

The Global House of Friendship and Hope



Contents

Endorsement from Pope Francis	Page 1
Endorsement from Archbishop of Assisi, Domenico Sorrentino	Page 3
A New Vision Rises in Assisi	Page 4
Market Analysis	Page 6
Assisi's Role in Saving Jews During the Holocaust	Page 10
St. Francis of Assisi	Page 11
A Premier Location for a Premier Destination	Page 12
A Unique Moment in Time: The 800 th Anniversary	Page 14
Endorsement from Father Francesco Piloni, Minister Provincial of the Friars Minor of Umbria and Sardinia	Page 15
An Immersive Experience for All	Page 17
Layers of Outreach	Page 18
Ground and First Floor Exhibits and Floorplans	Page 19
Hall Three: Friendships Across Religions	Page 21
Hall Five: Friends of the Earth	Page 22
Hall 6 Gateways to Prayer	Page 23
Second Floor Exhibits and Floorplans	Page 25
Hall 7: St. Francis as an Inter-Religious Hero and Assisi as an Inter-Religious Site	Page 26
Hall 9: The Cosmic Experience of Prayer	Page 28
Hall 10: My House will be a House of Prayer for All Peoples	Page 29
Virtual Reality Prayer Experiences	Page 30
Third Floor Exhibits and Floorplans	Page 31
Hall 11: From Assisi to Jerusalem	Page 32
Endorsement from The Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, Mons. Pierbattista Pizzaballa	Page 33
Hall 12: the Prayer Vortex	Page 34
Hall 14: Humanity's Prayer Experience	Page 35
Fourth Floor Plans and Exhibit Overview	Page 36
The Rooftop Prayer Garden and Meeting Space	Page 37
Daily Motivation for the World	Page 38
Global Membership Program	Page 29
Dedication of the Global House	Page 42
The Elijah Interfaith Institute	Page 43
Words of Endorsement from the Dalai Lama	Page 44

Endorsement from Pope Francis



Dal Vaticano, 10 novembre 2021

Dear Brother,

I would like to warmly thank you for the letter that you recently wanted me to receive and for the feelings of affection and esteem expressed in it.

I have greatly appreciated your words concerning the figure of Saint Francis of Assisi, who represents a bridge between faiths and cultures, and a universal model of fraternal love.

I assure you that I have read with care and attention what you have related concerning the House of Prayer and Education in Jerusalem. Regarding the project of a museum in Assisi, I would like to express to you my support and encouragement. I hope it will become, in the spirit of the Poor Man of Assisi (St. Francis), a center for the promotion of spirituality, fraternity, culture, friendship and peace among all men.

In repeating to you my Shalom!, I invoke the blessing of the Highest upon you, the people you love and all of humanity.

Fraternally,



(translated from the original Italian)

Pregiato Signore
Rabbi Alon Goshen-Gottstein
The Elijah Interfaith Institute
Gerusalemme

Endorsement from The Archbishop of Assisi, Domenico Sorrentino



Mons. Domenico Sorrentino
Vescovo di Assisi-Nocera Umbra-Gualdo Tadino
e Foligno

Assisi, 10 November 2021

Rabbi Alon Goshen Gottstein
Elijah Interfaith Institute
Jerusalem

Dear Alon,

I received with joy the communication, in which you set out the essential points of the project of a “House” or “Museum” in Assisi, in line with your Elijah Interfaith Institute in Jerusalem, in the wake of the “spirit of Assisi,” inaugurated by St. John Paul II on October 27, 1986, when he summoned the leaders of Christian confessions and various religions to the City of Saint Francis, so that, each according to their own tradition, would raise a prayer for peace.

Since then, many steps have been taken forward in friendship and collaboration between believers of different religions. It is clear to everyone that friendship and dialogue take nothing away from the identity of each tradition and do not succumb to relativism and syncretism. At the same time, we all feel that, beyond the differences, many things are common to us all. Our relationship with God, if lived in an authentic way, not only does not make us hostile, but also fosters our friendship, compelling us to collaborate in building together a better world.

Therefore, I appreciate the idea and the project that you are developing. In particular, I cherish that the idea comes from you, a qualified exponent of the Jewish people, to whom our city was able to express sincere and effective solidarity in the dark years of the Shoah. Looking then to the Jewish faith, I gladly recall that the Church and theology have long since rediscovered what unites our two traditions, overcoming prejudices and misunderstandings of the past.

I will pray for this realization, supporting it in all possible ways and helping the faithful entrusted to my care to grasp its value. May the Lord bless your steps!

With brotherly affection, shalom!

+ Domenico Sorrentino



A New Vision Rises in Assisi

Assisi rises majestically above the storied planes of Italy's ancient hamlets and vineyards, offering hospitality to 6-8 million tourists from across the world every year. Here, 8 centuries ago, the great saint, Francis of Assisi, forever changed the world with his calls for interfaith harmony and peace among all creatures and all humanity.

The Basilica of St. Francis began to rise in the 13th century, just years after the death of St. Francis, who would become known as the Patron Saint of Italy. Today, Assisi is renowned as one of the world's most important holy sites, from where inspiring messages of interfaith harmony have emanated under the leadership of several Popes over the past four decades.

Now, a new vision rises in the town of Assisi, Italy, with the coming of the Global House of Friendship and Hope. Under the inspiration of Pope Francis and renowned leaders of the world's many faiths, the Global House will emerge as a premier immersive, interactive museum that amplifies interfaith friendship through experiences of wonder, hope and prayer.

The Global House is to be situated in a premier location directly across from the Basilica's entry. It will feature exceptional exhibits over four floors and a beautiful rooftop terrace with sweeping views of the Basilica and Umbrian countryside for all to enjoy.

In this age, when friendships across faiths and nations are lacking in much of the globe, interfaith movements are characterized by outward reaching action, the Global House of Friendship and Hope will go to the core of the spiritual life and the life of prayer of faith

traditions. It will thereby position Assisi as a capital of interfaith friendship, radiating peaceful messages across Europe and around the world.

At the Global House of Friendship and Hope, the faithful can expand their sense of devotion, while broadening hearts and minds to other religions, recognizing deeper spiritual commonalities. Youth and adults alike can discover a spiritual experience and deeper appreciation of nature and of humanity. And all can return to their homes with broadened knowledge, fuller appreciation of the spiritual life and greater appreciation towards reaching out to others in friendship.

Goals of the Global House of Friendship and Hope

- To serve as the worlds' first museum on prayer and spirituality.
- To provide inspiration for individual and collective growth, interfaith understanding and harmony.
- To break boundaries and forge bridges of friendship across faiths and nations.
- To serve as a place of learning about the religions and the spiritual life of humanity.
- To provide opportunities for cultivating spiritual experience and growth.
- To headquarter the global movement of Friendship Across Faiths, spearheaded by the leaders of all faiths and its global initiatives and campaigns (see page 38).
- To serve as a symbol and a home for collaboration and redefining relations between religions.
- To build on the perception and reach of Assisi as a place that unites the world's many faiths in spirituality and friendship.

