



FRANCISCAN FOUNDATION FOR THE HOLY LAND NEWSLETTER

SPRING 59

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

SPECIAL ADVISORS

- Christophe Cardinal Pierre, D.D.**
Apostolic Nuncio to the United States
- Pierbattista Cardinal Pizzaballa, D.D.**
Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem

OFFICERS

- Rev. Francesco Patton, OFM**
Chairman
- Fr. John E. Puodziunas, OFM**
President
- Denise M. Scalzo, OFS**
Vice President
- Tim Lynagh**
Treasurer
- Will Hartnett**
Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS

- Eugene J. Alfonsi**
Dublin, OH
- Rodney H. Allen, M.D., OFS**
Fayetteville, NC
- Raymond Arroyo**
Metairie, LA
- Dr. Joyce K.S. Babiak**
Arlington, VA
- James M. Cornelius**
Zionsville, IN
- James N. Corrigan, Jr.**
Washington, D.C.
- Bishop Frank Dewane, D.D.**
Venice, FL
- Cardinal Timothy Dolan, D.D.**
New York, NY
- P. Jewel Nackard**
Flagstaff, AZ
- Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki, D.D.**
Springfield, IL
- Nicholas G. Sansone**
St. Louis, MO
- Richard Stanzel**
Dallas, TX
- Fr. Peter F. Vasko, OFM**
Jerusalem, Israel

The Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land is a tax-exempt non-profit organization pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. All gifts to the Foundation are tax deductible. Please remember us in your will.



THE EXTRAORDINARY IN THE ORDINARY... AND PERFECT JOY

FR. JOHN PUODZIUNAS, OFM, PRESIDENT OF FFHL

St. Francis of Assisi teaches his companion Brother Leo about *perfect joy*...returning to the friary on a cold, dark, winter's night, tired and dirty, only to be greeted by a brother who does not recognize them, accuses them of being imposters, even robbers, then sends them away without food or a warm place to sleep...for the saint from Assisi, probably the most recognized saint in the world today, this is *perfect joy*.

The conflict in the Holy Land continues amid hopes and false hopes that hostages will all be released, that the bombing raids will end, that rebuilding can begin, that families can return to some semblance of "home." We know that this hope is not being realized...not yet. While people are trying to create some sense of normalcy in their lives, the overall atmosphere in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Gaza and other places is anything but normal.

In December, I made my first visit to Jerusalem as President of the Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land, an opportunity to step into what just cannot be normal. I found a quiet, empty Old City, with holy places absent of the customary crowds of pilgrims. To get acquainted with the place and the mission of the foundation, I walked the empty streets, spoke with locals, engaged some of the merchants who are mourning the lack of visitors, and spoke with a number of friars who have dedicated their lives to sustaining the Christian presence in the Holy Land.

One of the friars invited me to join him for a mass at the Holy Sepulcher, the tomb of Jesus, at 5 a.m. on a Saturday morning. I've been a priest for over 35 years and have celebrated mass all over the world – in small and large parishes, school gymnasiums, in some of the most magnificent basilicas and cathedrals, convent chapels, caves outside of Assisi, on mountain tops, and in peoples' homes. But this was different. The tomb – the tomb of Jesus Christ. The brother invited me to be the principal celebrant. We made our way to the Holy Sepulcher very early in the morning and found a shrine deserted. When it was time, he and I entered the very small tomb area, and were joined by about a dozen other worshippers in an outer room to the tomb area, most of whom were religious sisters. The mass was simple, solemn and truly extraordinary.

So, what is *perfect joy*? Is it living amid suffering, loss, displacement? Is it being "safe" in our homes from the suffering of peoples in other parts of the world? Is it stepping into a deserted basilica to celebrate the Holy Eucharist with a small number of faithful? *Perfect joy* is living the ordinary and familiar, embracing the unexpected whether pleasant or unpleasant, and there in the ordinary, knowing that God is present and His love for all is extraordinary.

