



The Franciscan Seal

The seal represents The Franciscan Charism which has always been identified with Christ crucified. Its guidance comes from the Holy Spirit represented by the dove of peace.

The specific cross, commonly called the Crusaders Cross, was adopted by the early Franciscans who worked in the Holy land and established through grace and guidance, an ever-present service and guardianship to these hallowed grounds and all its people.



The Holy Land Foundation has been created to raise funds to continue pursuing Christian ecumenical, cultural and spiritual activities. Service programs include providing employment opportunities, subsidized housing, medical care and academic scholarships, while preserving, protecting and restoring the Holy Sites of Christianity.

HEADQUARTERS
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The Holy Land

NUMBER NINE

FOUNDATION

We beseech you to help save the Holy Land.

GALA FUNDRAISER TO SUPPORT UNDERPRIVILEGED HOLY LAND CHRISTIANS

Prominent private and corporate citizens were guests at a fundraising banquet on Thursday, September 28, 2000 at the Park City Club in Dallas, Texas to benefit The Holy Land Foundation, a Washington, D.C., based non-profit organization that provides programs to maintain the Christian community in the Holy Land.

His Eminence Anthony Cardinal Bevilacqua, Honorary Chairman of the The Holy Land Foundation, was host for the reception and dinner. Due to a sudden illness, Mr. Joseph C. Donnelly, President and National Director of Aid to the Church in Need, an international Catholic charity under the authority of the Holy See, forwarded his talk for the evening which was delivered by Robert Dupree from the University of Dallas. In his paper, titled "To remain in the Holy Land - Challenge and Blessing," Mr. Donnelly outlined the difficulties faced by the 160,000 Christians remaining in Israel and the programs being implemented by the foundation to stem the exodus and encourage this minority population to stay in their homeland.

Mr. Donnelly expressed that "for contemporary Christians to remain in the Holy Land in this century - they absolutely need the religious presence of other fortified Christians, from all communities and denominations.



L-R The Rev. Bishop and Mrs. Mark B. Herbener, Evangelical Lutheran Bishop Emeritus, Fr. Peter, The Right Reverend and Mrs. D. Bruce MacPherson, Episcopal Bishop Suffragan of Dallas



The Rev. Bishop and Mrs. Kevin S. Kanouse, Evangelical Lutheran Bishop and Fr. Peter

While they surely welcome pilgrims, they need the serious companionship of the universal Christian community to deliberately walk with them. Their search for peace in the big picture is actually measured in small doses, day-by-day, circumstance-by-circumstance. Christians in the Holy Land are proud people. They do not feel or believe themselves to be great. They are proud. They cling to identification with the suffering, passion and death of Jesus Christ. They live closely with Mary, Mother of All Sorrows. See where local Christians go daily. The Resurrection unfortunately is not where they find their victory, maybe not even their hope. Rather, they cling to The Cross of Jesus Christ. This wood is their challenge and native blessing. Theirs is a different experience of the same Christianity. Somehow it is our challenge and unexpected blessing to witness the Resurrection to these children of the land of resurrection. The way is simple. The means are many. The will to do so is all that is necessary for each of us."

(Continued on Pg. 3—Gala Fundraiser)

LETTER FROM THE CUSTOS

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

According to the Bible, in the history of the Jewish people, a year was to be consecrated to God every 50 years. It was called the Jubilee. During this period of time, in accordance with the Law of Moses, all took repossession of his patrimony, slaves



Fr. Giovanni Battistelli, OFM

were freed, all debts were cancelled and the land was given to rest. This was done in order to acknowledge the power of God, the Creator and Liberator, Master of all.

The Jubilee is a renewed call to a conversion of heart, through charity and love. As "pilgrims" together on this journey towards heaven, we give thanks to each of you for helping our Christian brothers and sisters here in the Holy Land. By your generosity many have been able to continue their educations through full and partial scholarships, secure jobs through our Job Placement Program and housing is made available for the poor.

As the door closes on this great Jubilee of the new millennium, let us continue God's great work of Mercy and Charity *together* in this most Holy of Lands.

