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FOR THE HOLY LAND

College Educational Endowment Gala New York

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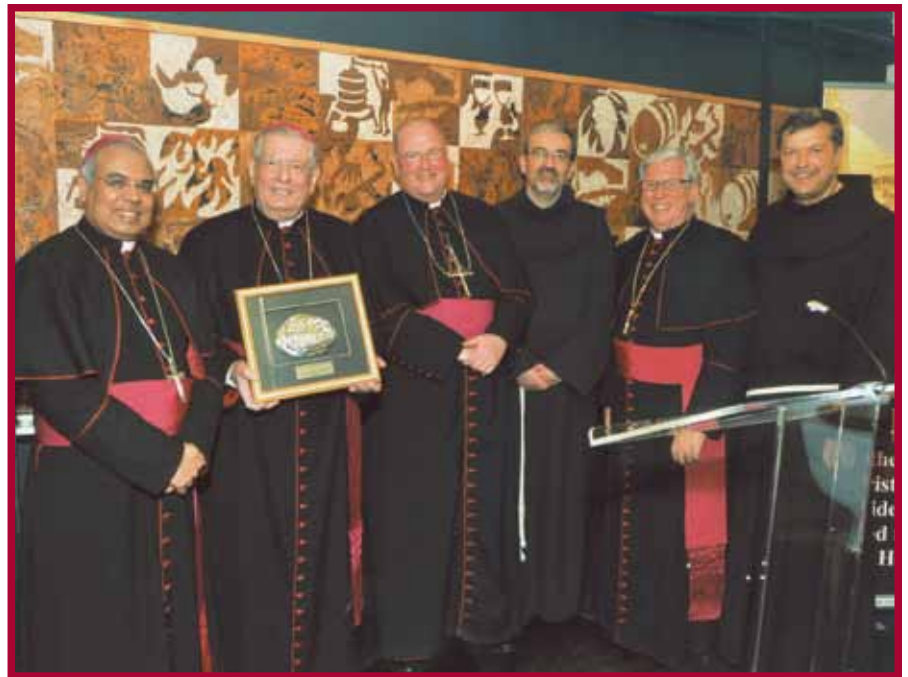
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On March 6, 2011 a black tie benefit dinner was held at the Veritas Restaurant in New York City to raise funding for a special educational endowment program that FFHL established last year. This endowment will greatly assist in providing more and more Christian students in the Holy Land, whose families are economically marginalized, with an opportunity of receiving a four year college scholarship.

As Raymond Arroyo, EWTN News Director for the "World Over" opened the evening as Master of Ceremonies, he called upon the Holy See's Permanent Observer to the United States, His Excellency, Archbishop Francis Assisi Chullikatt, DD, to give the invocation. The attendees were then presented an outstanding dinner by the notable cuisine cook, Chef Sam Hazen. All of the fine wines served at the tables were generously donated by the founder and owner



Attending Prelates (l to r) Most Rev. Francis A. Chullikatt, DD Apostolic Nuncio, Vatican Permanent Observer to the United Nations; Most Rev. Pietro Sambi, DD Apostolic Nuncio to the United States; Most Rev. Timothy M. Dolan, DD Archbishop of New York; Fr. Pierbattista, OFM Custos and Chairman of FFHL; Most Rev. Frank Dewane, Bishop of Venice, FL; Fr. Peter Vasko, OFM

of the Veritas, Mr. Park B. Smith who also attended the event.

Later Archbishop Sambi, DD Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, gave a very informative address and spoke not only about the Bilateral Agreements between the Holy See and Israel but about the ongoing tensions in the Middle East and what effect that would have on our Arab Christians living in those countries. He said, "It was too early to predict what the outcome will be, but that we must keep pray-

(Cont'd on page 2)

Our Mission

The Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land is a worldwide organization founded in 1994 under the auspices of the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land. The foundation was created to safeguard the basic human rights and continued presence of the Christian Palestinian minority living in the Holy Land by providing academic scholarships, subsidized housing, employment opportunities, while preserving, protecting, and restoring The Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

Letter from the Custos

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The tomb is empty –
Alleluia!

We all have just experienced the Lenten season with the culmination and celebration of Easter and the Risen

Lord. Each of you were in our hearts as we had the privilege of experiencing His passion, death and resurrection at the actual sites in Jerusalem during this most solemn of seasons. Know that you are never far from our minds and hearts here in this most Holy of cities.

