

Antonian Charitable Society

During an interview with Sister Lisi and Sister Caterina of the Antonian Society of Bethlehem in 2015, Sister Caterina was asked what it meant for her to work with the elderly, and she replied:



“I do this willingly because I know how to take care of creatures loved by God. I started working with the elderly before I was thirty. Initially it was difficult, but I have become used to it and have come to understand that God gives us the strength to carry on. People are very good, and are all grateful for our help. Many, although they have little, seek to help us as they can, giving us vegetables, clothes or bed sheets. And it is wonderful to see how they support us every day.”

Antonian Charitable Society



If you would like additional information
about the
Antonian Charitable Society

Please contact our office:

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Please send contributions to:

EOHSJ
Antonian Charitable Society
555 W. Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Please make checks payable to: EOHSJ
note in the check memo line: Antonian Ch. So.**

Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem *Western Lieutenancy* Antonian Charitable Society



“Taking care of some critical situations
which are not given due attention,
such as promoting respect for women’s
dignity, especially in old age.
This is also a peculiarity of the Christian
presence in the Holy Land”

*(P. Pierbattista Pizzaballa OFM,
Custos of the Holy Land)*

to support the Holy Land

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The Antonian Charitable Society (ACS) is the first Home for the Elderly established in Bethlehem, providing care for lonely widows, as well as homeless women, who receive no moral or financial support.



The ACS is operated by the Pro Terra Sancta Foundation under the Franciscan Custodia of the Holy Land.



PURPOSE OF THE ANTONIAN CHARITABLE SOCIETY

Many of Bethlehem's elderly find themselves living on their own in their old age, and experience poverty, deprivation, and solitude. The Antonian Charitable Society, located just steps away from the Bethlehem checkpoint, is a place that represents hope and newfound tranquility for many.



The Antonian Charitable Society also provides a Day Centre for elderly people, the 'Nadi,' which supports around fifty people three times a week. They meet

to spend their mornings in good company, to take part in recreational activities, play cards and chat about the old times. They also find hope, care and love, offered by the nuns and volunteers.



Early in the morning, on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays, drivers from the Antonian

Society go out into the streets of Bethlehem, and go door-to-door, picking up the elderly guests.

Some of the elderly do open-air exercise, others do crafts or crochet, or play cards. Guests are encouraged to develop their imagination and creativity; they also enjoy traditional Palestinian folk dancing and music, and the playing of games in teams.

Local and international volunteers are always there to provide support.



After their recreation, time is spent enjoying the amazing cooking of Sister Caterina. The volunteers set the table for lunch and make sure everything is in place. The guests end their morning with some fruit and sweets, before the bus drivers take everyone back home.