For the Christians and non-Christians in the Holy Land, the upheaval brought by conflict has sadly become the ordinary. We, the supporters and collaborators of the mission of the Foundation have the opportunity to bring God's extraordinary love and mercy to their ordinary – this is *perfect joy*, is it not?

(Continued on page 2)

OUR MISSION

The Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land is dedicated to supporting and preserving the Christian community and heritage in the Holy Land. Our mission is to provide essential resources and opportunities to families, empowering them to thrive in their ancestral homeland. Through our unwavering commitment to preserving holy Christian sites and supporting basic human rights, we aim to be a vital resource for the community. Our donor-based humanitarian programs and independent projects are designed to help Christian families not just survive, but flourish.

A LETTER FROM THE CUSTOS

Rev. Francesco Patton, OFM

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Recently, I was interviewed by Father Patrick Briscoe, the editor of *Our Sunday Visitor News* to discuss the impact of the war in the Holy Land, the situation local Christians face and the mission of the Custody to preserve sacred shrines. Below is a brief summary:



I celebrated Christmas at Holy Family Parish in Gaza. Despite the situation all around them, the small Christian community in Gaza, both Catholic and Orthodox, continues to have strong faith. They only want to live in peace in the land of their ancestors. The ongoing war in the Holy Land means that pilgrims are not able to visit the region. We take care of about 80 holy places in some 50 different sanctuaries, so it is particularly difficult when there are no pilgrims, because then there is no financial support.

As we enter 2025, my prayer for my fellow Holy Land Christians is that their faith continues to be strong while we wait for peace. Their strength in the face of such daunting adversity is the true testament to their love of the Lord and his promises. To all the Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land supporters, may you have a blessed new year and know that your sacrificial gifts in support of our brothers and sisters in Christ are met with great gratitude.

I remain a servant of God and yours, in the Spirit of St. Francis,



Rev. Francesco Patton, OFM

Chairman of FFHL
Custos of the Holy Land

As I begin my work with the Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land, I hope to lead the Board of Trustees to formulate a strategic plan that will ensure our mission, to sustain a Christian presence in the Holy Land, today and for years to come...all in a spirit of *perfect joy*...namely that:

- Through education, we inform ourselves and others about the need for the mission in the midst of impressions and perceptions that may not always be clear or true;
- The promotion of our mission grows our community of collaborators and supporters;
- All of our supporters feel appreciated for their contributions and sacrifices, where even the smallest contributions are seen as extraordinary in what can be accomplished; and
- Our work as a foundation, ordinary and extraordinary, brings at least an iota of *perfect joy* to all who are suffering throughout the Holy Land.

Please join me in our mission. Let us pray for those suffering. Let us pray for a lasting ceasefire and peace to halt the suffering. Let us commit to understand better this conflict and the source of all conflict. And as the beauty of spring transforms the cold of winter, let us find for ourselves and bring to others perfect joy.

FAITHFUL SERVICE IN THIS LIFE AND BEYOND

New FFHL Board member Rodney H. Allen, M.D., OFS served for many years in the U.S. Army, first in Special Operations assignments in various parts of the world, and then as a physician with the Army at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.



Rodney H. Allen, M.D., OFS, member of Good Shepherd Society and FFHL Board Member

Several years ago, Rodney and his wife, Dr. Diane Allen, met Fr. Peter Vasko, OFM in the Holy Land and became good friends. Upon learning of the mission and outstanding work of FFHL, they became regular and enthusiastic supporters, leading Rodney to join the Board in June 2024.

They are active in their local Catholic community as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, and as certified Catechists in Religious Education within the community. They serve with foundations to promote ecumenical dialogue in consultation with Vatican committees for that purpose. They also serve at the regional and national level with an ecumenical Christian organization that partners with and supports the Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land, the Custody and the Latin Patriarchate of the Holy Land. Rodney received his Certificate in Franciscan Studies and made his Profession into the OFS after many inspiring interactions with Franciscans in the U.S. and in the Holy Land.

