. The Terra Sancta Museum will examine their charitable, educational, pastoral activities as well as healthcare and professional training. It will enable **the discovery of the Christian communities and their heritage, often unknown to pilgrims and visitors.** The museum is intended to be a showcase for Eastern Christian art and will exhibit, among other things, works of mother-of-pearl, icons, textiles and jewellery.

Baptismal records

These parish registers are one of the historical proofs of the Catholic presence in the Arab world. They served as birth certificates for this community which knew many sovereignties: Mamluk, Ottoman, British, Jordanian and today Israeli.



Palestinian jewelry

The Terra Sancta Museum holds Palestinian jewelry in its collections, including necklaces called “iznaq” and “bughmeh”. The *iznaq* consists of a silver chain enriched with Ottoman or foreign coins, witnessing the numerous exchanges between travelers, traders and pilgrims. The *bughmeh* is a silver necklace on which religious symbols such as crosses or crescents could be fixed, depending on the religion of the wearer.

Mother-of-Pearl art
 Model of the Holy Sepulchre in olive wood decorated with mother-of-pearl and ivory. Mother-of-pearl was introduced by the Franciscans in the 16th century to enable Christian families in Bethlehem to support themselves. Since then, this art has become a Palestinian cultural heritage. A room in the museum will pay tribute to it.



The Franciscan Printing Press

Type cases in Arabic, Armenian, Greek, Hebrew, Persian, etc. The typography of the Franciscans in the Holy Land, which will be displayed in the museum, was created in 1848 under the Ottoman Empire because the friars wanted to print the Holy Bible in multiple languages, as well as catechism and grammar books necessary for their parish and educational activities.

The Jerusalem School of Icons

The *Proskynetarion* is a large icon painted on canvas, often sold as souvenirs to Orthodox Christian pilgrims in the Holy Land. This one, from the collection of the Terra Sancta Museum, was written in 1820 in Jerusalem. It depicts an overview of Christian holy sites. In its center,

we recognize the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. These icons represent the most visually attractive genre of the flourishing Palestinian icon industry from the late Ottoman period. Thanks to the Terra Sancta Museum, a research project on the Jerusalem School of Icons is underway and will allow for the appreciation of this particular school that is still little known.



2nd PART: THE TREASURE OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE

Chalices, chasubles, candelabra, solid gold artworks, processional crosses, etc., are all unique pieces in the world that are still used today during Franciscan celebrations. Italy, France, Spain, the Austrian Empire, Portugal, Poland: the Terra Sancta Museum will unveil **the brilliance of these European courts** that was sometimes reduced to nothing. Consider France as an example: the jewels of artistic religious heritage were looted, sacked or completely destroyed. The Terra Sancta Museum will make it possible to experience lost Palatine chapels and, beyond the political agendas of monarchs, to better **understand the importance of the liturgy** for the faith of the faithful.

The last chalices of Louis XIV

One of the most amazing groups of French religious orfèvrerie still linked to the name of Louis XIV: the vermeil liturgical objects offered by the King of France to the Holy Sepulchre in 1664, still found there, carefully preserved by the Franciscans of the Custody of the Holy Land.



Large sanctuary lamp

This beautifully preserved lamp is the only lamp sent in the name of Louis XIII that has not been altered or destroyed. Placed in the Grotto of the Nativity above the star, Chateaubriand mentions it in the *Itinerary from Paris to Jerusalem*.

Offering platter

Donated by Louis XIII,
bearing the coat of arms
of France and Navarre.



Louis XIII ornament

Red pontifical ornament offered by Louis XIII. Thanks to the Franciscan chronicles and those of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Paris, we know that this ornament composed of 14 pieces was sent to Jerusalem and that it arrived there precisely on May 20, 1621!



Reliquary of the True Cross

A unique piece by one of Louis XIII's greatest goldsmiths. Most of the reliquaries of the Holy Cross from the 17th century were destroyed after the 1690 ordinances of fonts. The sketch that inspired this reliquary is preserved in the library of the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris.

