



**Association pro Terra Sancta** is the nonprofit nongovernmental organization of the Custody of the Holy Land, present wherever there are Franciscan friars in the Middle East.

The Association supports the Franciscans of the Holy Land through the carrying out of projects, giving echo to the wish of the **Custody of the Holy Land** that everyone have the opportunity to share in the mission to support the Christian presence in this Land and to preserve the Holy Places.

The Custody of the Holy Land is the name by which today are known the Franciscans of the Order of Friars Minor, who have been present in the Eastern part of the Mediterranean since the earliest days of the Order, which was founded by St. Francis in 1209.



## To live forever in the Holy Land

Giving away one's money to the poor is an act at the very roots of human life, because it is accepting the way of life of Christ, who "for your sake became poor although he was rich, so that by his poverty you might become rich" (2Cor 8:9). The apostle Paul presents contributions for the poor as a grace, a sharing, a love in which the generosity and grace of the Lord can be seen in action (Rom 15:25-27). The strong bond between God and the Holy City was expressed on several occasions in the Old Testament. The earthly Jerusalem, mother of all peoples, has always been linked to the heavenly Jerusalem. The Patriarch Jacob in fact saw a stairway connecting the two cities and "the angels of God were ascending and descending on it" (Gen 28:12). Affirming that "God will not enter the heavenly Jerusalem before entering the earthly Jerusalem" (Talmud, Taanit 5a), the tradition recognizes that everything in the Holy City has its counterpart in the celestial Jerusalem.



## Request the Guide for legacies

An in-depth brochure is available, providing general information on making a will as well as valuable historical information on the bond to the Holy Land and the value of legacies and inheritances in Christian tradition.

To obtain the Guide, please contact the Legacy Office by:

- phoning (+39) 02 6572453
- sending an email to: lasciti@proterrasancta.org
- filling out the form on the website: [legacies.proterrasancta.org](http://legacies.proterrasancta.org)

*The Franciscans of the Custody pray daily for all those who, in whatever form, aid the Holy Land.*