As you read through these pages, I hope that you feel a part of our family. Your generosity has made many of these projects possible. Whether it is the music of the Magnificat Institute in Jerusalem, the new Christian Family Center in Nazareth or reaching out to the poorest of the poor or elderly in Bethlehem you are here with us and we are forever grateful. As the world seems to be in great turmoil, know that the Peace of Christ is within each one us. He has Risen!

I remain a servant of Christ and yours,

Fr. Pierbattista Pizzaballa

Custos of the Holy Land
Chairman

Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land



Fr. Pierbattista Pizzaballa, OFM

(Cont'd from page 1)

ing for peace and for those Christians who reside there.”

After the talk, Fr. Pizzaballa, OFM religious head of the Custody of the Holy Land and Chairman of FFHL, along with Fr. Vasko, OFM made several presentations recognizing those individuals who have shown outstanding support for the mission of the Foundation. These presentations were made to: Archbishop Sambhi, Apostolic Nuncio to the U.S., Archbishop Dolan of New York, Mr. Park B. Smith founder and owner of the Veritas restaurant and Mr. Nicholas J. Babiak, Chairman of the Dinner Committee.

In his closing remarks, Fr. Peter, President of FFHL, stated, “Because of the generosity of so many Christians here in the U.S. who have supported our mission including all of you here this evening, we are finally seeing light at the end of a very dark tunnel. In fact, more and more young Christians are now deciding to remain in their land because they have now been given motivation – a college education. Some seventy percent of our students who graduate are now professionals in the fields of medicine, business, engineering, law and education and have decided to remain in their homeland.” He closed by quoting Proverbs 16:23 (*Commit your work to the Lord and then you will succeed.*) This is the great blessing that God has given to our work and mission.



Dinner Committee (l to r) Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Babiak, Chairman (Virginia); Fr. Peter; Mrs Susan Stanzel (Texas); and Mrs. Dolores McDonnell (New York).



Presentation (right): Fr. Peter Vasko, OFM, President of FFHL presents a copy of a print of Jerusalem dated 1584 to Mr. Park Smith, founder and owner of Veritas Restaurant in New York who graciously donated the fine wines for the event.

Fr. Peter then thanked the Dinner Committee for the many hours spent in making this evening such a success: Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Babiak of Virginia, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Stanzel of Texas and Mrs. Dolores McDonnell of New York. Fr. Peter then called upon Bishop Frank Dewane of the Diocese of Venice, Florida to give the benediction.

Catholic Apologist, Patrick Madrid, Addresses Indianapolis Fundraising Dinner

Franciscan Father Peter Vasko told more than 200 supporters of the Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land (FFHL) during a March 12th fundraising dinner in Indianapolis that “We are seeing the beginnings of a new future for the Church in the Holy Land.”

He spoke about this in light of a verse from the Book of Proverbs: “Commit your work to the Lord, and then you will succeed” (Proverbs 16:23). “How true that was when the Franciscan Foundation began their mission to stem the Christian exodus from the Holy Land some 15 years ago,” Father Peter said, “and because we dedicated this mission to God and to his people in the Holy Land it has been greatly successful.”

“We are finally seeing a glimmer of light as more and more young Christians are receiving the opportunity of securing a college education in the Holy Land. Upon graduation, a large majority of those students have decided to remain in the Holy Land to follow their professional careers,” said Father Peter, President of the Foundation.

“Your presence here this evening confirms again that you too, recognize Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Nazareth as your spiritual homeland,” Father Peter said. “We have an extraordinary blessing to share, to preserve and to pass on to the next generation. Much of the \$180,000 raised at the dinner will be used to establish an endowment to fund such scholarships well into the future.”

Also attending the dinner at the Marriott North hotel in Indianapolis were Bishop Frank J. Dewane of Venice, FL, a member of the Foundation’s board, and Bishop Christopher J. Coyne, the auxiliary bishop and Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

Catholic apologist, author and radio host, Patrick Madrid was the keynote speaker at the fundraising dinner. In his presentation, Madrid encouraged the attendees to learn about their faith, and find ways to share the truths of Catholicism in a positive and attractive manner. He said that this task has been made more difficult because of inadequate faith formation over the past half century.

“We have a lot of work ahead of us,” Madrid said. “But I think that it really boils down to what we can do as Catholics to identify ourselves publicly, not in a confrontational way, not in a pushy or showy way, ... to draw others toward the truths of the faith that you and I hold. How can we do it in a way that is charitable and patient?”