2nd PART: THE TREASURE OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE



The Neapolitan bas-relief of the Resurrection, a masterpiece of the Treasury of the Holy Sepulchre made of 300 kg of solid silver. It depicts Christ holding the banner of the Resurrection in his left hand on which the cross of Jerusalem appears. This work will be unveiled in the first room of the museum.

Throne for Eucharistic Exposition

This work takes the form of an apse resting on a plinth framed on each side by three columns backed by a pilaster. The work, paid for with deniers from the kingdom of Sicily, was donated by Philip IV, King of Spain and Sicily at the time.





This chasuble is part of a collection which was used, according to the testimony of the writer Pierre Loti, for the marriage of Napoleon III with the Empress Eugénie. The Napoleonic style is clearly visible with numerous bees adorning the all of collection.



The star of the Grotto of the Nativity offered by Queen Marie-Amélie of Spain in 1739. The gilded silver star surrounds the porphyry stone marking the birth of Jesus.

Composed of 18 pieces, this ornament was offered by the Republic of Genoa in 1692. Due to its excellent conservation and its technique of needle-painting embroidery, this liturgical ornament is one of the most beautiful of the Catholic Church.



GOVERNANCE

The entire Terra Sancta Museum team resides in Jerusalem. The management of the Terra Sancta Museum has been entrusted to the Franciscan NGO of the Holy Land, the Association *Pro Terra Sancta* (ATS). The ATS collaborates with the European Union and international solidarity associations, among others. In 2021, it managed a budget of 9.3 million of euros.



P. Francesco Patton OFM
Custos of the Holy Land

Executive Committee



P. Eugenio Alliata OFM
Archaeologist, Professor at the Studium Biblicum Franciscanum, Director of the Terra Sancta Museum



P. Stéphane Milovitch OFM
Director of the Cultural Heritage of the Office Custody of the Holy Land



Carla Benelli
Expert in the conservation of Middle Eastern Heritage

International Scientific Committee

Prefiguration and Coordination Committee

- P. Stéphane Milovitch OFM**
Director of Cultural Heritage Office of the Custody of the Holy Land
- P. Rodrigo Machado OFM**
Master of Ceremonies of the Custody of the Holy Land
- Béatrix Saule**
President of the International Scientific Committee
- Leonardo Di Marco**
Engineer, Director of the Technical Office of the Custody of the Holy Land

Architecture

- Vincenzo Zuppardo**
Architect responsible for the Terra Sancta Museum
- Lorraine Abu Azizeh**
Architect, Coordinator of the architectural mediation
- Jérôme Dumoux**
Scenographer

Collections

- P. Stéphane Milovitch OFM**
Director of Cultural Heritage Office of the Custody of the Holy Land
- Silvia Roman**
Member of the International Scientific Committee

Audiences

- Sara Cibirin**
Mediation Coordinator Pro Terra Sancta Association
- Carole de Legge**
Audience studies

Multimedia

- Gabriele Allevi**
Multimedia Coordinator

Museum operations

- Béatrix Saule**
Honorary General Director of the Château de Versailles

Communication and fundraising

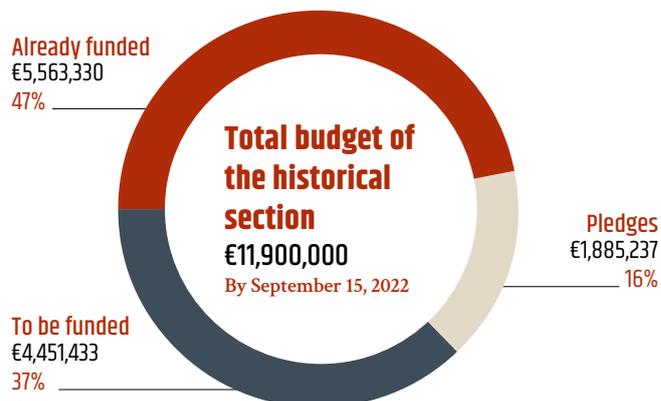
- Tommaso Saltini**
General Director of the Pro Terra Sancta Association
- Albéric de Montgolfier**
President of the Mansart Foundation
- Émilie Rey**
Communications Coordinator