Market Analysis

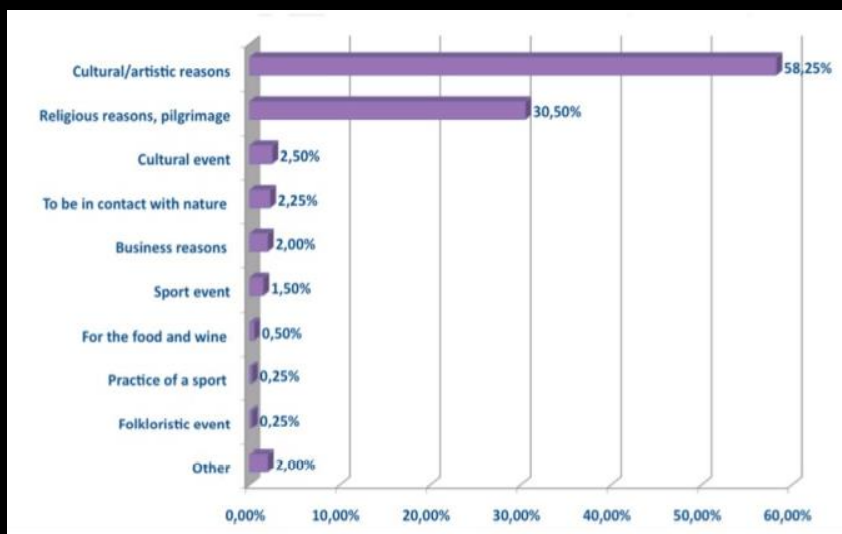
“For eight centuries, Assisi has been among the most visited sites for all of Christendom.”

-Travel Expert and Documentarian, Rick Steves

The town of Assisi hosts an estimated 6-8 million visitors a year, most of whom are coming to visit the Basilica of St. Francis and walk in the saint’s hallowed footsteps. Ten museums are located in the region, showcasing art, history and relics. Yet there are none that go to the heart of the spiritual vision of St. Francis and its meaning globally across all faiths. Additionally, none offer any significant levels of interactivity outside of browsing halls and reading educational signage.

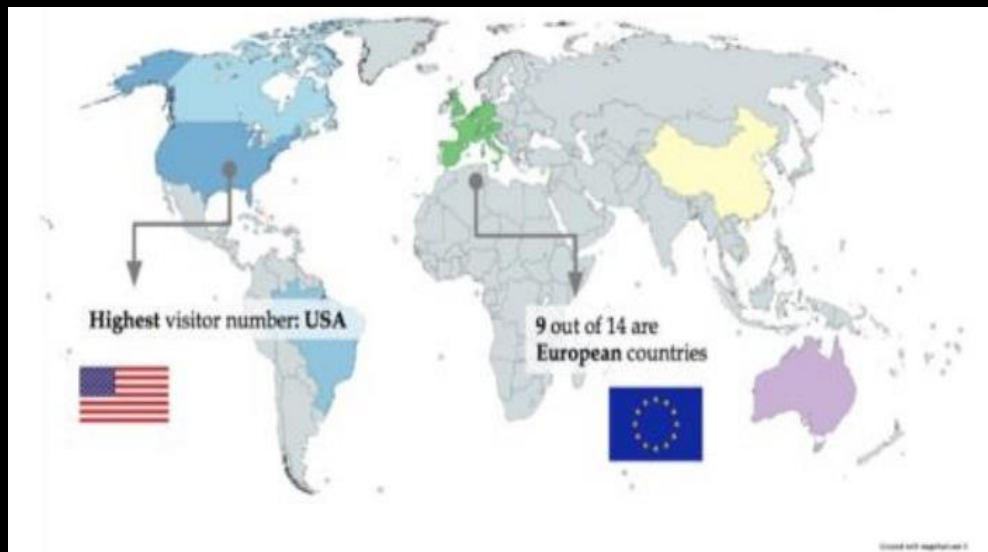
Understanding that on top of coming to explore spiritual sites, nearly 60% of foreign tourists and 50% of Italian nationals are also visiting Assisi for Museum/Exhibition Visits, the lack of interactive museum experiences in the Basilica area presents a glaring gap, and an outstanding opportunity for growth.





**Main Reasons
Visitors State as
to Why They are
Coming to Assisi**

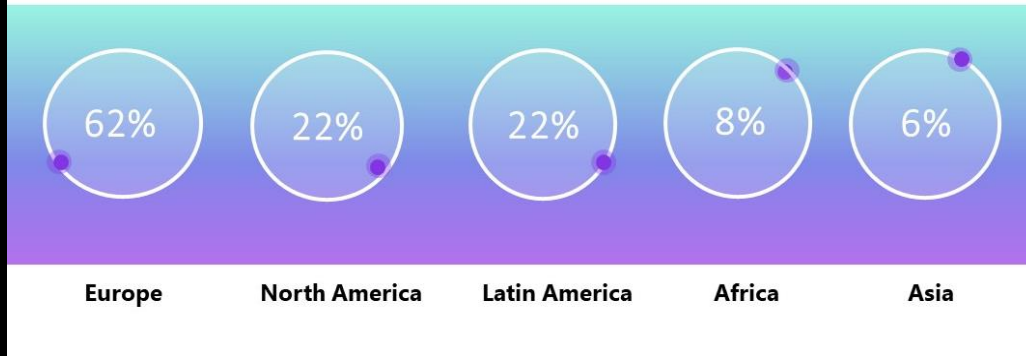
14 Main Nationalities of Visitors to Assisi



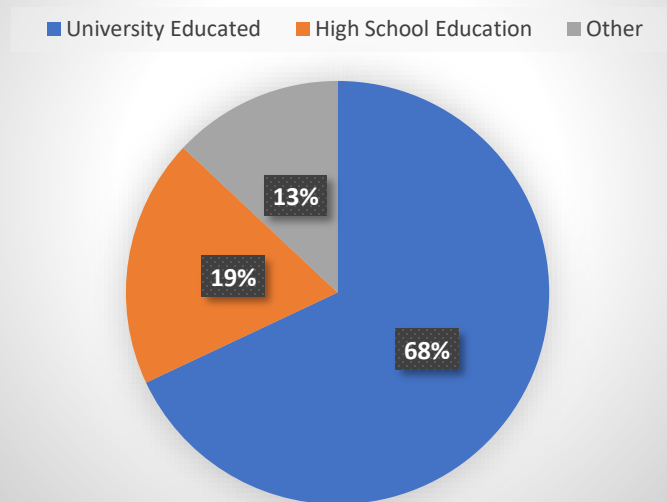
	Italian	Foreigner	Total
Visits of monuments	63.0	81.8	68.2
Museum visits and / or exhibitions	48.1	56.8	50.5
Tasted typical local products	34.1	31.1	33.3
Excursions	25.1	45.5	30.7
Shopping	26.2	40.2	30.1
Purchased local products and / or local craftsmanship	23.0	22.0	22.7

Main Tourist Activities in Assisi's State of Umbria

Assisi Visitor Origins by Continent



Education Levels of Visitors to Assisi



The outcome of this market analysis suggests that the museum presented herein addresses a vital need. It fills a gap in the expectations of visitors. It is suited to the profile of visitors. And it augments the Assisi experience by going to the core of the message of the Saint and the meaning of Assisi in ways that are relevant spiritually and significant in terms of their benefit to tourism and pilgrimage.

Assisi's Location

Assisi is located about two hours by train from Rome. The nearest airport (with Ryanair flights from London Stansted) is Perugia Airport, just a few miles away.

The town is within the borders of Umbria State, which is known as Italy's "Green Heart." Bordering Tuscany, it is renowned for its medieval villages, ancient forests, local cuisine, foraged truffles and wines.



Assisi as a Global Capital of Religious Friendship

About 800 years ago, St. Francis held a historic dialogue with a Muslim Sultan that is remembered today as a pivotal moment that demonstrated the power of building friendships across faiths for the sake of peace and mutual understanding. The story, which can be found on page 25 of this document, was only the beginning. In 1986, Pope John Paul II held the historic World Day of Prayer and Peace in Assisi, bringing together the leaders of the world's many faiths for the development of fellowship and interfaith harmony. This gave expression to a new form of interfaith engagement – prayer, in publicly visible gestures featuring religious leaders of all faiths.