Madrid suggested several ways by recounting stories from his own life of faith. Throughout them, he emphasized that being publicly Catholic isn’t as hard as one might think. “Being Catholic in the modern world does not require complicated explanations of the faith more often than not,” he said. “The more simple, charitable and patient that you are, the better.”

Although Catholics in the Holy Land have more difficulty practicing their faith than those in the U.S., Father Peter said he is confident the FFHL is doing all that it can to assist our Christians living in the Holy Land.

Photos courtesy of Denis Kelly, Jr.



Patrick Madrid raises his Bible as he encourages attendees to read the Bible in order to defend their faith.

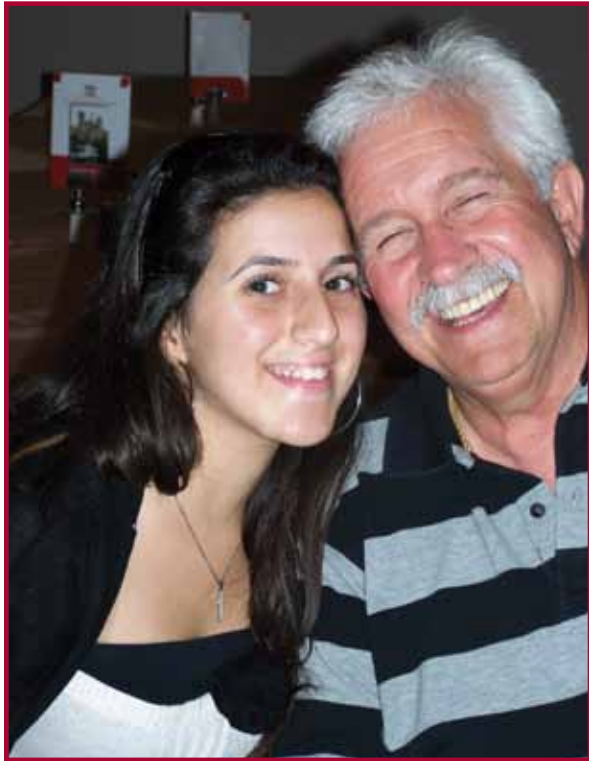


Msgr. Paul Koetter, who has been to the Holy Land several times makes a final appeal for the Foundation.



Indianapolis Planning Committee and dignitaries from l to r. Deborah Roberts, John Borgo, Mike LeCuyer, Mike Hirsch, Bishop Christopher Coyne, Bishop Frank Dewane, Fr. Peter Vasko, Bill Demaree, Richard Sontag, Joe Durlle, Kathy Sadlowski

Joyful Encounters with Their University Students



The tour bus dropped us off at the hotel for lunch to meet Tania and her family for the first time. Foster and Jan Moffo from Columbus, OH, have been assisting Tania with a college scholarship. She is currently attending Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Tania and her parents boast of the good grades she is receiving at the university. Tania is majoring in Chemical Engineering and hopes someday that she might be able to work for a major pharmaceutical company in Israel.

At the University, her fellow students oftentimes assume that Tania is Muslim since she is an Arab. During Ramadan, many assumed she was a bad Muslim since she did not keep the fast during the daylight hours. We wondered how difficult it must be to declare your Christianity in that atmosphere where 98% of the students are Jewish or Muslim.

As we enjoyed lunch with Tania and her family, they spoke of the plight of Christians in the Holy Land. Jobs and housing in Israel are difficult for Christians to obtain and retain. The key to keeping the Christian presence in the Holy Land is education of the youth. They expressed thanks to the Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land for all that the organization has done for them and others.

As we walked through the grounds of the hotel, the family was repeatedly greeted by fellow Catholics who recognized them from church.

Family is important to the Khayo's. Many Sundays after Mass are spent visiting the homes of various relatives. To them, maintaining close family ties is essential. This warm, loving family embraced the two of us as if we were already members of their family. Tania and her siblings already respectfully refer to each of us as "Uncle". Tania and her family members communicated with us in English though it is not their first language.