“We searched extensively for ways in which we could assist Christians at risk in the world, but especially in the Holy Land, where our Lord walked, taught, inspired and accomplished the Salvific Plan,” says Rodney. “In our searches, there were few organizations that seemed to be as effective as the FFHL in terms of the support they provide. The FFHL association with the Custody of the Holy Land was very important to us as well. On a personal note, these searches and observations helped guide me to my own vocation as a Secular Franciscan, for which I will be forever grateful.”

With a firm belief that all are called to serve those in need, Rodney and Diane wanted to find a way to lessen the burdens of the “Living Stones.” They decided to designate FFHL in their estate plan by becoming a member of FFHL’s Good Shepherd Society as a simple and gratifying way to provide support for many years to come. “It is a duty and privilege to support our brothers and sisters, and we strongly feel that everyone should take advantage of this wonderful opportunity,” said Rodney. “When our Father asks one day, ‘What did you do for your brothers and sisters?’ we hope to reply ‘Father, we are still helping to provide for their needs.’”

Rodney and Diane are particularly drawn to FFHL’s education and humanitarian efforts: “We must preserve the Christian heritage in the Holy Land, where it all began. Reducing the exodus of Christians in the Holy Land through scholarships (we have supported a number of these) and assisting with their basic needs is critically important and must continue. If not now, then when? We are very grateful indeed for the opportunity to serve and support FFHL and strongly encourage all who care for our brothers and sisters of the Holy Land to support FFHL, the Custody, and the Latin Patriarchate, with financial support and constant prayers. God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7), so why not be one?”



UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

2024

FFHL.ORG/PROGRAMS/EDUCATIONAL-PROGRAMS/UNIVERSITY-SCHOLARSHIPS/



THE PROGRAM

Since 1997, FFHL has provided four-year university scholarships to over 700 students who were economically marginalized but had strong academic talent. With specific guidelines to protect your investment, the scholarship program covers up to \$6,000 per year for tuition and books.

Due to severe political and economic hardships, an estimated 300 Christian families leave the Holy Land each year. This steady emigration suggests that one day the Christian community and church may cease to exist in this part of the world. As the Christian population struggles to thrive, oftentimes survive, FFHL uses every available resource to connect Christians with jobs, education, housing and other opportunities.

THE SOLUTION

One of the pillars of FFHL's mission is to support access to education for young people. Without the assistance from generous scholarship donors, these deserving young scholars would have no ability to earn a marketable university degree and obtain a secure job. Over the last 25 years, FFHL has given over \$15 million in both university scholarships and special educational grants to Christian students. The current graduation rate is 94%, and to-date, only one graduate has relocated away from the Holy Land.

THE GOAL

This program provides academic scholarships to talented but underprivileged Christian students with high initiative and a desire to remain in the Holy Land, thus giving them the necessary skills for successful employment and stability needed to thrive.

*A Word of Thanks from a
Scholarship Recipient*



Dareen pictured with her siblings and parents.

Dear FFHL,

My name is Dareen Nassar, and I received your scholarship message. I want to sincerely thank you for giving me this opportunity.

I'd like to introduce myself. I live in Bethlehem with my family, which consists of six members – my parents and four children (two girls and two boys). I am 18 years old and the third child in my family.

Currently, I am studying Interior Design at Dar Al Kalima University. It has always been my dream to pursue this field, and now it's becoming a reality. I hope to achieve all my goals and dreams in the future.

Once again, thank you for this amazing opportunity.

*Sincerely,
Dareen Nassar*

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

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OF OUR SPONSORS for their continued dedication to these students. Learn more about how you can become a sponsor at FFHL.org/Programs.

“Education will be the key in keeping our young people in the Holy land.”
POPE EMERITUS BENEDICT XVI

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS B. A.

In his opening remarks congratulating the 34 Christian students awarded the unique opportunity of a scholarship, Fr. Peter F. Vasko, OFM, Founding President of FFHL, said that a college education will open doors for their future in the Holy Land, not only by obtaining professional employment but also by providing a more secure livelihood.