ESTIMATED BUDGET

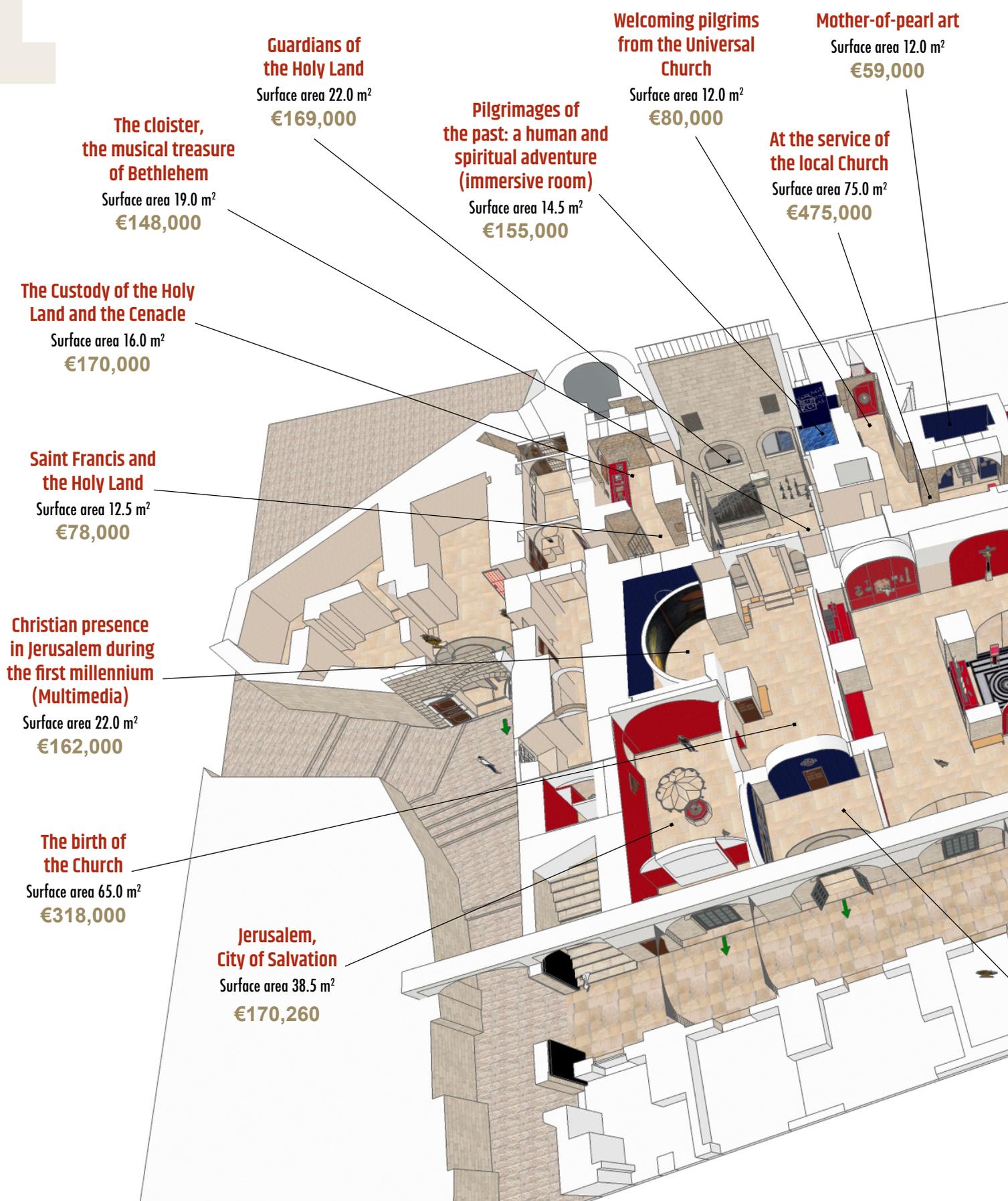
The total cost of the historical section of the Terra Sancta Museum amounts to €11,900,000 financed by sponsorship. The Custody has already contributed €3,700,000 (31%).