We learned that Tania could speak several languages including: Arabic, Hebrew, Italian and English. Tania's sister, Ranin, has also been receiving excellent grades in school and her dream is to study at the university in a year, but of course, this will not be possible without a scholarship like one that might be provided through FFHL.

by Mike Jones, Columbus Chapter Cradling Christianity



Dr. and Mrs. Richard Toussaint, FFHL board member from Dallas, Texas, while visiting the Holy Land met with their two students whom they are sponsoring for a full four year scholarship grant. Ms. Giovanna Shammass is in her second year at Hebrew University studying pharmacy and Ms. Michline Mansour is in her third year at Hebrew University studying banking and finance. (Left to right) Dr. Richard Toussaint, Giovanna Shammass, Michline Mansour, and Mrs. Adelle Toussaint.



In a recent visit, Rev. Mark Watson, pastor of Jesus the Good Shepherd Church in Monroe, LA met with Jihan Gideon, the student that he and his parish are sponsoring.



Carole Gillespie, one of four pilgrims from Columbus, OH who are sponsoring Shadi Mickel, a university student gives him a hug. He is attending Birzeit University for his second year and studying Engineering.

The Franciscans in Bethlehem Reach Out to the Poorest of the Poor

The Franciscan Social Services Organization (FSSO) was established in 2008 to care for the financially, psychosocially and medically needy individuals and families in the Bethlehem area. The organization does its utmost to reach all the needy families and individuals by opening the office twice a week, making home visits and taking care of cases recommended by the parish priest. This past year FSSO asked the Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land if we would be willing to assist them by funding the needed medicines for those who are unable to pay. FFHL accepted their request.

FSSO provides a lot of networking, so as to increase coordination, cooperation and effectiveness. Cooperation among the governmental, nongovernmental and local community sectors guarantees better results. It has been the best way to avoid duplication of services while at the same time exchanging resources and experience. It also assists greatly in easing huge medical costs that FSSO cannot afford.

Father Custos, Chairman of FFHL stated that, "Such humanitarian aid for the poor is a Godsend, and that is what FFHL is all about – helping others!"

This organization has 4 goals needing financial support:

- Monthly assistance and allowances for elderly, widows, and families in special need
- Medical and pharmaceutical assistance
- Utilities Invoices and food coupon aid
- Education

The assistance and the prevention activities are offered on a daily basis to help people both young and old. In many ways it is the only way for these people to survive in the Palestinian territories, whose government does not offer any public and social assistance. Many families and elderly people in need are seeking support from the social worker at the FSSO. This is especially true when it comes to the plight of the elderly who have no one to ask for economic and social support or have no means to pay for their medicines. In this joint endeavor FFHL will be providing funding on a monthly basis for the much needed medicine for Christian families.

Here are three stories of needy families and the elderly in Bethlehem. Samira is a young mother of two children. Her family is very poor with her husband providing the only income. She presently has cancer and last year she had

heart surgery. Samira is living with her family in a very poor house in Bethlehem not far from the Church of the Nativity. Due to her health conditions and the difficulties of the Palestinian health system, treatment was available only at a private hospital. Her family was not able to pay for such treatment, which cost \$5300.00. Samira went to the social worker of the FSSO who was able to find funding for her surgery from the public health care system.

Elizabeth is an elderly widow living alone. Three of her children live abroad and two of them are still in school. She is both intelligent and educated speaking several languages. When she was young she had a good job, but now, due to the lack of a retirement system in Palestine, Elizabeth is without anything. She is old, sick and alone and is living on a small amount of money sent to her by her daughter. The humidity in her poorly constructed home makes her symptoms worse. She has no money to pay for her medicines, and of course no money to fix her house. FFHL is now covering the medical expenses without which she would not survive.

Mary is strong. She is still a fairly active seventy year old woman who has suffered many difficulties in her life. She and her husband together had four children, but she is now a widow. One of their children, whose death has never been fully explained, died in a shooting incident in the U.S.. Two of their children now live in the



U.S., one of which never keeps in contact with his mother while his sister is able to send \$200-\$300 each trimester to her mother.

She is presently renting a house and is living with her other son, who is unfortunately, mentally disabled. Regrettably, Mary is unable to pay the rent so she came to FSSO as her only option.