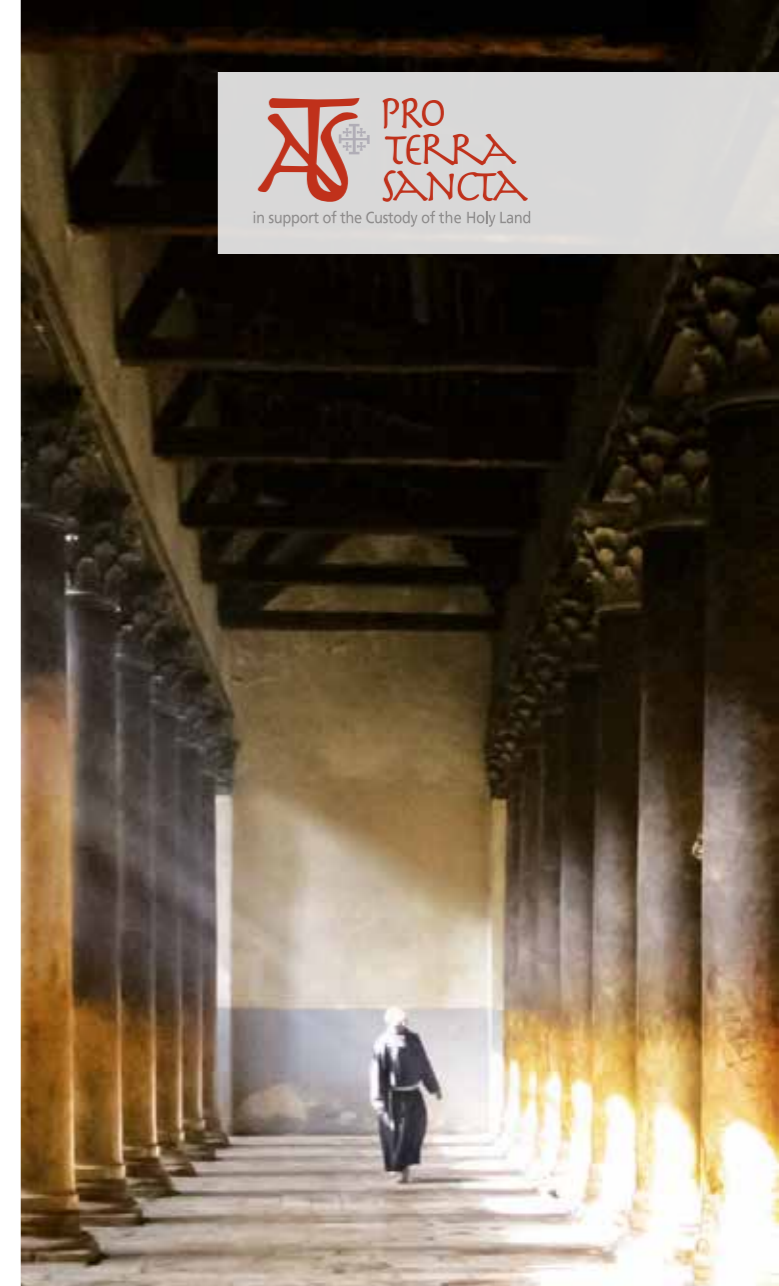


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CONSIGLIO  
NAZIONALE  
DEL  
NOTARIATO



in support of the Custody of the Holy Land

## To live forever in the Holy Land.

*By making a legacy in favor of the Franciscan friars you will forever remain a custodian of the Holy Land.*



## **We safeguard the Holy Places and take care of the people there**

**Safeguarding and taking care of** are the two activities that characterize the commitment and mission of Association pro Terra Sancta: safeguarding, i.e., preserving and enhancing the Holy Places, and taking care of the Christian communities who live in difficult conditions in the Holy Land and in the Middle East.

The Franciscan friars, following the example of St. Francis, give themselves without reserve to the service of their brothers, supporting the poor and the weak, teaching the young, welcoming the elderly and the infirm. They meet with everyone, without distinction of race or religion, dedicating themselves to doing whatever is necessary.



## **Help the Holy Land with a legacy**

A will is a valuable tool inasmuch as it gives us the opportunity to determine the disposition of our assets for the future and allows us to make an important final gesture that can have a lasting impact: it can signify, to live forever in the Land where Jesus was born, lived, died and rose again.

By making a will we in fact have the possibility to allocate a portion of our assets to support the Franciscan friars who are engaged in safeguarding the Holy Places and aiding the Christian communities in distress.

**Leaving a part of one's legacy to the Franciscan friars in the Holy Land means leaving an indelible mark in the earthly Jerusalem that safeguards the stones furrowed by the Lord, while at the same time, by involving and animating the Christian communities who are heirs of the faith of the Apostles, not forgetting the living stones who keep that memory alive and fresh.**

Contributing as a benefactor through a legacy in favor of the works of the Custody of the Holy Land is not only a gesture of solidarity that will facilitate the continuity of the many projects aimed at helping the Christians here, it means above all to collaborate in the Kingdom of God, in building up the earthly Jerusalem prelude to the heavenly one.

This is why each Friday during the year, in front of the empty Tomb in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, where the Way of the Cross ends, the friars pray for their "brothers in Christ", benefactors of the Holy Land, who by their acts of charity have linked themselves forever to this place, which has served as a bridge between heaven and earth.



## **In practical terms, how legacies are used**

Legacies received by the Association are devoted in their entirety to supporting the activities of the Franciscan friars in the Holy Land. In this way we can share the responsibility to guard the Holy Places and to help the improvement of the local Christian communities life conditions, who live in hard situations.

The person drawing up the will can choose to allocate their legacy to a specific Holy Place, or to support a particular local Christian community where he will be symbolically linked.



## **Make a will it's a simple but valuable gesture**

Those who decide to make a will can choose whether to do this in their own hand, in a simple and clear fashion, following certain basic rules (holographic will), or by working with a notary who prepares a "public" will (signed by two or more witnesses) and is then responsible for preserving it. Alternatively, they may decide to make a "secret" will, which can be drawn up by the testator or by a third party and delivered to the notary.

In your will you can choose to leave a portion of your inheritance, even if only a small part, to Association pro Terra Sancta.

The testator can modify or revoke the will at any time, since the disposition of assets set forth in the will takes effect only after his or her death.

## **A donation in memory**

You can remember a loved one with a donation in their memory, a concrete way to help preserve the Holy Places and support the Christian communities. You will receive a letter of remembrance from the Holy Land and the name of your family member or friend will be inscribed in the register of Friends of the Holy Land.