In the spirit of St. Francis, I remain a servant of God and yours,

Fr. Giovanni Battistelli, OFM

St. Andrew Church Hosts Reception

St. Andrew Catholic Church in Atlanta sponsored a reception and dinner for The Holy Land Foundation on October 12, 2000. The dinner took place at the "Center for Peace" where some 130 persons attended.

Karen Carroll, regional representative of the Atlanta chapter, and her host committee together with Fr. John Murphy, Pastor, and Fr. John Druding, Associate Pastor, of St. Andrew organized the event.

Fr. Peter, President of the foundation, spoke about the crisis that the Christian church has been facing in the Holy Land in the last few decades. He enumerated on the causes as well as the solutions for this crisis.



L-R Margaret Kane, Julie Wegener, Karen Carroll, Tina Hooks, Archbishop J. Donohue, AD, Archbishop of Atlanta, Carol Albright, Fr. John Murphy, and Fr. John Druding.



Mr. John Kelly, CEO of UPS (United Parcel Services of Atlanta) with his wife and Fr. Peter

His Excellency, Archbishop Donohue, D. D., closed the talk by stressing the importance of our Christian roots and how "these roots must be preserved and maintained at all cost." He commended the work that the foundation has already accomplished so far and to "continue to give hope to our Christians who are caught in the middle of an on-going political struggle." He strongly encouraged all the attendees to provide the much needed funding that is required to resolve this crisis of emigration.

The Holy Land Foundation on the Internet

Beginning in January you will be able to visit the first stage of The Holy Land Foundation website at www.theholylanfoundation.org. Although we will have both a Macromedia Flash and a non-Flash version, initially, only the Flash version will be accessible. In the first quarter of 2001 you can expect new additions and enhancements to the site. The foundation's site will be extensive having features including on-line donations, member services, chat rooms, community sites, public relations, photo galleries, etc. As a voice for Christians living in the Holy Land we have focused on having a site that will provide you with up-to-date information and news in the Holy Land. You will be able to follow actual Christian families living in Bethlehem and other cities in "The Remnant" feature of the site. It is also our intention to make this site highly interactive for all of you that will visit us. Download numerous publications; listen to interviews with Fr. Peter Vasko, our President, or some of the students on scholarship. Watch video footage of the Holy Land and the work of the foundation. Truly, this project has been and will continue to be a wonderful work in progress. We thank you for your patience in advance. If you have any questions or suggestions please send an email to tektors@indyweb.net.

(Continued from Pg. 1—**Gala Fundraiser**)

Among the honored guests supporting the foundation's mission are: The Most Reverend Charles V. Grahmann, D.D., Bishop of the Diocese of Dallas, The Most Reverend Joseph A. Galante, D.D., J.C.D., Coadjutor Bishop, and Eleanor Schlafly, National President of the Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation. Honored guests representing Christian churches who were in attendance included Episcopal Suffragan Bishop, The Rt. Rev. D. Bruce MacPherson, and Lutheran Bishops, Rev. Bishop Mark B. Herbener and Rev. Bishop Kevin S. Kanouse.

A highlight of the evening's program was a special Papal presentation, the Pope Leo XIII Gold Cross of Honor, to a dedicated supporter of the Christian community and advocate of its preservation in the Holy Land, Susan Heller Stanzel. (see story below)

Reverend Monsignor Donald F. Zimmerman was master of ceremonies for the evening while guests enjoyed a gourmet menu prepared by Park City Club chefs. The Jack Cannon Trio playing a selection of light, semi-classical compositions, provided music for the evening.

Host committee, table hosts and underwriters for the banquet included Mr. and Mrs. John R. Albers, The Catholic Foundation, Mr. and Mrs. Harry J. Chris, Mr. and Mrs. J. Jan Collmer, Mr. and Mrs. Michael R. Corboy, Dr. and Mrs. Britt Talley Daniel, The Hon. and Mrs. Robert W.

Dean, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel K. Hennessy, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald H. Hoag, Mr. and Mrs. J. Oliver McGonigle, Mr. and Mrs. Edward D. Nicholson, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Stanzel, Mr. and Mrs. Joe C. Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis F. Vasel, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Longwell, Mr. Charles Clark and the University of Dallas Music Department. The fundraiser generated over \$65,000 to benefit the foundation.



