



# The Terra Sancta Museum

*A unique project in the world,  
centered around the Treasure  
of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem*



FONDATION  
MANSART

The Terra Sancta Museum is supported by the Mansart Foundation



Mount of Olives

Garden of Gethsemane

Esplanade of Mosques

Western Wall



Terra Sancta Museum,  
Archaeological Section

Holy Sepulchre

**Terra Sancta Museum,  
Historical Section**



Church of the Flagellation



St. Saviour's Monastery





Christian Information  
Center



Jerusalem is at the root of Christianity.

The **Terra Sancta Museum** was missing from the Holy City, which already has a Jewish Museum and a Museum for Islamic Art.

The first section devoted to archaeology, inaugurated in 2017, immerses visitors in the places where the Christian faith was born. On October 2023, the Franciscans of the Holy Land will inaugurate the Historical Section of the Terra Sancta Museum.

**With your generosity.**



## THREE MAJOR OBJECTIVES

We want to support the **Christian presence in Jerusalem** by creating a **unique museum of international scope**, which presents the roots of Christianity and the Treasure of the Holy Sepulchre.

We want an **exceptional place** that allows residents, tourists and pilgrims from all over the world to discover, understand and sustain the Christian dimension of Jerusalem.

**As Franciscans and guardians of the Holy Places**, we want to maintain the dialogue between cultures and religions in the spirit of openness and service that has motivated us for 800 years.







*“The Terra Sancta Museum aims to welcome 150,000 visitors per year.”*

Fr. Stéphane Milovitch OFM,  
*Director of the Cultural Heritage Office of the Custody of the Holy Land*



## THE PROJECT LEADERS

The Terra Sancta Museum is supported by the **Custody of the Holy Land**, the Franciscan community established in Jerusalem for the past 800 years.

**The friars received the Guard of the Holy Places** in the name of the Catholic Church in 1342. Their mission is threefold: to pray in the Holy Places, to welcome pilgrims from the Universal Church and to serve the local Church in the Holy Land.



### KEY DATES OF THE ORDER OF FRIARS MINOR

- 1209** — Saint Francis founds the Order of Friars Minor
- 1217** — Arrival of the first Franciscans in the Holy Land
- 1219** — Saint Francis in the East, meeting with the Sultan of Egypt Malek el-Kamel, permission to settle in the Holy Land
- 1229** — The Franciscans settle in Jerusalem near the 5th station of the Way of the Cross
- 1333** — The Friars Minor acquire the Cenacle and obtain the right to reside in the Holy Sepulchre
- 1342** — Pope Clement VI entrusts the Guard of the Holy Places in the name of the Catholic Church to the Franciscans
- 1347** — The Franciscans obtain custody of the Grotto of the Nativity and the right to enjoy the basilica
- 1550** — Opening of a parish school at Bethlehem, followed by those in Jerusalem and Nazareth
- 1557** — The Custody headquarters moves to the St. Saviour's Monastery in Jerusalem
- 1623** — The Custody of the Holy Land acquires the monasteries of Saint John of Acre, Antioch, Sidon, Tyre and Jaffa
- 1902** — Opening of the first Franciscan archaeological museum, predecessor of the Terra Sancta Museum
- 1923** — Opening of the Studium Biblicum Franciscanum (SBF), established in 2001 as a Faculty of Biblical and Archaeological Sciences
- 2002** — Creation of the Franciscan NGO, the Association *Pro Terra Sancta* (ATS)
- 2010** — Creation of the Cultural Heritage Office
- 2017** — Inauguration of the Archaeological Section of the Terra Sancta Museum
- 2019** — 300 Franciscans working in Israel, Palestine, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, and the Greek islands of Cyprus and Rhodes. 90 of them live in Jerusalem at the St. Saviour's Monastery





*“The objective is to create a museum of international renown, through both the exceptional quality of the objects and the scenography.”*

Béatrix Saule,  
*President of the International Scientific Committee*



### THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Béatrix Saule, *Honorary General Director and Curator of the Château de Versailles*