Terra Sancta Museum – Historical Section	Costs
Surface area : 1,409.5 square meters	
Feasibility studies	€200,000
Demolitions & Rehabilitation	€800,000
Masonry works	€1,224,000
Technical Systems & Finishing works	€2,627,000
Scenography: Showcases and lighting	€2,767,000
Multimedia	€235,000
Restoration of works, documentation, inventories	€1,200,000
Training & Mediation	€560,000
Management & human resources	€1,771,000
Communication & fundraising	€516,000
TOTAL*	€11,900,000

* with unforeseen costs (17%).



BUDGET BREAKDOWN BY ROOM



**The Knighting Ceremony
at the Holy Sepulchre**

Surface area 10.5 m²
€42,000

Eastern Christian art

Surface area 65 m²
€350,000

**The registers of
conduits, passport
of the works**

Surface area 15.0 m²
€129,000

**Gifts from
the Spanish Court**

Surface area 43.5 m²
€350,000

**The Pharmacy of
St. Saviour's Monastery**

Surface area 46.3 m²
€360,650

**Gifts from
Portugal**

Surface area 24.7 m²
€205,000

**Worship and Liturgy
(Didactic room)**

Surface area 40.8 m²
€470,000

**The room
of France**

Surface area 35.5 m²
€310,000

**Gifts from the Holy Roman
Empire and Poland**

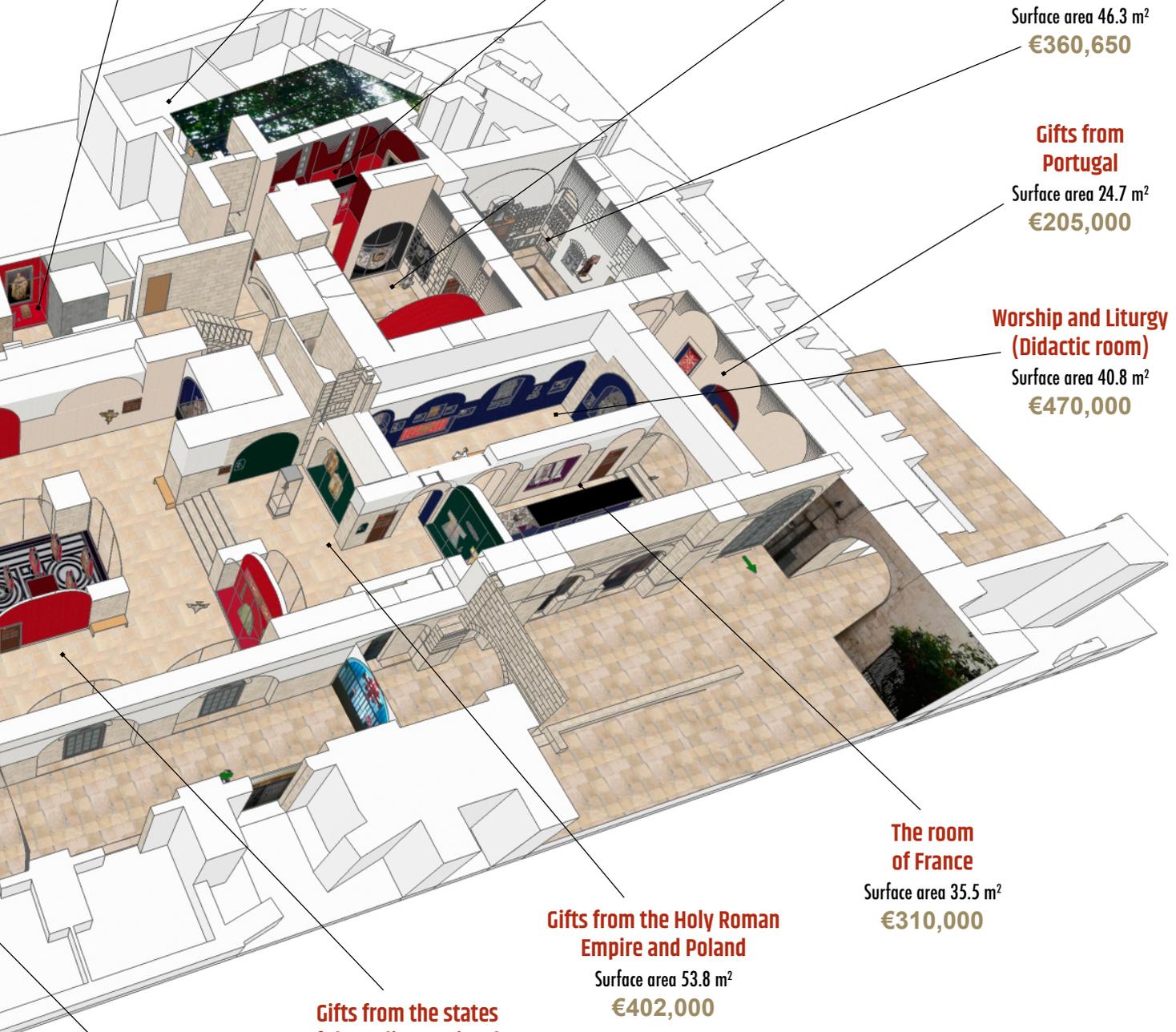
Surface area 53.8 m²
€402,000

**Gifts from the states
of the Italian peninsula**

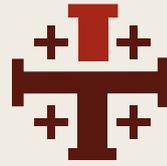
Surface area 213.8 m²
€1,074,000

**The Custody today
(Multimedia)**

Surface area 20.3 m²
€145,000



Circle Amici Terræ Sanctæ



The Amici Terræ Sanctæ Circle is the culmination of a very high level of patronage driven solely by the desire to restore the full visibility of Christianity in the Holy Land. Admission to the Circle is set at €100,000 and the number of donors will be fixed as soon as the 8 M€ threshold is crossed.



Engraving of the names of patrons on a marble plaque at the entrance to the Terra Sancta Museum. Special invitation to Jerusalem, visit of the Holy Places with the best specialists.

The Custody of the Holy Land wishes to express its gratitude to its benefactors by giving them exclusive and privileged access to special occasions and by showing visible signs of their commitment.



Dine with the Franciscan Community at the St. Saviour's Monastery in Jerusalem.

Grato Animo Medal

