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Check  Charge  I wish to contribute on a monthly basis  
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Please make your check payable to: Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land. Contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law.  
 Mailing Address: Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land, P.O. Box 29086, Washington, D.C. 20017-9086

## THE FRANCISCAN RESPONSE



**F**r. Francesco Patton, OFM Chairman of FFHL stated that, "The mission of the Franciscan Foundation is quite simple... Love God and be of service to the poor and needy". It was the Seraphic Father, St. Francis of Assisi, who admonished his friars to always follow those two precepts. St. Francis himself never wavered in this resolve and today, some 800 years later, the Franciscans remain steadfast with faith and commitment in the face of old and new challenges.

They continue to strive to fulfill that mission of love and service particularly to the Christians in the Holy Land.

This mission is being fulfilled in the directive given by Pope Clement VI who in 1342, mandated the Franciscans to become the official custodians of the Holy Sites of Christendom, to help maintain and preserve them while at the same time, ministering to the faithful of the Holy Land.

Archbishop Pierbattista Pizzaballa, previous Custos of the Holy Land, remarked, "It was through the Incarnation that Christ took on our human form and lived among us here in the Holy Land. We friars who minister in this land have been given an example. We have become witnesses for Him in the very place which Christ made holy. It is by assisting and helping our fellow man in this land and from these Holy Places that we ourselves become incarnate in Him."

Today the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land is a constant in the life of the Christian community. The friars are

obliged to give peace, love, pardon, faith, and hope to suffering Christians in the Holy Land who now find themselves in a great dilemma and are reluctantly leaving their homes and land to live in other parts of the world. As Archbishop Christophe Pierre, Apostolic Nuncio to the U.S., and board member of FFHL recently stated, "We don't fight for an idea. We fight for the future of the human being," – and so, FFHL fights the good fight for our Holy Land brother's and sister's ability to stay in the land of Christ.



## FFHL ACTIVITIES IN THE HOLY LAND

Bishop Giuseppe Nazzaro, OFM, DD, the founding Custos of FFHL explained, "The Franciscan Foundation for the

Holy Land was created as yet another Franciscan response to a 'new crisis,' the Christian exodus from the Holy Land. Our focus is to keep a Christian presence, the Living Stones of our Christian faith, in the Holy Land by providing education, employment, and housing."

## UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS

Since 1997, FFHL has awarded over 500 scholarships to marginalized Christian students. With a higher education, students are more likely to secure employment and remain in their homeland.



**32%**

**UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR PALESTINIAN MEN**



## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Many Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza have been banned indefinitely from entering Israel proper to earn a living. Thousands of foreign workers have been hired, replacing Palestinians who previously held these jobs. Through its many humanitarian programs, the Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land is able to create positions in administration, clerical, custodial and construction.

## CHILD SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

FFHL awards grants to Christian children who come from families who cannot afford a substantial religious education. Many of our donors sponsor a high school or elementary school child and pay for their yearly tuition.



## SERVICES TO THE POOR

Counseling, medical assistance, socialization, summer camps, marriage preparation and prayer help Palestinians not just cope with their present reality, but learn how to thrive and prosper, thus improving their quality of life.

## SUBSIDIZED HOUSING AND RENOVATIONS

To motivate Christians to remain in the Holy Land, FFHL established the Housing Development Program. The program provides subsidized housing to Christian families who would otherwise be forced to reside abroad. Through charitable contributions, FFHL has gifted 26 apartments since 2001, valued at \$260,000.



*Preserving THE LIVING STONES OF CHRISTIANITY IN THE Holy Land*





## THE CRISIS IN THE HOLY LAND

The Holy Land has always been an area of conflict, a problem of antiquity going back to Abraham's time. Since that time, an initial hostility has turned into an ongoing enmity of two people claiming the same land. Since the UN partition of Palestine in 1947, the control of this land has undergone many changes. Restrictions affect hundreds of thousands of Palestinians, preventing them from going to work, school and receiving medical care. Much suffering has occurred on both sides.

In the middle of this conflict, one small minority is heading towards extinction, the Christians. Due to the daily economic and political factors, many Christians are emigrating. In 1940, there were 45,000 Christians living in Jerusalem - today, there are less than 10,000.