Michèle Bimbenet-Privat, *General Curator of the Department of Decorative Arts at the Louvre Museum*

Jacques Charles-Gaffiot, *art historian, iconography expert*

Benoit Constensoux, *art historian*

Andreina Contessa, *General Director of the Museo Storico di Miramare in Trieste*

José Manuel Cruz Valdovinos, *professor of art history, Complutense University of Madrid*

Anne Dion, *General Curator of the Department of Decorative Arts at the Louvre Museum*

Thomas Gaetgens, *art historian, Honorary Director of the Getty Research Institute of Los Angeles*

Gael de Guichen, *consultant for the General Director of ICCROM*

Barbara Jatta, *art historian, General Director of the Vatican Museums*

Przemyslaw Mrozowski, *General Director of the Royal Castle of Warsaw*

Marina Pia Pettinau Vescina, *art historian, ancient textiles expert*

Paulus Rainer, *Curator of the Kunsthistorisches Museum of Vienna, Director Emeritus of the Kunstkammer*

Silvia Roman, *Head of the Exhibitions Department at the Château de Versailles*

Danièle Véron-Denise, *Chief Curator of Heritage, liturgical and secular textiles expert*

Raphaëlle Ziadé, *Director of the Department of Byzantine Art at the Petit Palais, Paris Museum of Fine Arts*



## THE FRANCISCAN CHARISMA AT THE SERVICE OF DIALOGUE

*“The friars who go to the Infidels will not make any accusations or disputes and will be subservient to every human creature in the name of God, they will simply confess that they are Christians,”* writes Saint Francis in his First Rule. The Franciscans –despite the conquests and successions of Muslim powers– remained **present in the Holy Land without interruption.**

They are dedicated to dialogue with the other religions, not just in their daily lives, but also through educational and cultural activities such as the Terra Sancta Museum. The first section of the museum already hosts many Muslim schools within the framework of the project



Lectures and symposiums are already held in the two conference rooms available at the monastery during temporary exhibitions.



“A Community Living Museum for Palestinian Youth” funded by the European Union. Jewish and Muslim researchers frequently come to the Custody to study its artistic heritage and compare it to theirs.





*“Jerusalem would lose its universality if it did not keep visible and public all the elements of its identity, including its Christian heritage.”*

P. Pierbattista Pizzaballa,  
Apostolic administrator of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem



The Franciscans have a long-standing agreement with the Muslims to maintain their presence. This document of the Ottoman Sultan Mehmet IV confirms the right of the Franciscans to live inside and outside of Jerusalem and the Holy Sepulchre (1673).



Since the creation of the Terra Sancta Museum, several exhibitions have taken place, notably in partnership with the Israel Museum, the Museum for Islamic Art, the Château de Versailles, the Metropolitan Museum in New York and, most recently, the Arab World Institute in Paris.



## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SECTION

The Archaeological Section of the Terra Sancta Museum is located at the Church of the Flagellation, the first station of the Way of the Cross, and **was inaugurated in 2017.**

The mission of this section is **to immerse visitors in the places where the Christian faith was born.** It takes them through the history of Jerusalem and its evolution as well as through the sanctuaries which were excavated by Franciscan archaeologists during the last century. Frescos, ceramics, Byzantine mosaics, coins, Crusader capitals, vases from Bronze Age tombs, sarcophagi, jewelry, lamps, ossuaries, etc.



A short 15-minute film available in Italian, English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian, Polish, Arabic and Hebrew allows visitors to discover the history of the Way of the Cross.