“There are many professional fields of study, but whatever field you decide to undertake, strive for perfection and success. You have received a blessing from God, and never forget to thank Him. Congratulations!”

FR. PETER F. VASKO, OFM



Iskandar Ajrab – Resides in Jerusalem with his parents and one younger sibling. He plans to attend Hebrew University and major in Nursing.
Sponsored by the estate of Wanda Bears.



George Amer – Resides in Ramleh, a suburb of Jerusalem, with his parents and two younger siblings. He plans to major in Engineering at Azrieli College of Engineering.
Sponsored by the estate of Kaximierz Blachut.



Laurice Amer – Resides in Jerusalem with five younger siblings. She will attend Hebrew University and major in Chemistry and Biology.
Her sponsor is Mr. Richard Kelly of Texas.



Yosef Awwad – Resides in Jerusalem with his parents. He has one brother and sister and plans to major in Psychology at Hebrew University in Jerusalem.
His sponsor is Mr. Robert Matejek of Texas.



Celena Bahbah – Resides in Jerusalem with her parents and two younger siblings. She will attend Hebrew University and major in Biotechnology.
Her sponsor is Cradling Christianity of Ohio.



Bernadette Bandak – Lives with her parents and three younger siblings in Bethlehem. She plans to major in Medicine at Al-Quds University.
Her sponsors are Mr. and Mrs. Skalac of Ohio.



Nathalie Daibes – Resides in Jerusalem with her parents and one older brother. She will attend Al-Quds University and major in Medicine.
Her sponsors are Mr. and Mrs. Selim Ayoub of Florida.



Liana Dikbikian – Resides in Jerusalem with her parents and one younger sibling. She plans to attend Hebrew University and major in Social Work/Education.
Sponsored by the Carmel J. Vitale Living Trust.



Karine Gejekoushian – Resides in Jerusalem with her parents and three younger siblings. She is planning to attend Hadassah Academic College and major in Biotechnology.
Sponsored by the Doyle Family Estate.



Nyah Hanania – Resides in Jerusalem with her parents and younger brother. She will attend Hebrew University and major in Engineering.
Her sponsors are the Marrone and Maun Family of Florida.



Kinda Hanna – Resides in Jerusalem with her parents and has four other siblings. She is planning to attend Washington University in Ramallah and major in Medicine.
Her sponsor is Mr. Robert Matejek of Texas.



Lareen Hazboun – Lives in Jerusalem with her parents. She plans to major in Architecture at the American University of Madaba, Jordan.
Sponsored by the estate of William and Clare Treanor.



Nicole Hijazin – Resides in Bethlehem with her parents and one younger sibling. She is planning to attend Al Quds University and major in Medicine.
Her sponsor is Mr. William Keifer of Texas.



Jovan Ibrahim – Resides in Jerusalem with his parents. He plans to major in Medicine at Ab Deis University in Jerusalem.
Sponsored by the estate of Charles P. Weber.



Maysam Ibrahim – Lives with her parents in Jenin. She plans to attend Arab-American University in Jenin and major in Pharmacy.
Sponsored by the estate of Karinne Pevarnik Wolf.



Gabriel Ishak – Resides in Jerusalem with his parents and two younger siblings. He plans to major in Computer Engineering at Hebrew University.
Sponsored by the estate of Theresa R. Zawislak.



Ellen Kandalaft – Resides with her parents in Jerusalem and has two brothers and one sister. She plans to attend Hebrew University and major in Engineering.
Her sponsor is Mr. William Keifer of Texas.



Khader Khoury – Resides in Beit Saffafa, suburb of Jerusalem with his parents. He is planning to attend Hebrew University and to major in Medicine.
Sponsored by the estate of Helen Mary Bernard.



Maya Khoury – Lives in Jerusalem with her parents and has one older sister. She plans to attend the Arab American University in Ramallah, Palestine, and major in Art/ Education.
Sponsored by the estate of Carl Bieniewski.