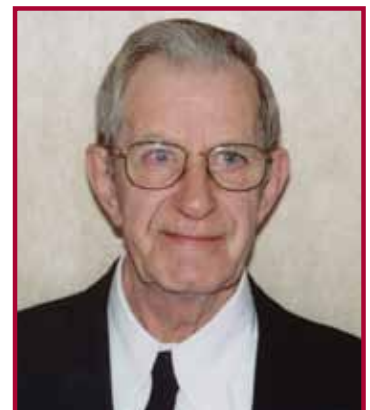
Rising prices and unemployment are creating more and more poverty, thus increasing the requests for help in our office. Thanks to your contributions, and to the intense commitment of staff and volunteers, this year during Holy Week we were able to provide some relief to the poor and needy here in Bethlehem. We distributed 50 boxes of food and 50 coupons making meat available to other needy families. In addition, we gave away 150 food and clothing coupons for children in economic trouble. There were also contributions given to 76 elderly and widowed people.

Brother Callistus Welch, OFM Celebrates 50 Years as a Franciscan

Brother Callistus Welch, OFM, has spent 50 years in ministry as a Holy Land Franciscan. A native of Walsall, England, Brother Callistus came to the United States to answer a call to the religious life. He took his final vows as a Holy Land Franciscan in 1961.

In 1994, he became treasurer of the Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land. Describing his work with the Franciscan Foundation as very gratifying, he is proud of the 22 schools supported by the Holy Land Franciscans, especially those who have graduated and gone on to successful careers.

When asked how he will spend the special day, he replied, "I will serve Mass and go to lunch. It's just another day."



Custody Launches New Housing Renovation

Restore, renovate and preserve the housing of the Old City of Jerusalem, thereby guaranteeing to the Christians who live there healthy and safe living environments: "Jerusalem, Stones of Memory" is a wide-range project launched by the Custody of the Holy Land and supported by the Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land and ATS pro Terra Sancta to preserve the presence of those who are the living stones of the Holy Land.

The project is one of a number of initiatives promoted by the Custody of the Holy Land which seeks to support the survival and development of the poorest part of the population of Jerusalem by improving the physical and sanitary conditions of the buildings and by creating employment opportunities for both the unemployed and for temporary workers who come from East Jerusalem and the West Bank. The Custody of the Holy Land has in fact owned a large number of buildings within the Old City of Jerusalem. In addition to convents and churches there are approximately 480 housing units being allocated to the neediest Christian families, who pay a symbolic rent to the Custody. Many of the houses and surrounding areas are in a dilapidated state – unsafe, unhealthy and lacking normal comforts – and are in urgent need of renovation in order to provide dignified living conditions for the inhabitants.

Father Ibrahim Faltas, Comptroller for the Custody of the Holy Land, explains in an interview what motivates the Franciscan Friars of the Holy Land to support the Christian presence in these places and how this comprehensive project became a reality within the Old City of Jerusalem.

Father Ibrahim, how many housing units does the Custody of the Holy Land own in the Old City?

The Custody of the Holy Land owns more than 400 homes in the Old City of Jerusalem, many of which are in need of repair and renovation.

What made you decide to make these available for the local Christians?

We decided to place them at the disposition of the local Christians in order to allow them to remain within the Old City of

Jerusalem. This is very important because we Franciscans are here first and foremost as the custodians of the Holy Places, ministering to our people who are the living stones of the local Church here in Jerusalem.

Before



After



What are the reasons that sometimes lead a Christian to leave Jerusalem?

The problem for the local Christians is that 80 percent of them are employed in the tourist sector, and when this sector has difficulties, or when there are fewer pilgrims, for example in the summer period or late spring (most pilgrimages take place at either Christmas or Easter), or at times of political crisis or conflict, Christians without jobs tend to leave. This was the case in particular during the second Intifada, from 2000 to 2005, which led to a collapse in tourism, and many Christians left the Holy Cities of Nazareth, Bethlehem and Jerusalem.

What can be done to stop this emigration? What contribution can the Franciscans make?

Our contribution is to make homes available to these people, because rents here are extremely high - a minimum of about \$1,000 per month. Often people cannot afford this, and that is why we are refurbishing and repairing homes and in some cases, constructing entirely new ones, both within and outside the Old City. Together

Project — “Jerusalem Stones of Memory”

Before



After



with the Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land and other support groups we are also providing job opportunities so that they will be able to continue living near the Holy Sites.

A broad restructuring plan for housing units is currently being carried out. How much has been accomplished in recent years and what remains to be done?

We still have a long way to go. For the moment, about a hundred homes are being refurbished but there are another 300 or so that still need to be completed.

Do the younger generations also have the possibility of obtaining housing through the Custody, or will it be necessary to come up with other solutions?