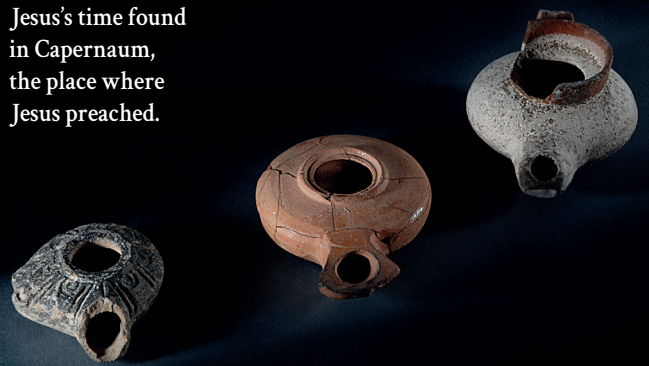
*“Shew me a penny. Whose image and superscription hath it?” They answered and said, “Caesar’s.” And he said unto them, “Render therefore unto Caesar the things which be Caesar’s, and unto God the things which be God’s.”*

Luke 20, 24-25

Silver coin from the time of Christ, Terra Sancta Museum, Archaeological Section.



Oil lamp from Jesus's time found in Capernaum, the place where Jesus preached.



Capital of the Crusader Basilica of Nazareth - 1180s.