Assisi's status as an interfaith capital only grew with successive interfaith Summits led by Pope John Paul II in 1993 and 2002. In 2011, the Summit was presided over by Pope Benedict. Pope Francis continued this tradition in 2016.

Today, Assisi is visited by people of all faiths, who come to walk in the footsteps of the great peacemakers of our time. Now, the Global House of Friendship and Hope will officially enshrine this tradition of peace through the power of sight, sound, prayer and togetherness.

Assisi's Role in Saving Jews During the Holocaust

As Nazis descended on Italy, countless Jewish men, women and children were rounded up and deported to almost-certain deaths within Italy and abroad. In response, Assisi's Bishop Placido Nicolini and his assistant, Don Aldo, sent out a call to all churches and monasteries to provide for the needs of Jews, including providing shelter, food, clothing, and the safekeeping of their religious items.

In Assisi, printing presses were surreptitiously converted with the help of the Church, so that false identification documents could be printed for innocent people who were fleeing for their lives. Many were transported by a brave cyclist of Assisi near and far.

All the while, Assisi's convents, monasteries and households secretly opened their doors to hundreds of Jewish people, sharing highly-rationed food, and risking their own lives if the Nazis were to catch them. Other people were transported to safety by Assisi's underground network. As a result, no Jews were captured or killed in Assisi.

Said survivor Lea Baruch (pictured above), who was a child at the time, "Bishop Nicolini, Don Aldo.... and all the others, helped us at risk of their own lives. They did it believing it was their duty as men and as religious [people]."

Today, Assisi is remembered and cherished for its role in saving hundreds of lives from the brutality of Nazi forces, and as a vital center for interfaith harmony.



Mira, Hella e Lea Baruch (Fiume 1934)

St. Francis of Assisi



The town of Assisi is renowned for the life of St. Francis of Assisi, the beloved Patron Saint of Italy who indelibly touched the world through a life lived for the sake of peaceful relations between all people, faiths, and all creatures.

Born into a merchant's family, his life was forever changed after he was sent to fight in a violent war. As the Crusades waged, he renounced all worldly goods and comforts to preach peace between all souls and kindle brotherly love.

In 1224, he became history's first saint to receive the stigmata, the wounds of Christ's Passion, amidst an ecstatic angelic vision. He was also the first to introduce live nativity scenes to the faith.

St. Francis was canonized just 2 years after his death, in 1228. Afterwards, he would become associated with patronage of animals and nature. Worldwide, his feast day is still celebrated with the

Blessing of Animals. Today, he is also renowned for his inter-religious leadership.

Today, nearly 800 years after his death, some 6-8 million people a year come to his town of Assisi to visit the historic sites and lanes touched by his life. Yet, many visitors to Assisi are not aware of pivotal moments in the life of this great saint, including his role in promoting interfaith harmony, nor of the great interfaith convenings of recent decades. The Global House of Friendship and Hope will expand the visitor experience to Assisi by including these moments in its presentation of the significance of Assisi to prayer and friendship across religions.

A Premier Location for a Premier Destination

The Global House of Friendship and Hope will be located in a strategic position that expresses the closeness of its vision to the Saint. The present Hotel San Francesco is located facing the Basilica, with no buildings intervening. It features direct views on to the basilica and the natural Umbrian surroundings. The message of the museum will be enhanced by its situation that takes in these special views. Visitors to the Basilica, in turn, will encounter the Global House as the first establishment facing them, as they exit the Basilica and make their way to the town's historical center. The unparalleled situation is as symbolic as it is promising in terms of expected high visibility and high visitor traffic.





The Global House of Friendship and Hope is the first building seen on the main Lane emerging from the Basilica. The majority of Assisi's 6-8 million visitors will see it prominently.





A Unique Moment in Time: The 800th Anniversary

The Global House of Friendship and Hope comes at a special moment not only for the global interfaith movement but also for Assisi. Its launch is envisioned as part of a series of celebrations marking 800 years of the death of the Saint of Assisi. Assisi authorities involved in planning this important Centenary welcome the Global House of Friendship and Hope as an important gift that delivers to the world a significant aspect of the spirituality of the “poor man” of Assisi.

Endorsement from Father Francesco Piloni, Minister Provincial of the Friars Minor of Umbria and Sardinia



PROVINCIA
SERAFICA O.F.M.
SAN FRANCESCO ASSISI
CURIA PROVINCIALE

1st December 2021

PROT. N. 223/2021 EN

OGGETTO: Assisi Project

Esteemed Doctor,
Rabbi Alon GOSHEN-GOTTSTEIN
The Elijah Interfaith Institute
Jerusalem

Dear Alon,

I thank you from the bottom of my heart for our meetings in Assisi, this October, for the profound sharing, the beauty of prayer, and the courageous vision. They are fruits which we would wish to offer to so many brothers, seekers of God, after the example of our Saint from Assisi. He ordered his friars not to enter into fights or disputes, but to be subject to every human creature for the love of God (Earlier Rule, XVI); and thus, he wished to meet the Sultan Al-Malik, Al-Kamil, in the very midst of the raging battles of the Crusades: "his faith in his Lord was reflected in the love for his brothers and sisters". (Fratelli Tutti, 3).

It is in this spirit that I read your proposal of a House of Prayer and Education in Jerusalem, and I am happy to offer you my support for the Project of a Museum-House of Spirituality in Assisi which can help its many visitors to know better and appreciate something of the richness of the great spiritual traditions and of human faith, promoting friendship and peace between all people.

Our meetings and this Assisi project come in the context of the approach of some very important Franciscan centenaries, from the Christmas at Greccio (1223) through the experience of the Stigmata (1224) and the composition of the Canticle of the Creatures (1225) up to the death of St Francis (1226): events which coalesce into one great centenary, that of the maturity and completion of the earthly life of the Poor Man. The realization of the project of a Museum-House of Spirituality in Assisi will contribute to witnessing the inexhaustible fecundity of his life and his faith, still capable of touching the hearts of men and women of our time, and bringing fruits of fraternity and peace.

I invoke upon you, and upon your family, and upon all who wish to share in this project the blessing of the Most High.

Faternally,



fr. francesco piloni
Fr. Francesco Piloni, ofm
Provincial Minister

Exhibition Halls

An Immersive Experience for Visitors of All Faiths, Nationalities and Ages

The Global House of Friendship and Hope's museum experience is being designed by the Skolnick Architecture + Design Partnership of New York, award winning museum designers, whose renderings are featured in this presentation. The museum will provide thrilling interactive experiences for all visitors, bringing the latest in technologies and design to the forefront. Its features will include:



Immersive Video Experiences

State-of-the-Art Interactive Displays

Virtual Reality Exhibits

In-Person Events

Spaces for Deeper Contemplation and Meditation

Cafe and Gift Shop

Layers of Outreach

The Core Exhibition:

- Provides teaching and understanding
- Creates an opportunity for cultivating experiences of prayer
- Guided tours

Activities Around it:

- Educational activities by local partners
- Lectures, special prayer services per traditions
- Panels and special events (at the site or in related locations)

Community building:

- Spontaneous encounters
- Informal meeting space (Café)
- Local volunteers of different faith communities create bridges within the community and for visitors
- Headquarters of the Global Friendship Across Faiths Movement