Bishara Marzouka – Resides in Bethlehem with his parents. He has two older sisters and one brother. He will attend Al-Quds University and major in Medicine.
His sponsors are Mr. and Mrs. Trowbridge of Texas.



Leen Masharqa – Resides in Nazareth with her parents and her brother. She will attend Hebrew University in Jerusalem and major in Bio-Medical Science.
Her sponsor is Mr. William Keifer of Texas.



Maram Mourra – Resides in Bethlehem with her parents and two younger siblings. She plans to major in Audiology and Speech Pathology at Jordan University of Science and Technology in Amman.
Sponsored by the estate of Stanley Borowski.



Dareen Nassar – Resides in Beit Sahour, a suburb of Bethlehem, with her parents and one younger sibling. She is planning to attend Bethlehem University and major in Business Administration.
Sponsored by the estate of Rev. Michael J. Chonko.



Nicole Nasser – Resides in Bethlehem with her parents and two younger siblings. She plans to attend Dar Al-Kalima University in Bethlehem and major in Engineering and Design.
Her sponsor is Amy Norris of North Carolina.



Emile Rafidi – Resides in Ramallah, a suburb of Jerusalem, with his parents and two younger siblings. He plans to attend Arab-American University in Ramallah and major in Medicine.
Sponsored by the estate of John C. Druding.



John Saadeh – Resides in Jerusalem with his parents. He plans to attend Hebrew University and major in Nursing.
Sponsored by the estate of Michael J. Eivers.



Andrewos Skafi – Resides with his parents in Bethlehem and has one older sister. He plans to attend Al-Quds University and major in Medicine.
His sponsor is Mr. William Keifer of Texas.



Maria Sousou – Lives in Jerusalem with her parents and one younger sibling. She plans to attend Hebrew University and major in Science.
Sponsored by the estate of Palma Farr.



Cynthia Tams – Resides in Jerusalem with her parents and two younger siblings. She will attend Hebrew University in Jerusalem and major in Pharmacy.
Her sponsor is Cradling Christianity of Ohio.



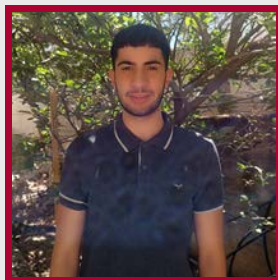
Gala Twemeh – Resides in Bethlehem with her parents and one younger sibling. She will attend Birzeit University and major in Architecture.
Her sponsor is Mr. William Keifer of Texas.



Jalil Wahhab – Resides in Beit Jala with his parents and four siblings. He plans to major in Medicine at Al Quds University in Abu Dis.
Sponsored by the estate of Marguerite B. Stein.



Evan Zoughbi – Resides in Bethlehem with his parents and one younger sibling. He plans to attend Bethlehem University and major in English.
Sponsored by the estate of Raphael Hellmann.



George Zoghbi – Lives with his parents and three younger siblings in Bethlehem. He plans to major in Dentistry at Al-Quds University in Jerusalem.
His sponsor is Cradling Christianity in Ohio.



Legacy gifts through the Good Shepherd Society (GSS) provide access to quality higher education for economically-challenged Christian students. Donors who join GSS and make legacy gifts create lasting impacts, helping future generations benefit through faith-centered education and brighter futures.

GRADUATE STUDENTS M.A.



Miral Handal – Resides in Bethlehem. She graduated from Bethlehem University in 2023 with a BA degree in Occupational Therapy and plans to attend the Arab American University in Ramallah, Palestine, for her M.A. in Occupational Therapy once again. Sponsored by the estate of Anna J. Kunke.

In the 1950's, indigenous Christians represented 25% of the population.

Today, Christians account for **less than 2%** of the Holy Land population.



We believe that our **University Scholarship** program is the cornerstone of the solution.

