

# Christian Events in the Holy Land\*

\* Partial List

A. Prologue

B. Glossary

## Part I – Christmas Time

1. Christmas Eve
2. Baptism of the LORD
3. Theophany
4. Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

## Part II – Holy Week

5. Palm Sunday
6. Holy Thursday
7. Good Friday
8. Holy Light Saturday

## Part III – Spring and Summer

9. Armenian Genocide Memorial Day
10. Procession of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Statue
11. Ascension Day
12. Procession of the Dormition Icon of Theotokos

## Part IV – Jubilees

13. [Camino de Luz](#)
14. [Benedictine Sisters Jubilee](#)

C. [Epilogue](#)

# Camino de Luz\*

## Haifa

The Order of the Discalced Carmelites observes the feast day of St. Teresa of Ávila\*\*  
On October 15<sup>th</sup>.

In October 2014, *el Bastón\*\*\** left Ávila for a worldwide journey to visit Carmelite communities, going through 30 countries in 5 continents. The journey ended in Ávila on March 28<sup>th</sup> 2015, her 500<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The visit in Haifa, on February 22-24<sup>th</sup>, was jointly celebrated by nuns and friars from the local Carmelite communities\*\*\*\*.

\* Way of Light (in Spanish)

\*\* Foundress of the order (AKA Teresa of Jesus)

\*\*\* Her personal walking staff, one of the remarkable relics kept in Ávila

\*\*\*\* The celebration was an exceptional event for the contemplative nuns, as they rarely leave their monastery or have public ceremonies there

# Program of the Worldwide Journey

**STJ 500**  
St. Teresa of Jesus  
1515 – 2015



**Now is the time to walk (in Spanish)**  
The motto of the journey

The journey went through Israel  
in February 2015, visiting various  
Carmelite sites around the country

# el Bastón



**el Bastón**  
Encased in glass



**Now is the time to walk** (in Spanish)  
The motto of the journey

**STJ 500**  
500<sup>th</sup> birthday year  
St. Teresa of Jesus



**Teresa of Jesus**  
Show us the way you walked  
looking for the LORD inside you  
(in Spanish)

## Wadi Siah\*

\* A small valley in the western slopes of Mt. Carmel, where the Carmelite Order was established in the 12<sup>th</sup> century