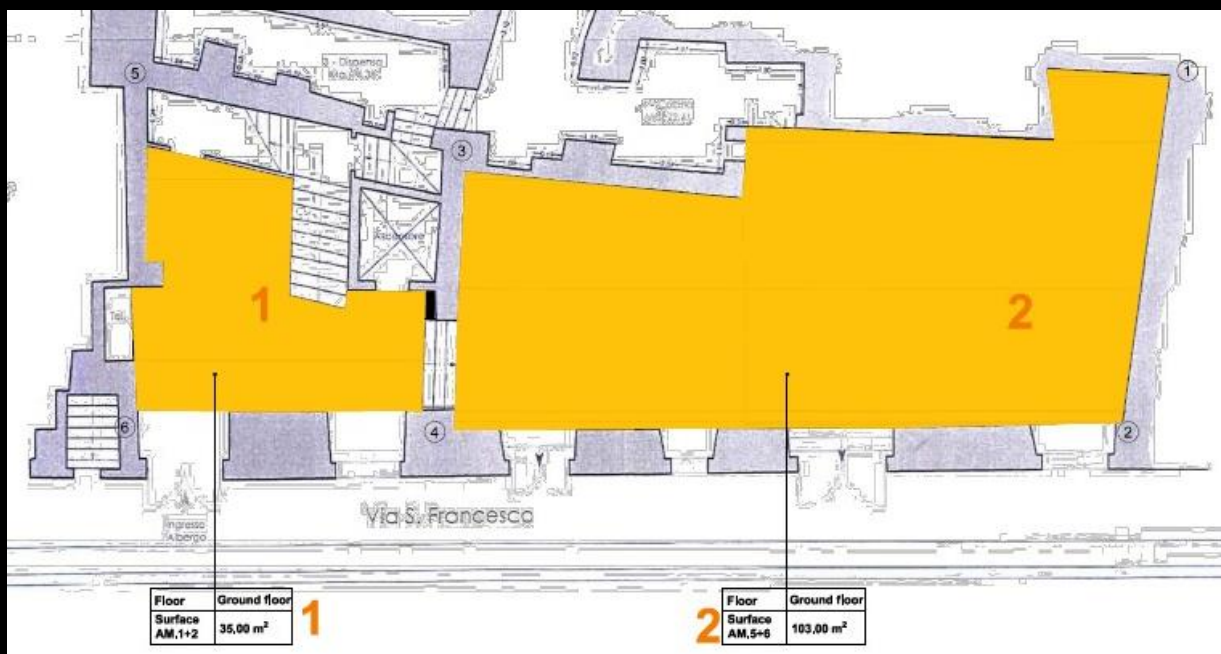
GROUND FLOOR

HALL ONE:

Entry and Reception

HALL TWO:

Orientation and Café/Meeting Hall

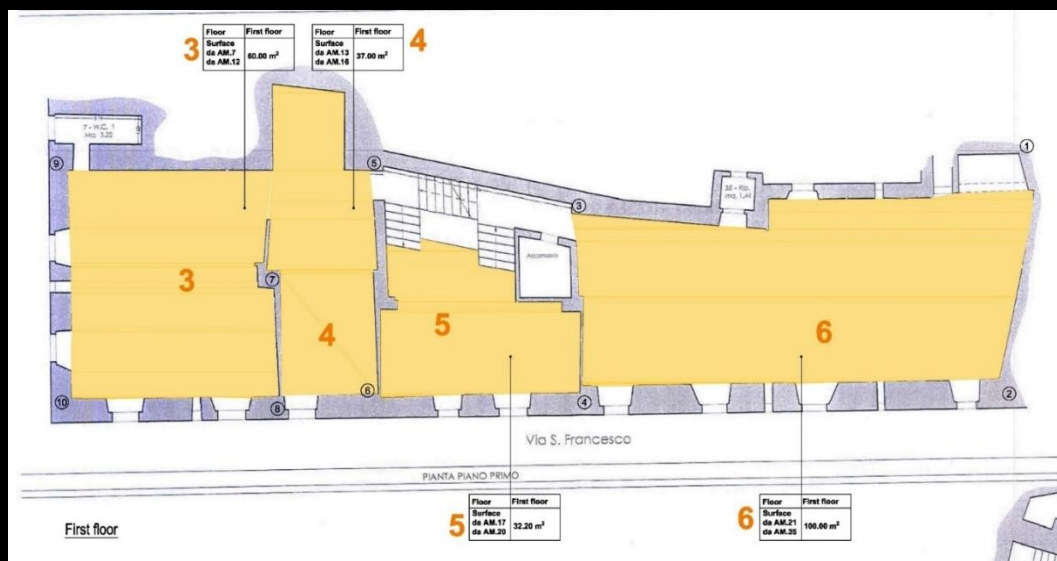




View of the Basilica and its Grounds from the First Floor

FIRST FLOOR

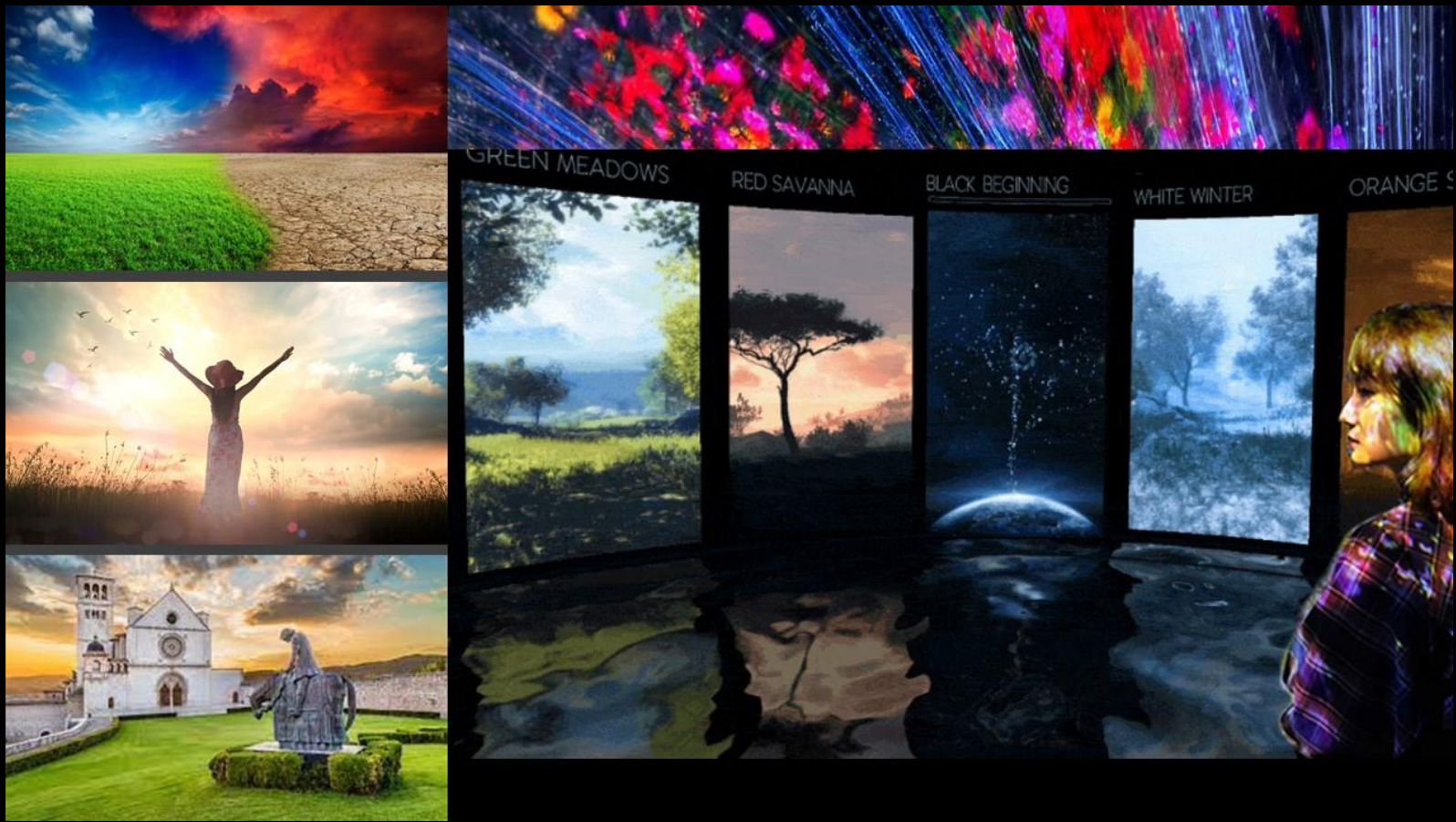
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|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| HALL THREE: | Friendship Across Religions |
| HALL FOUR: | Meeting Room |
| HALL FIVE: | Friends of the Earth |
| HALL SIX: | Gateways to Prayer |