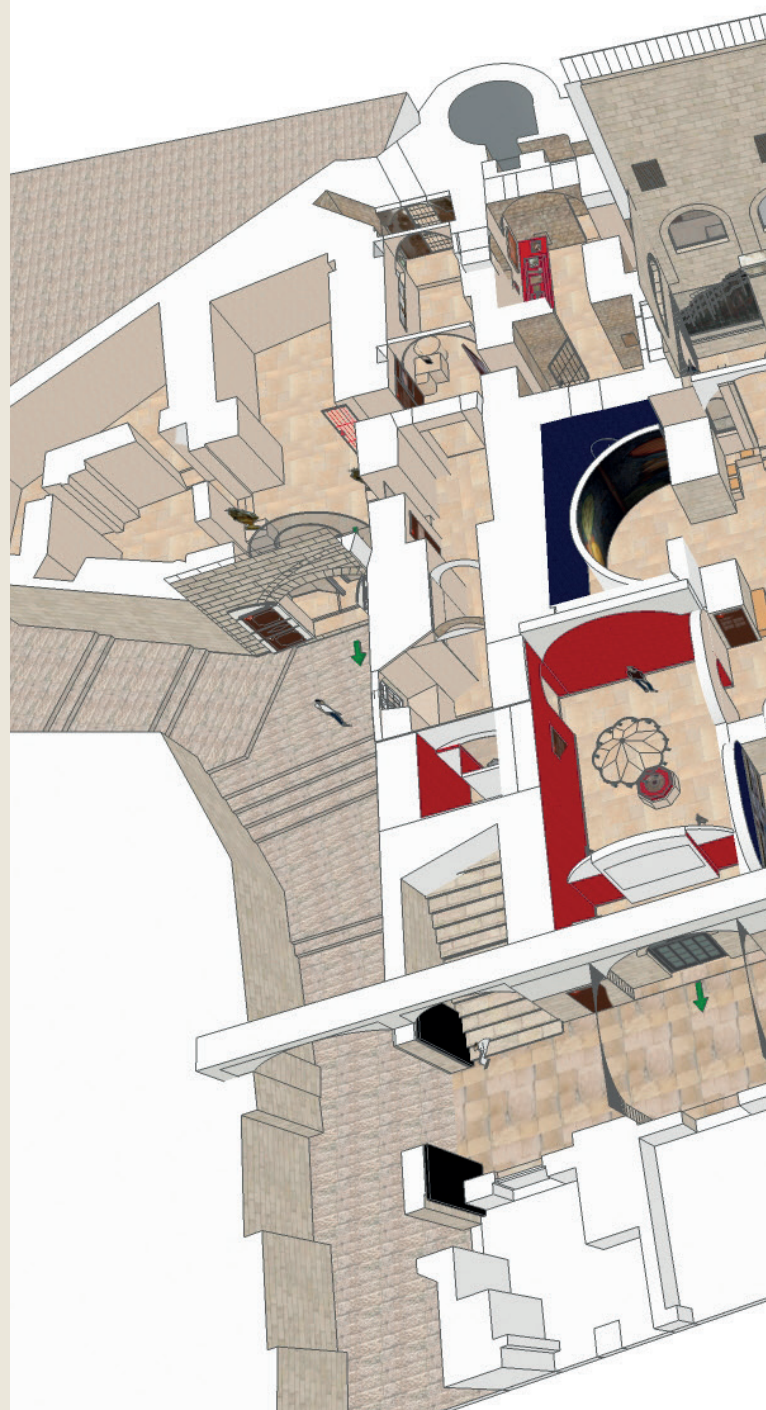




## HISTORICAL SECTION: TWO MAIN PARTS

The Historical Section of the Terra Sancta Museum, **still in need of financing**, is going to be installed at the heart of the Franciscan Head Quarters at St. Saviour's Monastery in the Holy Land. The section will be divided into **two parts: the history and mission of the Custody of the Holy Land, and the Treasure of the Holy Sepulchre**. The works presented, including rare collections of paintings, sculptures, archival documents and sumptuous gifts from European courts, will testify to Jerusalem's central role and influence over the centuries. They will allow pilgrims and visitors to deepen their knowledge of the sanctuaries and discover the beauty of the liturgy in the Holy Land.

Overview of the Historical Section with a surface area of over 1,000 square meters. Preliminary draft created by Jérôme Dumoux, scenographer of the Terra Sancta Museum.







*“Everything that will be displayed was produced in the Holy Land or offered by the Universal Church to the Mother Church of Jerusalem.”*

Fr. Stéphane Milovitch OFM,  
Director of the Cultural Heritage Office of the Custody  
of the Holy Land



## A MUSEUM IN A UNIQUE PLACE

Expelled by the Turks of Mount Zion in **1557**, the Franciscans found refuge in a **former Georgian monastery** situated at the heart of Jerusalem. The monastery, in a typical Oriental configuration, possessed a church intended only for the use of nuns. During the same period, the Council of Trent (1545-1563) gave new pastoral directives to the Church. It is from this monastery that the local Catholic Church was reborn in Jerusalem. Hence, the last section of the Terra Sancta Museum will be **in the first Catholic parish of Jerusalem**.



The installation of the Historical Section requires considerable work for creating and reinforcing the spaces.

In 1664, sources counted 68 faithful, whereas today the St. Saviour parish has roughly 6,000! The monastery is home to **around 100 friars** and the International Seminary of the Custody.





*“It’s a real challenge to ensure that respect for the communal life of the friars, architecture, and the need to preserve the works are compatible with the requirements of an international museum. All of this is not naturally present in a building with such complex historical stratification.”*

Vincenzo Zuppardo,  
*Architect of the Custody of the Holy Land*





# THE SCENOGRAPHY PROJECT



Jérôme Dumoux,  
Scenographer

*“Scenography is a journey and a discourse. For several months, with the Scientific Committee, we reflected on the meaning that the Franciscans wish to give to this museum and the audiences to whom it is addressed. The Historical Section will consist of 20 rooms of various sizes, arranged in ancient spaces which must be transformed into museum spaces. Major work on the architecture is necessary to obtain a scenography that is embodied in the place where we are while also being very contemporary and on par with the greatest museums. I am in favour of a refined and sober scenography prioritizing the play of light, different angles and perspectives, the refinement and softness of colour suitable for these exceptional works.”*

*A “successful” scenography is one that cannot be guessed! One of the great challenges will be the conservation and preservation of the works. For example, we must devise a rotation of the liturgical vestments. Some of them have been protected from the dust and light for centuries, we must not damage them. Other works, offered for worship, must be able to be “taken out” of the museum for certain Feast days: for after all, we are caring for “living” works! We want visitors to understand the purpose of these objects, not just their history. Multimedia will have its place and will immerse visitors at the heart of the liturgies of the Holy Land.”*



Restoration of the pharmacy of the Franciscans of the Holy Land (17th-18th centuries).





Italian room,  
reconstruction  
of a liturgical  
procession.