Walking up the valley to the historical Carmelite site

# Wadi Siah – Ruins of the 13<sup>th</sup> Century Church\*

\* AKA St. Brocard Church



Family picture



Moment of contemplation

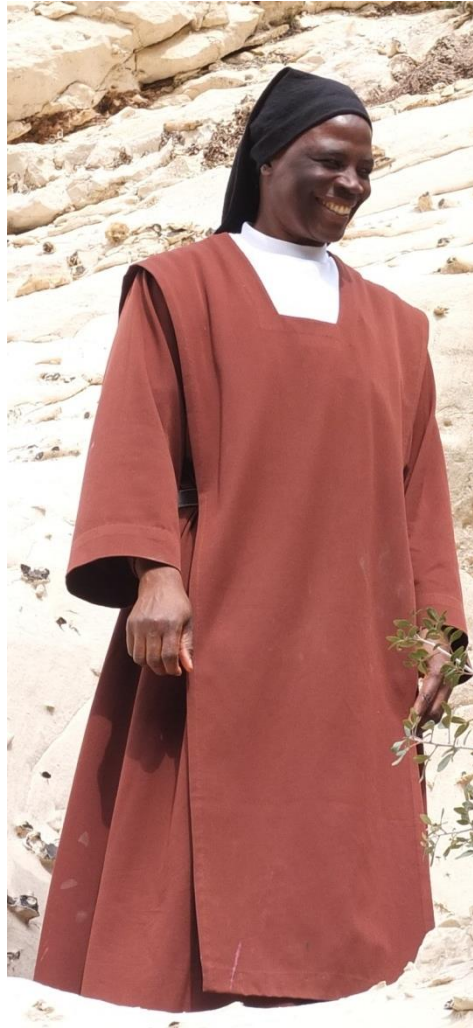


Ceremony

## Wadi Siah – Carmelite Nuns and Friars



## Wadi Siah – Carmelite Nuns and Friars





## Wadi Siah – Carmelite Nuns and Friars



## Wadi Siah – Hermit Caves



Carrying *el Baston* up the rocks to the historical hermit caves

## Wadi Siah – Salvation Spring\*

\* AKA Meshotetim spring or Ain Umm al-Faraj



Visiting the nearby spring

## Wadi Siah



Heading back to Haifa

## Our Lady of Mount Carmel Monastery



Procession around the cloister



Entering the convent

# Our Lady of Mount Carmel Monastery



Ceremony inside the church

# Our Lady of Mount Carmel Monastery



**St. Teresa of Ávila**  
Decorated with flowers



Decorated candle



**el Bastón**  
Encased in glass

# Our Lady of Mount Carmel Monastery



Carmelite friars\*



# Our Lady of Mount Carmel Monastery



Carmelite nuns\*

# Benedictine Sisters Jubilee

## Tabgha

**The Order of St. Benedict** observes the feast day of St. Benedict\* on March 21<sup>st</sup>.

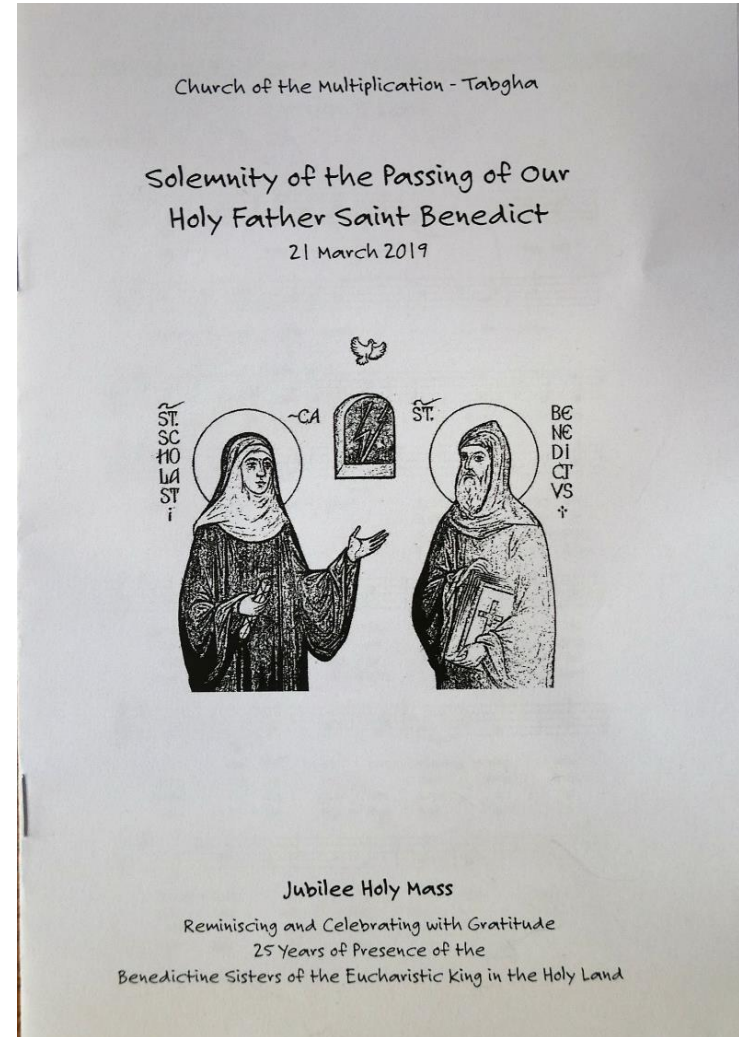
**On March 21<sup>st</sup> 2019**, the Benedictine Sisters of the Holy Eucharistic King celebrated 25 years of presence in the Holy Land. The celebration took place in Tabgha, by the Sea of Galilee, and was honored by the presence of the Bishop Emeritus of Aachen, Benedictine clergy and friends from the Holy Land and abroad.

# Jubilee Holy Mass\*

\* The Mass was celebrated in the Church of The Multiplication of the Loaves and Fish