Christians now comprise less than 2% of the population of the Holy Land. Our Christian heritage links us through faith and fellowship with all of our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land. As pilgrims on a journey to our "promised land" we are beckoned to sustain the Christian community with love, faith, pardon, peace and hope.



"For it is in giving that we receive." - St. Francis

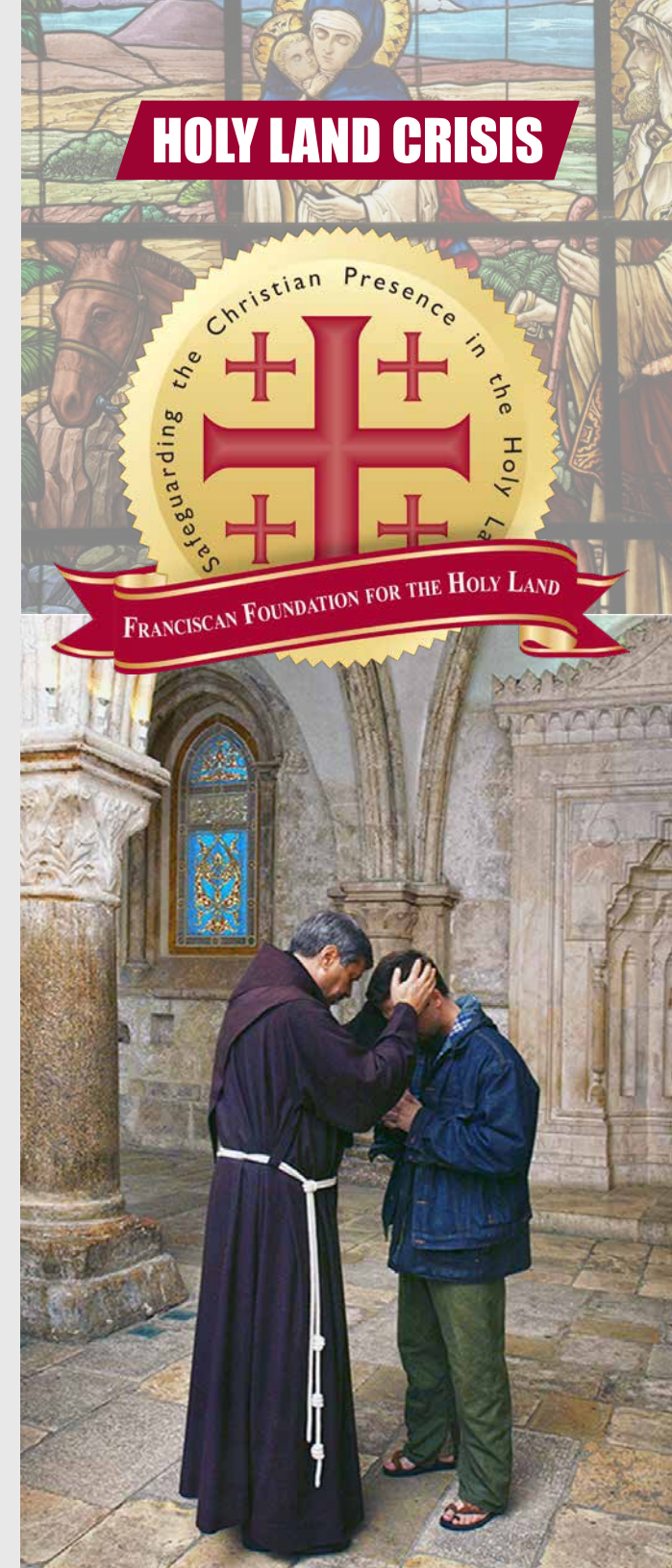
**THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS!**



There is no way I can express my feelings... no words which can tell how blessed I am. Who knows what I would be doing if the **Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land** did not give me this scholarship. The situation here is very difficult. I owe them a lot."

**- University Scholarship Student**

## HOLY LAND CRISIS



For more information, please contact:

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FOR THE HOLY LAND  
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