Birth of the Church,  
the Apostolic Predication  
by Friedrich Pacher,  
15th century Austrian  
painter.











**12th-century basin engraved with the history of Saint Thomas**

Two similar versions from the same workshop, but in a poorer state, are in the collections of the Louvre Museum and the British Museum. They were used for the liturgy during the Crusades.

**The oldest organ of Christianity**

All 221 copper pipes of this organ dating to the 12th century will be housed in the museum. It speaks to the importance of the liturgy in the sanctuaries at a time when it was difficult to enter them. A fundamental object for the knowledge of the history of music.



**The crozier of the Bishop of Bethlehem**

In the 13th century, pilgrims going to Bethlehem were welcomed by Bishop Godefroy de Prefetti holding this gilded copper crozier with blue enamel in his hand.



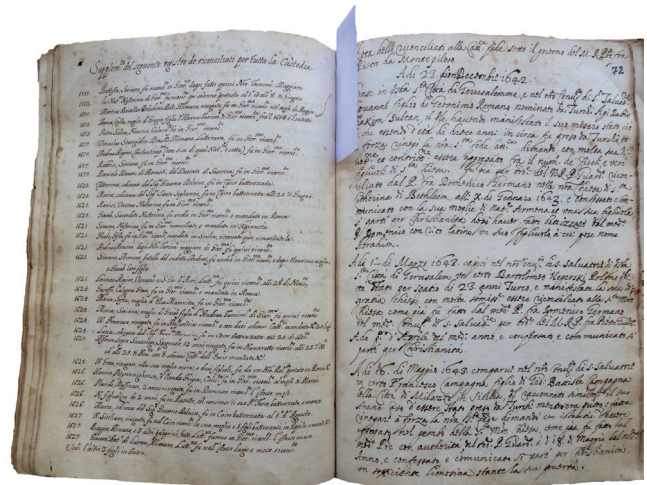
The enduring presence of the Franciscans in the Holy Land and their efforts **to evangelize it and promote Christian values**

there were decisive for the development of the local Arab Church, until the restoration of the Latin Patriarchate (Bishopric of Jerusalem) was made possible in 1847.

The Terra Sancta Museum will examine their charitable, educational, and pastoral activities parishes, healthcare, professional training, schools, etc., and will enable the discovery of these

### Baptismal records

These parish registers are one of the historical proofs of the Catholic presence in the Arab world. They served as birth certificates for this community which knew many sovereignties: Mamluk, Ottoman, British, Jordanian and today Israeli.



local Christian communities often unknown to pilgrims and visitors. As of 2019, the Franciscans are in charge of 16 schools with around 10,000 students.

Since 2015, the Custody of the Holy Land has initiated a vast project to buy and renovate apartments for Christian families in need, not just in Jerusalem, but also in Jaffa, Nazareth and Bethphage on the Mount of Olives.



Appointed Guardians of the Holy Land in the name of the Catholic Church, the Franciscans have used these seals since the 16th century to certify and authenticate documents and parchments coming from Jerusalem.





### Cases for bringing the Gospel to all

Type cases in Arabic, Armenian, Greek, Hebrew, Persian, etc. The typography of the Franciscans in the Holy Land was created in 1848 under the Ottoman Empire because the friars wanted to print the Holy Bible in multiple languages, as well as catechism and grammar books necessary for their parish and educational activities.



### Mother-of-pearl model of the Holy Sepulchre

Model of the Holy Sepulchre in olive wood decorated with mother-of-pearl and ivory. Mother-of-pearl was introduced by the Franciscans in the 16th century to enable Christian families in Bethlehem to support themselves. Since then, this art has become a Palestinian cultural heritage. A room in the museum will pay tribute to it.



### The most famous pharmacy of the Middle East

The first doctor sent by Pope Pius II in 1460 was Brother Baptist of Lubeck. For centuries, the main pharmacists and doctors were the friars of the Custody of the Holy Land. Their pharmacy, comprising 450 earthenware pots from the 17th and 18th centuries, bears witness to this. The period décor of the pharmacy will be reconstructed and the entire collection displayed in the Terra Sancta Museum.