MOST POPULAR FIELDS OF STUDY

- + Business Admin
- + Engineering
- + Accounting
- + Law
- + Medicine
- + Pharmacy

Work with us to build up minds, lives and hopes in the Holy Land.

CONGRATULATIONS

Thanks to our loyal sponsors and generous community, FFHL awarded **34 University scholarships in 2024**. We are proud of our students and their dedication to building a future locally, and helping preserve Christianity in the Holy Land.

34

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

33

UNDERGRAD, B.A.

1

GRADUATE, M.A.

16

FAMILY/GROUP SPONSORED

18

GSS SPONSORED

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Nassim Soufan grew up in Jerusalem with big dreams and a desire to help others. A childhood trip to the pharmacy inspired his passion for medicine. After getting sick, he visited a doctor and filled a prescription at the pharmacy. That moment stuck with him. He knew he wanted to become a pharmacist.

Thanks to the support of the FFHL scholarship, Nassim's dream became a reality. He earned a degree in Pharmaceutical Studies from Jordan University and an MBA in Public Health from Ono Academic College. His education opened doors that allowed him to stay in the Holy Land and build a future.

Nassim is now 32 years old, newly married and thriving in his career. He co-founded a chain of pharmacies and leads his team as head pharmacist. His company also manages a warehouse and works with medical cannabis. Nassim says his work means everything to him. It gives him the chance to help others feel better every day.

His education changed his life. It shaped how he thinks, works and lives. Nassim believes knowledge is a gift that keeps growing once it's nurtured.

Faith has always been his foundation. Raised in a religious family, Nassim says his faith connects him to family, love and respect.

He is deeply grateful to FFHL and its sponsors. "The scholarship took me to where I am now," he says. Nassim hopes to give back in the future by helping another child build a bright future, just as FFHL helped him.

"Thank you for believing in me," Nassim says. "Keep helping this community. It truly makes life better."



THROUGH YOUR GENEROSITY, FFHL IS HOLDING THE **DOORS OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY OPEN** FOR THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN THE HOLY LAND

Help extend an olive branch for:

- » Masters and Bachelors Equivalent
- » Associates Equivalent
- » Vocational Programs
- » Technical Programs
- » Continued Education

START YOUR PLEDGE TODAY – CALL OR EMAIL: (855) 500-3345 | INFO@FFHL.ORG
START ONLINE: [FFHL.ORG/PROGRAMS/EDUCATIONAL-PROGRAMS/UNIVERSITY-SCHOLARSHIPS/](https://ffhl.org/programs/educational-programs/university-scholarships/)

CHILDREN WITHOUT BORDERS HONORS FR. PETER F. VASKO, FFHL'S FOUNDING PRESIDENT



Plaque presented to Fr. Peter F. Vasko by Children Without Borders in honor of his many years of service as President of FFHL.

On Dec. 21, 2024, during the Feast of the Epiphany in Bethlehem, the Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land honored Fr. Peter F. Vasko, OFM, Former FFHL President, for his many years of work and dedication with the foundation's Children Without Borders program. This program has significantly contributed to the mental, moral and physical well-being of children in the Holy Land, in spite of the challenges of war, sieges and hardship. Through sports and fellowship, Children Without Borders provides a sense of peace, freedom and cooperation for youth in the region.

Approximately 150 children involved in the program attended the event. Fr. Ibrahim Faltas, OFM, Vicar of the Franciscan Custody and Director of Children Without Borders, presented Fr. Vasko with a plaque that read: "Thank you, Fr. Peter Vasko, for your long-standing support."

2025 EVENTS CALENDAR



- APR 11** *Good Shepherd Society Luncheon*
SPRINGFIELD, IL
- SEP 4** *Cradling Christianity Fundraising Dinner*
COLUMBUS, OH
- OCT 4** *Vatican Embassy Dinner*
WASHINGTON, D.C.
- FALL TBD** *Washington, D.C. and Italy Pilgrimage*

EDUCATION CHANGES LIVES

The Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land (FFHL) University Scholarship Program has made a lifelong impact on many students, providing them with the chance to continue their education and remain in the Holy Land.