Hall 3: Friendship Across Religions

As visitors enter the first museum gallery, they will learn about the Declaration of Friendship Across Religions, which was recently agreed to by the world's foremost faith leaders, including Pope Francis, the Dalai Lama, and many others for the sake of interfaith harmony. As individuals travel through this area, they will encounter opportunities to be introduced to the leaders of the world's many faiths. In so doing, they can choose to delve into certain leaders' own personal stories, and hear their words of wisdom, prayer, compassion and fellowship.





Hall 5: Friends of the Earth

This beautiful, interactive space will delve deeply into St. Francis' high ideals and love for all of nature, revealing a new sense of kinship with the world around us. Friendship is extended to the earth and all the elements and to all beings. This is a vision of which all religions partake. Friendship and prayer, as these are reflected in the inspiration of all faiths are the theme of Hall 5.

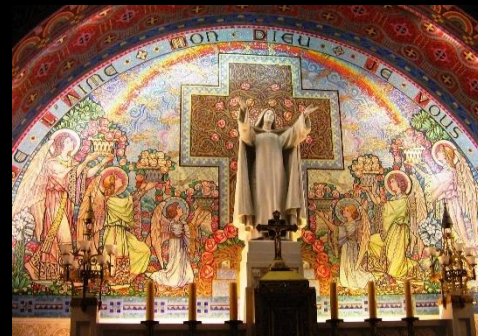
From a touch panel in this very room, every visitor may choose to have a *Laudato Si* tree planted in their name, or the name of a loved one, within Italy, Israel or India, putting prayers into action for a healthier, more peaceful and sustainable world.

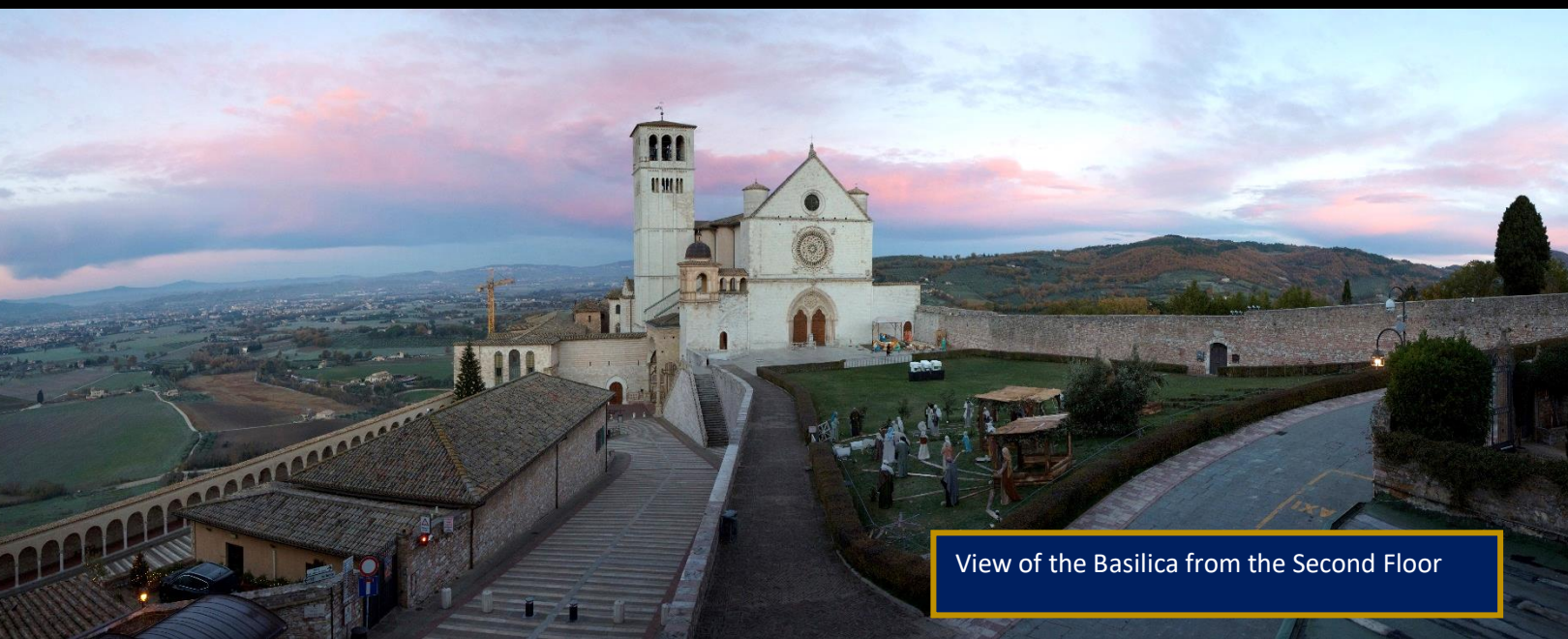


Hall 6: Gateways to Prayer

After passing through a transitional bridge that prepares the visitor to move from the space of the profane to the sacred, the visitor passes through a portal reminiscent of a gate to the Old City of Jerusalem. Entry into Jerusalem is entry into a series of spiritual qualities associated with Jerusalem, its spiritual reality and the experience of prayer. The First Gallery contains ten such “portals”, each a small learning center, in which the featured spiritual quality is appreciated from the perspective of multiple religions. The various “Portals of Virtue” – such as love, faith, charity and more – culminate in the “Peace Portal” where the visitor has a chance to reflect on Jerusalem and its multi-religious message and aspiration for peace. The “Hall of Peace” is cultivated as a learning experience of entry into prayer and aspiring for Peace in Jerusalem and worldwide.







Second Floor

HALL SEVEN:

**St. Francis as Inter-Religious Hero and
Assisi as Inter-Religious Site**

HALL EIGHT:

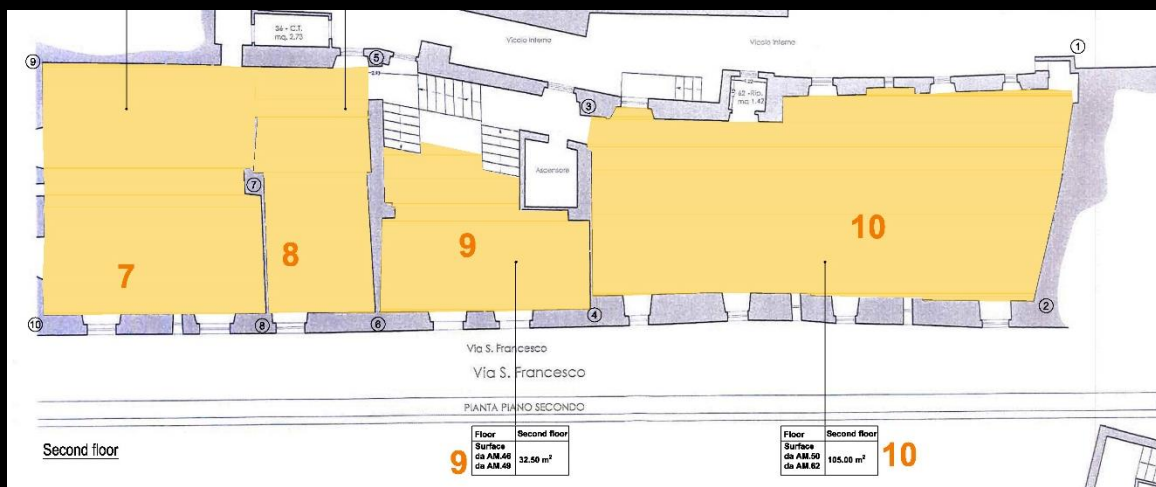
Meeting Hall

HALL NINE:

The Cosmic Experience of Prayer

HALL TEN:

**My House will be a House of Prayer for all
Peoples**





Hall 7: St. Francis as an Inter-Religious Hero and Assisi as an Inter-Religious Site

In 1219, Christian forces were fighting Muslims in the brutal 5th Crusade in Egypt. Entire populations were eradicated as violent engagements spared none.

Deeply pained by the suffering, St. Francis crossed enemy lines with the hope of forming a friendship with the ruler, Sultan al-Malik al-Kamil, and perhaps even developing a path towards peace.

While he was at first nearly killed by the opposing factions, the Sultan soon opened his arms in hospitality to St. Francis. During their time together—which would span several weeks--both men were deeply touched by each other's faith traditions. St. Francis eloquently preached the Gospel. At the same time, he was profoundly impressed by the devoted prayer lives of his Muslim hosts, who prayed five times a day. Later, he would also write Praises of God, which were based on Islam's 99 names of God.

While their time together wouldn't end the crusades, it would lead to later acts of mercy. Eventually, the Sultan would save the lives of starving crusaders by ensuring they were provided with food and shelter.

To this day, the meeting of the Saint and the Sultan is remembered for its poignant importance, propelling Assisi into becoming a global center of interfaith friendship and engagement.

Following the example of St. Francis, several Interfaith Prayer Summits have been convoked in Assisi by consecutive Popes, bringing together the leaders of our world's many faiths.



The story of the Sultan and the Saint, and the Gatherings of the World's Faiths that would follow, will be brought to life through immersive experiences at the Global House of Friendship and Hope, including through the display of historic records, video and interactive exhibits that put you there.





Hall 9: The Cosmic Experience of Prayer

Prayer is a fundamental expression of the fact that we are not alone. It means more than our relationship with God. A person at prayer affirms beliefs that go to the fundamental structure of the cosmos, relationship with elements of nature, relationship with higher planes of being, an understanding of life, death and the afterlife, and dimensions of reality that are implicated in the prayer experience. In this hall, the “cosmovision” of prayer of many faiths will be crowned by an experiential entry into one such cosmic prayer, St. Francis’ noted prayer ‘Laudato Si.’



Hall 10: My House will be a House of Prayer for all Peoples

In this circular space all major world religions are represented in arch-shaped “learning chapels.” Each chapel allows visitors to have a taste of prayer in the individual religion, through a mix of Virtual Reality (see next page), live hook-up to prayer spaces and educational media. The ensemble is ringed by a cyclorama of media projections of iconic places of spirituality of the religions of the world.

At the core of this space is a “communication center.” Featured as the heart of humanity, people here communicate with individuals in other locations, sharing prayer, making friends, establishing connections locally and globally.



Virtual Reality Prayer Experiences

In each of Hall 10's Learning Chapels, visitors will be able to immerse themselves in the prayer traditions of the world's religions.

Virtual Reality headsets will offer a profoundly immersive experience, including an introduction to the prayer traditions and holy music of each faith. Each VR area will be dedicated to the prayers and faith heritages of a singular religion, including Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism.

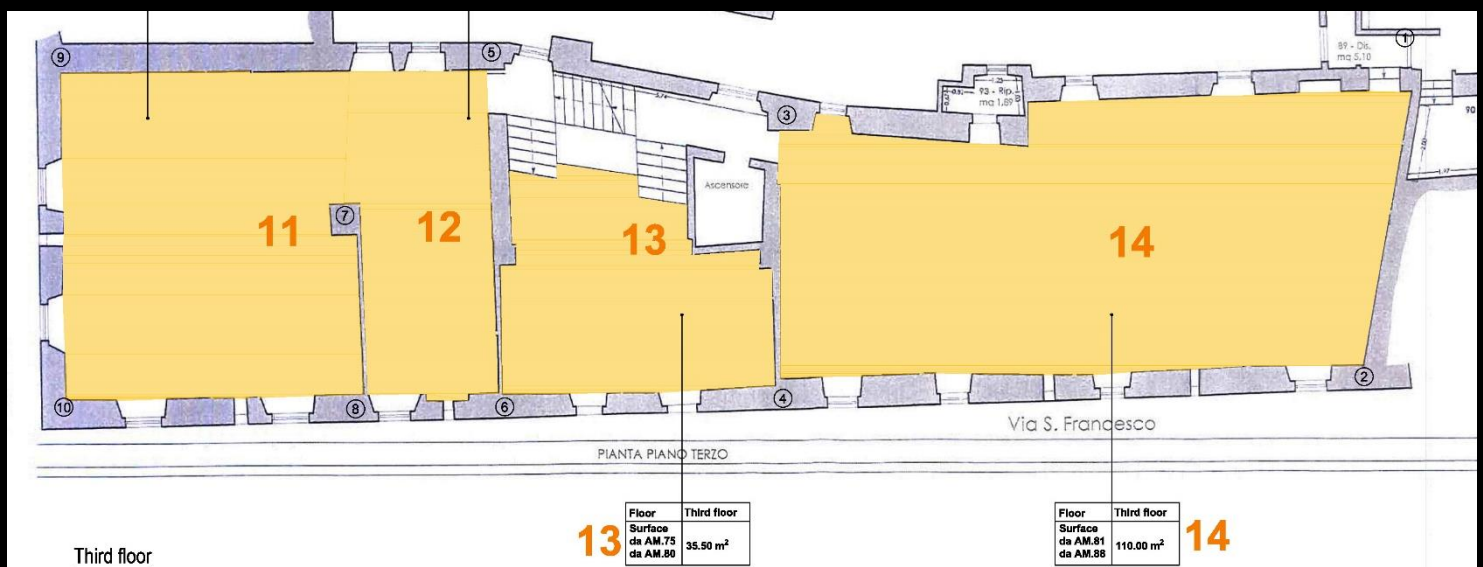
Opportunities for deeper relaxation, contemplation and meditation will also be presented, through immersive VR experiences that include instruction, visuals and soothing music representing each belief, here and on the fourth floor of the Global House of Friendship and Hope.





Third Floor

- HALL 11: From Assisi to Jerusalem
- HALL 12: Meeting Room
- HALL 13: The Prayer Vortex
- HALL 14: Humanity's Prayer Experience

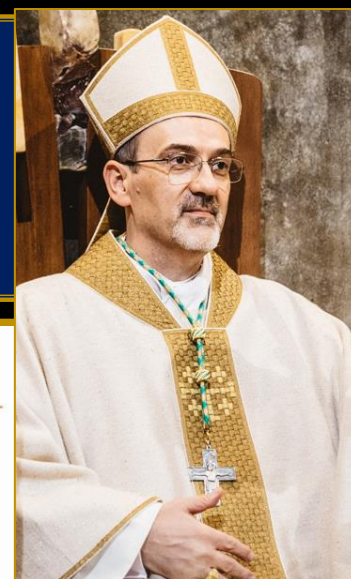




Hall 11: From Assisi to Jerusalem

No other city in the world means as much to the prayer life of as many faithful globally as Jerusalem. A meeting place of heaven and earth, it is hallowed by three faiths and recognized by all spiritual beings as a potent spiritual center. St. Francis was entrusted with care of its Christian holy sites, thereby creating a bridge between Assisi and Jerusalem. In this prayer hall, prayer in Jerusalem will come alive, by the use of media and virtual reality to grant the visitor a prayer experience from and in Jerusalem, thereby following in the footsteps of St. Francis and suggesting a movement of HOPE from Assisi to Jerusalem.