L-R Fr. Peter, Susan Stanzel, Eleanor Schlafly, National President, Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation, and Tom Stanzel



L-R Susan Stanzel, Dinner Chairman, Fr. Peter, and John Albers, an underwriter



L-R Jean Vasel, Fr. Peter, and Lewis Vasel Co-Chairman of Dinner

Bestowal of Pope Leo XIII Gold Cross of Honor

Mrs. Susan Stanzel, regional representative of the Dallas chapter of The Holy Land Foundation was the recipient of the Papal decoration of the Pope Leo XIII Gold Cross of Honor at the Dallas fundraiser on September 28, 2000. His Paternity Giovanni Battistelli, Custos of the Holy Land, delegated Fr. Vasko, President of The Holy Land Foundation, to bestow this papal honor. In his presentation, Fr. Vasko stated that "Susan Stanzel is a very unique individual whose constant love for the Holy Land and for its preservation has been of paramount importance in both her private and public life and that her dedication to these goals has been exemplary." This papal honor is bestowed on individuals who are chosen by the Custos of the Holy Land in appreciation for their outstanding contributions to the work of the Holy Land. In accepting this honor, Mrs. Stanzel expressed her gratitude for giving her, as well as so many Dallas families, the opportunity to contribute in a very real way and to help motivate young Christians to remain in the Holy Land. "It continues to be an honor to serve The Holy Land Foundation and its causes." She further stated her "profound appreciation in receiving this papal honor and that the Dallas chapter will continue its successful endeavor."



Seated: Susan and Tom Stanzel
L-R: Marian and Paul Stanzel, Tiffany and Michael Stanzel, Rose and Don Hoff with baby Nicholas, Fr. Peter, and Richard and Shelley Stanzel.

The Volatile Politics of Jerusalem

The centrality of Jerusalem to Palestinian Christians in particular and to Christians in general cannot be overstressed. For the “death and resurrection” of Christ in Jerusalem are an integral part of a Christian’s “Profession of Faith” and a formative event in the Christian memory concerning Jerusalem. And it was in Jerusalem that the spirit of the “Pentecost” was crystallized which resulted in the spread of Christ’s Message to all peoples of the earth. Thus, Palestinian Christians, as other Christians, regard Jerusalem as the center of their faith and piety, and reject Israeli attempts to impose their religious and political hegemony over Jerusalem. Muslim Palestinians who share with their fellow Christians the same posture on Jerusalem insist on the centrality of Jerusalem to them as well. For Jerusalem is the site of Prophet Mohammed’s Journey (Isra’) and his Ascension (Mi’ra’) on the winged steed (Al-Buraq), and the third most sacred city of Islam along with Mecca and Medinah, and the first of the two “qiblas” toward which Muslims turn in their daily prayers.

Israeli policies of cordoning off Jerusalem from Palestinians living in the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and occupied areas since 1993 are preventing Christians and Muslims from reaching their work places, receiving medical, educational and economic services, and praying freely in their holiest shrines, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and Al-Aqsa Mosque and other sanctuaries in Jerusalem.

The Israeli practices only inflame their nationalist and religious sentiments and deepen their Palestinian Arab collective identity at the center of which is Arab Jerusalem as their eternal capital. These Israeli policies are an integral part of the Israeli strategy which aims at minimizing Arab presence in Jerusalem and which has been taking place since 1967.

The 1948 Palestinian-Israeli War and the resulting Nakba (the uprooting and dispersion of close to 750,000 Palestinian Arabs) led, among other things, to the partition of Jerusalem into West (Israeli) and East (Arab). Thus, West Jerusalem and East Jerusalem evolved separately until the 1967 War and Israeli occupation and annexation of East Jerusalem. Six-thousand Palestinians were uprooted from their homes in the Magharbe Quarter in order to make room for the “Wailing Wall” plaza and for a new Jewish quarter. And in the past thirty-three years there has been a deliberate Israeli policy with the objective of changing the Arab Christian and Muslim character of East Jerusalem through a policy of judaizing it by confiscation of tens of thousands of dunums

(dunum = 1000m square) for the construction of Jewish settlements like Ramot Eshkol, Ramot Allon, Neve Ya’acov, Pisgat Ze’ev, Atarot, East Talpiot, Gilo, Mt. Scopus, Givat Shapira, Reches Shuafat, Givat Ha-Matos, and Har Homa. Sixty-six percent of the land of the so-called Greater Jerusalem has been seized by force: five percent from Arab Jerusalem and sixty-one percent from the West Bank. As a result, the Jewish population of Arab Jerusalem has increased tremendously from a few living in Mount Scopus in 1967 to 180,000 in 1999.