## 2nd PART: THE TREASURE OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE

Chalices, chasubles, candelabra, solid gold artworks, processional crosses, etc., are all unique pieces in the world that are still used today during Franciscan celebrations. Italy, France, Spain, the Austrian Empire, Portugal, Poland: the Terra Sancta Museum will unveil **the brilliance of these European courts** that was sometimes reduced to nothing. Consider France as an example: the jewels of artistic religious heritage were looted, sacked or completely destroyed. The Terra Sancta Museum will make it possible to experience lost Palatine chapels and, beyond the political agendas of monarchs, to better **understand the importance of the liturgy** for the faith of the faithful.

**The last chalices of Louis XIV**  
One of the most amazing groups of French religious orfèvrerie still linked to the name of Louis XIV: the vermeil liturgical objects offered by the King of France to the Holy Sepulchre in 1664, still found there, carefully preserved by the Franciscans of the Custody of the Holy Land.



**Large sanctuary lamp**  
This beautifully preserved lamp is the only lamp sent in the name of Louis XIII that has not been altered or destroyed. Placed in the Grotto of the Nativity above the star, Chateaubriand mentions it in the *Itinerary from Paris to Jerusalem*.



### Offering platter

Donated by Louis XIII,  
bearing the coat of arms  
of France and Navarre.



### Louis XIII ornament

Red pontifical ornament offered by Louis XIII. Thanks to the Franciscan chronicles and those of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Paris, we know that this ornament composed of 14 pieces was sent to Jerusalem and that it arrived there precisely on May 20, 1621!



### Reliquary of the True Cross

A unique piece by one of Louis XIII's greatest goldsmiths. Most of the reliquaries of the Holy Cross from the 17th century were destroyed after the 1690 ordinances of fonts. The sketch that inspired this reliquary is preserved in the library of the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris.



## 2nd PART: THE TREASURE OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE



**The Neapolitan bas-relief of the Resurrection,** a masterpiece of the Treasury of the Holy Sepulchre made of 300 kg of solid silver. It depicts Christ holding the banner of the Resurrection in his left hand on which the cross of Jerusalem appears. This work will be unveiled in the first room of the museum.

### Throne for Eucharistic Exposition

This work takes the form of an apse resting on a plinth framed on each side by three columns backed by a pilaster. The work, paid for with deniers from the kingdom of Sicily, was donated by Philip IV, King of Spain and Sicily at the time.







**This chasuble** is part of a collection which was used, according to the testimony of the writer Pierre Loti, for the marriage of Napoleon III with the Empress Eugénie. The Napoleonic style is clearly visible with numerous bees adorning the all of collection.



**The star of the Grotto of the Nativity** offered by Queen Marie-Amélie of Spain in 1739. The gilded silver star surrounds the porphyry stone marking the birth of Jesus.

**Composed of 18 pieces, this ornament was offered by the Republic of Genoa in 1692.** Due to its excellent conservation and its technique of needle-painting embroidery, this liturgical ornament is one of the most beautiful of the Catholic Church.





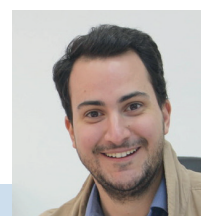
# MUSEUM TEAM



**Fr. Stéphane Milovitch OFM**  
 Director of the Cultural  
 Heritage Office  
 of the Custody  
 of the Holy Land



**Fr. Francesco Patton OFM**  
 Custos of the Holy Land



**Vincenzo Zupardo**  
 Architect for the Technical  
 Office of the Custody



**Fr. Eugenio Alliata OFM**  
 Archaeologist, professor  
 at the Studium Biblicum  
 Franciscanum, Director  
 of the Terra Sancta Museum

The entire Terra Sancta Museum team resides in Jerusalem. The management of the Terra Sancta Museum has been entrusted to the Franciscan NGO of the Holy Land, the Association *Pro Terra Sancta* (ATS). The ATS collaborates with the European Union and international solidarity associations, among others. In 2018, it managed a budget of 8.5 million of euros.