Endorsement from The Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, Mons. Pierbattista Pizzaballa



PATRIARCHATUS LATINUS - JERUSALEM

بطريركية القدس للاتين

Prot. N. (2) 1176/2021

November 30, 2021

Dear Rabbi Alon,

May the Lord grant you peace!

Following our meeting of November 19, I am happy to give my support for the Jerusalem vision of a house of prayer for all faiths. Your diligence and passion for your work as an interfaith visionary and activist is indisputable and for many years now, I have followed the effort that you are making to foster unity in diversity, creating a harmonious world, according to the spirit of the Elijah Interfaith Institute. It is indeed meaningful that you have chosen the path to Jerusalem from Assisi, which will introduce the world to these noble themes of dialogue and peace. For me personally, as a Franciscan friar and Patriarch of Jerusalem, the spirit of St. Francis continues to move in the vision that you propose.

May the Lord bless you, your colleagues and all those who generously collaborate with you in your every endeavor for peace and justice. Be assured of my prayers and continued support for this praiseworthy initiative.

Sincerely,



Pierbattista Pizzaballa
Pierbattista Pizzaballa
Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem

Rabbi Dr. Alon Goshen-Gottstein
Elijah Interfaith Institute
Kesalon 84
D.N. Zefon Yehuda
90976
Israel
Email: gogo@elijah.org.il



Hall 12: The Prayer Vortex

In this serene area, participants are invited to compose their own prayers for world peace and the needs of their hearts. Each prayer can be sent by their hands into a beautiful interactive vortex that will resemble a cloud of smoke rising to the heavens. Afterwards, the prayers will be strung into a global prayer flag which will fly on holy days from the Global House of Friendship and Hope's beautiful rooftop gardens, overlooking the Basilica.



Hall 14: Humanity's Prayer Experience

This inspirational space provides visitors with the opportunity to be inspired to pray, individually or collectively, as a follow-up to their learning experience. An immersive media experience featuring inspirational, blended images of people of different religions in prayer around the world sets the mood for visitors to find their own moment of prayer. Under a sheltering tented canopy, the projected sense of sky above constitutes an invitation to expand our consciousness and to reach out in prayer. Following an initial media presentation, time is given for visitors to reflect in silence or in word, individually or collectively as they see fit, and to express their prayers for Jerusalem, the world and the wellbeing of all.





Fourth Floor

HALLS 15- 16: Thematic Prayer Rooms

Visitors moving from the third to the fourth floor are, in fact, moving from exhibitions on prayer to dedicated prayer spaces. Theory leads to practice. Fourth floor prayer rooms offer multi-religious prayer experiences, through videos and VR technology, dedicated to specific topics, of burning concern. These thematic prayer rooms will focus on global concerns, common to adherents of all faiths, as members of a united humanity. Topics include alleviation of poverty and provision of the basic needs of life; social harmony; the prayer experience of women and spaces dedicated to meditation, utilizing a variety of techniques and technological means for their enhancement.





The Rooftop Prayer Garden and Meeting Space

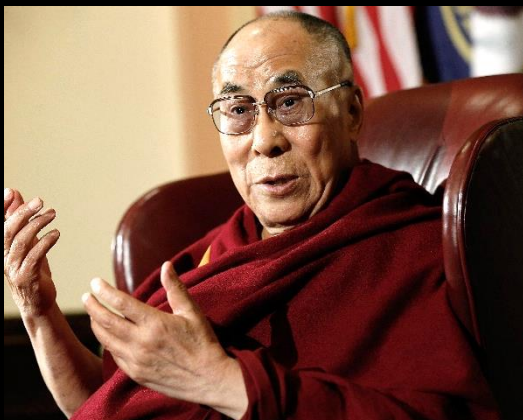
The Global House of Friendship and Hope's beautiful rooftop terraces will be renowned for their singular views of the Basilica of St. Francis. Here, visitors may enjoy peaceful and prayerful moments of reflection and meditation as they conclude their journey of Friendship and Hope.

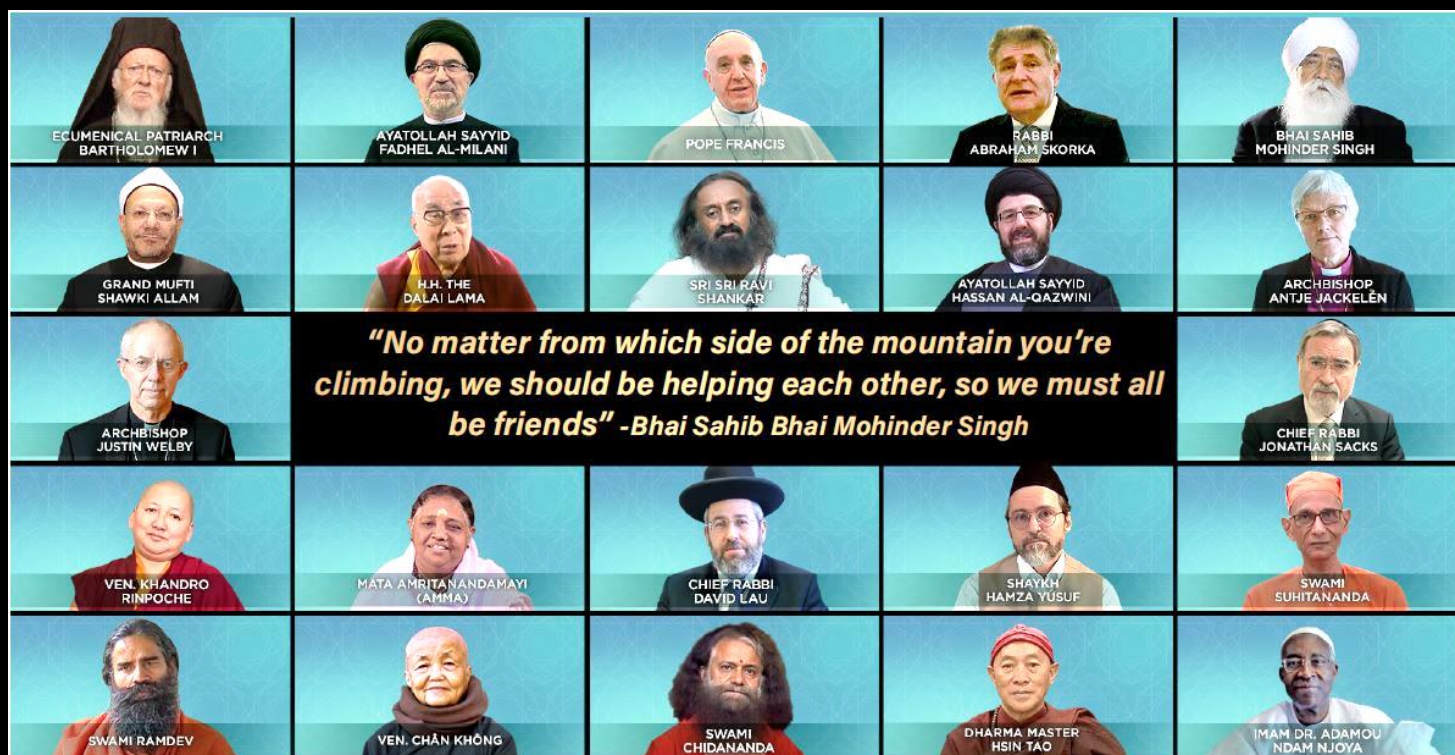
The terrace, which can hold up to 150 people, will also be made available for special events, and concerts under the stars of Assisi.