The December 1997 Palestinian census estimated that 201,209 Palestinians lived in Arab Jerusalem (old city and neighborhoods). And Israeli plans call for the Jewish population of greater Jerusalem to be raised to 758,000 by 2020 A.D.

Israeli strategies of minimizing Arab presence in Jerusalem are seen as well in Israeli policies which aim to control the number of Palestinians who legally reside in the city and which include the confiscation of East Jerusalem identification cards, in the case of those Jerusalemites who live abroad or in the West Bank for more than seven years or those that travel abroad but do not possess re-entry visas, or those who apply for residency/citizenship elsewhere, or if a Jerusalemite marries a non-resident spouse from the West Bank and Gaza or abroad and he/she must apply for a painful family reunification process, or if a Jerusalemite wants to register their children as residents only if the father holds a valid Jerusalem identification. As a result of these policies thousands of East Jerusalem identification cards have been revoked since 1967.

Further Israeli measures attempt to hamper Palestinian human and land development and are seen in the methods used to expropriate Arab land and to control development in East Jerusalem and its neighborhoods. These methods include military orders and other measures issued between 1967 and the 1990s, with the following justifications: Closed military areas, absentee property, public use, unregistered land, fallow farm land, and green areas. In addition, strict licensing and permit requirements are geared toward the same Israeli goals. And while Palestinians in Arab Jerusalem used to control one hundred percent of the land before 1967, they now control less than twenty percent of it due to land confiscation for the purpose of settlement projects, opening of roads and building inside Arab quarters.

The present situation of Arab Palestinians in East Jerusalem is unbearable; and the political, religious and ethnic atmosphere is highly

volatile. Israel is creating new facts on the ground, thus preempting the outcome of the final status negotiations on Jerusalem, which totally contradict the Oslo Accords signed between the PLO and Israel in 1993.

In short, Palestinians in Jerusalem and elsewhere are not treated as peace partners by the Israelis. On the contrary, they are being constantly reminded that the Israelis are the mighty and the victorious while the Palestinians are the weak and the vanquished. This is the asymmetrical peace formula of the Oslo Accords.

The Palestinian quest for peace with Israel is not tactical but strategic. In the Palestinian Declaration of Independence, in Algiers, November 15, 1988, it is clearly stated that, “despite the historical injustice inflicted on the Arab Palestinian people resulting in their dispersion and self-determination, following UN General Assembly resolution 181 (1947), which partitioned Palestine into two states, one Arab and one Jewish. Yet it is this resolution that still provides those conditions of international legitimacy that ensure the right of Arab Palestinian people to sovereignty.” Furthermore, Arab Jerusalem (Al-Quds Al-Sharif) is declared the capital of this Palestinian state.

As a prelude to a comprehensive and just peace Palestinians insist that the Israelis must annul all measure of annexation of Arab Jerusalem and must remove all settlements established in the 1967 occupied territories, of which Arab Jerusalem is an integral part. Furthermore, not a single Palestinian, whether at home or abroad in the diaspora, will accept a Palestinian state without Jerusalem as its capital. It is very clear that much creative thinking and good will are needed to defuse the present volatile situation and to solve the thorny problem of Jerusalem.