**Sara Cibir**  
 Project Coordinator for  
 Association *Pro Terra Sancta*



**Carla Benelli**  
 Expert  
 in Eastern heritage  
 conservation



**Jérôme Dumoux**  
 Scenographer



**Béatrix Saule**  
 President of the  
 International Scientific  
 Committee



**Gabriele Allevi**  
 Head of Multimedia

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
 PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

## FOUNDING ENTITIES





## ESTIMATED BUDGET

The total cost of the Terra Sancta Museum amounts to 12 M€, financed by sponsorship. The archaeological section cost 4 M€, the historical section still needs to be financed for an amount of 8 M€.

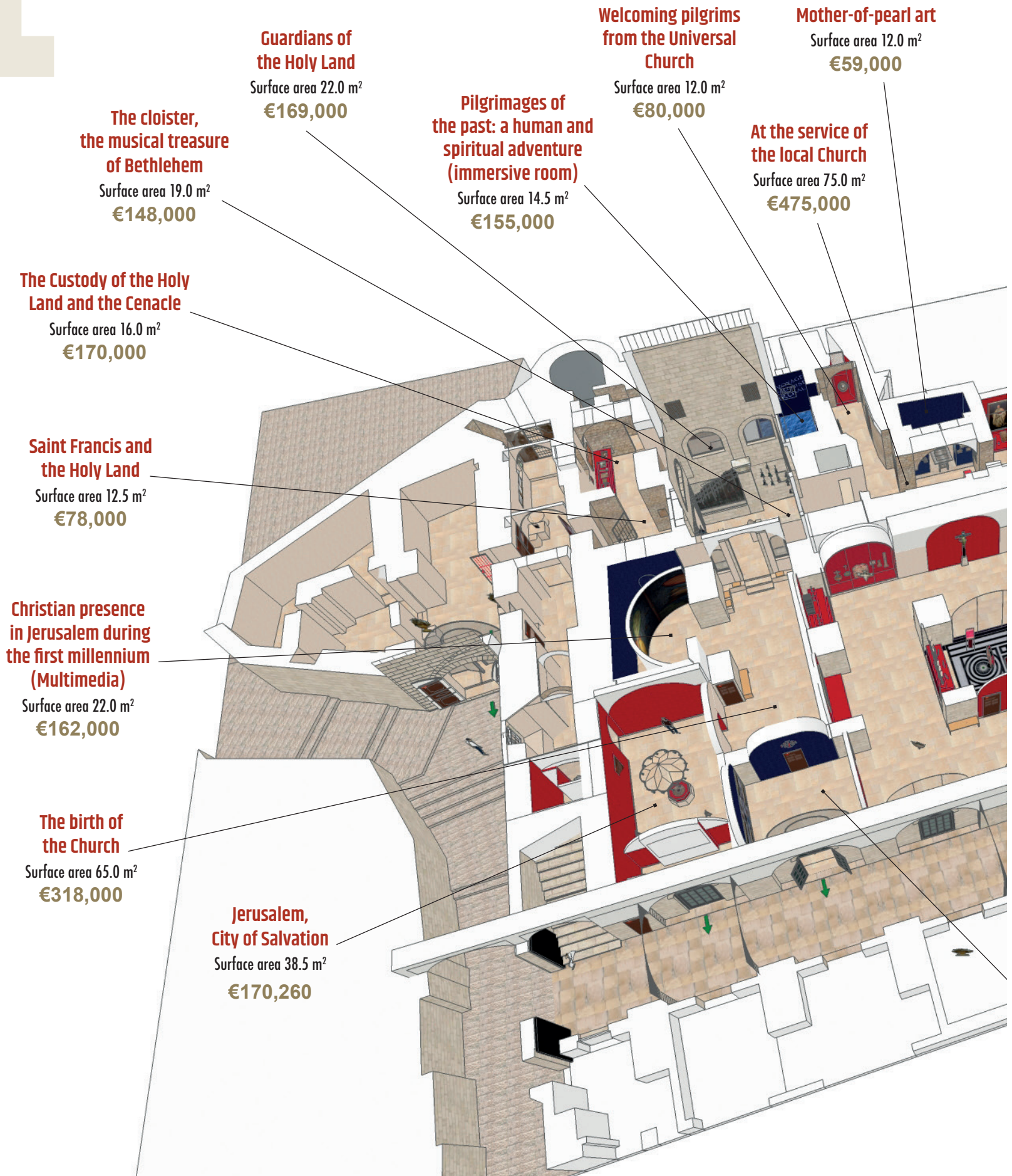
<b>Terra Sancta Museum – Historical Section</b>	<b>Costs</b>
Surface area : 1,409.5 square meters	
Feasibility study	€200,000
Labor & construction	€3,800,000
Planning & museography	€1,540,000
Multimedia	€380,000
Restoration of works	€300,000
Human resources	€400,000
Unforeseen costs (20%)	€1,324,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€7,944,000</b>