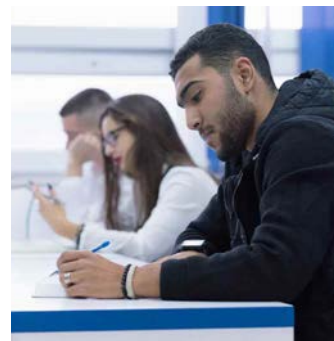
Every year, nearly 100 deserving students apply for a University Scholarship, far more than FFHL can support. The need is great, and the opportunity to change a young Christian's life is significant.

The scholarship program was created to help stem the exodus of Christians from the Holy Land, which has been driven by economic and political struggles. Many young Christians expressed that if they had the chance to attend college, they would stay and contribute to their community.

Thanks to the generosity of donors, FFHL provides scholarships to Christian students who maintain a B average in high school and come from families facing financial struggles.

FFHL covers up to \$6,000 per year for tuition and books, but students may need to cover additional costs depending on the tuition rates.

Through this program, FFHL is giving young Christians the educational tools they need to build a future in the Holy Land, strengthening the Christian community and helping to prevent further migration. Since its inception, the program has supported over 700 students, with 91% of graduates securing professional jobs. As the program continues to grow, it provides more hope and opportunities for the next generation of leaders in the Holy Land.



HERE'S HOW STUDENTS APPLY FOR THIS LIFE-CHANGING SCHOLARSHIP

- STEP 1: CONTACT THE SCHOOL** Students interested in applying reach out to their local Christian high school in Israel or the West Bank. Schools send the applications to FFHL.
- STEP 2: COMPLETE THE APPLICATION** Students fill out the application form, making sure to include all required documents, including their academic transcript (in English). A parent's signature is included on the form to verify the information.
- STEP 3: SUBMIT THE APPLICATION** All applications must be returned by the end of June each year.
- STEP 4: REVIEW AND SELECTION** FFHL's selection committee reviews all the applications to ensure applicants meet the criteria. The applications are then sent to four professors in the U.S. who make the final decision based on academic performance and family financial need.
- STEP 5: NOTIFICATION** By mid-August, students who have been selected for the scholarship are notified by FFHL staff through phone and mail.
- STEP 6: SPONSOR MATCHING** Once selected, high-performing students are matched with sponsors who support their education. All other scholarship recipients receive funding directly from FFHL.
- STEP 7: KEEP IN TOUCH WITH A SPONSOR** Students must send a letter or email to their sponsor, thanking them and sharing their academic plans. They'll continue to stay in touch at least once a year with updates on their progress and grades.



Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land
P.O. Box 29086
Washington, DC 20017-9086

POSTAGE
 HERE

<<Name>>
 <<Address 1>>
 <<Address 2>>
 <<City>>, <<State>>
 <<Zip>>



Begin in Washington, D.C., visiting the Franciscan Monastery and and touring the Holy Land replicas.

Then, travel to Italy to explore Assisi and Rome with Fr. John Puodziunas, President of FFHL. With years of experience leading local pilgrimages while living in Italy, Fr. John will guide you through the sacred places and share how St. Francis inspires FFHL's mission in the Holy Land.

This experience will offer a chance to stay connected to the Holy Land during difficult times and learn more about FFHL's work.

Interested? Contact info@ffhl.org for more information.

You're Making A Difference in the Holy Land!



Thank you for your faithful generosity to the Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land. Thanks to your giving, we are able to continue our good work in the Holy Land. We have many areas of need and are grateful for any special contributions to these programs. Your continued prayers and gifts help us to support the Christian presence in the Holy Land.

Your Thoughts & Stories Matter!

Your input is invaluable in helping us bring you the news you want! Share your ideas, feedback or what you'd like to read about in future newsletters. If you're interested in upcoming pilgrimages or have any questions, contact us at info@ffhl.org.

We look forward to connecting with you!