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By Adnan Musallam
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New Educational Grants

The Holy Land Foundation recently awarded two educational grants to George Said and Nancy Ghanem. George Said has been approved to take the Israeli Guide Association program, a two-year program, which at completion will license him as an Israeli guide. The program, costing \$8,000, offers a multitude of courses in history, geography and archaeology. As a married man with three children, Mr. Said, a Roman Catholic, recently expressed his thanks to the foundation for their generosity in providing him a solid employment opportunity for the future. He stated, "It is very encouraging to know that there are Christians in the U.S. who are willing to sacrifice for their fellow Christians here in the Holy Land. I was seriously thinking of taking my family and emigrate to Canada until The Holy Land Foundation came along. Now with the hope of a good paying position, I, along with my wife, have decided to remain. Thanks for giving me and my family this opportunity to remain in my land and God bless your

organization."

Our second recipient, Nancy Ghanem, is a Christian who recently graduated from high school. She has 1 brother and 4 sisters and resides in Jerusalem. Nancy has always had a desire to become involved in the hotel and hospitality industry and so many opportunities exist in Israel for such work. The Notre Dame Hotel, owned by the Holy See, teaches a two-year course in the industry costing \$4,000. The courses are involved with administration, hotel management, food and beverages, receptionist, etc. Upon completion of the course, 95% of the graduates secure professional employment thus insuring a successful career. Nancy expressed her own personal appreciation to the foundation as well as



George Said



Nancy Ghanem

her family who were "so pleased that there is a Christian organization in the Holy Land which is dedicated in helping and providing assistance for our Christian children." Mr. Ghanem, father of Nancy, went on to say that "there is definitely a new era of hope for their children and their children's children."

Cincinnati Benefit Dinner

The Cincinnati chapter of The Holy Land Foundation, headed up by Dr. & Mrs. William Kitzmiller, sponsored a benefit dinner for the work of the foundation. The honorary chairmen for this event were Rev. Jim Willig, Pastor of St. Peter & St. Paul Church, in Reading, Ohio, Rev. Rob Waller, Pastor of St. John Neumann and Rev. Thomas King, Pastor of St. Theresa of the Little Flower, both from Cincinnati. Fr. Willig gave the invocation and Rev. Pat McClosky, associate editor of *St. Anthony's Messenger*, gave the closing benediction. Some 158 guests attended the dinner to hear Fr. Peter Vasko's remarks on the plight of the Christians in the Holy Land as well as an update on the progress the foundation is making in the Holy Land. The dinner raised over \$18,000.

Fr. Peter reminded the audience "in spite of the present political turmoil that has occurred and will continue to occur the foundation is making successful inroads for the local Christian. For example, for the past several years the foundation has spent over \$650,000 in providing 38 students with scholarship grants and \$700,000 in the construction of housing units. The foundation is presently seeking funds to build 70 new housing units at St. Francis Village on the Mount of Olives in Bethphage." Fr. Peter went on to say, "It has been through the generosity of many Catholics and fellow Christians here in the U.S. that these programs have been made possible so as to give sustained hope and motivation for our young people to remain in the Holy Land." Fr. Peter then spoke about the present political difficulties that have escalated in the month of October. Unfortunately, restraint on both the Israeli and Palestinian sides were not forthcoming and the result will be a 3-4 month stalemate in renewing the peace process.



L-R Fr. Pat McClosky, OFM, Associate Editor of *St. Anthony's Messenger*, Fr. Rob Waller, Pastor of St. John Neumann, Alice and William Kitzmiller, Rev. Thomas King, Pastor of St. Theresa of the Little Flower, Rev. Jim Willig, Pastor of St. Peter and St. Paul Church, and Fr. Peter Vasko, OFM.



L-R Fr. Peter Vasko, Patricia Bergen, Ron Risch and Judy Hughes

Honor Roll of Donors

The Holy Land Foundation would like to express its gratitude to all those who gave so generously to support the work of the foundation during the first eleven months of the year. Special "Thanks and Blessings" to each and every one of you!

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The Holy Land Foundation Fall Awareness Campaign



Birmingham, Alabama

Pictured with Fr. Peter Vasko are Mr. and Mrs. William Conwell of Birmingham who hosted a reception and dinner for The Holy Land Foundation.

Austin, Texas

Mr. Lowell H. Lebermann, Jr. of Austin hosted a reception and presentation to promote the foundation. Fr. Peter is seen here presenting Mr. Lebermann with a carved head of Christ from Bethlehem.



To contact The Holy Land Foundation:

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Indianapolis, IN 46260

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