Procession into the church



Prayer booklet for the Jubilee Holy Mass

## Jubilee Holy Mass



Benedictine sisters

## Jubilee Holy Mass

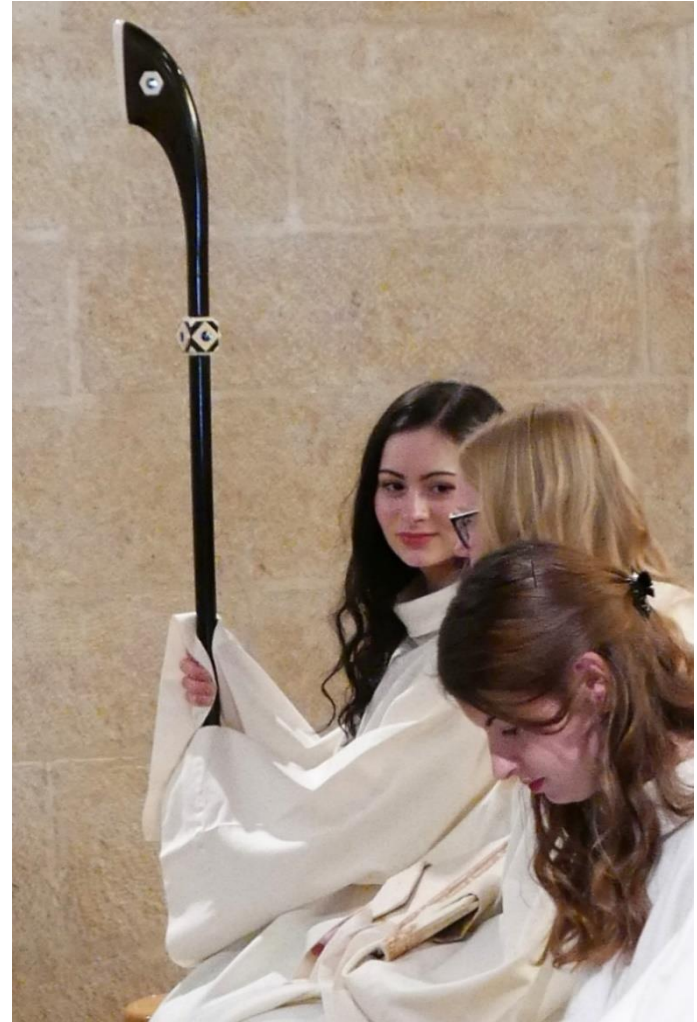


Benedictine monks

## Jubilee Holy Mass



Prior of the Benedictine monastery



Altar girl holding the decorated staff

# Jubilee Gift for the Sisters



Benedictine monk carries the gift

St. Scholastica\*

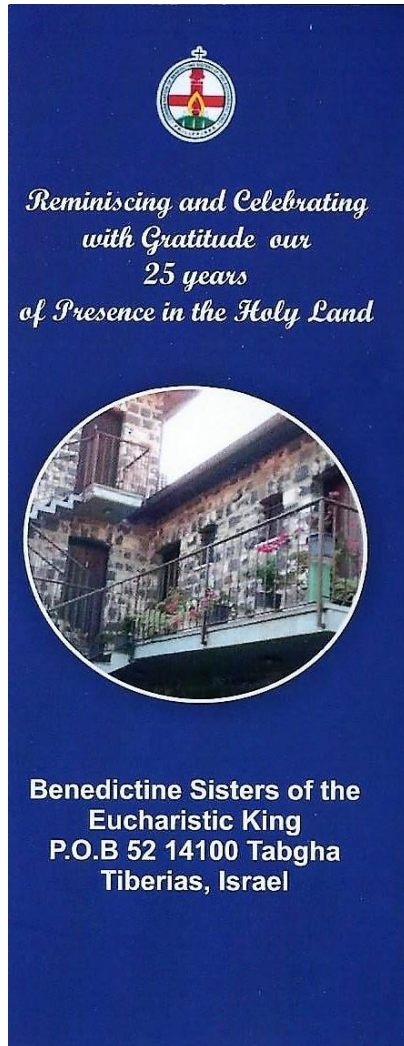
St. Benedict



Hand-painted icon

\* St. Scholastica, twin sister of St. Benedict, is known as the patron saint of Benedictine women's communities

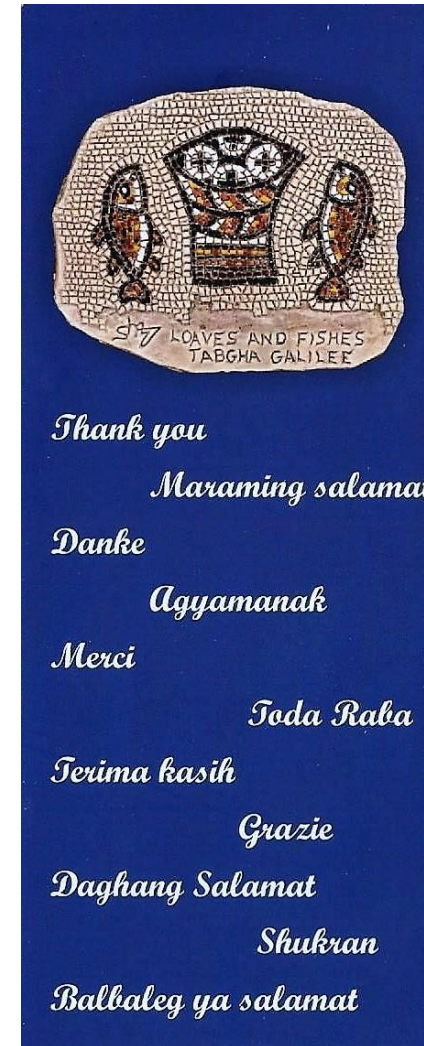
# Jubilee Souvenirs for Participants



Bookmark



Key holder  
Benedictine Sisters Eucharistic King



Bookmark



## Jubilee Celebration\*

\* The celebration took place at the Tabgha convent



Singing with friends

## Jubilee Celebration



Dancing with each other

## Jubilee Celebration



Performing a traditional Philippine dance

## Jubilee Celebration



Family picture

## Personal Note

The narrow streets taken by marching bands; Patriarchs and Archbishops; Embroidered vestments, curved swords and decorated staffs; Flags and banners; Palestinian police and Israeli soldiers; Clergy and laity, monks and nuns, pilgrims and locals; Abundant languages, various Crosses and different rituals.

By now you might be overwhelmed, confused or both. Dates are different from your calendar; Ceremonies conducted in a completely different way, not to mention events and titles you have never heard of. Eventually, this “mayhem” reflects the extent to which Christianity has propagated, the variety of cultures it has been influenced and adopted by. While some may feel uncomfortable realizing how diversified Christianity has become, others will take pride in being part of a movement bigger than their own parish and heritage.

Regardless of where you position yourself, I do hope this documentary has triggered some curiosity, opened new doors to look through and left you with a desire for further exploration.

See you in the Holy Land 🇮🇱

Beni Salzberg

Haifa, December 2020