Daily Motivation to the World

In this multi-purpose studio, special broadcasts will take place every day, featuring interviews with renowned faith leaders, updates from Assisi, and interactions with visitors to the Global House of Friendship and Hope. All broadcasts will be shared widely on the internet and social media and may be made available within hotel rooms across the Assisi region.





Global Membership Program

Assisi serves as a symbol and site for the practice of friendship across religions, especially among religious leaders. The Global House of Friendship and Hope will seek to not only feature this legacy but also to build on it and advance it, by means of an affiliated membership program for religious leaders and the faithful of different faiths worldwide.

The Global House has put forward the following strategy for advancing the Assisi message and creating a globally affiliated community:

➤ The Global Message of Friendship Across Religions

Just prior to the COVID pandemic, the world's foremost faith leaders came together under the banner of the Elijah Interfaith Institute for a historic call for friendship across the faiths.

Participants included Pope Francis, The Dalai Lama, The Archbishop of Canterbury, The Grand Mufti of Egypt, the Chief Rabbi of Israel, Mata Amritanandamayi (Amma), Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople, Sri Ravi Shankar, and many other premier leaders.

“Make Friends.” Never had such a simple, yet powerfully unifying message been heard from so many global leaders on the same platform. Perhaps never has the need been so great.

➤ **The Global Declaration of Friendship**

Building on the call to friendship, Elijah will be launching the “Declaration of Friendship”, a vision, a commitment and a program for religious leaders worldwide to practice friendship, share wisdom and advance a vision of harmony and spiritual growth in their communities, across religious divides. Nearly 60 of the world’s premier leaders, including Pope Francis, the Dalai Lama, leaders who have taken place in the Global Message of Friendship, and members of the Elijah Board of World Religious Leaders will call upon religious leaders worldwide to practice friendship, along the lines of the declaration.

➤ **Activities of the global movement – serving faiths in friendship**

As the declaration is disseminated, religious leaders worldwide are affiliated with the Global House of Friendship and Hope, representing a global community. The Global House will serve as the living heart of a global movement of religious leaders and followers. These share teachings, engage in joint study, share in prayer circles, and engage in on the ground activities. The Global House will provide ongoing enrichment and educational programs for religious leaders and their communities. Teachings and sermon materials for different religions will be prepared by the Global House and its affiliated team of scholars, to help deliver the messages of friendship, sharing wisdom and prayer ever deeper in the religious languages that different religious communities speak.



➤ Marketing, Content Creation and Programming - Advancing the vision of the Global House



The global membership program is a form of service but also a means of disseminating and advancing the vision of the Global House of Friendship and Hope. The message will resound globally, thereby providing an extraordinary marketing tool for the activities of the Global House.

Content created within the network of religious leaders will serve as messaging

and teaching to be further disseminated by the Global House. Production Channels have been designed to provide deep and enticing journeys into our world's great faith heritages and wisdom. Live social media and in-person events will enable new levels of understanding and the forging of friendships, join the leaders of the world's faiths as together and create a social movement for interfaith harmony, headquartered in the Global House of Friendship and Hope.

Special video content created for the purpose of increasing understanding between religions will drive the Global House's dynamic and ongoing creative work. This work may be featured physically at the Assisi center in the form of temporary exhibits.

Members of the Global House's network of religious leaders and communities will also be offered special opportunities, such as pilgrimages and educational programmes in Assisi.

Dedication of the Global House of Friendship and Hope



The Global House of Friendship and Hope will be an international destination and the heart of a vital international movement. This is why its opening should similarly be a global event. The opening event will span the world, uplifting the ideals friendship, unity and mutual enrichment through messages central to our world's magnificent cultures and faith traditions.

Central to the program will be the showcasing and affirmation of the Declaration of Friendship by faith leaders across the world.

As renowned spiritual luminaries weave statements on the power of Friendship Across Faiths, stunning music and dance performances on themes of Friendship, Solidarity, Religious Wisdom, and Spiritual Upliftment will enthrall. Musical blocks will be presented from our Assisi stage concert style, as well as from locations across the globe.

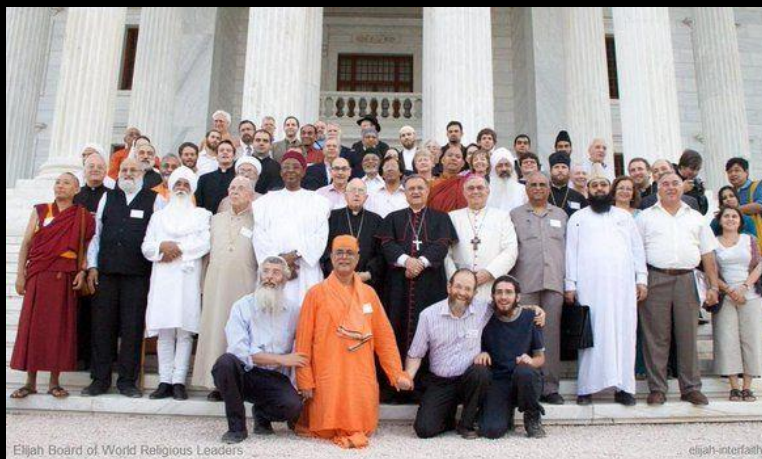
Throughout the event, the framework of the Global Center of Friendship and Hope and the Friendship Across Faiths campaign will be strongly introduced, giving people in Assisi and across the world the ability to join this powerful social movement for good, and enabling the building of a global following in the framework of the Center.

As the moon rises over the historic Basilica of St. Francis, a glorious sound and light show will illuminate the skies with celestial sounds and messages ushering forth the new hope of Friendship Across Faiths.



The Elijah Interfaith Institute

The spirit of Elijah is wisdom, inspiration, friendship and hope across religious traditions. Elijah deepens understanding among religions. Elijah's mission is to foster unity in diversity, creating a harmonious world. Elijah's message: The world's great religions radiate wisdom that can heal the world. Deep level spiritual conversation across



interreligious lines enriches our inner lives, enhances our prayer and opens our hearts.

Discover unity and embrace diversity. We are many and we are one. Our unique programming generates interfaith dialogue at the highest levels, bringing together world religious leaders and renowned scholars the world over, through research projects, public conferences and community-based initiatives.

Fast Facts:

- ▶ Founded in 1996 by Rabbi Dr. Alon Goshen-Gottstein
- ▶ Headquartered in Jerusalem, with broad international reach and Leadership

Our Programmes

- ▶ Elijah Board of World Religious Leaders – the highest-ranking active forum, with its global members meeting biennially since 2003
- ▶ Scholarship: breaking new ground in academic interfaith study and publication
- ▶ Education: thousands of teachers, leaders and activists trained in interfaith leadership
- ▶ Spirituality: programs and methods for sharing wisdom across traditions



**“The Elijah Institute is the Most
Profound and Intimate Group
Working in Interfaith.”**

- His Holiness
the Dalai Lama



ELIJAH INTERFAITH INSTITUTE
SHARING WISDOM FOSTERING HOPE

The Elijah Interfaith Institute

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