The *Grato Animo* Medal is the highest recognition given by the Custody to a person who, on one hand, has shown commitment to improving the lives of Christians and all peoples in the Holy Land, and on the other hand, supports the mission of the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land.



- **Inclusion in the list of benefactors to the Holy Land** for whom the friars of the Holy Land celebrate perpetual masses at each of the sanctuaries
- **Invitation to the official inauguration** of the Terra Sancta Museum after its completion
- **Lifetime pass** for the Terra Sancta Museum, and more...



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for a full presentation of the case and the organization of a visit in Jerusalem.

There are several ways to display your generosity and participate in the construction of the Terra Sancta Museum.

The Terra Sancta Museum is supported in France by the “Amici Terræ Sanctæ” Foundation under the aegis of the Mansart Foundation – Parks and Residences of France.

If you are a French tax resident, you can benefit from a 66% tax reduction on your donation if you are subject to income tax and a 75% reduction if you are subject to the IFI (real estate wealth tax). Our Foundation has several international agreements which allow tax exemption in many countries. If you require any further information, feel free to contact our delegates.



THE FRANCISCANS, LIVING STONES OF JERUSALEM

For the first time, the Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Montmartre displayed photos on its gates from “The Guardians of the Tomb of Jesus”, an AFP exhibition about the daily life of the Franciscans of Jerusalem, from September 10 to December 13, 2020. The Franciscan friars agreed to open their doors and their personal lives to Thomas Coex, photographer and director of photography for the AFP stationed in Jerusalem. He accompanied them during times of prayer, social work, and relaxation. The exposition features 29 prints and presents unedited scenes of the daily life of these Catholic religious, faithful guardians of the Tomb of Jesus for 800 years.



BRIEF — 09/2022 — Photos: Thomas Coex/AFP, Marie-Armelle Beaulieu/CTS, Nadim Asfour/CTS, ATS Pro Terra Sancta, Terra Sancta Museum, DR.



www.terrasanctamuseum.org