I'm not sure how to answer this, but I do hope that we will be successful in finishing the work currently underway, so as to renovate as many houses as possible, even if there are frequent problems with the scheduling. It is a long and complex process but in any event these housing units that are being built are targeted for our young Christian families.

How are the repair works being financed?

Our financing comes from the charitable contributions of ordinary people, through organizations like the Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land and from private donors who want to help us to maintain the living stones in the Holy Land.



The Magnificat Institute Cultivates Understanding Through Music

For the past ten years FFHL has been providing musical scholarships to our young Christians attending the Magnificat Institute, an humanitarian arm of the Franciscan Custody.



Needless to say, music is the art that unites, brings us together, overcomes differences, and challenges standard ways of thinking, even those most common in the Holy Land. The Magnificat Institute of Jerusalem was founded in 1995, thanks to the work of musician and composer, Fr. Armando Pierucci. Currently, the Magnificat Institute in Jerusalem counts among its ranks 200 Muslim, Christian, and Jewish students, mainly children, who are studying various disciplines. The musical activities outside of school provide great opportunities and hope for the children and their families throughout the Holy Land. The Institute has over 20 teachers and three choirs, who also fulfill the liturgical requirements of the Custody of the Holy Land for the most important celebrations and it is currently housed in the complex of St. Saviour in Jerusalem. The school also has to its credit publications, recordings of musical CDs, foreign tours, concerts and the organization of competitions.

The main objective of the project "Music and Life in Jerusalem" is to sustain the activities of the Magnificat Institute in Jerusalem whose primary goal is to foster encounter, dialogue, peaceful coexistence, and human and social development amongst people and children of diverse cultural and religious backgrounds in the Holy Land. Learning music in Jerusalem provides a very worthwhile alternative to an otherwise difficult living situation in many families.

Last November, the best students of the Magnificat performed in the auditorium of the Jerusalem Center for Near Eastern Studies, which for several years has organized a prestigious season of concerts.

In a marvelous setting on the Mount of Olives, the audience was listening to a wonderful performance. Some fifteen students of the Magnificat, aged 9 - 14 performed classical pieces for piano, flute, violin and cello by composers such as Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Telemann, Poulenc and others. Applause from the audience con-

firmed the successful performance and an additional performance was given by the "Yasmeen" girls' choir made up of teenagers and conducted by Hania Sabbara, the head teacher of the school.

The Magnificat Institute was founded in 1995 by Father Armando Pierucci, the organist of the Holy Sepulchre and Conservatoire teacher who is still its Director. The reputation of the Magnificat is continually growing thanks to the great professionalism of the teachers and the new possibilities that have opened up to the school so as to award academic diplomas which are also recognized in the European Union following the agreement made with the "Pedrollo" Conservatoire of Vicenza, which guarantees and supervises the standards of quality to be observed.

The characteristic of the school of music run by the Custody of the Holy Land, however, is also that of effectively being a laboratory for peace and sharing, with teachers and pupils who are Israelis and Palestinians, Jews, Muslims and Christians, all united by music to build up a new Jerusalem of peace. This is why the Custody of the Holy Land considers the Magnificat a very important activity in its mission.

The Magnificat Institute in the Holy City of Jerusalem has as



its goal the promoting of knowledge about music with particular attention to the cultural heritage of various local communities in the Holy Land. The target goals at the heart of the Magnificat Institute are as follows:

- Prepare teachers capable of teaching and transmitting love for music in schools in the Holy Land
- Sing and play in the shrines and parishes of the Holy Land, in particular the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem
- Create opportunities, both choral and instrumental, to break down the cultural, religious and linguistic barriers and promote peaceful and friendly relationships in the Holy Land

(Cont'd on page 9)

Nazareth Makes Plans for New Christian Family Center



The Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land was asked by the Franciscan Custody, along with the parish in Nazareth to establish a center for Christian families living in the city, modeled after the Franciscan Family Center in Bethlehem. The center will be assisting Christian families in their social needs.

Fr. Amjad Sabbara, Pastor of the Church of the Annunciation, is presently taking a course on the "Family" at John Paul II Pontifical Institute of the "Pontifical Lateran University" in Rome. He hopes to bring new ideas and skills to help the center.

The goal is to assist the community of Nazareth by giving them new social skills. This help will focus on the needs of Christian families in Nazareth which will develop social skills as well as create new ways and ideas of resolving social problems.