Loyal to their mission in the Holy Land, the Franciscans hope that this project will also be a source of economic development for the local population. The construction will use the resources and skills available on site under the supervision of the Technical Office of the Custody of the Holy Land. ■





# BUDGET BREAKDOWN BY ROOM





**The Knighting Ceremony  
at the Holy Sepulchre**

Surface area 10.5 m<sup>2</sup>  
€42,000

**The registers  
of conduits, passport  
of the works**

Surface area 15.0 m<sup>2</sup>  
€129,000

**Gifts from  
the Spanish Court**

Surface area 43.5 m<sup>2</sup>  
€350,000

**The Pharmacy  
of St. Saviour's Monastery**

Surface area 46.3 m<sup>2</sup>  
€360,650

**Gifts from  
Portugal**

Surface area 24.7 m<sup>2</sup>  
€205,000

**Worship and Liturgy  
(Didactic room)**

Surface area 40.8 m<sup>2</sup>  
€470,000

**The room  
of France**

Surface area 35.5 m<sup>2</sup>  
€310,000

**Gifts from the Holy Roman  
Empire and Poland**

Surface area 53.8 m<sup>2</sup>  
€402,000

**Gifts from the states  
of the Italian peninsula**

Surface area 213.8 m<sup>2</sup>  
€1,074,000

**The Custody today  
(Multimedia)**

Surface area 20.3 m<sup>2</sup>  
€145,000





# The Terra Sancta Museum is supported by the Mansart Foundation

The Amici Terrae Sancta Endowment Fund and the Mansart Foundation have established a foundation under its aegis called **the Amici Terrae Sancta Sheltered Foundation**.

The purpose of this endowment fund is the conservation, restoration and exhibition of works held by the Custody of the Holy Land which are the subject of the "Terrae Sanctae Museum" museum project in Jerusalem. The fund contributes directly to the preservation of the national cultural heritage and the influence of French culture in the Middle East.

By making a donation to **the Amici Terrae Sancta Foundation**, you will support cultural, artistic or social projects as well as the acquisition of works for the Terrae Sanctae Museum, thus contributing to the influence of France's artistic heritage.





# GOVERNANCE



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## Delegates of the Mansart Foundation



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The Mansart Foundation has been granted the status of Fondation Reconnue d'Utilité Publique by the French State in recognition of its public mission. The foundation's governance is defined by its statutes and rules. The Board of Directors is meeting at least twice a year to define priorities, validate strategic projects and control management. The Board includes a representative of the French government named by the Interior Ministry, after consultation with the Culture Ministry.





 Terra Sancta Museum

  
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[www.terrasanctamuseum.org](http://www.terrasanctamuseum.org) / [www.fondationmansart.fr](http://www.fondationmansart.fr)