One of these "new social skills" is the method of "Coaching". It is an innovative way for solving adult, teenager and children's problems within the family. It can also be used when working with independent businesses by economical and financial counsel to employees.

"To think differently" is a practical thought process of an institution of learning called, TUT Coaching and Results Ltd. Some thirty individuals from the Nazareth parish have been meeting for the past 6 months with a representative of the coaching company. One of the ways in which the forum decided to reach their potential is to build a Christian Family Center which will provide for the critical needs of the young and old within the family structure. The program encourages the Christians in the Holy Land to "enhance their lives and those of others."

The principle goal is to make life more meaningful for all. "We Christians," stated Kameel Spanioly, Program Director, "must rebuild our spirits and our souls from within – both mentally and spiritually."

By this time next year, they hope this center will become a valuable vehicle in helping others. It will host Christian families and pilgrims from around the world to live a unique experience in the town where the first Christian family lived.

Our aim is to fix the family defects because the family is the basic cell in society. **GOOD FAMILY=GOOD SOCIETY**



(Cont'd from page 8)

between children of different backgrounds, and in particular in the Holy City of Jerusalem

Given the critical social context in which the Magnificat Institute of Jerusalem finds itself, only some of the students are able to pay the tuition to attend the Institute and that is the reason for the needed outside support for the musical scholarships.

"I trust that the harmony of music, which knows no social and religious barriers, is a constant invitation to all people of good will to seek together the universal language of love that makes them capable of building a world of justice and solidarity, of hope and peace." Pope Benedict XVI

Hundreds of Bethlehem Children Attend Annual "March for Peace"



The 3rd annual Christmas "March for Peace" was attended by hundreds of people of all ages; however, it is the children who make the most urgent plea for peace. The march is to bring attention to the fact that Israel and Palestine need to work together to find a peaceful solution to the situation now present in the Holy Land.



Children from the FFHL sponsored "Children Without Borders" project wore orange tee shirts, carried balloons and banners while walking the street from Jerusalem to Bethlehem. Fr. Peter Vasko, OFM and FFHL Vice President Denise Scalzo, SFO helped lead the excited children through the streets. To make things interesting many Disney characters danced and intermingled among the crowd along with the Scouts and local bands.

Tampa Establishes new FFHL Chapter



Pictured here are from l to r: Greg and Cathy Ross, Dr. Robert Pelaez, Kim and Naheed Kasper, Rose and John Astrab

In a recent pilgrimage sponsored by the Franciscan Foundation, several members of the pilgrimage decided after seeing, listening and experiencing the plight of the Christians in the Holy Land that they would like to assist FFHL by becoming a network for the Foundation in Tampa and its surrounding areas. The Tampa

Chapter will be headed up by Greg and Cathy Ross along with their committee as pictured above. All are young professionals and excited to begin their ministry. This is the second chapter established by FFHL in Florida. The first one is the Orlando region. We wish both chapters much success.

Boys Home Enjoys a Visit from the Custos



Fr. Peter Vasko, OFM, Denise Scalzo, SFO & FFHL Vice-President, Fr. Pierbattista Pizzaballa, OFM and Fr. Rami Asskrieh, OFM Director of the Boys School, take a moment to pose with the boys after receiving their gifts.



Pictured are the boys from the Franciscan Boys Home in Bethlehem enjoying their usual visit from the Custos and Santa in December. The majority of these boys come here because of difficult living conditions with their families. They were thrilled to present the Custos a poster which included all of their pictures. Some of the boys are residents at the home, returning to their families on the weekend while others spend the day and return in the evening. All the boys attend the Terra Sancta School run by the Franciscans in Bethlehem.



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Pilgrimages to Benefit the Work of the Franciscan Foundation

Join Fr. Peter Vasko, OFM, on a pilgrimage of faith:

- November 28-December 8, 2011, FFHL Pilgrimage to the Holy Land with Fr. Peter Vasko, OFM
- June 8-18, 2012, FFHL Pilgrimage to the Holy Land with Fr. Peter Vasko, OFM
- November 26-December 6, 2012, FFHL Pilgrimage to the Holy Land with Fr. Peter Vasko, OFM

These pilgrimages exploring the Holy Land will provide an opportunity to open a new chapter in your own faith journey and your own response to God's generous grace. **Now is the time to reach out in support of our Palestinian Christians. Your presence can make a difference.**

For information or to receive a brochure call toll free (866) 905-3787

